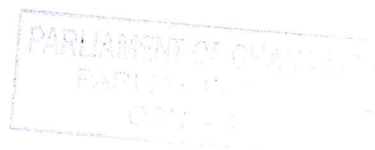


**IN THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE
SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**NINETEENTH REPORT OF THE
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

ON



**THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINATIONS
FOR DEPUTY MINISTERIAL
APPOINTMENTS**

JULY, 2016

**NINETEENTH REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE ON HIS
EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINATIONS FOR
DEPUTY MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 11th July, 2016, H.E. the President communicated to Parliament for its prior approval the nomination of three (3) persons for appointments as deputy ministers in accordance with Articles 79 (1) and 256 (2) of the 1992 Constitution.
- 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. Emmanuel Bombande - | Deputy Minister-Designate
for the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs and Regional
Integration |
| ii) | Hon. John Oti Kwabena Bless- | Deputy Minister-Designate
for the Ministry of Local
Government and Rural
Development |
| iii) | Mr. Joseph Tetteh Agmor - | Deputy Regional Minister-
Designate for the Eastern
Region |

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the under-listed 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 FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE NOMINATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee 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 part of its due diligence procedures, the Committee obtained the Confidential Reports in respect of the Nominees from the Ghana Police Service and the Bureau of National Investigations (BNI). In addition, the Committee obtained Tax Status Reports in respect of the Nominees from the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).
- 3.3 The Committee thereafter held a Public Hearing on Friday, 22nd July, 2016 to consider the nominations.
- 3.4 At the commencement of proceedings, each nominee subscribed to the Oath of a Witness. The nominees subsequently answered questions relating to their 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.
- 3.5 The Committee has duly considered the three (3) nominations and reports as follows:

**4.0 MR. EMMANUEL HABUKA BOMBANDE -DEPUTY MINISTER -
DESIGNATE FOR
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND
REGIONAL
INTEGRATION**

Background

Mr. Emmanuel Habuka Bombande was born on 12th June, 1960 at Bawku in the Upper East Region.

The Nominee attended Notre Dame Senior High School from 1975 to 1980 for his GCE Ordinary Level Certificate. He then continued at the Nandom Senior Secondary School for his GCE Advanced Level Certificate which he completed in 1982.

Mr. Bombande attended the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi from 1984 to 1988 and was awarded a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science. He again obtained a Diploma from the Cheik Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal and further acquired a Master's Degree in Conflict Transformation from the Eastern Mennonite University, USA.

Mr. Bombande is a co-founder and the immediate past Executive Director of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) and had worked with the Organization for 15 years until his exit in December, 2015. He has practiced and taught Conflict Mitigation and Prevention across Africa and has acted as a lead mediator in many community based mediation efforts in West Africa. As head of WANEP, he provided leadership for a peacebuilding network in West Africa which engages actively with some Agencies of the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

He has also served as a member of the UN Advisory Team in Ghana and advised the Government of Ghana on various conflict prevention strategies including the development of peace architecture which culminated in the setting up of the Peace Council.

Mr. Bombande has been an Advisor to the Geneva based Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue on Dialogue and Mediation Efforts in Africa and a Fellow of the Society for Peace Studies and Practice (*spsp*), University of Ibadan-Nigeria and a visiting Fellow of the Kroc Institute for International Peacebuilding Studies in the University of Notre Dame, USA.

Responses to Questions

Knowledge about Ghana's Foreign Policy

The nominee explained that economic diplomacy relates to enhancing the Ghana's comparative advantage in international and regional trade which to generate more revenue for the socio-economic development of our people. Relating to the performance of Ghana in her participation in the ECOWAS market, the nominee stated that there have been some achievements in harnessing the potentials of the ECOWAS market which has been valued at the US\$1.5 trillion but conceded that more needs to be done. He assured the Committee of his commitment to support the Minister for Foreign Affairs to enhance Ghana's participation in the ECOWAS market if his nomination is approved.

Impact of Britain's exit from the European Union on Ghana

When asked about his view on the impact of Britain exiting the European Union (Brexit) on Ghana, the nominee stated that it was premature to examine

the impact that the Brexit would have on the country. He stated that we needed to observe closely developments regarding the exiting process for some time before reaching a conclusion on the impact. The nominee however stated that the exiting processes need to be monitored to inform Ghana's foreign policy choices given that Scotland and Northern Ireland have given indications of staying in the European Union. He added that Ghana would still maintain its close ties with Britain even after the exit by virtue of being a Member of Commonwealth. Again, the nominee was of the view the belief that Ghana's foreign policy with her relation within the Commonwealth would be the same but indicated the need to observe developments critical to avert negative ramifications for the country.

