

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

**THIRD REPORT OF THE
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

ON

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

FEBRUARY, 2017

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 11th January, 2017, H.E. the President communicated to Parliament the nomination of twelve persons including the six under-listed persons for ministerial appointments in accordance with Article 78 (1) of the 1992 Constitution and same were referred to the Appointments Committee by the Rt. Hon. Speaker for consideration and report.

The six nominations are:

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| i. Hon. (Dr.) Anthony Akoto Osei | - | Minister-Designate
for Monitoring
& Evaluation |
| ii. Ms. Otiko Afisah Djaba | - | Minister-Designate
For gender, Children
& Social Protection |
| iii. Hon. Dan Kwaku Botwe | - | Minister-Designate
for Regional
Reorganization and
Development |
| iv. Mr. John Peter Amewu | - | Minister-Designate
for Lands & Natural
Resources |
| v. Hon. Ignatius Baffour-Awuah | - | Minister-Designate
for Employment &
Labour Relations |
| vi. Hon. Samuel Atta Akyea | - | Minister-Designate
for Works & Housing |

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

In course of its deliberations, the Committee made reference to the following:

- 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 caused to be published in the newspapers the names of the nominees and notice of the Committee's Public Hearing for the attention of the general public. The Committee also requested Memoranda from the general public in respect of the nominees.
- 3.2 Subsequent to this and as part of its due diligence procedures, the Committee obtained Confidential Reports in respect of the nominees from the Ghana Police Service and the Bureau of National Investigations (BNI). The Committee also obtained Tax Status Reports on the nominees from the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).
- 3.3 The Committee thereafter held Public Hearing and considered the nominations. Prior to the commencement of proceedings, the nominees subscribed to the Oath of a Witness and proceeded to answer 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 the six nominations and reports as follows:

**4.0 HON. (DR.) ANTHONY AKOTO OSEI - MINISTER-
DESIGNATE FOR
MONITORING
& EVALUATION**

Background

Hon. (Dr.) Anthony Akoto Osei was born on 18th April, 1953 in Sunyani in the Brong Ahafo Region.

He had his primary education at the Saint Joseph's Primary School, Kumasi (1958-1963) and the Saint Joseph's Middle School, Kumasi (1963-1965). He progressed to the Achimota Secondary School, Accra for his Ordinary Level and Advanced Level education from 1965 and 1972.

He attended Oberlin College, Ohio where he was awarded Bachelor of Arts in Economics from August, 1974 and May, 1978. He also attended the George Washington University, Washington DC from August, 1978 to December, 1978 and obtained Masters in Business Administration. He again attended the American University, Washington DC from January, 1979 to December, 1980 and obtained Masters in Applied Economics. Between August, 1981 and May, 1987, Hon. Osei further attended the Howard University, Washington DC and was awarded Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D, Economics).

Hon. Akoto Osei was appointed as the Research Assistant at the Health Policy Division, of the Urban Institute, Washington D.C from November, 1978 and August, 1980 and later as the Graduate Assistant at the Department of Economics, Howard University, Washington D.C. (August, 1981-May, 1982). He was again appointed Special Research Affiliate at the Office of Economic Affairs, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C. (September, 1983-December, 1984) and as Instructor at the Department of Maths and Natural Sciences, Morgan State University, Maryland (August-December, 1984), as Research Assistant at the Department of Economics of the Howard University, Washington D.C. (August, 1982-May, 1985).

The nominee is the Member of Parliament for the Old Tafo Constituency in the Ashanti Region and has occupied that seat since 2005.

Responses to Questions

Alternative Financing for Higher Education

On his view on alternative financing for Higher education in Ghana as he had espoused in a presentation he made at the Akosombo Forum on Funding Higher Education, Dr. Akoto Osei stated that he has strong views on education from his background as a teacher. He disclosed that his Party has taken a decision to expand Ghana's basic education to include Senior High

School (SHS) and that the Government will ensure that every Ghanaian completes at least senior high school (SHS). According to him, we ought to look at different ways of funding tertiary education as pertains globally. He cited the example of the USA where University Presidents (equivalent of a Vice Chancellors in Ghana) are appointed based on their capacity to bring in resources to their Universities. He also stated that most universities across the world look for an endowment which is made up of substantial amount of money received from corporations to run their activities. He however noted that Ghana's case is different because everybody believes that education must be fully funded by Government but emphasized that this is not possible. To buttress his point, the nominee revealed that though he completed his undergraduate education so many years ago he continues to contribute to his undergraduate university as an alumnus and suggested that we do same and take up our alumni contributions more seriously because Government cannot do it all by itself.

Role as Minister for Monitoring and Evaluation

When asked about what role he would play when appointed as a Minister for Monitoring and Evaluation, the nominee stated that the President promised Ghanaians that he is going to deliver results and that promise requires that we change the way we do things. He explained that the role of the Minister would be to help the Government to deliver public service in an effective, efficient and timely manner. He explained that this would be achieved by getting Sector Ministers to set their own Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which when approved by Cabinet would be monitored. He said that when this is done it will then be the duty of the Minister for Monitoring and Evaluation to ensure that the sector Ministers perform to achieve the targets as approved by Cabinet. He hinted that, if he is given the nod, he would set up a technical team to assist him in executing that task.

Regarding the framework that would govern the setting KPI's, the nominee stated that the NPP's 2016 Manifesto will inform the setting up of the Indicators because the Manifesto has incorporated all the local and international commitments of the country.

Concerns over possible Conflict of Roles

The nominee stated that he did not envisage any conflict between the role of the Minister for Monitoring and Evaluation with that of the Chief of Staff

and the Senior Minister. He explained that whilst his role would be to ensure that the machinery of Government functions in an effective, efficient and timely manner, the Chief of Staff will be in charge of activities at the Presidency and that of the Senior Minister will be to co-ordinate the activities of the economic ministries. To that extent, he said that he would “police” his colleague Ministers to ensure that they perform to meet the targets as approved by Cabinet.

The nominee disclosed that the he would be made a Cabinet Minister if given the nod to facilitate the performance of his functions. He said that the President conveyed to that information to him on Wednesday, 25 January 2017.

Expected Relationship with M&E Departments in MDAs

According to him, it would not be the job of the Ministry responsible for Monitoring and Evaluation to direct Sector Ministers on the units they should use in the ministries to carry out monitoring and evaluation activities. He also said that it would not be his role to supervise those units. On the contrary, he stated that he would be looking for information from Sector Ministers as political heads and not civil servants. He however stated that he would assist Sector Ministers to organise to develop their KPIs but stressed that that would be their primary responsibility.

He further promised that he would co-ordinate with NDPC, M&E Departments in the Ministries and that they will complement each other.

