

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

**FOURTH REPORT OF THE
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

ON

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

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA
PARLIAMENT BUILDING
OSU - ACCRA

FEBRUARY, 2017

**FOURTH REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE ON HIS
EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINATIONS FOR
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 On 11th January, 2017, H.E. the President communicated to Parliament the nomination of twelve (12) 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.

1.2 Following the Referral, the Committee duly considered six of the nominations and submitted its report on them in its Third Report to the House on Wednesday, 1st February, 2017.

1.3 The outstanding nominations are as follows:

- i) **Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful** - **Minister-Designate for Communications**
- ii) **Hon. Joseph Kofi Adda** - **Minister-Designate for Sanitation and Water Resources**
- iii) **Hon. Kwasi Amoako-Atta** - **Minister-Designate for Roads and Highways**
- iv) **Mr. Kwaku Ofori Asiamah** - **Minister-Designate for Transport**
- v) **Prof. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng**-**Minister-Designate for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation**
- vi) **Hon. Joe Ghartey** - **Minister-Designate for Railways Development**

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the under-listed documents during its deliberations:

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

3.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE REFERRAL

- 3.1 The names of the nominees and notice of the Committee's Public Hearing were published in national newspapers for the attention of the general public pursuant to Order 172 (3) of the Standing Orders of the House. As part of the publication, the Committee requested Memoranda from the general public concerning any of the nominees.
- 3.2 The Committee subsequently 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 a Public Hearing to consider 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:

Background

Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful was born on 20th October, 1964 at Akyem Oda in the Eastern Region.

She had her elementary education at the Harrow International School, Abeka from 1970 to 1976. She attended Mfantsiman Girls Secondary School, Saltpond from 1976 to 1980 for her 'O' Level and later continued at the Labone Secondary School from 1981 to 1984 for her 'A' Level. She also attended the University of Ghana, Legon from 1985 to 1988 and obtained the Bachelor's of Laws certificate (LL.B). She thereafter attended the Ghana School of Law from 1988 to 1990 for her Barrister at Law Certificate (BL) and was subsequently called to the Ghana Bar in 1990.

Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful possesses a Certificate in Government Integrity from the International Law Institute, Georgetown University, Washington DC and a Certificate in Project Planning and Management from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA). She also has a Masters Degree in Conflict, Peace and Security from the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC), Accra.

The nominee again obtained Certificate in Regulating Quality of Service and a Certificate in Structuring and Negotiating Legal Agreements for Public Private Partnerships (PPP) Concessions and Grants in September, 2015 from the Institute of Public-Private Partnerships IP3, Arlington, USA.

Hon. Owusu-Ekuful did her national service at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Accra (1984 to 1985) in the first instance and later at the Greater Accra Legal Aid Board (1999-1991). She taught at the Miyazaki and at the same time was a Columnist for the Miyazaki Shimbun Newspaper in Miyazaki, Japan from 1994 to 1996.

Hon. Owusu-Ekuful was an Associate at the Akufo-Addo, Prempeh and Co. Legal Practitioners and Notaries Public from 1990 to 2000. Between 2001 and 2002, she worked as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General and Minister for Justice and thereafter proceeded to work as Governance Coordinator at the Ministry of Justice from 2002 to 2003. She was the Managing Consultant at Nu Consult, a Legal, Governance and Gender Consulting firm between 2003 and 2005. She then moved to work with Western Tele-Systems (Westel) as the Acting Managing Director (2005-2008) and later as the Corporate and External Affairs Director for Zain Ghana Limited from 2008 to 2009.

The nominee is the Member of Parliament for the Ablekuma West Constituency in the Greater Accra Region and has represented the Constituency since 2013. As part of her Parliamentary duties, she serves on a number of Committees including the Appointments Committee, Committees on Health and Communications.

Hon. Owusu-Ekuful was the President of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Ghana from 2007 to 2009.

Responses to Questions

National Identification Solution System

The nominee indicated that it would be important to have a National Identification Solution system to abate the practice where state agencies duplicate efforts by creating separate identity databases. She hinted that she would use the existing national data center infrastructure as data warehouse for all state agencies. This she said would be facilitated by the completion of work and production of Smart Identity Cards for all Ghanaians by the National Identification Authority (NIA) by the end of 2017. She was hopeful that Ghana would soon develop its database to the level where Ghanaians will be able to apply for public services such as passports through electronic means.

Cost of Mobile Data Bundles

On how she would address complaints by public regarding the high cost of mobile data bundles, the nominee stated that she would engage the

telecommunication companies and the Chamber of Telecommunications to identify best ways to provide information on data consumption and charges to consumers. She also advised consumers to shop around for best data deals by taking advantage of the increased competition in the telecommunication industry. She again promised to deepen competition in the sector to make telecommunication services more affordable. She further urged all aggrieved consumers to lodge complaint with the National Communications Authority (NCA), the Regulator of the sector for redress.

Expansion of Mobile Telephony Services to Deprived Rural Areas

On what she would do to expand access to mobile telephone services to rural areas in the country, she noted that telecommunication operators usually focus on commercial advantage in deciding whether to expand their networks to particular areas in the country. According her, that consideration informed the establishment of the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communication (GIFEC). She stated that the object of the Fund is to establish infrastructure to facilitate the expansion of mobile networks to rural areas in the country. She maintained that since there is enough capacity for the consumption of mobile telephony services to produce profit across the country, the GIFEC would be encouraged to continue to expand the infrastructure to all parts of the country. This, she believed would incentivize telecommunication operators to extend mobile telephony services to rural areas. She also promised to expand access to unserved areas.

E-Government Services

Hon. Owusu-Ekuful noted that more than half of the work on the E-Governance project has been completed and also cited the E-Parliament Project which is due to be completed by September 2017. She again mentioned the E-Health project which has since being piloted by the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospitals. She promised to continue these projects in addition to the automation project for the Registrar General's Department which presently provides online services only for searches.