Issues Regarding the Negotiation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

In his view, issues regarding the negotiation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) has to do with how the interest of the various stakeholders could be protected and the value that would accrue to the country. He however expressed the concern that in view of the developments, new rules may have to be included in the Pact which may change the terms. He also stated that he was aware that the ECOWAS was also negotiating the EPA as a sub-regional bloc and hoped that a consensus could be found in due course.

Proposal for the Establishment of a Standby Force for Africa

Commenting on the proposal to establish a standby force for Africa, the nominee stated that the sub-region has a standing military force but with limited capacity. He said that although it was necessary to have a regional standing military force, its existence tends to put the Region's strategy for conflict and security management in a reactive mood. He said the ECOWAS approach to peace-keeping must emphasize preventive methods which aim at providing early warning systems to nib conflicts in the bud before they degenerate. He suggested that the capacity of the ECOWAS standby Force must therefore be enhanced towards conflict prevention.

Measures to curb Extremist Activities

The nominee indicated that the effective strategy to addressing the violence extremism should focus on tackling the root causes. He said that the current violence extremist groups in the Sub-region began as political vigilante groups which later metamorphosed into armed-groups. He stated that due to the inability of the political groups to honour their obligations agreed upon with the groups, such groups transform into extremist groups. According to the nominee, military solutions have not helped address the violence and therefore it was important that collective efforts are expended at addressing the root

causes. He agreed with the assertion that the phenomenon of youth unemployment can be one of the root causes. In this regard, the nominee advocated for optimization of opportunities for youth during bilateral and multilateral negotiations, re-orientation of the youth in respect of how they perceive certain jobs particularly in the area of agriculture.

Experience of the Nominee as a Peace Building Practitioner

His experiences as peacebuilding practitioner whereby he was involved in bringing contested factions together to resolve their individual differences have helped him appreciate political dynamics in the country positioned him to be able to advise the substantive Minister.

Ensuring the Effectiveness of ECOWAS

In response to what the nominee perceives as a challenge confronting the relationship between ECOWAS and other regional blocs, the nominee stated that political will since the formation of ECOWAS has veered more towards conflict management rather than undertaking measures which will open up the sub-region for more partnerships in the area of trade. He advocated, for instance, for a commitment on the part of the political leadership for the adoption of the common currency and to reduce trade barriers to attract substantial investments. The nominee also acknowledged the Anglophone-Francophone divide as another challenge affecting the relationship which must be dealt with. He said there is the need for more conversation around the issue which has international dimensions. He called for policy directions that would encourage young Ghanaian people to be bilingual to promote engagements within sub-region and with other regional blocs.

Promoting the Welfare of Ghanaian Emigrants

In response to measures to promote the welfare and security of Ghanaian emigrants, the nominee said he would encourage all Ghanaian emigrants to register with the country's missions abroad. He explained that would enable the Missions to offer the necessary support in dealing with their concerns. He further stated that he would assist the Minister to strengthen the country's bilateral relationships so that the country can leverage on their support to deal with issues that confront Ghanaians abroad. Apart from these, the nominee said Ghana should continue to articulate the concerns of its emigrants and the need to promote human rights and equity.

Funding for WANEP

The nominee told the Committee that Wilson Foundation for Peace was the organisation that funded the activities of WANEP at its inception. He

explained that the Wilson Foundation sole purpose for establishment was to support nuclear disarmament across the globe. This however changed after the end of the Cold War with much focus on peace building initiatives, hence their support for WANEP. He said WANEP later received funding from the Scandinavian countries including Sweden, Finland, Demark and Austria. He also told the Committee that as at the time he left WANEP, the Organisation's annual budget stood around US\$2million and a Regional Secretariat Staff strength of seventy-five (75).

Recommendation

The Committee by *consensus* recommends that the House approves the nomination of Mr. Emmanuel Habuka Bombande for appointment as Deputy Minister for Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**5.0 MR. JOHN OTI KWABENA BLESS - DEPUTY MINISTER-
DESIGNATE FOR LOCAL
GOVERNMENT & RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**

Background

Hon. John Oti Kwabena Bless was born at Tinjase in the Volta Region, on 19th October 1979. He had his primary education at Tinjase Local Authority Primary and Junior Secondary School in the Volta Region from 1985 to 1991. The nominee proceeded to Nkwanta Secondary School in the same Region from 1992 to 1994 for his Senior Secondary School Certificate. Between 2010 - 2012, he attended the University of Ghana, Legon where he obtained a Diploma in Youth in Development Work. He again enrolled at the University of Ghana, Legon in 2013 where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. Hon. Oti Bless continued his academic pursuit at the University of Cape Coast from 2013 to 2014 and was awarded a Master's Degree in Democracy Governance, Law and Development.