Experience of nominee at the Ministry of Finance

On how he would apply the enormous knowledge and experience he has acquired as MP and former Minister at the Ministry of Finance, the nominee stated that his experience puts him in a good stead to deliver at his new position. He explained that his experience at the Ministry of Finance exposed him to the workings of all the other sector ministries and that will significant assist him in his new role. He also stated that he would bring his knowledge of financial matters to bear on the work of the President’s Economic Management Team (EMT).

Position on Zero Percent Financing from the Bank of Ghana

On his position of the International Monetary Fund programme that stipulates zero percent financing from the Bank of Ghana, the nominee stated emphatically that as a legislator he would always want to go by the laws of Ghana stipulates and the law currently stipulates 5%. He continued that it is a problem when someone chooses to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that specifies zero percent financing from the Bank of Ghana.

Establishment of the proposed Fiscal Responsibility Council

The nominee accepted the suggestion that the Public Finance Management Act, 2016 (Act 921) could be amended to incorporate the establishment of the proposed Fiscal Responsibility Council instead of passing a new legislation. He was of the view that the Act provides a good foundation but the main issue missing in that Act is the provision for the establishment of the Council which needed to be filled. He said that the Council as envisaged under the NPP's Manifesto would be an independent body to oversee the activities of the Minister for Finance and to raise red flags whenever he goes wrong. He disclosed that the Ministry of Finance has already started work on a legislation to address that.

Ensuring Value for Money (VFM) in Public Procurements

The nominee assured the Committee that he would ensure the conduct of value for money audits in all public procurements but stressed that he would not do that directly because the Sector Ministers would have that primary responsibility.

Housing Financing for Public Servants

The nominee stated that his personal view on how to address the funding challenges that public workers face in accessing funding to build their own houses lies in providing a long term mortgage which he believed will help most public servants to access the needed funding. He said we should find long term financing like pension funds which have tenures between 10 years and 15 years. He was of the view that if public servants are given more years to repay housing loans it will be very helpful.

Enhancing Fiscal Consolidation

The nominee indicated that, as a Member of the President's Economic Management Team, he was aware that the Minister for Finance has been charged to undertake fiscal consolidation. He stated that the issue of fiscal consolidation does not only relate to expenditure but rather both revenue and expenditure. He believed that revenue mobilization has reached an optimal level and that position has been confirmed by the Finance Minister. He believed that options are available to the country but insisted that we needed to know the information before the appropriate decision can be taken. He noted that leakages were huge on the revenue side but despite the establishment of the GRA, the Authority was yet to be fully integrated to deal with such challenges. He suggested that we tighten administration at the Customs Division of the Authority as one of the measures to address the challenge.

Recommendation

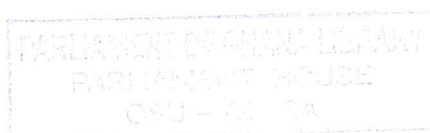
The Committee recommends that the House approves the nomination of Hon. (Dr.) Anthony Akoto Osei *by consensus* for appointment as the Minister responsible for Monitoring and Evaluation.

**5.0 MS. OTIKO AFISAH DJABA - MINISTER-DESIGNATE
FOR GENDER, CHILDREN
& SOCIAL PROTECTION**

Background

Ms. Otiko Afisah Djaba was born on 21st January, 1962 in Bole in the Northern Region. She hails from Somanya in the Eastern Region.

She began her primary education at the Sakasaka Primary School, Tamale and later Bagabaga Demonstration primary School, Tamale. She progressed to the Tamale Secondary School, Tamale from 1973 to 1978. The nominee attended the Queens Secretarial School, UK from 1980 to 1981 and obtained Diploma in Secretariaship. She further attended the Institute of Marketing /Freight Forwarding, UK from 1981 to 1983 and later Grimsby College, UK from 1994 to 1996 and obtained Diploma in Information Systems Management.



While in the UK, Ms. Afisa Djaba worked in several capacities including as Secretary and Tele Sales Clerk from 1981 to 1983. On her return to Ghana, she joined the Bank for Housing and Construction, Tamale (1985-1992) before setting up her own business called the Young Uns Enterprise in Tamale from 1986 to 1992. She was also the Writer, Producer and Director for the Miidan Productions TV Programme dubbed “Kokrokoo What’s Up? Let’s Talk!/Movers and Shapers”.

The nominee served as the National Facilitator for the “Campaign for Greater Discipline” under the Office of the then Vice President (2004 to 2005). She also worked for the Miidan Educational Trust/Plan Ghana as the Executive Director and Consultant from 2003 to 2010.

The nominee contested the 2008 Elections as the Parliamentary Candidate for NPP in the Bole/Bamboi Constituency.

She is currently the National Women’s Organizer for the New Patriotic Party and has held this position since 2010. As the National Women’s Organizer, she implemented the a number of initiatives to promote the cause of the vulnerable and excluded in society including the Kayaye project, Widows Club, Disabled Club and Influential Women and Market Women’s Clubs.

Responses to Questions

National Service Status

On whether she has done national service, the nominee responded that she did not do national service because she was not in Ghana at that time.

Interventions for Kayaye/Vulnerable in Society

On how she would empower Ghanaian women, the nominee stated she will pursue the Social Protection Policy being implemented by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to enhance the wellbeing of deprived children and the vulnerable in society. She indicated that she has been instrumental in the development of initiatives to help women at the North and that would offer her opportunity to bring such initiatives to the national level. She said her interventions would not cover only the Kayaye but all deprived persons in our society both young and old. She further noted the ongoing projects by the previous administration to compile a data base of people engaged in the trade to ensure that they are included in the initiative

for the alleviation of poverty. She also suggested that she would facilitate the training of such persons to ensure that they take part of national development.

Measures to Address child Labour/Child Trafficking

Regarding how she would deal with child labour in the country, the nominee stated that the menace had to do with poverty and assured the Committee that all children affected by the practice would be captured under the data base and provide them with the needed assistance. She lamented that children in certain areas are used as labour and some of these children are bread winners for their families but they are susceptible to accidents and alluded to some instances where the fingers of some children have been cut off and some get drowned in the process of working for their masters. On the way forward, she hinted that she will put in place regulations and pursue advocacy programmes to impress on parents to their children to school. She further promised to deal with existing cases of child labour and to get affected children to go school.

Implementation of the LEAP

The nominee noted that the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) involves cash transfers to the poor and the vulnerable in society. She alluded to the current proxy measures and the use of questionnaire to identify beneficiaries as part of the measures to improve the management of the Programme. She also noted that the LEAP has so far captured 3,018 people who are paid every two weeks through the use of the E-zwich platform. She described the LEAP as the flagship programme of the Ministry in terms of meeting the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals. She also alluded to the strides being made by the country towards achieving the target of halving poverty which she disclosed Ghana now ranks 18 out of 66 countries. She explained that she will work to reduce poverty levels of the vulnerable in society and give them training so that they can be weaned off the programme to allow more people to be enrolled.

