

**IN THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE
FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**EIGHTEENTH REPORT OF THE
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

ON

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE
PRESIDENT'S NOMINATIONS
FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY
REGIONAL MINISTERS**

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DEPUTY REGIONAL MINISTERS**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In the exercise of the powers conferred on the President by Article 256 (2) of the Constitution, the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency John Dramani Mahama nominated two (2) persons for appointment as Deputy Regional Ministers and communicated same to Parliament on 4th March, 2016 for their prior approval.
- 1.2 The nominations were subsequently referred to the Appointments Committee by the Rt. Hon. Speaker for consideration and report pursuant to Order 172 of the Standing Orders of the House.

The nominations are as follows:

- i) **Mr. Andrews Osei Okrah** - **Deputy Regional Minister-Designate for the Ashanti Region**
- ii) **Dr. Robert Bella Kuganab-Lem** - **Deputy Regional Minister-Designate for the Upper East Region**

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following documents during its deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution;
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament; and
- iii. The Curriculum Vitae of the Nominees.

3.0 PROCEDURE ADOPTED FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE NOMINATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee firstly caused to be published in newspapers the names of the nominees and notice of the Committee's Public Hearing pursuant to Order 172 (3) of the Standing Orders of the House. The publication also invited memoranda from the general public in respect of the nominees.
- 3.2 As per the background checks, Confidential Reports in respect of the nominees were obtained from the Ghana Police Service and the Bureau of National Investigations (BNI). In addition, the Committee obtained their Tax Status Reports from the Ghana Revenue Authority.

- 3.3 The Committee thereafter held a Public Hearing on Monday, 14th March, 2016 to consider the nominations.
- 3.4 Prior to the commencement of proceedings, the nominees subscribed to the Oath of a Witness. They answered questions relating to the nominees' citizenship, records of their offices, qualifications and eligibility, matters pertaining to the offices to which they have been nominated and other issues of national concern.

The Committee has duly considered the two (2) nominees and reports as follows:

**4.0 MR. ANDREWS OSEI OKRAH - DEPUTY REGIONAL MINISTER-
DESIGNATE FOR THE ASHANTI
REGION**

Background

Mr. Andrews Osei Okrah was born at Sepe Buokrom in the Ashanti Region, on 5th June 1969. He had his Primary and Middle level education at Station Primary/Middle Schools at Uddara Barracks in Kumasi in the Ashanti Region from September 1975 to June 1985. He then continued to Asanteman Secondary School (September 1985 – June 1990) and Prempeh College (September 1990 – June 1992) all in Kumasi for his GCE 'O' Level and GCE 'A' Certificates respectively. He further attended the School of Forestry at Sunyani from 1993 to 1996 and obtained Certificate in Forestry. In September 1997, Mr. Okrah further attended the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Management in June 2001. Additionally, he enrolled at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom in October 2003 and he was awarded a Master of Business Administration in June 2005.

Mr. Andrews Osei Okrah started his career as a Technical Officer in Resource Management Support Centre of the Forestry Commission in September 1992. He rose through the ranks from a Technical Officer (September 1996 August 1997) to Assistant District Manager (September 2001 – August 2003) and later held the position of Corporate HR Manager (July 2006 – September 2007). He became the HR Manager for the Forest Services Division of the Forestry Commission from October 2007 to October 2009.

The Nominee is currently the Director of Human Resource at the Corporate Headquarters of the Forestry Commission and has held this position since November 2009. He is also the current Chairman for the Board of Trustees of the Students Loan Trust Fund since September 2014 as well as the Vice Chairman of the National Governing Council of the Institute of Human Resource Management Practitioners, Ghana.

Responses to Questions

Measures to make Agriculture attractive to the Youth

The nominee agreed to the suggestion that the youth of the Region are not showing much interest in agriculture as expected despite its enormous economic potential in the Region. He said, if approved by the august House, he would support the Regional Minister to rebrand agriculture and to encourage the youth particularly young graduates to venture into cocoa production and other areas of agriculture.