On expected source of funding for these projects, the nominee stated that she would channel the \$25m facility by the World Bank which was secured by the previous Administration. She disclosed that she would commit the facility to support funding requirements for the projects to enhance the use of ICT in Government operations to enhance traceability, reliability, security, accountability, speed and efficiency in Government transactions. She accordingly indicated that she would pursue these projects in close collaboration with the National Information Technology Agency (NITA).

Provision of Free Wifi Services in University Campuses

The nominee informed the Committee that work has already started to make all the university campuses in the country wifi zones and was optimistic that GIFEC will successfully implement that project. She proposed to explore the matter regarding the payment arrangements for the wifi services when the project is completed. She was confident that the project will be implemented as indicated in the NPP's 2016 Manifesto.

Digital Migration

The nominee disputed the notion that the cut-off date for digital migration has been missed and that Ghana stood the immediate danger of being cut off from the digital world. She asserted that the period allowed for countries to migrate was set between 2015 and 2019. She however explained that Ghana's target of achieving a full migration by June, 2016 was missed and disclosed that a new target has been set to achieve the migration by the end of 2017 and pledged to work assiduously with relevant agencies to achieve the new target.

Data Protection

The nominee stated that SIM registration system in the country needed improvement and promised to pursue that improvement especially with the aid of a reliable national identity system which the Government is putting in place. She proposed to consult with the Chamber of Telecommunications on the matter. She further assured the Committee to assist the Data Protection Commission to effectively monitor the system to protect the information given by subscribers to the telecom companies from identity theft and other abuses.

Provision of Internet Services to Parliament

The nominee confirmed that Parliament has not defaulted in the payment for internet services provided by the National Information Technology Agency. As to why the Center is requesting for a conclusion of a contract before restoring internet services to Parliament, the nominee promised to take steps to get the matter resolved if given the nod. She further indicated that there is a fiber ring surrounding Parliament House which would facilitate easy connection to Wi-Fi services.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the House to approve **by consensus** the nomination of Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful as the Minister responsible for Communications.

5.0 MR. JOSEPH KOFI ADDA - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR SANITATION AND WATER RESOURCES

Background

Hon. Joseph Kofi Adda was born on 22nd April, 1956 in Navrongo, Upper East Region.

He attended the Indiana Wesleyan University, Indiana, USA from 1979 to 1982 and was awarded Bsc. in Economics and Political Science. He also attended the University de' Paris, Sorbonne, France in 1989 where he obtained Certificate in French Language and Civilization. He again studied at the Columbia University, New York, USA from 1982 to 1984 and was Masters in International Affairs and a Graduate Certificate in African Studies. He further studied at the University of Texas, USA in 2010 and obtained Certificate in Energy Economics.

Regarding his professional profile, the nominee was an Intern at the Columbia University/Harlem Urban Development Corporation from 1983 to 1984. He later worked as Management Trainee at the Equitable Financial Services, New Jersey from 1985 to 1986. He again worked with the Equitable Capital Corporation, New York, USA between 1986 and 1989. Between 1989 and 1991. The nominee was engaged as the Marketing Manager by the MasterCard International, New York, USA. He then

returned to Ghana and worked with the Deloitte & Touche Consulting as Client Service Director (1991-1994) and as Project Manager for the Public Financial Management Reform Programme (1996-2000). Adda has been working with Omni Consulting International, Ghana as Director and Major Shareholder since 1993.

The nominee served as the Minister for Labour and Social Development (2005-2006) and later as Minister for Energy (2006-2008). He was the Member for Parliament for the Navrongo Central Constituency in the Upper East Constituency from 2003 to 2013.

Hon. Joseph Kofi Adda returned to Parliament on 7th January, 2017 to become the Member of Parliament for the same Constituency.

Responses to Questions

Measures to Curb Perennial Flooding

On measures he would employ to address the perennial flooding in Accra and other major cities in the country, the nominee said he would focus more on the enforcement of existing regulations on sanitation practices. He regretted the lack of discipline on the part of some people when it comes to waste disposal in the country. According to him, the practice of dumping all forms of waste into storm drains has blocked the water flow especially when it rains. He however hoped that if the various legislations on sanitation practices are enforced, that will go a long way to address the issue. He therefore promised to ensure that the country's laws on sanitation are fully enforced to deter people from disposing waste recklessly in storm drains if approved by the House.

Initiatives to Fulfill the “Water for All” Promise

The nominee informed the Committee that the “Water for All” Agenda espoused in the NPP's 2016 Manifesto is intended to improve the country's water supply situation by ensuring that every household in the country has continuous access to potable water. He said the agenda is intended to increase the access rate from 76% to 100% by 2020 and that would be achieved through the construction of 25,000 boreholes and mechanized water systems. Even though the nominee acknowledged the critical challenge of raising funding to implement the project, he stated that the

Government is committed to developing innovative financing mechanisms to execute the project.

Management of Electronic Waste

On how he intends to ensure the efficient management of complex waste such as E-waste and hospital waste, the nominee attributed the gaps in managing the situation to the limited capacity of the State. He however disclosed that he has seen a number of reports by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly and Civil Society Organizations and the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing which have made far-reaching proposals on how to manage waste in the country. He therefore indicated that, if approved by the House, he would examine and harmonize such proposals to deliver optimum solutions to manage the waste and where necessary through a public-private partnership arrangements. He also called for attitudinal change among Ghanaians and the need to inculcate good sanitation and hygiene practices in children so that they can grow with the culture of keeping the environment clean. He further hinted that Government intends to engage more Environmental Health Officers to assist in the education of our people and to also enforce bye-laws on sanitation.

