

**IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE
SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE
FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**SIXTH REPORT OF THE
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

ON

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT'S
NOMINATIONS FOR REGIONAL
MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS**

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EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINATIONS FOR
REGIONAL MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article 256 (1) of the 1992 Constitution, H. E. the President communicated to Parliament the nomination of ten persons for appointment as Regional Ministers on 24th January, 2017.

Consequently, the nominations were 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:

- | | | | |
|------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| i. | Hon. (Dr.) Kwaku Afriyie | - | Regional Minister-Designate for the Western Region |
| ii. | Hon. Simon Osei-Mensah | - | Regional Minister-Designate for the Ashanti Region |
| iii. | Hon. Eric Kwakye Darfour | - | Regional Minister-Designate for the Eastern Region |
| iv. | Hon. Ishmael Ashitey | - | Regional Minister-Designate for Greater Accra Region |
| v. | Dr. Archibald Letsa | - | Regional Minister-Designate for the Volta Region |
| vi. | Mr. Alhassan Sulemana | - | Regional Minister-Designate for Upper West Region |
| vii. | Mr. Rockson Bukari | - | Regional Minister-Designate for the Upper East Region |

- viii. **Mr. Kwaku Asoma Cheremeh** - **Regional Minister-Designate for the Brong Ahafo Region**
- ix. **Mr. Kwabena Duncan** - **Regional Minister-Designate for the Central Region**
- x. **Mr. Salifu Sa-eed** - **Regional Minister-Designate for the Northern 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 CONSIDERATION OF THE REFERRAL

- 3.1 Pursuant to Order 172 (3) of the Standing Orders of the House, the Committee in the first instance caused to be published in the National newspapers the names of the nominees and notice of the Committee's Public Hearing for the attention of the general public. The publication further requested Memoranda from the general public on any of the nominees.
- 3.2 The Committee subsequently obtained Confidential Reports on the nominees from the Ghana Police Service and the Bureau of National Investigations (BNI) as part of its background checks. Tax Status Reports were obtained from the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).
- 3.3 A Public Hearing was thereafter held to consider the nominations. On commencement of proceedings, the Nominees subscribed to the Oath of a Witness and subsequently answered questions relating to their Curriculum Vitae, matters relating to their eligibility, issues pertaining to the offices to which they have been nominated and other issues of national concern.
- 3.4 The Committee has duly considered nominations and reports as follows:

Background

Hon. (Dr.) Kwaku Afriyie was born on 6th July, 1954 at Sefwi-Wiawso in the Western Region.

He had his elementary education at the District Council Primary and Middle School, Sefwi-Wiawso from 1960 to 1968 in the Western Region. He then progressed to the Saint Augustine's College, Cape Coast from 1968 to 1975 for his 'O' and 'A' Levels. He later attended the University of Ghana, Legon from 1976 to 1982 where he obtained Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery. He also attended the Tulane University, New Orleans, USA between 1989 to 1990 and obtained Masters in Public Health (MPH). In 2005, he was enrolled as a Fellow of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Hon. Afriyie did his housemanship at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra between 1982 and 1983 and subsequently moved to Effia-Nkwanta Hospital, Sekondi (1983-1984) as a Medical Officer. Between 1984 and 1994, he worked at the Bibiani Government Hospital, Sefwi-Bibiani as Medical Officer where he rose through the ranks to become the District Director of Health Services. He was thereafter engaged as Medical Officer for the Greenshield Clinic, Sefwi-Wiawso (1994-2001) and later as Managing Director of the same medical facility (2005-2014). Since 2014, Dr. Afriyie has been the Manager/Director of the Afriyie Farms Limited.

The nominee has served on a number of public Boards in different capacities including as Board Chairman of the Electricity Company of Ghana (2005-2007), Member of Ghana AIDS Commission (2001-2005) and Member of the National Development Planning Commission (2001-2005). He has also served as the Vice Chairman of the World Health Assembly (2001-2003) and proceeded to become the Chairman for the World Health Assembly (2003-2004). He has also been a Member of the Global Alliance for vaccines and Immunizations (2004-2005).

Hon. Afriyie was appointed Minister for Lands, Forestry and Mines from January, 2001 to September, 2001 and again as Minister for Health from 2001 to 2005. He is the current Member of Parliament for the Sefwi-Wiawso Constituency in the Western Region.

Responses to Questions

Review of National Health Insurance Scheme

On a proposal for review of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), the nominee suggested for the review of the actuarial underpinnings of the Scheme which he said has been violated to an extent that, the scheme is no longer viable and sustainable. He also proposed for the review of the NHIS Policy document and its legislative framework to fine tune them to enable the Scheme deliver efficiently and effectively. According to him, there is a huge gap between what is happening from the perspectives of the Service Providers on one hand and Scheme Managers on the other hand.

He also suggested that the Scheme should be reviewed in terms of the marginalized and vulnerable groups and the aged. According to him, the scheme should be reviewed in terms of the age of aged workers as their burden on the scheme will not be much given their small numbers. The nominee also stated that the benefit package and financial sustainability of the scheme need to be reviewed. He further pledged to help the president deliver free cancer treatment under the scheme as stated in the NPP's 2016 Manifesto if he is given the nod.

Plan to Improve the Status of Roads in the Western Region

The nominee stated that roads in the Western Region must be developed based on economic reasons to reduce costs of vehicle maintenance, boost improved economic activities and increase cocoa production in the Region. He however disagreed with the concept of cocoa roads and wondered why only cocoa revenue should be used to construct roads. He explained that cocoa farmers are very poor and are already over-taxed.

Timely Delivery of Farm Inputs for Cocoa Farmers

On how he intends to ensure timely delivery of farm inputs to cocoa farmers to boost cocoa production, the nominee said he would coordinate with relevant authorities including the Ministry of Agriculture to implement policies in the Region to ensure that cocoa farmers get their inputs on time. He however argued that market forces should be allowed to operate whilst the Government focuses on providing subsidies to farmers. This, he believed, will help the farmers to procure the inputs to meet their needs.

Proposals for the Implementation of the One District/One Factory Initiative in the Western Region

The nominee proposed the establishment of a cocoa waste processing at Sefwi-Wiawso and a bamboo processing factories in the Bodi District as some of the factories to be considered under the One District/One Factory Initiative of the NPP. He also proposed the establishment of a mini cocoa processing factory in the Nzema areas in the Region. He also stated that there were a number of defunct factories which could be revamped under the Initiative.

Proposal to Cede Percentage of Mineral Revenue

On whether he would support a proposal to cede a percentage of mineral revenue to support the development of the Region, the nominee stated that he would support initiatives to secure more funds for the development of the Region but cautioned that a proposal to cede a portion of revenue from solid minerals such as gold to the Western Region may set a wrong precedent. He was of the view that Ghana is a unitary state and the country must be put first in the consideration of such issues.

Strategy to Promote Child Education at Coastal Areas in the Western Region

On his strategies to get children in coastal areas in the Western Region to school, the nominee noted that we have all the tools to enforce existing laws to ensure that children under sixteen years of age all go to school. He promised that, as Regional Minister, he will liaise with the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies in the region to identify the nature of the problems that account for children not going to school then adopt the appropriate strategies to deal with the situation. He also indicated that he will engage with the fisher folk through their organisations to sensitize them on the need to send their children to school.

Support for Women in the Western Region

On his plans for women in the Western Region, the nominee said he would liaise heavily with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to ensure that interventions for women empowerment in the Region are implemented successfully. He also said he would be an advocate for women in the Region to help improve their welfare. He was optimistic that he would achieve a lot for the women in the Region if he is given the nod.

Strategy to Attract the Youth into Agriculture

The nominee stated that if appreciable portion of revenue from agricultural products within the value chain is given to farmers, more youth would be

attracted to the agric sector. He recounted that farmers used to receive about 20% of the value of a bar of chocolate about twenty-five years ago but the situation is now different as farmers now get only about 6% value of the same product. He explained that within the value chain, those who process cocoa into chocolate tend to appropriate to themselves a chunk of the value of such agricultural products across the world. According to him, about 65% of the world's cocoa come from Africa but we do not get enough value from them to our farmers. He therefore advocated for the review of the current system to increase value of cocoa products to the cocoa farmers and to attract more people especially the youth into cocoa production.

Mass Spraying Exercise for Cocoa Farms

The nominee stated that putting the mass spraying exercise in the hands of public servants has not helped as expected. He accordingly suggested that the Government should rather subsidize the price of farm inputs and allow farmers to purchase them from the open market.