Response to her Comments on the “Sex for Job” Statements

She said that she would be the last person to denigrate women as she has suffered such treatment herself and that she has been misconstrued. She explained that, at the time that Hon. Kennedy Agyepong made the “Sex for Job” statement about the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission, she felt there was the need to investigate the matter to clear her name of such allegation. According to her, she only called for investigation by the BNI, the National Security and other security agencies to investigate the matter. She also indicated that her comments on the matter were made in the public and could be found on the ghanaweb. She insisted that she did not at any time denigrate the EC Chair and stated categorically and emphatically that she did not say what she has been alleged to have said. She reiterated that she did not support the statement made by the Hon. MP but only called for an investigation into the matter and added that when the maker of the statement came out to retract the impugned statement, she did not make further comments.

On what she meant by a portion of the said statement saying “the public should not condemn Hon. Kennedy Agyepong and that there is no smoke without fire”, she explained that what she meant by that statement was that Hon. Kennedy Agyepong is a citizen of Ghana and has rights as well. She accordingly reiterated that she did not support anybody but only requested for an investigation into the matter.

The Ghana School Feeding Programme

The nominee noted that the Ghana School Feeding Programme is part of the Social Protection Agenda of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection intended to alleviate poverty, boost local economy and to also improve school enrollment and retention. She noted that the Programme also provides employment for women and for that matter it was in the interest of women that the Programme is implemented successfully and promised to work hard at it. She noted that the LEAP currently covers about 1.6 million children but said that Government intends to increase it by extra 1.4 million to bring the total number of beneficiaries to 3 million. She promised to continue the initiative started by the previous administration to advertise the selection process of the Caterers in the newspapers as that

promote transparency in the system in accordance with the public procurement law.

On payment of outstanding debts under the Programme, the nominee disclosed a cheque has been written to cover the outstanding debts for the fourth quarter of 2016 but indicated that some error has been discovered on the cheque. She was however hopeful that the error will be rectified for the Caterers to be paid as soon as possible. While conceding that funding the GSFP has been a challenge, she suggested that we decouple the school feeding from the DACF and further promised to negotiate with the donors including DFID to increase their support for the GSFP to make it more efficient and expand its coverage.

Increasing Women Participation in Governance

The nominee stated that increasing women participation in the governance of the country was very dear to her heart and disclosed that the need to get women involved in decision-making at all levels informed her decision to contest the 2008 Parliamentary Elections and later her election as Women's Organiser of her party. She admitted that it is not easy for women to win elections in this country as politics in this country is male dominated. She however said that the Government is committed to ensuring sustainable development which requires that there must be gender parity. She stated that though some may deem the 37 women in 7th Parliament as low, she said sees that as a progress in view of the fact that the previous Parliament had 25 female MPs. She therefore promised to champion the passage of the Affirmative Action Bill to ensure that the voice of women was equally represented and hinted that she would adopt advocacy and sensitization strategies to push the agenda forward.

Proposed Hotels for Kayaye

On how she would help to actualise the vision of the NPP to provide hostels for the Kayaye, the nominee acknowledged that the housing conditions of the Kayaye in the country is deplorable and due to that condition they usually get raped and abused. She promised that, if given the nod, she would work hard to complete the compilation of the database to fulfil the promise and to also provide them with skills training to improve their wellbeing.

Response to alleged unsavory comments about the former President

On whether she regretted making some unsavory comments about the former President, John Dramani Mahama during the 2016 electioneering campaigns, she said that she made those statements about the former President relative to how the Savanna Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) was being managed. She also indicated that aspect of her statements describing some actions of the former President as “wicked” was made in view of the hardships Ghanaians were going through at the time and cited the dumsor phenomenon and its attendant job losses as some of the issues. She insisted that those words were not insults but descriptive words.

On whether she accepted that her statements describing former President as “violent and extremely wicked” as unfortunate and unpalatable, she said that the former President is her brother and that she, spoke out of her convictions. She explained that she made those statements as a wake-up call to him.

The minority members of the Committee however took strong exception to the use of those words.

Support for Women in Agriculture

The nominee stated that the NPP in its 2016 Manifesto has committed to set aside 50% loans under the MASLOC to support women and promised that she would work to ensure that the promise is fulfilled to support women especially women in the northern Regions. For women involved in livestock, she suggested that they would be organized into cooperatives to enable them access funds as it is difficult for them to access loans as individuals. She also suggested training them in literacy skills.

Promotion of Early Childhood Education

The nominee stated that she had suffered childhood poverty herself and knows poverty in the northern Regions is very severe and needed to be addressed. In that regard, she stated that she will liaise with the various NGOs in the Regions and international organisations to raise funds to support early childhood education. She also stated that she would use the

School Feeding Programme, the LEAP and other poverty alleviation initiatives to achieve that agenda. She stressed that children have right to good life and that she would pursue the children's policy and work to change their lives.

Support for Women with Disability

She acknowledged that persons with disability were disadvantaged and discriminated against but said that would be addressed under the social protection programme with emphasis on inclusion. She also noted that the National Council for Disability was under resourced and that the Disability Act was being reviewed to assist person with disability to get access to brail, white cane for the blind and intimated that it was not their fault that they are blind. She again indicated that there was an opportunity to work with the relevant MDAs and particularly ensure that the 3% of DACF meant for people with disability be ring-fenced and used to support them. She further disclosed that she has had discussions with the Chairman of the Disability Commission to help get disabled persons to sit on all public boards to make their voices heard.

Policy for Orphanages

She noted that though there are 66 orphanages in the country, only 23 are currently functioning and indicated that the remaining ones are suffering and some have closed down. She revealed that whilst the Osu Orphanage has been operating well those in the Ashanti and the Northern Regions have not been working well. She therefore promised to get them renovated and assist them to employ the requisite staff to take care of the children.

Regarding the challenges being encountered in the implementation of the National Social Protection Policy, the nominee noted that Ghana has signed a number of protocols to ensure sustainable development and must work to achieve their objectives. She said that one of the key challenges had to do with funding and appealed for adequate budgetary allocation to the Ministry to undertake some of these activities. She also promised to seek assistance from development partners to finance the policies towards facilitating capacity building of operators of Orphanages and to beef up their staffing.

On reforms, she said she would work on existing facilities including the shelter at Madina and to put in place regulations to guide those who take care of children in these homes.