Converting Waste to Energy

The nominee endorsed the view that Government should pursue a policy to convert the country's waste to energy to generate revenue and to also help address waste management and power challenges confronting the country. The nominee recalled that the Ministry of Energy in the erstwhile Kufuor Administration commenced the implementation of a policy to convert waste to energy during his tenure as the Minister for Energy and indicated that some power Agreements were even signed to that effect. He however acknowledged that that there will be a challenge in getting the daily volume of waste that will be required by the companies to do their work. He therefore promised to collaborate with the Minister for Energy to continue the policy if approved by the House.

Sustaining the National Sanitation Day

The nominee endorsed the need to sustain the National Sanitation Day instituted by the previous Administration. He said the observation of the



programme has yielded positive results in creating awareness for environmental cleanliness and promised to work to get communities in the country to own the programme. While promising to continue the programme, he indicated that he would develop a communication strategy to remove the political dimension which has characterized the programme in the bid to sustain it. He also urged Ghanaians not to wait for a political figure to lead them in such exercises.

Debt Management Strategy for Ghana Water Company

The nominee affirmed that he would consider the adoption of the debt management strategy put in place by the previous NDC administration to enable the Ghana Water Company transacts businesses on its own balance sheet. He was of the view that such strategies which include the establishment of escrow accounts have helped reduce the dependency of State Enterprises on Government guarantees in situations where they want to procure credit facilities to expand infrastructure. He however hinted that if he is approved by the House, he would study the strategy to determine areas that needed to be improved.

Use of Solar Energy to Run Mechanize Boreholes

On whether he would consider the installation of solar power systems to run mechanized boreholes in deprived communities such as Yaletusi in the Upper West Region, the nominee underscored the need to explore cheaper alternative power sources to deliver affordable water services to residents in rural areas. He stated that some communities face difficulties in mobilizing resources to procure fuel to run the mechanized boreholes or pay for electricity they consume and therefore underscored the need to find sustainable power sources such as solar power. He noted that even though the initial cost of solar systems could be expensive, it could be cheaper in the long term. He promised to consider the proposal if approved by the House.

Addressing Water Supply Situation at Damango

The nominee stated that he was aware of Cabinet approval of a loan Agreement of \$35m for the Damango water project in the Upper West Region. He said, if approved by the House, he would also examine existing

engineering works and further explore options to treat surface water from the Volta Lake to provide sustainable water to the people. He pledged to prioritize work to realize the US\$35m credit facility meant for the Damango water project which was commenced under the previous administration if given the nod.

Achieving the Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals

The nominee stated that it is the collective desire of all Ghanaians to see improvement in the water supply and sanitation situation in the country. He said the NPP Government is committed to achieving the Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals by making available the necessary funds to finance water and sanitation projects and was confident that that would be attained through prudent management of funds meant to achieve the goal. He further stated that a number of development partners have pledged to provide budgetary support towards the implementation of water and sanitation sector programmes. He pledged to improve the institutional capacity of the sector Ministry if approved by the House.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the House to approve **by consensus** the nomination of Hon. Joseph Kofi Adda for appointment as the Minister responsible for Sanitation and Water Resources.

6.0 HON. KWASI AMOAKO-ATTA - MINISTER-DESIGNATE ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

Background

Hon. Kwasi Amoako-Atta was born on 5th August, 1951 at Akyem-Awenare in the Eastern Region.

He attended Presby Primary School at Akyem-Awenare and later Akyem Awanare L/A Middle School where he obtained his Middle School Leaving Certificate (1958 to 1968). He later attended the Abuakwa State College, Kyebi from 1968 to 1976 for his Ordinary and Advanced Levels. Between 1976 and 1979, he attended the University of Ghana where he was awarded a bachelor of Science Degree in Administration. He also attended the

Ghana Law School, Accra from 1998 to 2002 where he earned his Qualifying Certificate in Law and was subsequently enrolled on the Ghana Bar. He further attended the University of Ghana, Legon from 2002 to 2004 and was awarded an Executive Masters in Business Administration (EMBA).

Hon. Amoako-Atta is a Member of the Ghana Institute of Management from since 1992 and the Chartered Institute of Marketing (Ghana) (1993 to date). He is also a Member of the Ghana Bar Association (GBA).

Hon. Amoako-Atta started work as a teacher at Ayensu Middle School between 1973 and 1974. From September, 1979 to August 1980, he did his national service with the Regional Sales Office of the Meat Marketing Board, Bolgatanga. He again worked with the Company as the Regional Marketing Manager for the Ashanti and Eastern Regions from September 1980 to October, 1985. Between 1985 and 1988, the nominee worked with Lever Brothers (Ghana) Limited as Area Sales Manager for the Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions. He was made the Brands Manager for the Company between 1988 and 1990. He was later appointed the Area Manager for Western and Central Regions for the Lever Brothers (Ghana) Limited between 1990 and 1992. He again worked for Kumasi Brewery Limited as the Head of National Sales and Distribution (1993 and 1994) and proceeded to the GB Ollivant as Head of Logistics and National Distribution (1994-1996). He was further engaged as the Head of Sales and Customer Service for the Vlisco (Ghana) Group (1996-2004) and later as Head of the Legal Department and Solicitor Secretary for (2004-2010).

Hon. Amoako-Atta was the Presiding Member of the East-Akyem District Assembly (2002-2004) and subsequently held same position for the Atiwa District Assembly (2004-2010).

Hon. Amoako-Atta is the Member of Parliament for the Atiwa West Constituency and has represented the Constituency since 2010. As part of his Parliamentary duties, he served on Standing Orders Committee, the Judicial Committee and the Subsidiary Legislation Committee.

Nominee's Responses to Questions

Challenges in the Road Sector

The nominee admitted that there are real challenges that confront the road sector and especially at the feeder roads subsector. He stated that out of the 72,329km of national road network only 23% is paved whilst the remaining 77% are either gravelled or earth surfaced. He assured the Committee that, if he is given the nod, he will use resources for road infrastructure in the country to promote economic development and also facilitate the movement of food items from rural areas to the urban centres.