Child Labour in Cocoa Farms

On his view on the prevalence of child labour in cocoa production in the Region, the nominee cautioned that we should interrogate such reports pointing to such practices. According to him, child labour has its own cultural dimensions in Ghana which needed to be appreciated. He explained that if we do not involve our children in minor activities in cocoa farms such as turning cocoa beans, we will not get anybody to take over the business. He therefore suggested that we should engage the concerned international bodies to address the definitional issues involved.

Proposal for the implementation of Local/Local Content Policy in the Western Region

On whether he would pursue a Local/Local Content Policy in the mining and oil sectors in the Region to secure jobs to the people in the Region, the nominee stated that he would pursue such initiatives as part of his coordinating role when given the nod. He again stated that he will advocate and encourage the youth to acquire the requisite skills to enable them take advantage of opportunities in the Oil and Gas industry.

Maintenance of Law and Order in the Western Region

The nominee confirmed some security concerns in the Region and assured the Committee that he would liaise with the security agencies and support them to maintain law and order in the Region.

On chieftaincy disputes, the nominee informed the Committee that he would liaise with the Minister for Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs as well as the Regional House of Chiefs to help resolve the disputes.

Expectations from the People of the Western Region

The nominee stated that he would advocate for rural development and women empowerment if he is approved by the House. He observed that though women constituted majority of business owners in the Region, their businesses are smaller in view of the plethora of challenges they face in their work and hence his decision to empower them. He also promised to advocate for the empowerment of the youth and work hard to improve the road network in the Region.

The nominee was of the view that the Western Region is blessed and cursed in that the region has so much natural resources like cocoa, gold, bauxite, manganese, rubber, oil among others and yet there is nothing to show for it even though the region contributes a greater portion of the national income. The region according to him has one of the worst roads in the country and government after government have used the heavy nature of the region's rainfall pattern as an excuse. He made a plea for development for the region, as the region has so much to offer the nation. But stated emphatically that Ghana will forever remain poor if we fail to develop and invest in the Western Region.

Measures to address Deforestation and Illegal Mining

On what he will do as the Chairman of the Regional Security Council to tackle deforestation and illegal mining in the region, the nominee stated that he will advocate for the enforcement of the mining laws but mentioned that there is the need to distinguish between legal and illegal mining popularly called 'galamsey'. According to him, there is the need for an inter-sectoral approach as well as the involvement of chiefs and traditional rulers to tackle the menace. The nominee further pledged to collaborate with relevant authorities to curb illegal mining and deforestation to abate the destruction of the environment including water bodies.

Rehabilitation of Sekondi Gyandu Park

On his plans for the rehabilitation of the Sekondi Gyandu Park, the nominee promised to take steps to renovate the sport facility to promote sports development in the Region.

Combating Sea Erosion

On tackling the sea erosion along the coastal areas like Sekondi, Busua in the Western Region, the nominee assured the Committee he will do the needed

advocacy for the Region and also consult the people with the technical knowledge on the subject to help address the issue.

Recommendation

The Committee, , recommends to the House to approve **by consensus** the nomination of Hon. (Dr.) Kwaku Afriyie for appointment as the Regional Minister for the Western Region.

5.0 HON. SIMON OSEI-MENSAH - REGIONAL MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR THE ASHANTI REGION

Background

Hon. Simon Osei-Mensah was born on 27th May, 1961 in Kumasi in the Ashanti Region.

He had his elementary education at the Jachie R/C Primary and Middle Schools from 1966 to 1974. He progressed to the Jachie/Pramso Secondary School from 1974 to 1979 for his 'O' Level. He then attended Labone Secondary School from 1979 to 1981 for his 'A' Level.

The nominee studied at the University for National and World Economics in Sofia, Bulgaria from 1985 to 1991 and was awarded both Bachelor Science Degree in Economics and Master of Science in Economics.

In 1998, he attended Tietgen Business College, Odense, Denmark and received a certificate in Bank Management. The nominee also attended John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC, USA in 2014 where he obtained a Certificate in Executive –Legislative Relations and Performance. In 2015, he also received a Diploma in Health Systems Management from Galilee International Management Institute, Israel.

Hon. Osei-Mensah taught at the Adabie Commercial Institute, Kumasi between 1981 and 1984. He later did his national service at the Consortium for Innovations in Human Settlement Development (CIHSD) from 1991 to 1992 and proceeded to work with the company as Assistant Financial Analyst (1992 to 1993). He moved on to work with the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) as a Credit Officer (1993 to 1995) and then as Branch Accountant (1995-1997) and rose to the position of Branch Manager of ADB for Goase and Takoradi (1997-2000). Between 2000 and 2004, the nominee worked as the Operations Manager for Kuapa Kokoo Credit Union, Kumasi. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer for K-SOMFA Company Limited, Kumasi.

The nominee has held several leadership positions. He was the Secretary for Credit Monitoring and Recovering Committee for the ADB from 1993 to 1995. He was the Vice Chairman for the Interim Management Committee for Bosomtwe Rural Bank Limited from 2004 to 2005. He was the Board Chairman for Bosomtwe Rural Bank limited from 2005 to 2010.

Hon. Simon Osei-Mensah was the Member of Parliament for Bosomtwe from 2005 to 2017. During his tenure as MP, he served on a number of Committees including the Public Accounts Committee, the Subsidiary Legislation Committee and the Committee on Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs. He was also part of Ghana's Delegation to the ECOWAS Parliament, Nigeria where he served on Committees such as the Infrastructure and Industrial Development Committee (2008-2009), Health Committee (2009 – 2010), the Conference of Bureau (2009-2010) and Bureau of ECOWAS Parliament (2013-2015). He also chaired the Ad-Hoc Committee for the Preparation of the ECOWAS Parliamentary Budget (2009-2012) and Political Affairs, Peace and Security Committee (2010-2013). He was the Deputy Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament from 2013 to 2015.

Hon. Osei-Mensah has received a number of awards including the African Personality of Integrity Merit Award received in Lome, Togo.

Responses to Questions

Media Resource Centre and other On-going Projects

The nominee confirmed that the construction of the Media Resource Centre for the Ashanti Region was on-going and promised that, as media friendly person, he would ensure the completion of the projects to enhance the work of regional and national media houses. He also promised to ensure the completion of roads and hospitals which were started by the previous administration.

Development of the Bosomtwe Tourist Site

The nominee acknowledged that Lake Bosomtwe has a huge tourist attraction in view of the huge tourism potential it offers to the Region. He disclosed that the Lake Bosomtwe is among the biggest natural lakes in the country and attracts a lot of tourists across the country. He however observed that the site is becoming less attractive because of the deplorable infrastructure situation including poor state of road networks and receptive facilities. He also disclosed that the lake is gradually drying up. In that regard, he called for the full development of the Lake to realize its full tourism potentials. He hopes to achieve this by undertaking afforestation activities around the catchment area of the lake, building of receptive centres as well as the introduction of other attractions such as cable cars.

He further promised to introduce a cable car to link the lake to the Busia site in the Bosomtwe District as part of the project. He said as a Regional Minister, he would work with stakeholders to revamp the Bosomtwe project.

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Medical School

The nominee informed the Committee that as part of his responsibilities, he is to ensure that facilities such as schools, hospitals, roads and other social facilities are undertaken in the region. The Medical School is an important intervention for the region and there was the need to ensure that it is established to assist in the training of doctors in the country.

He assured the Committee that if given the nod, he would follow up to ensure that the school comes to fruition.

Strategies to Address Rural Urban Migration in the Ashanti Region

The nominee acknowledged that as part of its effort to fulfil its promises, Government would establish one district, one factory. He said some of the reasons for migration were economic reasons as well as push and pull factors at the places of destination.

He explained that if a factory would be established in each district, then more job opportunities would be created in the districts. People would therefore not be encouraged to migrate to other places.

Furthermore, government plans to educate 'kayayes' to build their skills so that they can take advantage of the opportunities to be created.

He assured the Committee that he would get in touch with the technical team for this initiative and assist in identifying some projects for the districts.

Security in the Region

The nominee noted that peace is cardinal if any development objective is to be achieved in the region. He said that he was aware of the issue of crime in the region and the tendency of some residents to feel unsafe.

He informed the Committee that he was not a security man. However due to the importance of peace, he would work with the security operatives through the Regional Security Council to address the issues of crime and promote peace as well as safety in the region.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the House to approve **by consensus** the nomination of Hon. Simon Osei-Mensah for appointment as Regional Minister for the Ashanti Region.

6.0 HON. ERIC KWAKYE DARFOUR - REGIONAL MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR EASTERN REGION

Background

Hon. Eric Kwakye Darfour born on 21st September, 1957 in Accra and hails for Obo-Kwahu in the Eastern Region.