Curbing Illegal Small Scale Mining (Galamsey) in the Region

On his view on how to curb illegal small scale mining ('galamsey') in the Ashanti Region, the nominee emphasized the need for an effective engagement among all the stakeholders which could reveal the issues that underpin the illegal operations in order to design an effective solution to address it. He called for intensification of education on the effects of the "galamsey" activities on the environment and livelihoods of people. He suggested that the illegal small scale miners should be motivated to go into alternative livelihood ventures such agriculture. He further called for the enforcement of laws such as the Mining and Minerals (Amendment) Act, 2015 which allows for the confiscation of machinery and other equipment used in the illegal activities to deter the perpetrators.

In response to the assertion that the State has lost the battle against the illegal small scale miners, the nominee stated that he cannot confirm the assertion. Rather what he knew was that "galamsey" activities are on the ascendancy. The nominee assured the Committee that he would effectively engage and collaborate with the Regional Minister to support on-going efforts of the REGSEC to address the menace.

Execution of the Court Order on the Agogo Fulani Herdsmen Crisis

Relating to the support he intends to offer the Regional Coordinating Council in executing the court order to avert further escalation of the Agogo Fulani Herdsmen crisis, the nominee said he has not read the Court Judgement and therefore did not have a full appreciation of the situation. He however assured the Committee that he would assist the Regional Minister who is the Chairman of REGSEC, if given approval, to understand what occasioned the non-execution of the court order and possibly assist in getting it executed.

Appreciation of the Nature of a Position of a Deputy Minister

Asked whether he has the ability to withstand the pressures that come with political appointment, he said he understood the political terrain very well particularly having been born and bred in Kumasi, the Capital of the Region he was being appointed to work in. Again, the nominee stated that his experiences as a former SRC President of KNUST and as a Human Resource Manager at the Forestry Commission have prepared him to be able to withstand the pressures that would come with the political appointment.

Challenges Confronting KNUST

On difficulties facing the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), the nominee enumerated some of the key challenges as inadequate hostel accommodation for students, inadequate lecture facilities and learning materials. He further mentioned inadequate security on the campus as another critical challenge which is of utmost concern to the students and the Management of University. He assured the Committee that he would assist the Regional Minister to confer with the Management of the University on measures to adopt in addressing the challenges if approved by the august House.

Measures to Address Water Pollution

The nominee shared in the concern that pollution of water bodies through human activities such as farming along the water bodies is on the ascendancy in the Region and must be urgently checked. He said the situation has led to inadequate supply of potable water and increase in cost of treatment of water supply systems such as the Barikese water supply system. He said, if approved by the House, he would assist the Regional Minister to intensify educational efforts on the negative impacts of human activities on water bodies and also ensure an effective inter-sectoral engagements particularly among the Water Resources Commission, Environmental Protection Agency and the Town and Council Planning Unit of the District Assemblies.

Nominee's Leadership Model Espoused in his Book

Relating to the type of leadership style espoused in his recently published book – “Transformational Leadership – Walking the Talk”, the nominee stated that his definition of a transformational leader is that leader who is able to identify the needed change, create a compelling vision and inspire people to achieve the vision. He mentioned the first President of the Republic of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Dr. Mensa Otabil, Joseph Siaw Agyepong, Mr. Mike Nyinaku, Dr. Joyce Aryee and Hon. Mrs. Gifty Affenyi-Dadzie as examples of personalities who fit into that definition. He told the Committee that he would adopt the principles of his model of leadership to effectively engage the Regional Minister who is very experienced to work together to effect the necessary changes that would impact the lives of the people in the Region.

Addressing Illegal logging in the Region

On strategies to address illegal logging in the Region, the nominee informed the Committee that the Forestry Commission has established a Rapid Response Unit and a Law Enforcement Department to deal with such issues. He said what is needed is to strengthen the units through the provision of adequate resources in order for the departments to perform their functions effectively. He also advocated for the enforcement of the Forest Protection Decree to curb the menace.