Persons with Disability Working on Tolls

The nominee stated that road tolls represent the second highest contributor to the Road Fund aside the fuel levy and other monies that find their way into the Fund. He informed the Committee that monies generated from the road tolls would be used to construct more roads and to also improve upon automation of the toll system and believed that would motivate road users to pay their road tolls. He further indicated that he might not be in a position to give the exact time of automation but when given the nod he will engage his technical men and give a policy direction on the issue.

On whether he would consider engaging persons with disability to collect tolls, the nominee indicated that he is a strong advocate for persons with disability and that when given the nod he will ensure that 50% of people with disability will be given priority to man the various toll booths across the country.

Value for Money

The nominee stated that he would ensure value for money in all road projects to derive maximum benefits to Ghanaians. To that end, he promised to adhere to all procurement procedures in the award of contracts. He assured that Committee that he would ensure that Engineers also supervise road projects effectively to guarantee value for money for the projects.

Ongoing Road Projects

The nominee bemoaned failure of successive Governments to continue on-going projects started by their predecessors and indicated that such practice had caused adverse consequences to the economy. He further indicated that NPP Manifesto prohibits the discontinuation of projects initiated by the previous administration and accordingly assured the Committee that he will continue all on-going projects if he is given the nod.

Road Sector Arrears

The nominee informed the Committee that the current road sector arrears were huge and worrisome and disclosed that the arrears stood at GH¢17bn as at 31st December 2016 and that amount included Cocoa roads arrears alone GH¢3bn. He also disclosed that about 900 million certificates have been raised by the Ministry of Finance but the money had not been paid. He informed the Committee that the arrears had to be managed professionally so that contractors get paid as soon as possible.

Financing Road projects

In consideration of the fact that the road sector is capital intensive and the fact that the Road Fund alone cannot meet the financial requirements of the sector, the nominee stated that Government would adopt innovative ways in solving this problem and suggested that one of such ways is to collaborate effectively with private sector by entering into a Public-Private-Partnerships with stakeholders in the construction industry to bridge the funding gap.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the House to approve **by consensus** the nomination of Hon. Kwasi Amoako-Atta for appointment as the Minister responsible for Roads and Highways.

7.0 MR. KWAKU OFORI ASIAMAH - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR TRANSPORT

Background

Mr. Kwaku Ofori Asiamah was born on 1st January, 1970 at Dominase Denkyira in the Central Region.

He attended the Ghana Secondary School, Koforidua from 1985 to 1990 for his 'O' Level and later proceeded to the Accra Academy for his 'A' Level (1990-1992). Hon Asiamah also attended the University of Cape coast where he obtained a Bachelor in Degree in Commerce (B.Com) (1995–1999).

The nominee did his national service at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra (1992-1993) and also at the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority, Tema between 1999 and 2000. He later worked as the Marketing Manager of Household Aluminium, Accra (2002-2004) and subsequently as the CEO of the Synider Enterprise, Accra. He is currently the CEO of the Josa Plus Ventures, Accra and has worked in that capacity since 2013.

In respect of his political profile, the nominee was a Member of the Organisational Committee of the NPP (2009-2010) and later as the Patron of the National Youth Wing of the NPP (2010-2012). He was also Member of the 2008 Central Regional Campaign Team for the NPP.

Mr. Asiamah is a Member of the National Council of the NPP and has served on the Council since 2009.

Responses to Question

Removal of Stumps in the Volta Lake

When asked whether he would favour the removal of tree stumps in the Volta Lake to reduce the spate of accidents on the Lake, the nominee noted that while the approach could help in addressing the situation, the complete removal of the stumps may have repercussions on the sustainability of the ecosystem. He said he would rather commission a study for the identification of the navigable routes and to cause the removal of the stumps when it becomes necessary.

Efficiency in the Clearance of Goods from the Ports

The nominee shared the view that the procedure for clearing goods at ports in the country is not efficient. He said the cumbersome procedures at the ports frustrate investors and increase transaction costs in the country. He underscored the need for the procedures to be made simpler to enhance the business competitiveness of the country. He therefore stated that he would employ technology, if approved by the House, to ensure that all processes at the ports are automated and also direct the Port Authorities to segregate cargo handling activities from other activities of the port as part of the reforms.

Addressing Revenue Leakages at the Ports

Touching on the measures he intends to adopt to support the Ministry of Finance to reduce revenue leakages at the ports, the nominee blamed the excessive human interfaces in transactions and revenue administrations at the ports. He said he would collaborate with the Ministry of Finance to deploy technology to all aspects of their operations and to insist on electronic transactions. He expressed optimism that such measures would ensure revenue meant for the State are not diverted into private pockets.

Reducing the Number of Check-points on Highways

The nominee conceded that the high number of check-points on the country's highways has become a source of worry to both local and foreign investors. He alluded to several instances where perishable products could not be hauled to their destinations or market centres in time because of the numerous check points. He stated that the issue is of critical concern to the Government and that he would work closely with the Ministry of Interior for an alternative way of checking vehicles without undue delay.

James Town/Keta Harbour Promise

Commenting on steps he would take to accomplish promise by the NPP to construct harbours at James Town and Keta, the nominee stated he would, in the first instance, undertake feasibility studies at the proposed locations to obtain baseline information. He said he would then use that information to design incentive package to attract private investors to partner the Government to construct the harbours. He underscored the commitment of

the Government of putting place the necessary legislative framework to support private investors interested in partnering the State to deliver on its Manifesto promises.