Contract Quota for Women

Commenting on the promise by the Government to offer 30% public contracts to companies owned by Ghanaian women, the nominee described the promise as a good step towards alleviating poverty in Ghana as women are mostly afflicted by poverty. She believed that the contract quota would go a long way to help improve the wellbeing of women and accordingly promised to advocate strongly for women in line with Government's vision to make women an engine of growth.

Addressing Rural-Urban Migration

She noted that young girls who are the future mothers mostly migrate from the north to the south to seek better opportunities and that their wellbeing and protection must be taken seriously. She promised to help them in that respect. She believed that the implementation of one district/one factory, one village/one dam and the \$1million per constituency promises by the NPP Administration would help to get some of them to go back home. She said they will be given the opportunity to indicate whether to go back home or to stay and was confident that they would be supported under their short, medium to long term plans.

Export of Women to the Arab Gulf

The nominee indicated that she was not aware that Ghana has been downgraded but that she has rather been informed that the country has been graded under Tier 2. She disclosed that a report on the conditions given to Ghana was delivered to the American Embassy on 13th January, 2017 and that she supervised to ensure that it was done. She indicated that she also met with the Ambassador on that matter and that contrary to the alleged downgrading he confirmed that Ghana has met the conditions. She however emphasized that the conditions were not met before 2016 deadline but was met in January, 2017. She further promised to set up an inter-ministerial task force to discuss the way forward. She urged those who travel to Kuwait

to work to report at the Ghana Embassy there so that they can be traced and helped when the need arises.

Using her membership on ECOSOC to promote women issues

On how she would use her membership on the Economic and Social Commission of the UN if appointed as the Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, the nominee stated that should would offer better representation for women and champion their course. She indicated that she would organize talent identification to discover women with potentials and provide them the needed support. She also said she would institute mentorship programmes using women with demonstrable capacity in certain areas and also use men as ambassadors to advocate women issues. On funding for women to participate effectively in politics, she indicated that she would provide funding to support their campaigns and put in place measures to eliminate the abuses they suffer in electioneering processes. She again said she would identify groups and organizations and galvanize support for women and sensitize men to accept women in politics which she indicated remains a problem.

Nominee's Policy direction for the Ministry

Commenting on her policy for the Ministry and whether should would continue the existing 5-Year Policy introduced by the previous administration, the nominee acknowledged that governance is a continuum and that she would look at the existing strategic plan and incorporate some of the ideas from the NPP's 2016 Manifesto to cover areas which are not captured by the existing policy when it becomes necessary.

Bridging the Gender Inequality Gap

The nominee indicated that she sees herself as a grassroot woman and for that matter she appreciated the developmental challenges of grassroots women. She intimated that if we do not bridge the gender gap, the sons and daughters of grassroot women will continue to be left behind. She therefore promised to elevate their capabilities and enhance their sense of pride to achieve better life. She further indicated that she would ensure that the 50% of MASLOC loans commitment of the NPP gets to rural women and expressed optimism that the Government will empower women.

On whether the gender gap arises from social or legal constraints, the nominee responded that both factors account for the current state of affairs. She noted that the Ghanaian society is dominated by men and that our culture and traditions have not favoured women. She recounted that the male child at sixteen years is given the opportunity to participate in decision making at the family level but his female counterparts are left behind. She accordingly called for equal opportunities for both men and women and hoped that we will soon get to the point where both sexes would be treated equally.

Preservation of Rights of Children

On how she would ensure that the rights of children are respected, she was of the view that sensitization was the key to change the mindset of the people and to also discard the notion that children are the possessions of their parents. She alluded to ongoing processes to review the Children's Act, 1993 (Act 560) to offer enhanced protection of children's rights. She said that she would organize focus groups and sensitize them about the rights of children so as to help them develop their full potential.

Recommendation

The Committee, recommends that the House approves the nomination of Ms. Otiko Afisah Djaba by a **majority decision** for appointment as the Minister responsible for Gender, Children and Social Protection.

**6.0 HON. DANIEL KWAKU BOTWE - MINISTER
DESIGNATE FOR
REGIONAL
REORGANISATION AND
DEVELOPMENT**

Background

Hon. Daniel Kwaku Botwe was born on 26th February, 1958 at Mabang in the Ahafo-Ano North District in the Ashanti Region. He hails from Abiriw/Anum-Boso in the Eastern Region.

He had his primary and middle education at Maaban Presbyterian Basic School between 1962 and 1971. The nominee attended Kumasi Academy for his GCE Ordinary Level and proceeded to Achimota School between 1977

and 1979 for his Advance Level Certificate. Between 1979 and 1980, he was enrolled at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and obtained a Certificate in Data Processing. He then continued his education at the same institution and was awarded Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science in 1984.

Hon. Botwe rendered his national service at the Building and Road Research Institute (BRRI) of KNUST between 1984 and 1985 and at Ghana COCOBOD between 1985 and 1986. He commenced his professional career as a Computer Programmer at the Ghana COCOBOD in 1986 and later joined PALB Pharmaceuticals, Danmaud Limited as a Director of the Company between 1993 and 1995. He later became the Director of Operations and Research at the New Patriotic Party (NPP) from 1996 to 1998 and the General Secretary of the NPP from 1998 to 2005. He was appointed as the Minister of Information in the erstwhile Kufuor Administration from 2005 to 2006. He was the Managing Director of DM Farms Limited from 2006 to 2008.

The nominee is the current Member of Parliament for Okere Constituency and has occupied the seat since 2009. Whilst in Parliament, he was the Minority Chief Whip (2012 – 2016) and a member of the Public Accounts Committee.

He was the National Coordinating Secretary National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) from 1983 to 1984 and later the National Secretary of the Union from 1982 to 1983.

Hon. Daniel Kwaku Botwe is a recipient of the Companion of the Order of the Volta Award of the Republic of Ghana.

Responses to Question

Reasons for Going into Exile

In a response to a question on whether he has ever been in exile and what necessitated his going into exile, the nominee confirmed he went into an exile in 1983 after the 31st December Revolution. The nominee explained that after the 31st December Revolution led by Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, he was part of a student movement that organized series of demonstrations

across the country calling for the return of the country to constitutional rule. He said the demonstrations gained grounds and was supported by many labour unions. Unfortunately, there was an attempt to overthrow the military regime in the midst of the demonstrations. The military regime suspected the leaders and organizers of the demonstrations including himself to be involved in the coup plot. In order to secure their safety, many of the Leaders including himself went into exile.