Industrialization in the Ashanti Region

In response to whether he was aware of any initiative by the NDC Government to industrialise the Ashanti Region, the nominee mentioned the revamping of the Kumasi Shoe Factory as one of such initiatives. He said, if approved by the House, he would assist the Regional Minister to harness the enormous agricultural potentials of the Region in support of the Government's initiatives for the industrialisation of the Region.

Youth Empowerment in the Region

The nominee said, if approved by the House, he would assist his Regional Minister to pursue youth empowerment programmes as a means of addressing youth unemployment in the Region. This, he intends to do by working closely with the Regional Minister to provide avenues for coaching and mentoring of the youth to become entrepreneurs who would not be job seekers but rather job creators.

Performance of the Student Loan Trust

When asked about the impact of the Student Loan Trust having regards to his chairmanship status of the Board of Trustees of the Student Loan Trust, the nominee said the Fund has supported many students to pursue their tertiary education. He also informed the Committee that there has been improvement in repayment of the loans which has provided space for its expansion to cover more students. He informed the Committee that the number of guarantors required by applicants has been reduced. He said currently applicants need only one SSNIT contributor, a District Assembly or a recognized religious institution as a Guarantor to secure the loan.

Upholding Ethics and Values in the Administration of the Region

In his response to a question on the values and ethics he would bring on board to assist in the administration of the Region, the nominee said is bringing on board discipline, honesty and integrity. He advocated for innovative ways to incorporate discipline, honesty and integrity into all facets of society and also called for establishment of effective systems to enforce them.

Recommendation

The Committee by *consensus* recommends that the House approves the nomination of Mr. Andrews Osei Okrah for appointment as Deputy Regional Minister for the Ashanti Region.

5.0 **DR. ROBERT BELLA KUGANAB-LEM - DEPUTY REGIONAL
MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR
THE UPPER EAST REGION**

Background

Dr. Robert Bella Kuganab-Lem was born on 24th November, 1966 at Binduri in the Upper East Region. He had his primary education at Kpalugu Primary School between 1972 and 1976 and his middle school education at Manga from 1976 to 1980. The nominee proceeded to Notre-Dame to have his GCE Ordinary Level Certificate from 1980 – 1985 after which he went to Wa Secondary School and had his ‘A’ Level Certificate in 1987.

Between 1989 and 1992, he was enrolled at the University of Ghana, Legon where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Nursing. The Nominee discharged his National Service obligation at the Northern Regional Directorate of the Ghana Health Service, as an Assistant Budget Officer from 1992 to 1994.

Dr. Kuganab-Lem continued his academic pursuit at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology from 1997 to 1999 and was awarded Master of Science in Health Services, Planning and Management. He was privileged to receive Government of Ghana sponsorship in 2003 to pursue PhD programme in Health Planning and Management at the University of Keele in Newcastle Unlyne, United Kingdom where he successfully graduated in 2007. He has several publications to his credit.

The nominee worked at the Kintampo Health Research Centre as the Coordinator for the then Vitamin A Supplementation Trial and Safe Motherhood Initiative of Ghana from 1994 to 1996. He thereafter left to teach at Tamale Nursing Training College for a year, after which he left to pursue his Master’s Degree Programme.

On completion of his Maters Programme, the nominee took an appointment as a Lecturer at the University for Development Studies, Tamale where he doubled as the Head of Department for the Community Health and Allied Health Sciences. As indicated above, the nominee returned from his government-sponsored PhD programme in 2008 and remained as a Lecturer and Head of Department at the Community Health and Allied Health Sciences of the University for Development Studies.

Responses to Questions

The Nominee’s Appreciation of the Poverty Levels in the Upper East Region

In responding to his appreciation of the poverty levels among the people in the Upper East Region and how he intends to assist the Regional Minister to improve the wellbeing of the people, the nominee described the poverty situation in the Upper

East Region as awful. He attributed the impoverishment of the people to erratic rainfall and the depleted soil fertility which have rendered agriculture, the mainstay of the local economy, less productive and unprofitable.