Road Safety Measures

Whilst registering his displeasure about the alarming rate of road traffic accidents, the nominee stressed the need for collective effort on the part of all stakeholders in addressing the situation. He said, if he is approved by the House, he would strengthen the capacity of the Ministry and its Agencies particularly the National Road Safety Commission (NRSC) to effectively implement preventive safety measures on our roads. In this respect, he would act expeditiously on the review of the NRSC Act, 1999 (Act 567) which was commenced by the previous administration. The nominee intends to also empower the NRSC to undertake sensitization programmes across the country on road safety. Additionally, he said he would collaborate with the Ministry of Roads and Highways to ensure that high standards of road engineering and road maintenance schedules are religiously adhered to. Again, he would collaborate with the Motor Transport and Traffic Unit (MTTU) of the Ghana Police Service to bring sanity on our roads.

Reviving the Tema Shipyard Company

Relating to strategies he would employ to revive the Tema Shipyard, the nominee stated that the company has enormous potential which must be harnessed to drive the socio-economic development of the country. According to him, Tema Shipyard still has the capability to provide manufacturing, repairs and maintenance services to ships which dock at the ports and to Floating Production, Storage and Offloading (FPSO) Units.

On whether he intended to engage a private investor to assist in revamping the Company, the nominee indicated that it will be premature to proffer solutions to revive the company since he has not received any briefing on the status of operations of the company. He pledged to hold discussions with the Management of Company and other stakeholders to explore options and stressed that he would not hesitate to engage a strategic investor if the review process indicated that as a viable option.



Regulation of Seamen and Seafarers

When asked about measures he would pursue to regulate Seamen and Seafarers in the country, the nominee stated that he would hold a roundtable discussion with major players in the industry particularly the Ghana Maritime Authority and the Regional Maritime University to identify mechanisms for their effective training and to also ensure that certification processes meet international standards. He hoped that such discussions would provide guidance on how to assist them to become experts in the field and how to perhaps export such skills.

Hikes in Vehicle Insurance Charges

The nominee agreed that the recent hikes in vehicle insurance charges could be detrimental to the objectives of insuring vehicles in the country. He noted that even though the insurance regulator, National Insurance Commission, is not under the purview of the Ministry of Transport and such it would be difficult to influence their pricing of insurance in an effort to make the cost of insurance affordable. He however pledge to hold discussion with the Commission in order to find alternative ways of making the cost of vehicular insurance affordable.

Eliminating Middlemen from the Driver's Licence Acquisition process

The nominee stated that so long as human interface is prominent in the licence acquisition process it would be impossible to do away with the middlemen popularly called "Goro boys" at DVLA offices. To address the situation, the nominee said he would deploy technology to all aspects of the licence acquisition process which emphasized has already begun. Additionally, he would pursue the policy of decentralization of licence acquisition, decongest some DVLA Offices and also partner the private sector to establish vehicle testing centres across the country. To this end, the nominee promised to introduce incentives to encourage private investors to support the decentralization process by setting up Offices in areas where returns on investment is likely to be low. He pledged to roll out educational programmes to sensitize prospective applicants on the dangers of engaging middlemen.

Nominee’s View on “Okada”

The nominee acknowledged that though the laws regulating the transport sector prohibit the use of tricycles or motorbikes to provide commercial transport services popularly known as “Okada”, the activities of these operators have assisted in meeting the transport needs of some Ghanaians particularly those living in the hinterlands. According to him, the critical issue surrounding Okada has to do with the rate of accidents associated with the trade. He said if their use is to be promoted given their benefits to Ghanaians then adequate regulatory measures need to be put in place to prevent accidents. He advocated for the review of existing laws to accommodate the concerns and to meet the demands of the time.

Support for the Motor Transport and Traffic Department (MTTD) of the Ghana Police Service

On whether he would support the idea of certain organizations such as Insurance Companies and the DVLA setting aside portions of their internally generated funds to support the work of MTTD, the nominee lauded the idea and stated that it was worth considering as a Minister of Transport if approved by the House. He however intimated that adequate consultations would have to be carried out to engender buy-in from all stakeholders.

Construction of the Atuabo Free Port

The nominee noted that the purpose for the construction of the Atuabo Free Port was to have a dedicated port that can serve the oil and gas industry in the country. He indicated that he was aware of some fracas between a private investor engaged to construct to port and that of the Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority. He indicated that his opinion on the matter was that as much as the State would want to use the private sector to achieve certain developmental objectives it was important that such decisions are not detrimental to the people.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves **by consensus** the nomination of Mr. Kwaku Ofori Asiamah for appointment as the Minister responsible for Transport.

**8.0 PROF. KWABENA FRIMPONG BOATENG -MINISTER-
DESIGNATE FOR
ENVIRONMENT,
SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY &
INNOVATION**

Background

Professor Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng was born on 4th October, 1949 at Gyankobaa in the Ashanti Region of Ghana.

He attended the Roman Catholic School in Gyankobaa from 1954 to 1960 and Bishop's Boys School in Bubuashie, Accra from 1960 to 1962 for his primary education. He pursued his middle school education at the Anglican Middle School, Nkawie from 1962 to 1964. He proceeded to the Sekondi College, Sekondi for his O' Level Certificate from 1964 to 1968. He later enrolled at the University of Ghana between 1968 and 1969 and obtain his Pre- Science Certificate.

Professor Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB.CHB) from the University of Ghana (UG) in 1975. He again attended the Goeth Institute in Radolfzell and Boppard in Germany from May to September 1975. He also attended the Medizinische Hochschule, Hannover, Germany from October to December 1988.

The nominee started his professional career as House Officer at the Department of Surgery, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra (July 1975-December, 1975) and again as House Officer at the Department of Medicine at the same hospital (Dec. 1975-June 1976). He then proceeded to the Komfo Anokye Hospital, Kumasi as a Medical Officer (1976-1978). He subsequently moved to Germany where he worked with the Hannover Medical School, Germany as Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeon (1985-1988). On his return to Ghana, he was appointed the Head of the Department of Surgery, (University of Ghana Medical School).