Creation of New Administrative Regions

Responding to a question on whether the Government will keep its campaign promise to create a new region in the northern part of the Western Region, the nominee responded in the affirmative. He explained that the proposal is not only a campaign promise but it is part of the NPP's 2016 Manifesto. He disclosed that the NPP administration will create four (4) new administrative Regions. He also confirmed that the NDC proposed to create five (5) new Regions. According to him, H. E. the President has identified the need to reorganize the regions in the country for effective administration, poverty reduction and accelerated development. To this end, H.E. the President intends to realign existing regions to create four additional administrative regions with focus on the Northern, Western, Brong Ahafo and the Volta Regions. The nominee assured the Committee that the procedures outlined in Article 5 of the 1992 Constitution will commence soon alongside extensive consultations to ensure the new regions are created as soon as possible.

Rationale for the Proposed Division of Volta Region

On the rationale for the proposed division of the Volta Region, the nominee stated that the Government intends to create a new region, Oti Region out of the Volta Region and explained that the proposed realignment is to ensure ease of administration and accelerated development. He explained that the Volta Region thought relatively small, is the only Region that cuts across the three ecological zones of the country. The region stretches from the coastal region in Keta to the Savana zone sharing boundary with northern region. This makes coordination of development programs very difficult for the Regional Coordinating Council located in the southern zone. Also, there are several instances of poverty scattered across the Volta Region. The

realignment therefore seeks to improve government administration and accelerate poverty reduction.

Cost of Creating New Regions

On the cost of creating the new Regions, the nominee acknowledged that the creation of the new regions will come with the replication of government functions and structures in the new regions which would lead to an increase in administrative cost and expenditure on infrastructure. But he explained further that though the initial expenditure will be high, the country will ultimately derive the desired benefits in the long term.

Views on Relationship between Regional Demarcation and Poverty Reduction

In a response to a question on the relationship between the creation of new regions and poverty reduction, the nominee indicated that the creation of a new Region by itself will not necessarily reduce poverty. The nominee explained however that such efforts must be complemented with affirmative action policies to channel more resources to support the development agenda of the new Regions. He admitted that the creation of the Upper West region did not necessarily result in poverty reduction in the region. He explained that with the exception of Wa Municipality, there is pervasive and widespread poverty across the Upper West Region since its creation thirty years ago. The nominee advocated special interventions to assist the new Regions to come out of poverty.

He further explained that the regional coordinating units have planning and coordinating roles in the implementation of District level programmes. The creation of new regions will therefore ensure proper monitoring and supervision at the district level and poverty reduction. Further, the creation of the new regions will lead to the establishment of regional bodies such as regional Hospitals, Regional Fires Stations, Police Commands, amongst other which will create opportunities and lead to development across the new territory.

Citizen Agitations on the Siting of Regional Capitals

The nominee shared the view that the siting of regional capitals during the reorganisation exercise could pose a challenge given past experiences in the creation of new districts across the country. He promised to hold adequate consultations with all stakeholders including the National and Regional Houses of Chiefs and youth groups to ensure that decisions on the siting of the regional capitals are well informed and acceptable to all interest groups. He also hinted of relying on the past experiences of the Ghana Statistical Service, the Ghana Surveys Authority, Experts and other relevant institutions engaged in similar exercises to guide the process.

Procedure and Period for Regional Reorganisation Exercise

Relating to the procedures and period for undertaking the regional reorganisation exercise, the nominee assured the Committee of adhering religiously to the procedures outlined in the Chapter 2 of the 1992 Constitution. Alluding to the relevant provisions in the Constitutions, the nominee indicated that H.E. the President is empowered to create new regions upon the advice of the Council of State and not only upon the receipt of a petition. He also informed the Committee of H.E. the President's intention to hold a referendum on the creation of the regions at the time that the Electoral Commission will be conducting the 2018 District Level Elections. He was optimistic that with the goodwill and thorough consultations he would meet deadline as set by H.E. the President.

Concerns about Political Gerrymandering

On concerns that re-demarcation of regional and district boundaries would be carried out to the advantage of the ruling NPP government, the nominee pledged to ensure that the national interest would supersede other interests during the exercise and entreated Ghanaians to view the regional reorganization exercise as a national exercise. He indicated that people with such concerns should have a consolation in the fact that recent experiences where the creation of new constituencies by the two major political parties in the country never inured to their benefits.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Hon. Daniel Kwaku Botwe for appointment as Minister responsible for Regional Reorganisation and Development.

**7.0 HON. SAMUEL ATTA AKYEA - MINISTER-DESIGNATE
FOR WORKS AND
HOUSING**

Background

Hon. Samuel Atta Akyea was born on 20th August, 1962 at Kyebi in the Eastern Region. He had his primary education at the Methodist Primary School, Kyebi between 1968 and 1974 and middle school education at the Presbyterian Boarding School, Salem, Akropong Akwapim between 1974 and 1976.

The nominee attended Adisadel College, Cape Coast for have GCE Ordinary Level Certificate from 1976 to 1981 as well as his GCE Advanced Level Certificate between 1981 and 1983. He later enrolled at the University of Ghana between 1986 and 1989 and obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Law and Philosophy. He proceeded to the Ghana School of Law in 1991 for his Solicitor and Barrister at Law Certificate and was called to the Ghana Bar in 1993.

Hon. Atta Akyea performed his national service obligation as English Literature Tutor at the Abuakwa State College, Kyebi in 1983 and later at the Attorney-General's Department between 1993 and 1994. He commenced his career as a private legal practitioner in the Chambers of Akufo-Addo, Prempeh and Co., Accra from 1994 until he exited in 2002 to found his own legal firm, Zoe, Akyea and Co. in 2003.

The nominee is the current Member of Parliament for Abuakwa South Constituency and has occupied the seat since 2009. He served on a number of parliamentary committees including Finance, Appointments and Foreign Affairs Committees.

The nominee participated in a number of conferences and capacity building programmes which dwelt on the role of Parliament in public financial management, parliamentary practice and procedures, extractive industry governance and operations of the International Criminal Court. He is a member of the Ghana Bar Association.

Responses to Question

Measures to address the Housing Deficit

On how he would address the huge housing deficit, the nominee noted that the housing deficit of the country which stood at 1.7 million housing units was a shared concern. He admitted that indeed difficulties of land acquisition and high cost of building materials are the bane of housing sector but added that the inability of investors to make good returns on their investment in the real estate sector has been a major disincentive to private sector investors even though most of them have the capital to invest. He advocated for improvement in income levels of Ghanaians so that they can purchase houses at prices that would enable investors to make good returns on their investment. As part of his strategy to deal with the housing deficit, the nominee intimated he would encourage multiple streams of mortgage financing schemes to provide long term financing to the buyers.

