

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

**SECOND REPORT OF THE  
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

**ON**

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

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
OSU - ACCRA

*JANUARY, 2017*

\*\*\*\*\*



---

---

---

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

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

On 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, H.E. the President communicated to Parliament the nomination of thirteen persons including the five under-listed nominations for ministerial appointments and same were referred to the Appointments Committee by the Rt. Hon. Speaker for consideration and report.

The five nominations are as follows:

- |                                       |   |                                    |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| i. Mr. Yaw Osafo-Maafa                | - | Senior Minister-Designate          |
| ii. Mr. Boakye Agyarko                | - | Minister-Designate for Energy      |
| iii. Hon. (Dr.) Matthew Opoku Prempeh | - | Minister-Designate for Education   |
| iv. Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu           | - | Minister-Designate for Health      |
| v. Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto       | - | Minister-Designate for Agriculture |

**2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

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

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

**3.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE REFERRAL**

- 3.1 Pursuant to Order 172 (3) of the Standing Orders of the House, the Committee caused to be published in the national newspapers the names of the nominees and notice of the Committee's Public Hearing for the attention of the general public. The Committee also requested Memoranda from the general public in respect of the nominees.



- 3.2 As part of its due diligence procedures, the Committee obtained Confidential Reports from the Ghana Police Service and the Bureau of National Investigations (BNI). The Committee further obtained Tax Status Reports in respect of the nominees from the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).
- 3.3 The Committee thereafter held a Public Hearing to consider the nominations. Prior to commencement of proceedings, the nominees subscribed to the Oath of a Witness and proceeded to answer questions relating to their Curriculum Vitae, 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 five nominations and reports as follows:
- 4.0 **MR. YAW OSAFO-MAAFO** - **SENIOR MINISTER-DESIGNATE**

---

### **Background**

Ing. Yaw Osafo-Maafo was born on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 1942 at Akyim Awisa in the Eastern Region.

Ing. Osafo-Maafo had his elementary education at the Awisa Presbyterian Boys Boarding School from 1948 to 1956. He progressed to Achimota School, Accra for his Ordinary Level and Advanced Level Certificates between 1957 and 1963. Between 1963 and 1967, the Nominee attended the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi and was awarded a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He also attended the Metal Engineering Institute, USA and obtained a Diploma in Metallurgy in 1968.

The Nominee again obtained Certificate in Management at the American Management Association, USA in 1968. He was further awarded a Certificate in Project Implementation and Follow-Up at UNIDO and subsequently studied at the same institution and obtained a Certificate in project Appraisal in 1978. In 1988, the Nominee studied at the Economic Development Institute (EDI) and obtained a Certificate in Crisis Management and later obtained a Certificate in Financial Sector Restructuring at same the Institute in 1989. He finally attended the Les Aspin Centre for Government, Marquette University, USA and was awarded a Certificate in Education and Democracy in 1999.

The Nominee started work as a Process and Quality Control Engineer at the Volta Aluminium Company Limited (VALCO), Tema from 1967 to 1969. He then moved to the Capital Investments Board as Senior Investment promotions Officer from 1969 to 1972. Between 1972 and 1976, the Nominee was appointed the Director of the Ghana Investment Centre which was the overseas Office of



the Capital Investment Board in Frankfurt, West Germany from 1972 to 1976. Later, he was appointed the Chief Operations Manager for the Bank for Housing and Construction from 1976 to 1992 and held the positions of the Chief Operations Manager and Managing Director of the Bank. The Nominee worked as the Senior Consultant and Director of the Training Consultancy Management Enterprise (CME) from 1992 to 1996.

Ing. Osafo-Mafo was the Member of Parliament for the Akim Oda Constituency from 1997 to 2009. He served as the Minister for Finance and Economic Planning (2001-2004) and Minister for Education, Youth and Sports (2005-2006).

As part of his professional practice, he undertook consultancy services for the African Development Bank, the World Bank and assisted with the Financial Sector Reform of Uganda.

The Nominee was the Chairman of the West African Monetary Zone Convergence Council. Founding Deputy Chairman of the Ghana Stock Exchange. Director of the Merchant Bank Limited. He is also a Member of Board of Directors in several companies including the National Trust Holding, Nestle Ghana Limited, Plant Pool Limited and the National Development Planning Commission.

He is a member of the Ghana Institution of Engineers, Hon. Fellow of the Ghana Institute of Architects, past Vice President and Executive Committee Member of the West African Bankers Association and past Executive Council Member of the Association of African Development Finance Institutions.

### **Responses to Questions**

#### **Nominee's View on the Role of a Senior Minister**

On his understanding of the role of a Senior Minister, the nominee stated that for the first time in the history of this country, the President in nominating the Ministers for his Government, informed the general public what he expects from each of them. He recounted that the designation of a Senior Minister is not new and that the Kuffour-led Government appointed a Senior Minister in the person of Mr. J. H. Mensah in 2005. According to him, he has been tasked by the President to co-ordinate the activities of all the economic ministries of the economy if approved by the House. He also stated that even though he will not be co-ordinating the non-economic ministries, the economic ministries will ultimately have an influence on the non-economic ministries.