Professor Frimpong-Boateng served as the Chairman of the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) from 2008 to 2009. He was also the

President of the Ghana Red Cross Society between 2005 and 2007. From 1989 to 2011 the nominee was the Director of the National Cardiothoracic Centre. He was also appointed the Chief Executive Officer of the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital from 2002 to 2007. The nominee has been the President of the Ghana Heart Foundation since 1989.

He belongs a number of Professional bodies in pursuit of his professional career. He is a fellow of the Ghana Medical Association, the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences and the West African College of Surgeons. He is also a member of the Germany Society of Surgery, the European Association for Cardiothoracic Surgery and the International Society of Surgery.

The nominee has received a number of prestigious awards in recognition of his exceptional public service and for his achievements in the field of medicine. He is the recipient of the National Award, Companion of the Order of the Volta and the Osagyefo, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, African Generous award in the category of Medicine/Public Service in 2014. He was winner of the 2012 edition of the Prestigious African Heroes Award presented by the Ohio University, USA.

Professor Frimpong Boateng has authored two books including the book entitled “Deep Down my Heart” and contributed to a number of publications.

Responses to Questions

Rationale for Engaging in Politics

In an answer to why he has gone into politics besides his profession as a renowned heart surgeon, the nominee alluded to his passion to see the nation develop through science and technology. He stated that whilst practicing as a Surgeon he noticed that the deployment of science and technology to drive the developmental agenda of the country was not paramount in political discussions across the country. He therefore decided to engage in politics in order to reverse the trend and also to raise awareness of the enormous benefits the country stands to gain if the country employs science and technology in all sectors of the economy.

Measures to promote of Science and Technology

In response to how he intends to promote science and technology as an economic driver in the development of the nation, the nominee stated that it will require medium to long term measures. As part of his plans as the Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation if approved by the House will be to liaise with the Ministry of Education to emphasise the teaching and learning of science and technology so that the children of the country can grow up appreciating the importance of science and technology. In this respect, he stated the commitment of the NPP government to promote the study of Science and Mathematics with emphasis on practical exercises to explain natural phenomenon to young people at the basic school level. If approved by the House, he will also pursue development of science and technology infrastructure such as CNC Machine Centers and technology parks across the country to facilitate the development innovative ideas by Ghanaians and also create a critical mass of scientist and technologist in Ghana.

Funding of Science and Technology

The nominee regretted the current 0.25% of GDP which the country spends on science and technology research and noted that the amount was inadequate compared to the sub-Saharan African average of 2.5%. He indicated that the NPP government's strategy was to increase the expenditure gradually from the current level to 1.5% of the country's GDP, because it believes with such expenditure a lot of jobs will be created for the people of this country. According to the nominee, the current poverty gap has a direct link with gap in the adoption of technology of the country. He stated that the government through the Ministry of Finance will ensure that budgetary allocations are provided annually to support this agenda.

Encroachment on Lands belonging to Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission

The nominee expressed his displeasure about the way lands belonging to the CSIR and the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) were being encroached upon by some individuals and institutions. While commending the Officials of CSIR and GAEC for their service to the nation, he stated

that the situation could be linked to the lack of appreciation of the contributions of the research institutions in the development of this nation. He indicated his commitment to immediately consult the stakeholders in the land administration sector of the country which includes Chiefs to retrieve the lands and to devise ways to preserve the lands for future use if given the nod.

Non-observance of Environmental Safety Guidelines

Relating to the non-observance of guidelines instituted by the Environmental Protection Agency to guarantee environmental safety, the nominee blamed the situation on the culture of indiscipline among some Ghanaians. He indicated that most of the environmental disasters such fire outbreaks at filling stations and gas explosions that befell the country in recent times were avoidable if guidelines had been adhered to. He called for the change in attitude of Ghanaians and implored them to take responsibility of their safety. He said if approved by the House he would hold discussions with all stakeholders in the environmental management of the country particularly those involved in the issue of environmental permit to come up with sensitization programmes to deal with the situation.

Accessing the US\$100bn Global Fund on Climate Change

On measures he would institute to enable the country benefits from the US\$100billion Global Fund meant to tackle climate change around the world, the nominee said that the challenge with accessing such funds has been the writing of good proposals. Despite this, the nominee noted that Ghana is fortunate to have highly qualified professionals both in the country and abroad who can write proposals acceptable to the Climate Change Office. He assured the Committee of his commitment to tap into the resourcefulness of such individuals in presenting acceptable proposals to the Climate Change Office in order to access the fund to support interventions directed at addressing the impact of climate change in the country.

Using Science and Technology to manage Urban Waste

The nominee admitted that employing science and technology in the urban waste management can help the nation to address its waste management and energy challenges. By establishing recycling plants, he said, the country can separate complex wastes such as e-wastes into their respective components to be used in manufacturing machine components. Likewise, the country can also generate energy from liquid wastes collected from homes. He indicated that he would collaborate with the relevant Ministries such as Water Resources and Sanitation and Energy to further the agenda of employing simple technologies to manage wastes in our cities. In this regard, he promised to lend his support the Agbogbloshie E-waste Management Project.

Management of Land Field Sites

In response to concerns about the inefficient management of land field sites in some parts of the country which has led to the contaminations of groundwater, the nominee said that the only way to effectively deal with the situation is for the country to double her efforts at establishing recycling plants. Whilst registering his regret of the situation, he pledged to collaborate with Ministries of Water Resources and Sanitation and Energy to put in measures to attract more private investors into waste management of the country.

Encouraging Innovation among the Youth

In his answer to what can be done to encourage and tap the potentials of rural creativity and innovation in youth, the nominee said he intends to establish innovative centres in all regions of Ghana where children can have access to machine parts and technological tools to build simple machines. He also hinted of partnering the private sector to also establish shops that deal in electronic equipment required for scientific and technological experiments. Again, he intends to establish a Business Development Unit at the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation to be supported by an Advisory Council on Science and Technology to assist youth and young scientist with innovative ideas to develop them into business ventures.