Establishment of National Housing Fund

On his views on the need to establish a national housing Fund as proposed under the National Housing Policy of the country which was launched in 2015, the nominee said he endorsed the establishment of fund and added that such a fund could be leveraged to provide long term financing for both investors in the sector and home buyers. He bemoaned the lack of a dedicated bank in the country to support the housing needs of the people. He assured the Committee of implementing the policy on the establishment of a Fund if approved by the House and also hinted of the possibility of leveraging the seed money of the National Housing Fund to establish a Bank for the Housing sector which he believed would inject professionalism into the administration of the Fund.

Completion of the Affordable Housing Projects

The nominee lauded the previous government's efforts at completing some of the affordable housing projects commenced under the erstwhile Kufuor administration. He averred that discontinuing projects when ruling government transited often leads to cost overruns which becomes a burden on the State. In this respect, he intimated that if approved by the House, he would make a case before Cabinet for the completion of the remaining affordable housing projects before initiating any new housing projects. He cited current fiscal constraint as a challenge to the completion of the remaining projects but assured the Committee of using the private sector as a vehicle to achieve his objectives for the sector.

Addressing the Perennial Flooding in Accra

On how he would address the perennial flooding in Accra which often results in loss of lives and property, the nominee blamed the lax in the regulation regime of the construction sector and bad sanitation practices in the country as the cause of the situation. He stated his briefing on the situation revealed that major engineering works on storm drainages in the city has been completed and if approved by the House, he would pursue critical storm drainage projects not only Accra but other parts of country to alleviate the plight of residents living in the catchment areas. He further called on Ghanaians to improve upon their sanitation practices.

While commending the previous government for undertaking drainage projects such as the Accra Sewer and Storm Drainage Project, he assured the Committee of revisiting the Conti Project initiated by the previous government. On whether he would consider other integrated components of the Conti Project including building of recreational facilities and restaurants, the nominee responded in the negative and emphasised that he would pay more attention to the flood control component of the Project given the fiscal challenges facing the government.

Addressing Sea Erosion along the Coastal Belt of the Country

The nominee admitted that sea erosion along the coastal belt of the country remains a major threat to communities along the coast. He said the situation was depriving the communities of their livelihoods and that there was an

urgent need to tackle it. He assured the Committee of ensuring that the needed resources for the completion of on-going sea defence projects to bring relief to the communities.

Revamping the Operations of the Public Works Department

The nominee acknowledged that the state of the Public Works Department was not best, a situation which is affecting the realization of objectives for establishing the Department. He revealed that the Department has been underfunded over the years and indicated that the most recent budget allocations made to the Department was in 2013. He said the Department has the potential to grow to become an avenue for job creation and training grounds for the teeming youth. He advocated for retention of portions of internally generated funds of the Department to support its activities. He further assured the Committee of putting in place measures to attract private sector participation in the activities of the Department.

Challenges Confronting the Implementation of the Conti Project

On strategies he would adopt to kick start the implementation of the Conti Project meant for the construction of a massive drainage system for national capital, Accra, the nominee indicated that he was aware of the previous government's difficulty in securing a credit facility from the US Exim Bank and Standard Chartered Bank to finance the Project due to the rising debt portfolio of country. He was optimistic that the proposed renegotiation of Agreement between the State and International Monetary Fund as indicated by the government would create the necessary fiscal space to enable his Ministry to pursue the credit facility. He pledged to pursue the credit facility to implement the project and also uphold the tenets of value for money in the execution of the Project if given the nod.

National Asset Protection Project

The nominee noted that the National Asset Protection Project outlined in the 2016 Manifesto of the NPP would be executed by the Ministry of Works and Housing. He explained that the Project will document all landed assets of the State which will be securitized as a special purpose vehicle and values placed on them for sourcing of funds to undertake developmental projects.

Review of the Rent Act

Answering a question on whether the Rent Act which has been under review for several years now would be treated as one of the emergency bills that would be brought to Parliament, the Nominee assured the Committee that it is about time we look at the Rent Law again because of the debate about rent advance payment. He said that it will be for the peoples' representatives to decide as to whether or not we should give some space in terms of rent advance.

Abolishing the 5% VAT on Real Estate sales

On who benefits from abolishing the 5% VAT on real estate sales as stated in the NPP Manifesto, the Nominee informed the Committee that VAT inures to the benefit of Government. As such, when it is abolished the end user will not pay and this will reduce the cost of real estate and Government will consequently have a shortfall of revenue.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Hon. Samuel Atta Akyea for appointment as Minister responsible for Works and Housing.

8.0 HON. IGNATIUS BAFFOUR-AWUAH - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR AGRICULTURE

Background

Hon. Ignatius Baffour-Awuah was born on 24th August 1966 at Nsoatre in the Brong Ahafo Region.

He had his primary education at the Saint Patrick Primary/Middle School from 1973 to 1981 and entered Sunyani Secondary School where he obtained his GCE Ordinary Level Certificate (1983-1985). He proceeded to the St. Hubert Seminary, Kumasi for his GCE A Level from 1986 to 1988.

Hon. Baffour-Awuah again attended the University of Ghana Business School and was awarded Bsc. Business Administration (Accounting Option)

(1989-1992). He also studied at the Galilee College, Israel in 2002. He further obtained a Post-graduate Diploma in Management from the International Professional Managers Association, London in 2004.

The nominee taught at the Chiraa Secondary School between 1988 and 1989 for his National Service. He worked at European Union Micro Project, Atebubu as Accountant (1993-1994) and later at the Nsoatreman Rural Bank Limited as Manager Trainee (1995-1996) and later later as Operations Manager of the same Bank (1996-2001).

Hon. Baffour-Awuah was appointed the Chief Executive of the Sunyani Municipal Assembly between 2001 and 2005. In 2006, he was appointed Deputy Regional Minister for the Brong Ahafo Region and later elevated to the position of Regional Minister, a position he held till 2009.

Hon. Baffour-Awuah is the Member of Parliament for the Sunyani West Constituency and has represented the Constitution since 2009.

Responses to Questions

Enhancing Health and Safety at Work Places

The nominee alluded to the Occupational Health and Safety Bill which was introduced in Parliament by the previous administration to address occupational health and safety issues and promised that he would take a second look at the bill and re-introduce it to Parliament for passage. He noted that issues concerning occupational health and safety are core to industrialization and that failure to adhere to those issues may lead to the payment of workmen compensation which tends to be substantial. He also disclosed that the passage of the Bill and its eventual implementation would create an estimated 10,000 jobs. He explained that the proposed legislation would insist that for every 25 employees there must be one person employed to deal with occupational health and safety issues and believed that this would create huge opportunities for job creation.