The nominee was of the view that given the hardworking spirit of the people in the region and the abundant arable land, the provision of more dug-out waters and institution of sound agricultural practices can improve soil fertility which would make agriculture more productive and profitable. He also advocated for tree planting to mitigate the impact of climate change and for reversing desertification. He also promised to assist the Regional Minister to advocate for extension of Government's poverty interventions such as LEAP to complement existing efforts.

Proliferation of Illegal of Small Arms in the Region

In answering questions on what he would do to assist the Regional Minister to control illegal possession of small arms and weapons in the Region, the nominee advocated for tightening of border controls and establishment of reward systems to encourage people to disclose information to the security agencies about people in possession of the illegal weapons. He also pledged to assist the Regional Coordinating Council to dialogue and sensitize the people on the dangers associated with the possession of such illegal arms. He said, if approved by the House, he would support the Regional Minister to work with all stakeholders to ensure that the threat and use of small arms are controlled.

The Nominee's appreciation of the Nature of his Appointment

On his appreciation of the nature of the Office to which he has been nominated, the nominee indicated that though most of his career life has been confined to academic work, he had been following political developments in the country and has also served in various capacities for NDC in the Upper East Region. He pledged to bring his rich experience and knowledge acquired through research, especially in the area of health and education to bear on the development of the Region.

Maintenance of Peace and Security

The Committee noted that Upper East Region where the nominee is going to serve is one of the security hotspots in the country. On measures he intends to assist the Regional Minister with particularly during the forthcoming general elections, the nominee told the Committee about the on-going election security arrangements being instituted by the Ghana Police Service with the support of the Political Parties to ensure peaceful election in all parts of the country. He pledged to assist the Regional Minister to work closely with the Security Agencies in the Region to ensure smooth and successful implementation of the measures if approved by the House.

The Nominees View on the Performance of the Savanna Accelerated Development Authority (SADA)

Responding to a question on his view of what led to the poor performance of the SADA interventions, the nominee indicated that such deliberate interventions are necessary to close the development gap between the northern and the southern part of the country. He however expressed regret about the previous performance of the SADA and was hopeful that with the current restructuring of the governance arrangement, the programmes would deliver the expected outcomes to the people.

Views on the Implementation of One-Time Premium under the NHIS

Responding to a question on the feasibility of the implementation of the one-time payment under the National Health Insurance Scheme proposed by the National Democratic Congress as well as current challenges confronting the Insurance Scheme, the Nominee indicated that the one-time premium was feasible provided proper planning and management systems are put in place. Some of the management system he advocated include blocking of the leakages of funds, provision of incentives for the service providers, cost control measures such as capitation, and regular review of the policy to keep abreast with the emerging challenges.

Reducing the Incidence of Maternal Mortality

The Committee noted that the Upper East region is one of the region with the highest maternal mortality rate. The Committee accordingly sought to know steps the Nominee would take to reverse the trend. The Nominee pledged to assist his Minister to advocate for more CHP Compounds and intensify sensitization programmes on the prevention of maternal mortality.

REGSEC and District Assembly Operations

The responses of the nominee to questions relating to the operations of the Regional Security Council and the MMDAs were not adequate and the Committee recommends to the nominee to build up his capacity in these areas upon approval and appointment to Office.

Recommendation

The Committee *by consensus* recommends that the House approves the nomination of Dr. Robert Bella Kuganab-Lem for appointment as Deputy Regional Minister for the Upper East Region.

6.0 CONCLUSION AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

The Committee has duly considered the nominations of His Excellency the President for Deputy Regional Ministerial appointments in line with the 1992 Constitution and ~~the Standing Orders of the House and recommends the nominees to the House for~~ approval. The two (2) nominees are as follows:

- i. Mr. Andrews Osei Okrah - Deputy Regional Minister-Designate for the Ashanti Region
- ii. Dr. Robert Bella Kuganab-Lem - Deputy Regional Minister-Designate for the Upper East Region

Respectfully submitted.

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HON. EBO BARTON-ODRO
(FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER AND
CHAIRMAN, APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE)



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PEACE FIAWOYIFE (MS.)
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)

MARCH, 2016