He had his primary education at the Akomah Presby School and middle school education at the Obo Presby “A” Basic School between 1962 and 1971. The nominee attended St. Johns Grammar Secondary School, Accra to have his GCE Ordinary Level Certificate from 1971 to 1976 as well as his GCE Advanced Level Certificate at the Ofori Panin Secondary School between 1976 and 1978. He later enrolled at the University of Ghana between 1979 and 1982 and obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in French and Linguistics. While pursuing his undergraduate course, the nominee also attended the University of Dakar to obtain a Diplome Superieur in French between 1980 and 1981.

Hon. Darfour performed his national service as French Tutor at the Abuakwa State College, Kyebi between 1982 and 1984. He was appointed French Tutor in the same institution from 1984 to 1985 and later as the Managing Director of Ecovans Ltd from 1985 to 2013.

In politics, the nominee has held several leadership roles including the Constituency Secretary of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) in Nkawkaw (1992 – 1998), Chairman of the Council of Patrons of NPP, Nkawkaw (1998 -2004), and Regional Treasurer of the NPP (2009 – 2012). The nominee was the Board Chairman of Pentecost Preparatory Junior High School (1989-2007) and currently, the Board Chairman of the Kwahu Mpraeso Rural Bank Ltd (2000-date)

The nominee participated in a number of conferences and capacity building programmes which dwelt on management, corporate governance, internal audit, labour relations, banking and finance.

The nominee is the current Member of Parliament for the Nkawkaw Constituency in the Eastern Region and has occupied the seat since 2013. As a Member of Parliament, he has served on a number of Parliamentary committees including Foreign Affairs and Privileges Committees.

Responses to Questions

Vision for the Eastern Region

When asked about his vision for the Eastern Region, the nominee asserted that he would like to see a Region that has its people united in purpose, peaceful with an improved infrastructure particularly its road networks. He would further like to see a Region that remains an attractive destination for investors to create jobs for the people at the end of his tenure as a Regional Minister if graciously approved by the House.

Proposals for the Implementation of the One District/One Factory Initiative in the Eastern Region

On proposals on the kinds of factories he would like to be established in some of the Districts in the Region under the One District/One Factory” Initiative of the NPP, the nominee stated that it would depend on the results of feasibility studies which the government has planned to embark upon. He, however, indicated that the region is blessed with some non-traditional export agriculture produces such as ginger, tiger nuts and plantains that could be leveraged for the establishment of factories in the region. He further revealed that some investors have begun engaging some stakeholders in the Region in that respect even before the commencement of the feasibility studies. He pledged to lend his utmost support to ensure that the districts develop viable business plans required for the realisation of the policy following the feasibility studies.

Addressing the “Galamsey” Menace in the Region

The nominee shared his concern about the destructive nature of the “galamsey” activities in the region which has been depriving communities of their source of livelihoods. Alluding to persons often found engaged in the activities, he said the issue was a delicate one which needed a concerted efforts of all stakeholders including the security agencies, chiefs and the regulatory agencies to tackle. He promised to liaise with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Minerals Commission, Environmental Protection Agency and other relevant stakeholders to dialogue on strategies to deal with the situation. He further pledged the support of Regional Security Council (REGSEC) in enforcing mining laws in the Region if he is approved by the House.

Promotion of Water Transportation in the Eastern Region

The nominee believed that enhancing the water transport in the Region particularly connecting the Eastern Region to the Volta Region could boost the economic activities between the two regions. He blamed the current inefficiencies and under-utilisation of the Volta Lake to support the transportation of goods on limited investment in the transportation infrastructure of the Volta Lake. He said the situation has resulted in the operation of obsolete ferries which frequently break down on the lake. He disclosed that the erstwhile Kufuor administration had plans to refurbish some of the infrastructure particularly the ferries under the Millennium Development Authority (MiDA) Project which unfortunately could not come to fruition. He pledged to engage the Volta Lake Transport Company to encourage them to partner the private sector to revamp the lake transport.

Ensuring Peace and Stability in the Eastern Region

The nominee emphasised his commitment towards ensuring peace and stability in the region which he reiterated was essential in the development of the region. Alluding to the heterogeneous nature of the region in terms of the inhabitants, the nominee advocated for programmes that promote constant engagements between all stakeholders as a measure to ensure peaceful coexistence. He pledged to support such programmes and was also optimistic that the Regional Security Council which he will chair if approved by the House, will institute effective early warning systems to nip in the bud any conflict situations before it escalates.

On the recurrent conflict between Fulani herdsmen and the farmers in the Region, the nominee stated he was aware of an on-going engagement between the Ghana Cattle Farmers Association and Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana on modalities to address the issue. He was hopeful that far-reaching measures would be arrived at to minimize the rate of the conflict and promised to lend his support to the implementation of the measures in the Region if he is approved by the House.

Promoting Youth Entrepreneurship in the Region

The nominee admitted the need to develop the entrepreneurship skills of the youth in the region to enable them set up their own businesses and also create jobs. Alluding to his own experiences in managing his uncle's businesses, he emphasised the need for mentorship programmes to train the youth in financial management and customer and labour relations among others which are prerequisites to sustain businesses. He said if he is approved by the House he would encourage mentorship programmes by linking the youth to well-known businessmen in the Region.

Conflicts between DCEs and Members of Parliament

The nominee attributed the persistent conflict between District Chief Executives (DCEs) and Members of Parliament largely to the desire of DCEs to contest parliamentary seats. He noted the situation does not augur well for the development of the districts and was of the view that political parties must assume responsibility of the situation and devise ways to address it. He revealed that the Regional Party Executives of the NPP in the Eastern Region were already mulling strategies to address the issue. He advocated for continuous dialogue between the DCEs and MPs to build trust to improve their working relations.

Promotion of Tourism in the Region

The nominee acknowledged that the Eastern Region has enormous tourism potential which must be harnessed to support the socio-economic development of the Region. He mentioned the weak infrastructural base of the Region particularly poor road networks as a major challenge militating against the realisation of the region's tourism potentials. He pledged to liaise with the Ministers for Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts and Roads and Highways to improve upon the tourism infrastructure in the region. He further advocated for effective collaboration between Districts which share boundaries to harness the necessary synergies toward the development of tourism sites in the Region.

Establishment of the University of Environment and Sustainable Development

The nominee expressed his commitment to ensure the completion of on-going works on the establishment of the University of Environment and Sustainable Development for the Eastern Region. He disclosed that the site for the project has been prepared and that the actual construction works was yet to take off. He also pledged to ensure the prudent utilisation of €45million credit facility which was approved by Parliament for the project. He further assured the Committee of holding discussions with the Council of the University on the possibilities of leveraging on the existing infrastructure of the University College of Agriculture and Environment Studies at Bunso for the establishment of one of the faculties of the University Bunso in the Eastern Region.

Revamping the Amatey Irrigation Project

On strategies he intends to pursue to revamp the Amatey Irrigation Project, the nominee stated that the project which began during the Dr. KA Busia's administration has a large tract of land under cultivation which when revamped could support farmers in the area to undertake an all year-round farming as part of government's agenda of developing irrigation schemes across the country. He

indicated that the revamping the project would support job creation efforts within the project catchment area and promised to liaise with the Minister for Food and Agriculture and other relevant agencies to leverage private investments for the development of the project.

Measures to address the recurrent financial malfeasance at the District Assemblies

Responding to a question on how intends to tackle the recurrent financial malfeasance at the District Assemblies in the Region, the nominee noted that the issue was a shared concern which called for the strengthening of internal audit systems in District Assemblies in the Regions. He said checking the practice will secure resources meant for the development as well as efficient public service delivery at the districts. He said if approved by the House he would strengthen capacity of the audit and budget Departments of the Regional Coordinating Council to properly track the disbursement of funds and also exact appropriate sanctions when necessary.

Encumbering Funds meant of the District Assemblies

The nominee shared in the displeasure of the Committee about how a large chunk of the District Common Funds are encumbered at the central government level to cover projects leaving paltry amount of about thirty-five percent for the Assemblies to undertake their activities. He proposed effective monitoring of project procurement processes of the District Assemblies and prioritisation of projects as measures to reverse the trend. He further pledged to liaise with the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development to address such issues in the Region.

Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the House for the approval **by consensus** the nomination of Hon. Eric Kwakye Darfour for appointment as Regional Minister for the Eastern Region.

7.0 HON. ISMAEL ASHITEY

- REGIONAL MINISTER-
DESIGNATE FOR THE
GREATER ACCRA
REGION

Background

Mr. Ishmael Ashitey was born on 20th November, 1954 at Tema in the Greater Accra Region.