Encouraging Women to Pursue Careers in Science and Technology

Responding to how intends to encourage women to pursue professions in science and technology, he stated that one of the avenues would be to expose young girls to role models in various scientific fields. He further stated that instituting mentorship programmes and science clinics for young girls can also help remove the perception of science being a difficult subject and area meant for only men. He pledged to implement some of these measures if approved by the House.

Strong Regulations by the Environmental Protection Agency

Commenting on the need to strengthen the EPA and to also make it accountable in the discharge of their mandate, the nominee observed that the EPA have been doing their best under challenging circumstances such as low remuneration and inadequate logistics. He said his interactions with some officials of the EPA revealed that they were often restrained in discharging some of their responsibilities due to political interferences particularly in granting of permits. In view of this revelation, the nominee called on the political leadership to limit their interference in the work of the EPA. He further stated his intention of critically examining their regulatory functions to identify gaps that are threatening the effective discharge of their functions.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves **by consensus** the nomination Professor Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng as the Minister responsible for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.

9.0 HON. JOE GHARTEY - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR RAILWAYS

Background

Hon. Joe Ghartey was born on 15th June, 1961 in Accra, Greater Accra Region and hails from Shama in the Western Region.

He had his primary education at the Ghana International School, Accra (1964–1972) and later at the Ridge Church School, Accra (1972 - 1973). He attended Mfantshipim School for his Ordinary Level (1973 – 1978) and his Advanced Level (1980 – 1982).

Hon. Joe Ghartey attended the University of Ghana, Legon from 1982 to 1986 where he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Law (LL.B). He proceeded to the Ghana School of Law for his Professional Law Certificate from 1986 to 1988 and was subsequently enrolled on the Ghana Bar of Lawyers.

The nominee obtained a certificate in Basic Securities and a Certificate in Advanced Securities from the Ghana Stock Exchange in 1991.

Hon. Ghartey did his National Service at the Komenda, Edina Aguafu Abrim (KEAA) District Assembly from between 1988 and 1989. He thereafter entered into private legal practice by becoming a Pupil/Member of the Akufo-Addo, Prempeh & Co, Legal Practitioners (1989-1994). He later became he Head of Chamber/Consulting Member of the Ghartey & Ghartey (Barristers & Solicitors) from 1995 to 2005 and later from 2009-2017.

The nominee has held a number of academic positions including becoming an Instructor at Ghana Stock exchange (1992-1995), Senior Lecturer, at the Ghana School of Law (2012-2014), Senior Lecturer at the Mountcrest University College (2013-2015) and Senior Lecturer at the University of Cape Coast (2016 to date).

He was appointed the Deputy Attorney-General & Minister for Justice from 2005 to 2006 and subsequently elevated to the position of Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (2006-2009). Hon. Joe Ghartey was elected the Member of Parliament for Esikado/Ketan Constituency in the Western Region from 2005 to 2017.

Hon. Joe Ghartey was the 2nd Deputy Speaker of Parliament from 2013 to 2017.

Responses to Questions

Railway Line to Link the Boankra Inland Port Project

Asked about his plan to develop a railway to link the Boankra Inland Port Project, the nominee stated that the Project is integral part of the Railway Master Plan which was commissioned in 2013 by the previous Administration. According to him, it will be a risk if we do not develop a railway system from the ports to link the Boankra project. He also said that the Boankra project is an example of the necessity for the country to take railway development more seriously. He further stated that the Government would also undertake similar projects in other parts of the country such as a railway development to support the Takoradi port expansion project. He emphasized that, at the country's current stage of development, there is no option but to develop the railway industry.

Rehabilitation of Existing Railway Lines

The nominee revealed that he has already been talking with two individuals who have expressed interest in setting up a company in Ghana to produce concrete rail slippers that may be used to replace existing rail slippers. He said that, if approved, he would continue to engage with the companies to produce the concrete slippers in the country to help reduce the cost of maintenance. He was confident in achieving positive results in this area.

Challenges facing the Railway Sector

The nominee identified finance as a major challenge facing the country's railway sector but said he would initiate reforms in the legal and institutional framework for the railway sector to deliver the required finance. He also said the Ministry for Railways Development will develop bankable projects to attract the needed funding.

He also identified stakeholder concerns as the second challenge. He noted for example the apprehension by transporters that the development of the railway sector will take away their jobs. His word to the transporters was that railway development will generate business for everybody and accordingly promised to engage all stakeholders and sensitize them on how

the new railway system will benefit the State, transporters and other stakeholders.

For the third challenge, the nominee stated the challenges involved in securing the right of way for railway projects due to encroachment. He expressed concern about the rampant encroachment on railway lands and said that in some cases some people virtually live on the railway lines. He therefore promised to undertake a lot of sensitization programmes to address the issue.

Models for Railway Development in Ghana

On whether he would consider the Australia's model of railway development, the nominee noted there are so many models available to us and cited the example of Australia, Ethiopia, Kenya and the China as examples. He said he would consider all these models but emphasized that there will be a cut-off point at which a decision will be made.

Use of Modern trains

The nominee disclosed that he has received a number of proposals relating to the kinds of trains that may be used and described some of them as exciting. He assured the Committee that the Government will deliver modern trains with speed ranging from 100 to 120 kilometers per hour and promised to work hard to achieve that if approved by the House.

Financing Model for Railway Development

On what financial model he would adopt to raise funding for the development of the railway sector, he disclosed that he has been talking to some people who have proffered various financial models which do not necessarily involve borrowing and a lot of people have come out with various options and are ready to bring proposal to Government which will be acceptable to the country. He also noted that the establishment of the Ministry for Railway Development has triggered a lot of interest of the private sector in the railway sector and that will help to raise the needed funding.