The nominee worked with Graceland Clinic in the Volta Region as an Interpreter from 1995 to 1997 and later as a Guard Personnel at the Inter-Con Security Services from 1999 to 2002. In 2005, he also founded the Concern Voice, a Non-Governmental Organization which aims at educating people on HIV/AIDS and malaria. The nominee again established the Blessed Cleaning Services and Blessed Pharmacy. The Hon. nominee, in 2012, also set up a community radio station known as Ke FM in the Volta Region.

Hon. John Oti Bless started his political career as an Assembly Member at the Amamomo Electoral Area in the Volta Region.

Hon. Oti Bless is a Member of Parliament for the Nkwanta North Constituency in the Volta Region. As a Member of Parliament, the Hon. Nominee serves on many Parliamentary Committees including Roads and Transport, Government Assurances and Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs.

Responses to Questions

Issues Regarding the Name and Certificates of the Nominee

In responding to a question on his official name, the nominee stated that he was formally called Kopi John Kwabena but later changed his name to John Oti Kwabena Bless. He submitted a Statutory Declaration as evidence of the change of name. He further supported his claim by providing results slips from WAEC and a testimonial indicating that he had his Secondary education at Nkwanta Secondary School from 1992 to 1994, a Diploma Certificate from the University of Ghana and a Master of Arts Degree Certificate from University of Cape Coast.

Performance of National Service Obligation

When asked whether he had discharged his national service obligation to the State as required by law, the Hon. Nominee stated that he had not yet fulfilled that obligation. He explained that he became liable to perform his national service after completion of his Diploma at the University of Ghana, Legon in 2012 but got elected to become a Member of Parliament during the same year. The Nominee later submitted an exemption certificate from the National Service Scheme to relieve him from the obligation.

The Nominee's Appreciation of the Causes of Conflicts between District Chief Executives and Members of Parliament

In responding to his appreciation of the causes of conflicts between District Chief Executives and Members of Parliament and how he intends to assist the Minister for Local Government and Rural Development to resolve those conflicts, the nominee described the situation as very worrying and stated that those conflicts are baseless and unnecessary. The nominee assured the Committee that he will assist the Minister to use dialogue to resolve those conflicts. He also suggested that another way forward would be to elect District Chief Executives. This, he believes will make them more committed and accountable to the people.

Addressing Poor Sanitary Conditions in the Country

On what he thinks should be done to tackle the situation where Government commits huge statutory funds to tackle poor sanitation in the country but the problem continues to persist, the nominee described the situation as very unfortunate. He suggested that laws and regulations on sanitation must be enforced to the letter and called on the concerted efforts of all in doing so. He also indicated that Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies have the duty to ensure that individuals and entities engaged to maintain good sanitary conditions across the country do so effectively and efficiently. He accordingly assured the Committee in assisting the Minister for Local Government and Rural Development in that regard.

Objects of the Local Governance Bill, 2016

When asked about the objects of the Local Governance Bill, 2016 which had been laid in Parliament for its passage, the nominee responded that the Bill seeks to review, amend and consolidate the major legislation that governs decentralization and local government in Ghana. He explained that when the Bill is passed into law, it would provide a single legislation on local government and ensure ease of reference. He was also of the view that the passage of the Bill would further ensure that the realization of the objectives of decentralization and local government as envisaged by Chapter 20 of the 1992 Constitution.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves the nomination of Hon. John Oti Kwabena Bless for appointment as Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development.

6.0 MR. JOSEPH TETTEH ANGMOR -DEPUTY REGIONAL MINISTER- DESIGNATE FOR THE EASTERN REGION

Mr. Joseph Tetteh Angmor was born on 28th February, 1954 at Odumase Krobo in the Eastern Region. He had his primary education at the Mensah Dawa Presby Primary School from 1961 to 1964. He attended the Odumase Akro Middle School, Odumase Krobo for his Middle School Leaving Certificate from 1964 to 1968. He then proceeded to the Manya Krobo Senior Secondary School, Odumase Krobo from 1968 to 1975 and obtained the GCE Ordinary Level Certificate and continued at the Okuapeman Senior Secondary, Akro Akwapim (1973 - 1975) for the GCE Advanced Level Certificate.

The nominee attended a number of short courses in management and local development. He attended a course at the Merija Technologies, Accra in 2010 and obtained certificate in Project Management. He has also attended a short course at the Management Development and Productivity Institute (MDPI), Accra in Practice Supervision in 2008. The nominee further attended a short course at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) in 2011 in Strengthening Good Governance and Decentralization in Africa.