Mr. Ashitey had his primary education at the Manhean Presby Primary and Middle School, Tema from 1959 to 1969. He progressed to the Kpando Technical Institute from 1969 to 1971 for a Pre-Technical Programme. From 1971 to 1975, he proceeded to the Accra Polytechnic where he obtained the City and Guilds Certificate. He also attended the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology from 1975 to 1977 where he was awarded a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. He later studied at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, Accra from 2006 to 2009 and was awarded an Executive Masters in Governance and Leadership.

Hon. Ashitey did his national service at the Tema Steel Works Corporation between 1977 and 1978. He then moved to Kuwait to work with the National Industries Company of Kuwait as an Assistant Supervisor (1978-1981). He again moved to Libya to work with Tecnofin Nederland of Libya as a Field Supervisor (1981-1983) and later joined the General Establishment for Plastic Industries, Libya as a Mechanical Engineer from 1983 to 1985. He further worked at the Accra Brewery Limited as a Mechanical Engineer (1986-1998).

Hon. Ishmael Ashitey was elected as the Member of Parliament for the Tema East Constituency from 1997 to 2009 and served on the Parliamentary Select and Standing Committees on Mines and Energy, Government Assurance, Communications among others. He was appointed the Minister of State in Charge of Fisheries at the Ministry of Food and Agric. from 2001 to 2003. From 2003 to 2004, the nominee was appointed as a Minister of State in Charge of Technology at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Presidential Special Initiative.

The nominee has been the Greater Accra Chairman of the NPP, Member of the National Council of the NPP and also as a Member of the National Executive Committee of the NPP from 2010 to date.

Nominee's Responses to Questions

Vision for the Greater Accra Region

Asked on his vision for the Greater Accra Region and what the people of the Greater Accra Region should expect from him. The nominee informed the Committee that his biggest vision is to tackle the poor sanitation of the region. According to him, he will try his possible best to tackle the poor sanitation which is a factor for the perennial flooding in Accra. This he will do by working closely with the Minister for Sanitation and spending wisely to make funds available for the daily pile up of 500 tones deficit of rubbish. He continued that when sanitation improves, life in Accra would have improved to a very large extent.

Alleged Imposition of some Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives in the Greater Accra Region

In his response to an alleged imposition of some Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives on the Assemblies in the Greater Accra Region, the nominee stated emphatically that the allegation is false. He reiterated that the authority to appoint MMDCEs is vested in the President and not in him as the Greater Accra Regional Chairman of the NPP. He regarded the allegation as a fabrication of people who are not comfortable with the good work he has been doing in the Region.

Job Creation Agenda

Asked on how he intends to create jobs as a priority area, the nominee informed the Committee that the jobs will be created by working closely with the various Assemblies and also by relying on the President's vision of one factory for each district. He continued that the factories when constructed will provide jobs for the people.

Pollution of the Chemu Lagoon

On how he intends to address the pollution of the Chemu Lagoon and the air pollution as a result of the activities of the Pioneer Food Canary and the Tema European Fish Market which are major environmental concerns, the nominee informed the Committee that the pollution of the Chemu Lagoon started a long time ago as a result of untreated waste from the Tema Oil Refinery. He also stated that he was aware that a contractor was engaged in the past to desilt the Lagoon but the project stalled due to lack of funds. To that end, he assured that he will work closely with the Member of Parliament for the area to find lasting solution to the problem.

Role as Regional Chairman of the NPP and Regional Minister

On how effective and efficient he would be doubling as a Regional Party Chairman and a Regional Minister. The nominee stated that the NPP Constitution does not prevent him from holding the two offices. According to him, he is graduating from a Regional Chairman to a Regional Minister which is a continuation of what he has been doing as a regional party chairman. According to him, he has one year for his tenure as a Regional Party Chairman to come to an end. And that notwithstanding, he has very competent men at the party office to help him deliver effectively and efficiently.

Security of the Greater Accra Region

On the issue of security of the Greater Accra Region as Chairman of the Regional Security Council, the nominee assured the Committee that the security of the Greater Accra Region under NPP was one of the safest and most peaceful. He

reiterated that, he will work very closely with the security experts to ensure peace and stability in the region.

Safety on the N1 Highway

Asked about what he will do to enhance safety and address the seemingly inadequacies on the N1 Highway, the nominee assured the Committee that he will do everything possible in his capacity as the Regional Minister to ensure safety on the said highway.

Promoting Healthy Working Relationship between MPs and DCEs

On how he would ensure harmonious working relationships between MPs and DCEs in the region, the nominee stated that he has experience the problem himself during his tenure as MP and that he would not allow Members of the Parliament to go through that experience. He accordingly promised to work with the DCEs and the MPs in the Region and also ensure that the MPs access their share of the Common Fund to do their work if he is given the nod.

Creation of New Municipalities in the Greater Accra Region

On whether he would support a proposal to create new municipalities in some of the existing districts including the Okaikoi North in the Greater Accra Region, the nominee responded in the affirmative. He also stated that he would support such initiatives to bring development to the people and to improve governance in the Region.

Role as Regional Chairman of the NPP and Regional Minister

The nominee stated that his term as the Regional Chairman of the NPP will come to an end in 2018 and intends to hold that position until that time. He stated that he would rely on his competent team at the Regional headquarters of the party to do the work while he will concentrate on his work as the Regional Minister if he is given the nod.

He also said that he would work with everybody to develop the Region as he would be a Minister for the whole Region and not the Minister for NPP supporters.

Strategy to Address the Land Guards Phenomenon

According to the nominee, people take advantage of the joblessness of the youth to engage them as land guards. To that end he believed that, if the youth are put in gainful employment the problem would be addressed. He was of the view that the successful implementation of the One District/One Factory initiative by the NPP administration would help address youth unemployment and ultimately address the land guard phenomenon.

Strategy to address Chieftaincy Disputes in the Greater Accra Region

The nominee acknowledged the existence of the chieftaincy institution and its structures including the Greater Accra Regional House of Chiefs as some of the internal structures to address disputes within the chieftaincy institution. He therefore suggested that we should empower the internal structures of the chieftaincy institution to settle disputes and promised to work at it. He also promised to work with the security agencies to maintain law and order in the region particularly in cases of chieftaincy related violence.

Street Naming and House Numbering Projects

The nominee stated that he would continue the street naming and house numbering project started by the previous administration. He believed that the full implementation of the project would facilitate home and location addressing, improve tax collection business applications among others.

Traffic Congestion in Accra and Sakumono, Tema

The nominee indicated that he would support initiatives geared towards addressing traffic congestion in Accra including the Accra Bus Rapid Transit project. He accordingly promised to assess the status of the project to enable him take the appropriate steps.

On what he would do to address traffic congestion at Sakumono, Tema, the nominee said that he would liaise with the Ministers for Roads and Highways and Transport to address the issue. He also counted on the railway expansion agenda of the government to complement road Transport and to ease traffic situation within the area.

Construction of Boxing Gym/Sports Development in the Greater Accra Region

The nominee acknowledged the construction of the Boxing facility by the previous administration and said that the facility would help to promote boxing in the Region. He also hinted that he would re-invigorate the inter-school football competition as one of the strategies to promote sports development in the Greater Accra Region.

Development of the Coastal belt of the Greater Accra Region

The nominee indicated that the people of the Coastal areas in the Region are mostly fishermen and disclosed that he was aware of their challenges. He identified the use of light fishing and the depletion fish stock as some of the challenges facing fishermen in the Region. As the way forward, the nominee suggested the introduction of a “closed season policy to stop fishing for about three (3) months in every year to regenerate the fish stock. He also said that, for the policing to work, some work should be provided to fishermen to engage them

during that period and promised to liaise with the Ministry. He further stated that the implementation of the One District/One Factory project will ultimately improve the livelihood of the fisher folks.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the House for the approval **by consensus** the nomination of Hon. Ishmael Ashitey for appointment as Regional Minister for the Greater Accra Region.

8.0 DR. ARCHIBALD LETSA - REGIONAL MINISTER- DESIGNATE FOR THE VOLTA REGION

Background

Hon. Archibald Yao Letsa was born on 25th July, 1957 in Tema in the Greater Accra Region.

He had his primary education at the Klefe-Achatime E. P. Primary School, Ho (1963-1969) and continued at the Klefe Dome L. A. Middle School (1969-1970). He attended the Mawuli Secondary School, Ho from 1970-1975 for his 'O' Level and continued at the St. Peter's Secondary School, Nkwatia-Kwahu from 1975 to 1977 for his Advanced Level. He again attended the University of Ghana, Legon from 1977 to 1983 and was awarded Bachelor's Degree in Medicine and Surgery. He further obtained a Master's Degree in Public Health at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom.