Financial Clearance for the Employment of Staff into the Public Service

On how he would ensure that persons for whom financial clearance has been granted to be engaged including the 22,000 persons to be employed by the

Ghana Education Service and the 17,000 persons to be employed by the Ministry of Health, the nominee stated that he would pursue the matter. He however said that he would ensure that the people to be engaged meet the required standards as prescribed for teachers and nurses. He however indicated that sometimes clearance is given based on certain vacancies in institutions but indicated that sometimes those who recruit are not the same as those responsible for the payment of workers and for that matter where clearance is given for a specific number of people to be engaged some institutions still go ahead to employ people beyond the ceiling given to them and this contributes to the delays we often encounter in paying new staff. He said he would insist that only people for whom financial clearance have been obtained actually get recruited into public institutions.

Dealing with the Culture of “Proceed on Leave”

On how he intends to deal with the culture of “proceed on leave” which continues to characterize change of Governments in the country, the nominee indicated that such behavior is one of the reasons why we should depoliticize the public service. He said that politicians sometimes force public officers to toe their party lines and that partly account for the practice. He explained that a Government comes to power to prosecute its developmental agenda and so if public servants fail to stay neutral it will not augur well for them when a new party comes into power. He therefore advised public servants not to meddle themselves in politics to avert such consequences.

Maltreatment of Ghanaian Workers by Expatriates

The nominee stated that the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations has designated offices with trained officers who are ready to handle cases of maltreatment at work places. He therefore urged persons affected by such practices to report to these offices for redress and promised that he will help them to even pursue their cases to CHRAJ and the law courts if it becomes necessary.

Whether he would expedite work to get the Domestic Servants Regulations passed by Parliament to promote the full regulation of domestic servants, the nominee responded in the affirmative.

Dealing with Employment Contracts

He said he will ensure that all public institutions respect existing employment contracts in the public service but also insisted that contracts do not only create right but also obligations which must equally be respected. He therefore said that all such contracts will be dealt with on case by case basis and decide on each one on its own merits and that it will not be fair to give a blanket response to the question. He therefore stressed that the terms of the contracts would inform the appropriate action. He agreed with the suggestion that asking public officers to proceed on leave should be discouraged but advised that those who may feel that their rights have been infringed could go to court to seek redress.

Addressing Unemployment

The nominee was of the view that the first step to address unemployment is to ascertain the magnitude of the problem and the nature of unemployment that we are confronted with. According to him the second stage would be to undertake a demographic analysis of the problem in order to identify the various classes of unemployment and this would be followed by rolling out employment programmes that will fit the various categories of unemployed persons.

ILO Conventions on Maternity Protection

The nominee promised to get the ILO Convention on Maternity Protection ratified by Parliament by the end of first quarter of 2017 to help enhance the protection of the rights of women and mothers.

Management of 2nd Tier Pensions

The nominee indicated that he would pursue ongoing processes to get the 2nd tier pension referred to workers to manage. He however stated that he was aware of the issue regarding the total amount that has been paid and some claims that Government is also owing some of the schemes. On the way forward, he said he would set up an independent committee including the NPRA and the GRA to establish the exact quantum of money so far paid into the schemes and how Government is owing.

Weaning off the National Pensions Regulatory Authority (NPRO) from the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations

The nominee stated that he would support a move to wean off the NPRO from the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations to make the Authority independent but indicated that his checks at the Ministry indicates that the process to get the Authority weaned off has already been completed.

Negotiation of Base Pay/National Minimum Wage

The nominee conceded that the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations cannot just get up and announce the basic pay but rather it can only be done after a number of consultations as required by the Labour Act. He however noted that there seems to be some conflict in the laws regarding the determination of the minimum wage because whilst one of laws requires the wage for the ensuing year to be determined by April of the current year, the other law requires that it must be done by September. He however expressed the view that the determination of minimum wage for the ensuing year by April of the current year poses some challenge as the wage determined in April could be upset by inflation. He stressed that though that is the law, in practice it has been difficult to get the parties to accept a wage which has been determined about eight months previously.

Measures to Address Youth Unemployment

The nominee stated that he would look at both the public and private sectors in finding jobs for the youth as we can no longer rely on the public sector to create employment for the youth. He suggested that some of the unemployed graduates could be trained in cooperative skills and assign them to public sector agencies such as MASLOC as the best way to ensure optimal utilization of loans is to organize beneficiaries into cooperatives.

Promise to the Trade Union Congress

On whether the nominee would ensure that the promise made by the former President, H. E. John Dramani Mahama to assist the Trade Union Congress to refurbish its office building, the nominee hoped that the promise was backed by financial commitment. He indicated that in the absence of such commitment, he will look at it again and take decision if given the nod.



Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Hon. Ignatius Baffour-Awuah as the Minister responsible for Employment and Labour Relations.

**9.0 MR. JOHN PETER AMEWU - MINISTER-
DESIGNATE FOR LANDS
AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Background

Mr. John Peter Amewu was born on 16th March, 1968 at Wli-Todzi Hohoe Municipality in the Volta Region.

He had his primary education at the St. Francis Demonstration Primary School, Hohoe (1975-1983). He proceeded to the St. Mary's Seminary Secondary School, Lolobi (1983-1987) for his O' Level and later attended the Adisadel College, Cape Coast (1988-1989) for his A' Level.

Mr. Amewu attended the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi and was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Construction Technology in 1994. He also attended the University of Sydney, Australia and obtained a Certificate in Sustainable Management of Revenue Flows in June, 2013 and later obtained a Certificate in Corporate/Community Relationships in November, 2012 at the University of Queensland, Australia.

He went back to the University of Ghana, Legon to study for Masters in Business Administration (Finance option) in 2001. He further studied at the University Dundee, UK and obtained Executive Masters in Business Administration in International Energy Industry Management in 2011 and studied at the same Institution in 2016 and was awarded Masters in Petroleum Law and Policy.

The nominee was appointed the Chief Executive for the Hohoe Municipal Assembly and served in that capacity from 2005 to 2009. He also worked with the Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP), Accra from 1st January, 2013 to 2014. He has also undertaken a number of consultancy assignments

including being the Consultant for the Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC), the Institute of Economic Affairs and the Oxfarm.

Mr. Amewu has been the Regional Chairman of the NPP for the Volta Region since 2014.

Responses to Questions

Land Administration in Ghana

As to what he would do to improve the country's land administration system, the nominee stated that he would immediately set up a team to take inventory of all lands which have been acquired by the State across the country. He informed the Committee that, while the Government of Ghana has acquired large tracks of land in various parts of the country, compensation for some of these lands has not been paid. According to him, an inventory of all State lands would enable the Government ascertain the lands for which compensation has been paid and those with compensation outstanding compensation payments. The nominee further indicated he intends to raise funds from the private sector through land for infrastructure schemes to settle all compensation issues to enable the Government take full ownership of such lands fully.