The nominee worked with the Eastern Regional Coordinating Council, Koforidua from 1975 to 1984 from where he was seconded to the Eastern Regional Secretariat of the CDR, Koforidua as Regional Administrative Officer (1984 – 1993). Between 1993 and 1997, the nominee was the Head of Investigations at the Office of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Koforidua. He again worked with the Eastern Regional Coordinating Council, Koforidua from 1997 to 2003. He was later appointed the Head of Administrative Unit of the Eastern Regional Lands Commission between 2003 and 2009.

The nominee has held a number of leadership positions in the Civil Servants Association (now the Civil and Local Government Staff Association of Ghana (CLOGSAG)) including being the Regional Treasurer (1980 - 1984), Regional Secretary (1998 – 2004) and Regional Chairman (2004 – 2009).

The nominee was appointed the District Chief Executive of the Upper Manya Krobo District Assembly from 2009 to 2012.

He was re-appointed and is currently the District Chief Executive of the Upper Manya Krobo District Assembly.

Nominee's Responses to Questions

Composition and Role of Regional Coordinating Councils

Regarding the composition of Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) within the Ghana's decentralized system, the nominee stated that an RCC is composed of the Regional Minister and his deputy, the Presiding Members and DCEs of the Districts within the Region, two (2) Representatives of the regional House of Chiefs and Heads of decentralized ministries within the Region.

According to the nominee, the role of the RCC within the decentralized administration is mainly in overseeing the activities of districts in the Region to in the bid to accelerate the development of the Region.

Initiatives for Economic Development of the Eastern Region

The nominee noted that the major economic activity of the people in the Eastern Region is farming and enumerated some of the key farm produce as maize, plantain and citrus. On the basis of this, the nominee alluded to the suggestion that if a fruit processing factory is established in the Upper Manya Krobo District for which he is the DCE, it will be of immense benefit to the people in the district.

New Ideas for Combating Galamsey in the Eastern Region

On the question as to new ideas he would bring on board to eliminate illegal small scale mining which is prevalent in the Eastern region, the nominee acknowledged the initiatives being pursued by the Eastern Regional Minister in addressing the menace. He explained that the Regional minister has been working with the Chiefs in the Region and the RCC to combat the illegal practice. He therefore assured the Committee that he would support the Regional Minister to pursue the ongoing projects to combat Galamsey activities in the Region to abate the destruction that the practice causes to farms and river bodies.

Nominee's Achievements during his work with CHRAJ

Regarding his key achievements when he headed the Investigations Unit of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) from ..., the Nominee stated that he worked to establish the Eastern Regional Office of the Commission, sensitized people in the Region of the fundamental human rights and sufficiently conducted investigations into complaints lodged at the Regional Office of the Commission.

Contribution of Cultural Activities in the Eastern Region

In recognition of the rich culture of the people of the eastern Region, the nominee promised to support the Regional Minister to promote cultural activities in the Region especially in the celebration of key festivals and counted on the cooperation of the unflinching support of the Chiefs in the Region in doing so. Regarding the development of infrastructure to facilitate key tourism activities in the Region including the Paragliding Festival, he noted the frantic efforts of the Regional Minister to improve the state of infrastructure in the Eastern Region and accordingly assured the Committee of his support if given the nod.

Role of Presiding Members in the Administration of a District

Responding to a question as the role of a Presiding Member of a District Assembly, the nominee stated that the Presiding Member is vested by law to preside over all general meetings of a District Assembly and also chairs the Audit Report Implementation Committee of the Assembly and the District's Complaints Committee.

On his view on whether a District Assembly could transact business prior to the election of a Presiding Member, the nominee stated that in the absence of the Presiding Member of a District, another Member may be appointed to chair the meetings of the Assembly. He based his opinion on what he called "a convention" and some provisions of the Local government Act, 1993 (Act 462). The nominee however accepted the suggestion that per the provisions of the 1992 Constitution, no business of an assembly could be transacted without the prior election of a Presiding Member.

Recommendation

The Committee *by consensus* recommends that the House approves the nomination of Mr. Joseph Tetteh Angmor for appointment as Deputy Minister for the Eastern Region.

7.0 CONCLUSION AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

The Committee has duly considered the nominations of His Excellency the President for Deputy Ministerial appointments in line with the 1992 Constitution and the Standing Orders of the House and recommends the following three (3) nominees to the House for approval:

- i) Mr. Emmanuel Bombande - Deputy Minister-Designate for Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration**
- ii) Hon. John Oti Kwabena Bless - Deputy Minister-Designate for the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development**

iii) Mr. Joseph Tetteh Angmor -

Deputy Regional Minister-
Designate for the Eastern
Region

Respectfully submitted.



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



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

JULY, 2016