The nominee is a fellow of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Dr. Letsa did his national service at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital from 1978 to 1979. He later worked as a Medical Officer at the Atua Government Hospital in the Eastern Region (1984-1986), Worawora Government Hospital in the Volta Region (1986-1988), the District Medical Officer for Health at the Jasikan District in the Volta Region. He later acted as the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) for the Volta Region and as Senior Medical Officer in charge of Public Health in the Region (1990-1994).

Hon. Archibald Letsa is the Director of Miracle Life Clinic, Vicachie Ghana Limited, Sky Plus Hotel and the Chief Executive Officer of AVL Holdings Ghana Limited all in the Volta Region. He is currently a part-time Senior Lecturer at the University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho.

Response to Questions

Ongoing Projects

The nominee acknowledged the commitment of the President to ensure the completion of the uncompleted projects in the Region which were started during the previous administration especially the Eastern Corridor road project. He therefore assured that he would work to ensure the completion of all such projects in the Volta Region if he is given the nod.

Strategies to Address Chieftaincy Conflicts in the Volta Region

The nominee commended the previous administration for working hard to maintain peace largely in the Region. He said that without peace, development cannot take place and therefore he would work with the youth and people of the Region to ensure peace prevails throughout the Region

Nominee's Legacy for the Volta Region

As part of the legacies, the nominee stated that he would work to ensure an improved infrastructural projects in the Region. He accordingly hoped to construct the Eastern Corridor road, Aerodrome, Ho dual carriageway, landing sites in Keta for the Region and facilitate the establishment of some factories in the Region. He conceded that work is currently being done on the Eastern corridor road but was unable to state the extent of work done so far.

Excessive Reliance on Common Fund (DACF)

The nominee disclosed that he has looked at the funding of MMDAs in the Region but revealed that the finding was not encouraging and that accounts for their reliance on the DACF. He hinted that the Government intends to decouple the Land Valuation Board from the Lands Commission so as to enable them value properties for the purpose of preparing the valuation list to aid computation and collection property taxes. On his part, he promised to help enhance the IGF base of the Assemblies whilst ensuring that corruption and leakages are blocked.

Relationship between MPs and DCEs

The nominee assured that he would work to foster a healthy relationship between DCEs and MPs by organizing a dialogue between the two groups as part of the strategies to address the issue. He also promised to coordinate the MMDCEs to ensure that there is cordiality and respect for the guidelines for the disbursement of the MPs share of the DACF.

Creation of the Proposed Oti Region out of Volta Region

On his view on the creation of the Oti That Volta Region is very “long “Region Spanning virtually from the coast to the North. The purpose of the proposed partition is to enhance the pace of development. The factors influencing the partitioning include the distance one has to travel from the northern part to the Regional Capital to assess services such as teachers postings, promotion etc. that travel time would also be cut significantly for those who would fall into the proposed “OTI Region.

Culture

That he will work with the chiefs and people to promote kente, festivals, and other tourist attractions in the Region.

University of Health and Allied Sciences

The nominee said that he has already toured the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) and listened to the plans of the administration of the University. He promised to do his best in collaborating with the Minister of Health and Minister of Education to further develop the UHAS. He further indicated that he has already been a part-time lecturer at University and would be proud to have a new faculty constructed for the UHAS by the end of his tenure.

Transport on the Volta Lake

That he would be committed to taking actions in collaboration with the Ministry responsible for water transport to significantly reduce the level of accidents and fatality on the Volta Lake and accordingly suggested the cutting of tree stumps and provision of navigational equipment to address the problem.

Enhancing Revenue Collection by MMDAs

On strategies he would adopt to enhance revenue collection by MMDAs in the Region, the nominee express the view that revenues which can easily be collected should not be privatized and for that reason revenue to be collected from big and identifiable businesses should be done by the Assembly staff themselves. He therefore hinted that privatisation and payment of commissions would be restricted to revenue that is very difficult to collect.

Salt Industry

The nominee stated that the government is committed to the exploration of the salt potential of the Region. He continued that H.E. the President met with the

people of Ketu south and Keta, during his political campaigns and has been briefed on the salt potential of the Region. He is committed to working to enhance exploration of the salt industry for job creation and economic development since salt is also an export commodity.

Job Creation

That it is the growth of the private sector that would provide the needed number of jobs. Most people he employs are unusually looking for government jobs due to the notion of security of employment. He suggested that the young people in Ghana need to be counselled to work hard even in private sector because they could equally secure their employment there.

Recommendation

The Committee, recommends to the House for approval **by consensus** the nomination of Dr. Archibald Letsa for appointment as Regional Minister for the Volta Region.

9.0 MR. ALHASSAN SULEMANA - REGIONAL MINISTER- DESIGNATE FOR THE UPPER WEST REGION

Background

Hon. Sulemana Alhassan was born on 1st July 1954 in Wa in the Upper West Region.

He started his basic education at Limanyiri Primary School from 1967 to 1970. He continued to Bawku Secondary School where he obtained his G.C.E. O Level Certificate from 1970 to 1975 and also Bagabaga Training College in 1975 to 1978 for his Teacher Training Certificate.

Upon completion, he taught for four years and proceeded to Advance Teacher Training College Winneba and was awarded Diploma in Mathematics and Bachelor of Education. Hon. Sulemana started as a Tutor in Wa Experimental Junior Secondary School (JSS) from 1978 to 1982 and later proceeded to Wa Secondary School from 1999 to 2000.

He was also an Administrator at the Islamic Clinic in Wa from 1988 to 1990 and an Assistant Headmaster in Kabanye E/A JSS in Wa from 1990 to 1993. He became a subject Tutor in Wa Secondary Technical from 1995 to 1996 and also Headmaster in Islamic Secondary School from 1996 to 2011. He became the

Deputy Regional Director at the Regional Education Office from 2011 to 2012 and subsequently the Director at the Municipal Office in 2012 to 2014.

The nominee has held various positions including Head Coach in Wa United from 1979 to 1988 and a member of Committee on Public and Police Conflict in 2005 to 2007. He also served as a member of Wa Secondary School Students Committee investigating the Riot in 2004 and a member of the District Education Planning Team in Wa in 2001 to 2004. The nominee has been a member of District Education Oversight Committee in Wa from 2004 to 2005. Hon. Alhassaan was also a member of Ghana Education Trust Fund (Getfund) Board as well as Upper West Regional New Patriotic Party (NPP) Campaign Team in 2016 and a Coordinator of the Regional Election Coalition Centre for the NPP.

Response to Questions

Vision for the Region

When asked about his vision for the region. The nominee informed the Committee that according to the Living Standard Survey conducted by the Statistical Service in 2012, the region was graded as the poorest and most deprived. He stated that the region is endowed with tourism potentials which has not been utilized for so many years and that when given the nod he will improve the living standards of the people in the region and also affirmed his commitment to collaborate with the traditional rulers and other stakeholders to move the region forward.

Implementation of the One District/One Factory Initiative in the Upper West Region

The nominee lauded the concept of one district one factory initiative in the NPP Manifesto and informed the Committee that the region has some potential arrears for the realization of this vision. According to him, the region is endowed with natural resources and great potential to be tapped for national development. He further stated that there are a number of districts in the region that are endowed with crops such as groundnut, sorghum, shea nut and cotton and that when given the nod he will embark on the one district one factory policy initiative and to revamp the old cotton factory in Sisala district which has been closed down for so many years.

Existing relationship between Upper West and Burkina Faso

Responding to a question on how he would improve the existing relationship between the region and Burkina Faso, the nominee was of the view that he would continue to improve upon the existing cordial relationship between the two countries. He further informed the Committee that he would organize a meeting on strategies to flush out criminals around the Bobodilaso border so as to allow free boarder movement of goods and persons.

Addressing the migration of youth to the urban areas

On migration of the youth to the urban centres in search of menial jobs the nominee pointed out that this has been a worrying phenomenon in the country which can led to social vices such as child labour, teenage pregnancy, sexual abuse, and drop in school enrolment and that when given the nod he would look out for strategies outlined in the New Patriotic Party (NPP) manifesto to address this growing phenomenon.

Addressing the Internal Security of the Region

Addressing the internal security of the region, the nominee informed the Committee that he will collaborate with national security and other relevant bodies in the region to strengthen night patrol, improve on the community policing and escort goods and services from the Region to the South. He further stated that he would engage stakeholders to form educational Committees to enlighten the indigenes about armed robbery and its negative effects on the Region so as to reduce these social vices and other related security threats in the Region.

Improvement of Road Network

When asked about what he would do to improve the road network in the region, the nominee stated that he would continue with projects initiated by the previous administration and also engage and lobby the sector ministry on the state of affairs on some of the major and access roads in the region.