Regarding measures to streamline the land administration process, the nominee indicated that he intends to work towards reducing land the period for land title registration to thirty (30) days if approved.

Land Administration Project (LAP)

As to how the nominee would implement a third Phase of the LAP, he indicated that the second Phase of the Land Administration Project (LAP) which was funded by the World Bank with an amount of about 55 million Dollars will end in 2017. He stated the LAP is supposed to run for about 25-30 years. He informed the Committee that he would look for both internal and external sources of funding to support the third phase of the project. He indicated that although a lot has been achieved in digitization of the Land Title Registry as part of shortening the registration process, there are many issues lingering which he believes would be tackled in the third phase. He stated that the third phase would tackle the challenges faced by the Land Commission and its agencies such as lack of requisite staff and remuneration.

Sale of State Lands

As to whether he would ensure transparency in the sale of Government lands, the nominee informed the Committee that the sale of Government lands over the years has generated a lot of public controversy because the processes and procedures had not been transparent. He stated that to ensure transparency and build public confidence in the process, he would consider public auction of such lands when the need arose.

As an alternative, the nominee maintained that he would develop an innovative scheme to trade such lands for infrastructural projects such as rental residential accommodation, offices and stores to be able to mobilize resources to deal with the outstanding compensation issues regarding the lands acquired by the Government.

Granting of Mining Licenses

The granting of mining licenses for prospecting and exploration purposes are a very important issue that has generated a lot of public debate. The nominee stated that he would ensure that the procedure for the granting of these mining licenses/leases would be carried out in a transparent manner. He assured the Committee that he would introduce competition through auction of mining licenses to ensure value for money as well as protect the national interest.

Forest cover of Ghana and Reclamation Efforts

Asked about the total forest cover of Ghana and what the nominee would do to reclaim depleted forest reserves, he informed the Committee that the total forest cover of Ghana is about 228,000 hectares of which about 11,000 hectares consist of water. The nominee stated that about fifty percent of the remaining 227,000 hectares have been depleted. The nominee assured the Committee that he would collaborate with the Chiefs and Stakeholders to plant trees to reclaim depleted forest reserve when he is approved.

Further, the nominee indicated that he intends to review the policy of converting foreign reserves for mining purposes as part of the measures he hoped to undertake to reclaim the depleted forest cover. According to the nominee, allowing foreign reserves which serves as a protection for endangered species and wildlife to be used for mining purposes, defeats the reclamation efforts that have been carried out. The nominee stated that he

will advise Government to review the current regime where two percent of foreign reserves can be leased on a concession basis for mining purposes and that he would abolish the entire scheme when he is given the nod.

Measures to address Illegal Small Scale Mining

The nominee noted that the small scale mining sector employs about one million Ghanaians and contributes about a quarter to the country's total gold output. This notwithstanding, noted that illegal small scale mining operations continue to pose serious challenges to the country and must be addressed. In that regard, he said he would address the issue through policy, law, technology and strengthen enforcement measures. He also commended the previous administration for reviewing the Minerals and Mining Act to provide stiffer punishment to deal with the issue and promised to ensure that the law is applied irrespective of party affiliation of offenders. He further stated that he would collaborate with the Ministry of Water and Sanitation and other relevant agencies to deal with the matter.

On support for small scale mining operators, the nominee stated that he would embark on an exercise to regularize all illegal mining operations in the country. He explained that such a measure would help to properly regulate their activities and protect the environment. He hinted that the Government support persons engaged in small scale mining through training and technology.

Nominee's Apology to Former President, H. E. John Jerry Rawlings

When his attention was drawn to a statement he has made alleging that the former President, H. E. John Jerry Rawlings supported the NPP during the 2016 General Elections, the nominee rendered an unqualified apology to the former President.

Ramseyer Site at Sakumono

As to what the nominee would do to protect the Sakumono Ramseyer site which is currently under stress from private developers, he indicated that he would work with the Ministry of Water and Sanitation and the Tema Development Corporation to ensure that the site is protected.

Stability Agreements

As to what the nominee will do to secure the interest of Ghana in the Stability Agreements signed between the Government of Ghana and mining companies, the nominee stated he was aware of work that has been done by Prof. Akilakpa Sawyer in this matter. The nominee explained that stability agreements are meant to secure the interest of mining companies and their investments in unstable countries. The nominee maintained that since Ghana is one of the most stable countries in Africa, these Stability Agreements should no longer be allowed.

Regarding existing agreements, investments and contracts, the nominee stated that he intends to discuss the terms with all the stakeholders and if practicable he would renegotiate them.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Mr. John Peter Amewu for appointment as the Minister responsible for Lands and Forestry.

10.0 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 finds that all the nominees meet the qualification criteria as set out in Articles 78 (1) and 94 (1) and (2) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana.

At the Public Hearing to consider their nominations, all the nominees demonstrated that they have the intellectual capacity, skill, experience and the requisite training to occupy the offices to which they had been nominated.

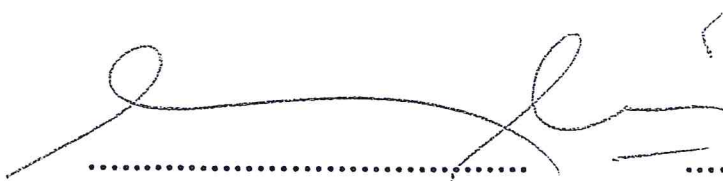
This notwithstanding, the Minority Members of the Committee have indicated that they will not support the nomination of Ms. Otiko Afisah Djaba, Minister-Designate for Gender, Children and Social Protection. Hence, the Committee's recommendation that her nomination be approved by a majority decision.

Consequently, the Committee recommends to the House to approve the nomination of **Ms. Otiko Afisah Djaba, Minister-Designate for Gender, Children and Social Protection** by a majority decision.

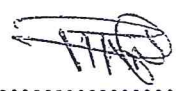
In respect of the five other nominees, the Committee recommends to the House to approve their nominations by consensus. They are:

- i) **Hon. (Dr.) Anthony Akoto Osei** - **Minister-Designate for Monitoring & Evaluation**
- ii) **Hon. Dan Kwaku Botwe** - **Minister-Designate for Regional Reorganization and Development**
- iii) **Hon. Samuel Atta Akyea** - **Minister-Designate for Works and Housing**
- iv) **Hon. Ignatius Baffour-Awuah** - **Minister-Designate for Employment & Labour Relations**
- v) **Mr. John Peter Amewu** - **Minister-Designate for Lands & Natural Resources**

Respectfully submitted.



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



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

FABRUARY, 2017`