On whether he could assure the Committee that he would choose an option which would not lead to more borrowing and increase the country's debts he responded that, he did not have the power to make such a commitment but indicated that, if approved, he would be ready to come to Parliament to answer an urgent question relating to that.

Dealing with Encroachment on Railway Lines

On how he intends to deal with encroachment on railway lines, the nominee stated that he would deal with it the way we all deal with encroachment and that would involve a combination of litigation and negotiation. He however stated that he did not consider litigation as an option because it breeds bad blood and takes a long time and in that regard he said that he would do more negotiation. He recounted an encroachment issue which arose between the Ghana Railway Company and some of his constituents regarding an encroachment issue where a Mosque had been constructed on a railway land at a place called Bakado where negotiation was used to settle the matter. He also indicated that he will collaborate with the District Assemblies and do his best to ensure that least possible damage will be caused to property.

Initiatives to facilitate Land Acquisition for Railway Development

On how he intends to engage traditional authorities to deal with the difficulties in land acquisition in the country, the nominee told the Committee that he would employ negotiation in dealing with the traditional authorities. He stated that the development of railway lines would cut across a lot of traditional areas and would therefore involve a lot of traditional authorities. To buttress his point, he recounted that when the Burma Camp and the Airport were being acquired, three different Chiefs laid claim to the same piece of land and also indicated that there have also been instances where two or chiefs lay claim to the same piece of land. He said his approach would involve a combination of things and stated that he would negotiate when the opportunity presents itself. He stated that he would urge traditional authorities not to take compensation which is one-time payment but instead encourage them to partake in the economic boom which offers long term benefits. He further indicated that he would consult the various houses of Chiefs in dealing with the land issue. He was



confident that the Chief would be partners of the new railway boom as chiefs are also agents of development.

Making Railway Business Profitable

On how he intends to make the railway business profitable in view of the country's small population and the expected small volumes, the nominee stated that the same argument was made when the Akosombo Dam was being built but today the dam has become too small for us and for that matter we must think big. He said different kinds of trains can use the same railway lines and explained that one railway line can take passengers and at the same time take cargo trains and that there are different streams of income which can be derived from the industry. He therefore promised to force himself to think outside the box and do his best in that regard.

He said critics must look ahead between ten and fifteen years to see the development that the railway sector would bring. He also said that there is no developed country without a railway sector and that shows that they may be doing something right and for that matter we should join them by doing same.

On whether the nominee would consider the use of light trains to be used in the cities, the nominee responded in the affirmative and accordingly promised to consider that proposal if he approved by the House.

Dismissal of the CEO of Ghana Railway Development Authority

The nominee stated that as the President's Representative, there was a limit to what he could do but promised that he would deal with the issue if he is given the nod. He informed the Committee that he would harness all expertise in the sector including former employees in the railway sector and said that it will be all hands on deck as the railway boom will be enough for everybody.

Management of Revenue Collection at Railway Stations

On what he would do to improve revenue collection, the nominee cited a private bus service in Ghana called Ayalolo Bus Service which has been automated. On the basis of that, he assured the Committee that we can do it and he would ensure that that is replicated in the railway sector. He also

disclosed that there are some young men in the country who have ideas about how to do this and who are ready to create a business out of those solutions.

On when he would implement the E-Ticketing project, the nominee responded that he was not in the position to give an assurance but said that the project is important and he will pursue it if he is given the nod.

NPP's Manifesto Promises on Railway Development

Responding to a question on the timelines for the fulfilment of the NPP's Manifesto promises regarding railway development including the expansion of railway network to the northern part of Ghana, the nominee explained that railway development goes through a number of stages which are the pre-feasibility stage, feasibility stage, front end engineering stage and implementation stage. He disclosed that in order to do it as quickly as possible the Government has decided to focus on standalone sections of the project including the Buipe-Paga, Buipe-Techiman, Techiman and Kumasi sections. He stated that in some of the sections some proposals have been received and costed but some are at early stages. He reiterated that the President is desirous that the project is completed within the shortest possible time and that would be within the four years and was optimistic that when the 2017 Budget is approved work will start.

Controversy over Assets of Ghana Railway Authority

On what he would do to guarantee the protection of the assets of the Ghana Railway Company which became vested in the Ghana Railway Development Authority, the nominee indicated that he had made it clear to both entities that we either swim or sink together and disclosed that he has already started talking to them. He said if need be he will look at asset distribution to ensure that the Ghana Railway Company has the capacity to carry out its mandate and to pay its workers.

Welfare of Railway Workers

The nominee indicated that the problem of railway workers is a personal problem to him because he has a lot of railway workers as his constituents and that he knew the problems that the workers face. He stated that he has

submitted a proposal which includes a certain input of cash flow to the Ghana Railway Company and has also submitted a three year plan which will enable the company look after their worker and to improve their welfare.

Complementary Industry to serve the Railway Sector

On whether he would support a proposal for the development of a complementary industry to service the railway sector, the nominee responded in the affirmative. He emphasized that the new railway sector as envisaged by the NPP Administration will not be a stand-alone industry but it would include other service industries.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves **by consensus** the nomination of Hon. Joe Ghartey as the Minister responsible for Railways.

9.0 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 thirteen (13) Nominees to the House for approval:

- | | | | |
|------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| i) | Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful | - | Minister-Designate
for Communications |
| ii) | Hon. Joseph Kofi Adda | - | Minister-Designate
for Sanitation and
Water Resources |
| iii) | Hon. Kwasi Amoako-Atta | - | Minister-Designate
for Roads and
Highways |
| iv) | Mr. Kwaku Ofori Asiamah | - | Minister-Designate
for Transport |

v) **Prof. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng- Minister-Designate
for Environment,
Science, Technology
and Innovation**

vi) **Hon. Joe Ghartey** - **Minister-Designate
for Railways
Development**

Respectfully submitted.



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

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

FABRUARY, 2017