Promotion of Religious Tolerance

The nominee admitted that religious intolerance is one of the heartbeat of conflicts among religious sects in the region and appreciate the attempt made by successive governments over the years in various capacities to promote religious tolerance and that when given the nod he would dialogue and continue to educate the various religious groups about the oneness of God and the need to

co-exist and live in peace and harmony with one another since all mankind serves one God.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the House for the approval **by consensus** the nomination of Mr. Alhassan Sulemana for appointment as Regional Minister for Upper West Region.

10.0 MR. ROCKSON AYINE BUKARI - REGIONAL MINISTER- DESIGNATE FOR THE UPPER EAST REGION

Background

Mr. Rockson Ayine Bukari was born on 24th April 1947 at Gambibgo near Bolgatanga in the Upper East Region.

He had his primary education at Aningazanga Primary School, Bolgatanga from 1954 to 1960 and continued at Abilba Middle School, Bolgatanga between 1960 and 1963. He later attended the Kanton Training College, Tumu from 1965 to 1968 where he obtained a Teachers' Certificate 'A'.

Mr. Bukari taught at Pwalugu Primary School, Tongo from 1964 to 1965 as a Pupil Teacher. He later went to teach at the Abilba Middle School, Bolgatanga after his professional training in teaching. He then moved to head the Aningazanga Middle School from 1970 to 1972.

The nominee thereafter worked as Registrar at the Frafra Confederacy Council from 1972 to 1973 and later as the Registrar at Builsa Traditional Council from 1974 to 1976. He was again worked as Registrar at the Brong Ahafo Regional House of Chiefs from 1976 to 1979 and further moved to serve in same capacity at the Nanumba Traditional Council from 1979 to 1981. He further served as the Assistant Regional Registrar for the Upper East Regional House of Chiefs (1981 to 1994) and then got promoted to the Regional Registrar of House (1994-2000).

Regarding his political profile, Mr. Bukari served as the Organizer for the Progress Party for the Bolgatanga Constituency from 1969 to 1972 and has since 1992 been a member of the NPP. He is currently the Upper East Regional Representative of the National Council of the NPP and has served in that capacity since 2008.

Mr. Bukari was the Assembly Member of the Gambibgo Electoral Area in Bolgatanga from 1992 to 2004. He was also appointed the Municipal Chief Executive for the Bolgatanga Municipal Assembly (2001-2004).

Responses to Questions

Chieftaincy Dispute/Uniting the People of Bolgatanga

On how he intends to unite the people in the Upper East Region particularly the people of Bolgatanga in view of the current chieftaincy disputes in the area, the nominee informed the Committee that the current chieftaincy dispute has been sent to the Regional House of Chiefs for resolution. He assured the Committee that, if he is given the nod, he will do his best to ensure that peace and security prevails in the Region.

Uncompleted Projects

On what he would do about the various uncompleted in the Region, the nominee assured the Committee that if approved by the House, he will meet with liaison with the Ministry of Roads and Highways and other technocrats in the road sector to find adopt to take appropriate steps to deal with the situation.

Indiscriminate Felling of Trees

The nominee informed the Committee that, in view of the worrying situation, he had already met with Officials of the Forestry Commission and hoped to address the issue as early as possible. He also stated that he embark on sensitization drive to educate the people on the dangers the practice to complement other efforts to address the issue.

Role of a Regional Minister

On the specific roles he would perform as a Regional Minister, the nominee responded that he would become the Chairman of the Upper East Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) and in that regard lead the Council to monitor, coordinate and evaluate the activities in the Region.

Response to Alleged Misappropriation of Funds

In his response to an allegation of misappropriation of One Thousand, Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,500) which occurred when he was the Registrar to the Upper East Regional House of Chiefs and which became a subject of Investigation by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), the nominee denied the allegation and stressed that no such thing ever happened.

Plan to Revamp the Pwalugu Tomato/ Bolga Meat Factories

On how intend to revamp the Pwalugu Tomato and the Bolga Meat Factories to create jobs for the people in the Region, the nominee informed the Committee

that a plan has been adopted to convert the meat factory into an abattoir which when completed would generate create about 400 jobs. On the tomato factory, the nominee stated that he would engage all Stakeholders to discuss ways to revamp the factor and to also look for investors to invest in the company.

Bagri Dam Spillage

On how he intends to fulfill the Government's promise of tapping the water from the Bagri Dam spillage for irrigation purposes, the nominee stated that he will meet all stakeholders concerned if he is given the nod and hoped to adopt a strategy to redeem that pledge.

Plan to Develop Tourist Sites in the Region

on how he intends to develop tourist sites in the Upper East Region, the nominee stated that he would collaborate with the relevant Stakeholders in the Region to develop the Paga Crocodile Pond, the Tongo Hills and other tourist sites in the Region to enhance revenue generation and to create jobs.

Nominee's Legacy/Vision for the Region

The nominee stated that he would like to be remembered for working hard to provide good roads to accelerate the development of the Region. He enumerated some of his past achievements during his tenure as MCE for the Bolgatanga Municipal Assembly to buttress this resolve.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Mr. Rockson Ayine Bukari for appointment as Regional Minister for the Upper East Region.

**11.0 MR. KWAKU ASOMAH-CHEREMEH - REGIONAL MINISTER-
DESIGNATE FOR THE
BRONG AHAFO
REGION**

Background

Mr. Kwaku Asomah-Cheremeh was born on 26th August, 1964 at Berekum in the Brong Ahafo Region and hails from Jinijini in the same Region.

He had his primary education at the Local Authority Primary School, Kenyasi No. 2 between 1971 and 1976 and continued at the Urban Council Middle School,

Sunyani between 1977 and 1981. He then attended the Sunyani Secondary School, Sunyani (1981-1986) for his 'O' Level and furthered at the Accra Workers College between 1987 and 1989 for his 'A' Level. He later attended the University of Ghana, Legon between 1991 and 1994 and obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Law and Political Science. He then proceeded to the Ghana School of Law in for his professional legal education and was subsequently called to the Ghana Bar in 1998. He has since been a Member of the Ghana Bar Association.

Mr. Asomah-Cheremeh taught at Authority Junior Secondary School (1989-1990) and the Methodist Junior Secondary School, Kyeremaasu (1990-1991) for his national service. He then entered into legal practice and worked with Chamber of Akyedee Legal Services, Sunyani (1998-2004). He left to form his own legal firm, Henewaa Chambers, Sunyani in 2014.

The nominee has held several positions in the New Patriotic Party including being Regional Campaign Manager during the 2012 and 2016 General Elections, Regional Chairman of the Party for the Brong Ahafo Region (2009 to date), Member of the National Executive Council (2009 to date), and Member of the Interparty Advisory Committee (2009 to date).

Responses to Question

Vision for the Region

On his vision for the Region, the nominee stated that he would like to see a Region which offers optimum security and job opportunities with minimal environmental degradation for its people. The nominee believed his aspirations for the Region if realized through the implementation of the Government's agenda for the Region would curb the high incidence of unemployment and rural-urban migration in the Region. He added that the availability of job opportunities would also curtail the migration of youth through the desert to seek greener pastures in Europe.

Strategies to increase Agricultural Production in the Region

Regarding strategies he intends to adopt to increase agriculture production of the Region to support the food security objectives of the country, the nominee said he will liaise with the Minister for Food and Agriculture to train farmers in modern technologies and also expand the provision of extension services. He also promised to support the youth in the Region to secure short term loans to encourage them to venture into agriculture.

Improving Cashew Production

The nominee asserted that improving cashew production in the Region was at the core of the NPP's 2016 Manifesto for the agriculture sector and expressed Government's commitment to deliver on those promises. He disclosed that the Government intends to establish a Cashew Development Authority to regulate the pricing of cashew among others as a measure to provide a guaranteed market for the cashew farmers. He further noted that the government would provide incentives and also make farm inputs readily accessible to the cashew farmers. He therefore pledged to support His Excellency the President's agenda for the cashew production in the Region if he is approved by the House.

Political Violence and Armed Robbery

The nominee expressed concerns about the recent spate of political violence and armed robbery in the Region. He said that such developments serve as disincentive to the investor community and according pledged to collaborate with the Ministry of Interior and the security agencies to enhance surveillance at all flashpoints in the Region if approved by the House. He also promised to liaise with the traditional authorities to establish watchdog committees in their communities to complement the efforts of the security agencies.

Settlement of Chieftaincy Disputes

On how he intends to resolve the increasing number of chieftaincy disputes in the Region, the nominee expressed his displeasure about the situation and stated that about forty-one them were currently before the Brong Ahafo Regional House of Chiefs. He stated that the situation does not augur well for the rapid development of the Region and promised to consult the lawyers and representatives of the feuding factions, the Regional House of Chiefs and other relevant traditional authorities to assist in settling the disputes.

DKM/God is Love Scandal

On what steps he would take to resolve outstanding issues relating to the DKM and "God is Love" Microfinance scandal, the nominee stated he would follow up on the promises to the victims by NPP during the 2016 electioneering campaigns. In that regard, he expressed Government's resolve to establish a Committee to investigate the scandal to form the basis for further actions on the

matter. He emphasised that if anybody is found to have breached the law, that person would be dealt with in accordance with the laws of the country. He also acknowledged that some payments have been made to some of the victims by the Bank of Ghana but stated that the payments were insignificant when compared to the amount of investments made by the victims. He hoped that the Committee to be established by the Government would also establish how much money each victim has to be paid. He therefore pledged to support the Committee to do its work when established.

Spatial Plans for the Region

Region particularly the regional capital, Sunyani and emergence of slums. He blamed the situation on the rapid urbanisation and rural-urban migration being experienced in the country. He disclosed that Taskforces have been established at the Municipal Assemblies to check the phenomenon and to decongest the cities. He pledged to support the Taskforces in the discharge of their responsibilities. He, however, appealed to influential people not to interfere in the work of the Taskforces.

Support for Poultry Farming

The nominee acknowledged that the Region has the potential of meeting the demands of poultry products of the country if poultry farmers particularly those in the Dormaa District are supported with appropriate incentives. He said the NPP government has recognised the potentials and has planned to support them under the One District/One Factory policy by partnering the Poultry Farmers' Association in the Region to establish a poultry feed factory and chicken processing factories. He believed the measures would ensure accessibility to poultry feeds and inputs as well as a guaranteed market for the poultry farmers.

Objections to his Nomination

Responding to objections to his nomination by some groups in the Brong Ahafo Region including the Sunyani Traditional Council, the nominee disclosed that the impasse has been settled with the intervention of the National Peace Council. He accordingly pledged his commitment to work in harmony with the Sunyani Traditional Council and other traditional authorities towards the realisation of the vision of His Excellency the President for the Region.

Proposals for the Implementation of the One District/One Factory Policy in the Region

Relating to his recommendations to His Excellency the President on the kinds of factories and their respective locations towards the realisation of the “one district one factory” policy pledge in 2016 NPP Manifesto, the nominee proposed to leverage on the agricultural crops cultivated in the Region particularly cashew nuts, chicken, tomato, okro and plantain to establish agro-based factories. He identified towns such as Dormaa, Kintampo, Techiman and Berekum as some of the probable areas where the factories could be sited.

Development of Tourism in the Region

The nominee noted that the Region is endowed with enormous tourism potential which could be harnessed to create jobs. He emphasised the benefits of the sector could only be realised if the infrastructure such roads, security posts and hostel facilities to support the tourism industry is comprehensively dealt with. He pledged to liaise with the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts and relevant Ministries to leverage private investment the infrastructure at the Tourism sites if he is approved. He mentioned Fula waterfalls, Kintampo waterfalls and Boateng-Fiema Monkeys Sanctuary as some of the major tourism sites he intends to develop if his approved by the House.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Mr. Kwaku Asoma Cheremeh for appointment as Regional Minister for Brong Ahafo Region.

**12.0 MR. KWAMENA DUNCAN - REGIONAL MINISTER-
DESIGNATE FOR THE
CENTRAL REGION**

Background

Mr. Kwamena Duncan was born on 9th April, 1966 at Anomabu in the Central Region and hails from the same Region.

He had his elementary education at the Anomabu Anglican Basic School between 1972 and 1982. He then attended the Assin Manso Secondary School

from 1982 to 1984 and continued at the Mfantsipim School from 1984 to 1990 for his 'O' and 'A' Levels. He attended the University of Ghana from 1991-1994 and obtained the Bachelor of Science in Crop Science.

The nominee has attended a number of conferences notable among them are Civil Participation in Poverty Reduction (IDEG), Cape Coast (June, 2005), Promotion of Democracy and Good Governance (G.I.I.), Saltpond (March 2005), Water Resources Management and Water use Charges (WRC), Saltpond (June, 2005), Policy Formulation for NEPAD, Elmina (March, 2006) as well as Democracy and Democratic Development in Africa, Johannesburg by Electoral commission of South Africa, South Africa (March, 2007).

Mr. Duncan taught at Bakatsir Secondary School Technical School for his national service between 1994 and 1995. He thereafter worked at Twifu Praso Secondary School as Staff Secretary from 1996 to 1998 and later became a Housemaster at the same institution. The nominee has been teaching at the Mfantsipim School since 1993 and has held several positions in the School including as a Housemaster, an Assistant Coordinator, as Head Mfanstipim School Farm, as Director of Evening Studies (Mfanstipim) and as a Senior Housemaster.

On his political profile, the nominee was NPP Ward Secretary for the Commonwealth Hall, Legon between 1992 and 1993 and proceeded to hold same position at the Ataabaadze in the Central Region (1994-1995). He also served several positions including as Chairman of the NPP's Public Relations and Information Management (2003-2008) and Member of the NPP National Communications Team

Nominee's Responses to Questions

Nominee's Vision for the Central Region

The nominee noted that despite the instrumental role played by the people of the Central Region since Ghana's Independence, the region continues to be counted among the poorest regions in the country. He supported this assertion by referring to the 2016 Ghana Living Standards Survey which places the Central Region as the fourth poorest region in the country. He also noted that past attempts by successive Regional Ministers for the Region within the past 20 years has not yielded much results and poverty still persists in the Region. He however disclosed that the forest belt of the Region produces cash crops which could be used to turn around the fortunes of the Region but cited that farming within the Region has been at the subsistence level. He therefore called for a deliberate policy to bring large scale capital into the region's agric sector and back it up by a tax holiday regime which will create backward and forward linkages.

Poverty Alleviation Strategies

As part of his strategies to alleviate poverty in the Region, the nominee hinted that he would support the work of the Central Regional Development Commission (CEDECOM) to attract the needed investments into the Region to boost economic activities and hence reduce poverty. He also stated that he would advertise the economic potential of the Region to attract prospective investors. He further stated that he would take advantage of the Government's infrastructure for poverty eradication to help address the poverty situation in the region. Finally, he said that he would work very hard to attract investment to boost the production of commercial crops cultivated by the people in the Region to propel to growth of the Region.

Improving the Standard of Education in the Region

The nominee accepted an observation that few indigenes of the Region get admission into some of the best schools in the Central Region. He therefore assured that, if he is approved by the House, he would constitute a Committee to develop an incentive package for all districts in the Region to reward both students and teachers as a way of improving the standard of education in the Region.

Enhancing Tourism in the Central Region

The nominee described tourism as the "living sector" of the Region but indicated that the sector lacks the investment needed to stimulate economic activities in the sector. He explained that in view of the under investment in the tourism sector most tourists do day trips instead of staying for some days in the Region and spending more money in the process. He accordingly stated that he would advertise the tourism potential in the Region to attract investment into the hospitality industry for the construction of hotels to improve the situation. He also promised to meet heads of Utilities in the Region to discuss plans to extend electricity and water services to tourist sites.

Measures to Address Unemployment

The nominee stated that he would use the CEDECOM as the tool to provide jobs for the people in the Region. He also hinted that he would work hard to secure some factories for the twenty (20) districts in the Region under the One District/One Factory policy of the Government to augment job creation efforts. He accepted the suggestion to use the various educational institutions in the Region including the three Universities and the Ninety-three Senior High Schools in the Region as the market base for the factories to achieve the desired results.

Using Education as Catalyst for Development

Whilst acknowledging the enormous economic potential that educational institutions in the Region offer to the people, the nominee indicated that the services generated by the institutions are seasonal in nature. That notwithstanding, he promised to make strong appeal to the heads of the educational institutions in the Region who are also agents of development to procure all their food needs from the Region to boost economic development.

Major Interventions for the Development of the Region

On the major interventions he intends to implement to develop the Region, the nominee promised to make a strong case to bring the needed investment into the Central Region to boost economic activities there. He also stated that he would promote education in the Region as a way of turning around the fortunes of the Region.

Salt Production/Establishment of Petro-chemical Industry

The nominee stated that even though the Region is endowed with huge salt deposits salt production in the Region was at the subsistence level and therefore there is the need for capital injection into the salt industry to achieve optimal results. He also hinted that he would constitute a Committee which would be made up of investment experts to look into the industry and to develop a module to attract investors into the sector. He was of the view that when that is done it will help the Region to take advantage of the proposed Petrochemical industry.

Issues Relating to Premix Fuel

According to the nominee, the major problems that have plagued the premix fuel policy relate to reliability in the supply and distribution of the fuel and affordability issues. On affordability issues, he explained that there have been instances where some middle men buy the premix fuel and later sell them to the fishermen at a higher price. In view of the fact that premix fuel is so critical to the activities of the fishermen in the Region without which their poverty level will further deteriorate. He therefore stated that he would use his position to ensure reliable supply of the premix fuel at prices which they could afford.

Measures to Address Poor Sanitation in the Region

The nominee conceded that the sanitation situation in the Region was poor and that has led to the outbreak of cholera in the Region. He disclosed that he has been briefed on the annual outbreak of cholera and the rates have been alarming. According to him, statistics from the Region indicates that cholera cases the Region recorded 5,000 cholera cases in 2016 in the Cape Coast municipality alone. He therefore said that we should not be talking about cholera at this stage

of our development and promised to use his best endeavors to address the insanitary situation in the Region to avert recurrence of the disease.

Incidence of Coastal Erosion

The nominee stated that coastal erosion in the Region is worsened by the operation of some sand winners who operate at night and cause destruction to the shore buffer. He therefore stated that, if he is given the nod, he would use his position as Chairman of the Regional Security Council (REGSEC) for the deployment of a 24hour surveillance team to secure the coast lines.

Response to Alleged Absenteeism

The nominee stressed that he has not been absenting himself from school as a teacher of the Mfantshipim Senior High School to pursue his political activities. He explained that as a teacher at the SHS, he teacher by periods and that he comes to Accra only on Wednesdays which is his free day for his political activities. He also disclosed that, he has been a director for evening studies as well as a house master but due to his work ethics and discipline there has not been any occasion that anybody has suffered in the performance of his duties. He further stated that when he is off in his free days, there are other three housemasters who stepped in to perform his duties as a housemaster.

Nominee's Response to the "Reckless Spending" Statement

When the nominee's attention was drawn to a statement he made during the 2016 Electioneering Campaigns suggesting that "President Mahama is spending as though there is no tomorrow", the nominee said he made the statement in the Twi language and hence the words were not his words but that of the translator. He however indicated his regrets for the statement.

Establishment of the Proposed Coastal Development Authority

The nominee noted that the proposed Coastal Development Authority as promised by the NPP in its 2016 Manifesto will not duplicate the work of existing institutions because the CEDECOM was founded on legislation but indicated that the Coastal Development Authority will be premised on legislation which may either subsume the commission or make it a division of the Authority. He was optimistic that measure would be put in place to avoid duplication of the activities of the two entities.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the House to approve *by consensus* the nomination of Mr. Kwamena Duncan for appointment as Regional Minister for the Central Region.

Background

Mr. Salifu Sa-eed was born 28th December 1973 at Bimbilla in the Northern Region.

Mr. Sa-eed had his primary education at Dakpam L/A Primary School from 1978 to 1983. He proceeded to the Bimbilla Secondary School for his G.C.E. Ordinary Level Certificate from 1984 to 1989. After completion, he enrolled at the Bagabaga Training College from 1990 to 1992 for a Post-Secondary Teacher Certificate "A" from 1993 – 1994. He sat for the G.C.E Advance Level Certificate Examination as a private candidate.

Mr. Sa-eed enrolled at the University for Development Studies from 1995 to 1999 where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Development Studies. The nominee from 2011 to 2012 enrolled at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and was awarded Masters of Development with Research.

Mr. Salifu Sa-eed started his career as a teacher with the Ghana Education Service at Jujedayiri Junior High School at Wa from September 1992 to August 1994. The nominee from September 1999 to August 2000 did his National Service as a teacher at the Tamale Secondary School. He was employed as a Programme Officer with Action Aid/Community Action for Development Partnership from September 2001 to May 2002. Mr. Salifu Sa-eed was appointed the District Chief Executive (DCE) for the Nanumba North District in Bimbilla from May 2005 to 2009. He was the co-founder for the Savanna Integrated Rural Development Aid from February 2003 to 2004 and has been the Chief Executive Officer for African Commodities and Logistics Limited since January 2012 to date.

Mr. Sa-eed has held a number of leadership positions; he was the Northern Regional Executive Officer in charge of Research for the NPP from 2002 – 2004 and also was the National President for the Nanumba Students Union from 1996 to 1998.

Nominee's Responses to Questions

Tension in the Region from attacks on Government Officers

The nominee gave an assurance that if the House approves of him, he would work to stop the locking of offices in the Region. He again assured the Committee that, he would talk to the people engaged in the unorthodox seizure of government offices. The most energetic people who engage in such acts he conceded are usually youthful like himself and that he would find it easy to talk to such people. He promised to bring to bare in solving leadership and sincerity these problems.

Ensuring Security in the Region

The nominee stated that he found it even embarrassing that conflict in his area continue to persist. According to him, the conflicts were there even before he became the DCE for the place. That whilst he was there, he brought all the people together to own the peace process.

He promised to bring together key stakeholders, chieftaincy and traditional rulers to lead the process of peacebuilding in order to remove the political colour from it as much as possible. He promised that professional security agencies would be made to work hard to bring normalcy to the Bimbilla (Nanumba) area.

Ongoing Projects in the Region

The nominee stated that efforts would be made to ensure the completion of the Tamale International Airport. This he said would help secure the people of the North and the neighbouring **sahelian** nations. According to him all projects that meet developmental plans of government would be pursued and completed.

Partition of the Region

The nominee informed the Committee that the re-demarcation of the region would be done in collaboration with key stakeholders and impartial NGOs. He stated that the division of the region into two or more parts would enhance administrative convenience and propel development. He promised to provide the necessary leadership in this regard. According to him, he personally would not determine the new boundaries but government would consult the chiefs and other stakeholders in the division of the Region.

Promotion of Agricultural Production

On agriculture, the nominee appealed to business persons from especially down south to come to the Northern Region and do commercial farming so as to provide jobs for the teeming youth. He said that there are large tracts of fertile land and that the chiefs are willing to give for commercial agriculture.

Conflict Resolution

On conflict resolution in the Region, the nominee recommended identifiable groups such as Northern Caucus MPs from both sides, Nanum youth, Dagbon youth and other unifying groups to help sell the idea of peace and help reduce the tension in the Region.

He assured the Committee that he would be Minister for all regardless of party affiliation. He was also assured of the support of the MPs from the region from across the divide to help foster peace throughout the region. He and the DCEs were however advised to refrain from meddling in chieftaincy matters.

One Village One Dam Policy

Commenting on the policy on one village one dam, the nominee said that the dams will not have the same size and therefore would have different cost. He stated that the dams would depend on the topology, geographical and other conditions of each village. The purpose of the dam he mentioned is to enable dry season farming.

He would however not speculate the number of the dams that would be built per year but he was confident that the one-dam-one village project would be of immense help to the people of the region.

Potable Water Supply

The nominee stated that, if his nomination is approved, he would liaise with the ministries responsible for water supply to explore ways of providing water to the various parts of the region. He mentioned that the region has enormous water potential and hence efforts would be made to expand access to water supply in the region.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves **by consensus** the nomination of Mr. Salifu Sa-eed for appointment as Minister responsible for the Northern Region.

12.0 CONCLUSION AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

The Committee has duly considered the nominations of His Excellency the President for Ministerial appointments in line with the 1992 Constitution and the Standing Orders of the House and recommends the following ten (10) nominees to the House for approval:

- i. **Hon. (Dr.) Kwaku Afriyie** - **Regional Minister-Designate for the Western Region**
- ii. **Hon. Simon Osei-Mensah** - **Regional Minister-Designate for the Ashanti Region**
- iii. **Hon. Eric Kwakye Darfour** - **Regional Minister-Designate for the Eastern Region**
- iv. **Hon. Ishmael Ashitey** - **Regional Minister-Designate for Greater Accra Region**
- v. **Dr. Archibald Lesta** - **Regional Minister-Designate for the Volta Region**
- vi. **Mr. Alhassan Sulemana** - **Regional Minister-Designate for Upper West Region**
- vii. **Mr. Rockson Ayine Bukari** - **Regional Minister-Designate for the Upper East Region**
- viii. **Mr. Kweku Asomah-Cheremeh** - **Regional Minister-Designate for the Brong Ahafo Region**
- ix. **Mr. Kwabena Duncan** - **Regional Minister-Designate for the Central Region**

x. **Mr. Salifu Sa-eed**

- **Regional Minister-
Designate for Northern
Region**

Respectfully submitted.



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**HON. JOE OSEI-OWUSU
(FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER,
& CHAIRMAN
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE)**



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

FEBRUARY, 2017