On whether the role of the Senior Minister would not conflict with the co-ordinating roles of the Minister for Finance, the Chief of Staff and the National

Development Planning Commission (NDPC), he explained that the Minister for Finance would be in charge of the Ministry of Finance whilst his role would be to coordinate the activities of the economic ministries and thus he did not anticipate any conflict between those two roles. With regards to NDPC's role, he noted that the Commission will be planning for all the sectors of the economy and thus their relationship would be that of co-ordination for which he was confident that it will be handled properly.

### **Nominee's view on the 40-Year Development Plan**

The nominee stated that though he was involved in the formulation of the 40-Year Development Plan, he had not seen the final document. He informed the Committee that, in all his meetings with Officials of the NDPC, he made it clear to them that he did not believe in planning beyond ten years. He also said that, the architecture of the NDPC itself makes it problematic for the Commission to plan beyond a 10-year period because the persons in charge are tied to a Government for four years. Ing. Osafo-Maafa again explained that, considering the different ideologies of Governments in the country, he believed that a Development Plan for the country should range between five and ten years. He stated that technology could further make a 40-Year Development Plan irrelevant at some point in time considering the fact that things change very fast nowadays due to technological advancement. He therefore hinted the Committee that the Government will take a second look at the current 40-year Development Plan especially the infrastructure component and would modify it if it becomes necessary.

### **Strategies to build a Business-Friendly Environment**

Asked on the strategies of the Government to build a friendly business environment as enshrined in the 2016 Manifesto of the NPP, the nominee stated that the first hindrance to friendly business environment is the land acquisition system. He observed that a lot of people come into the country to invest but are put off because of the cumbersome land acquisition processes. He also mentioned that the demand by landlords for rent advance beyond six months though illegal has dire consequences on businesses as it takes away a chunk of the working capital of investors who come into the country to invest. He also mentioned that trying to get a company registered in this country is frustrating and promised that, if given the nod, he would ensure that the legal framework is strengthened to help address these hindrances.

### **Review of the IMF Programme**

The nominee was optimistic that the IMF Programme would certainly be reviewed. He informed the Committee that President came to power with its own agenda and will need the requisite fiscal space to implement them. He also



believed that the IMF itself would want the Programme reviewed because the country could not meet the targets stipulated in the Programme. The nominee stated that the Government has discussed the Programme in detail and taken its own decisions and informed the Committee that the Government had already had some discussions with the IMF in that regard. He also said that IMF will be sending an advance team to Ghana in February 2017 for the review of the Programme.

On the suggestion that though the IMF Agreement, being a credit facility, was not approved by Parliament contrary to Article 181 of the Constitution and hence has no binding effect on the country, the nominee was of the view that the issue should not be approached in that direction to avert impairing the country's international image. He however assured the Committee that the Agreement will be submitted to Parliament for approval when it is reviewed.

Commenting on the zero percent financing from the Bank of Ghana as a component of the IMF Programme, Ing. Osafo Maafo was of the view that, that condition is unnecessary and needed to be reviewed. He added that though the immediate past administration negotiated this condition it did not go by it in practice.

### **Management of the Economy**

On how the Government intends to achieve its Manifesto promise to shift from taxation-based economic management to production, the nominee hinted that the new administration would review taxes deemed to be inimical to business and described such taxes as 'nuisance taxes'. In that regard, he revealed that the Government intends to abolish the 17.5% VAT on the financial services, reduce the corporate tax from 25% to 20%. He assured the Committee that in effect, any tax that creates a hindrance to business will be looked at and that all will be mentioned in the 2017 Budget Statement which will be presented to Parliament for approval very soon. The nominee stated that the economy was certainly not in the best of shapes but it is doable. He stated that Ghanaians wanted a new direction in the management of the economy and that Government will do its best to meet that challenge. He reiterated that the economy is fundamentally strong and said if we do things right, we will achieve better results. The nominee recounted that the NPP administration imposed a stabilization levy in 2001 as part of the measures to address the public debt inherited from the previous administration. He insisted that the measure was a levy as it applied to only specified entities and hence it was not a tax.

### **Late Recruitment of some Senior Officers into State Establishments**

The nominee stated that he was not aware of the recruitment of some Senior Officers in some public establishment after the declaration of results of the 7<sup>th</sup>



December elections. He however hinted that there exist well laid down procedures including publication which must be observed in the recruitment of such categories of senior staff and stated that if such appointments are found to have been made without complying with these procedures they could be rendered null and void.

### **Management of Public Debt**

The nominee stated that the problem with public debt has to do with its repayment terms and that should be differentiated from the quantum of the debt itself. He explained that the state should be concerned with achieving favourable repayment terms. He added that the debt stock could increase but you might be achieving better repayment terms. On the strategies he would advance to address the current debt stock of the country, the nominee explained that Ghana is no longer a poor country in view of her current status as a lower middle income country and hence not entitled to the HIPC initiative. According to him, the way forward is to improve revenue mobilization, ensure prudent spending and to ensure value for money in all public procurements. He said that though the figures seem alarming, we have to be prudent and strict in our public spending.

### **Strategies to Address Unemployment**

The nominee was of the view that unemployment was worsening because of the slow level of growth. He therefore suggested that the country focuses on the growth of the economy. He stated that, as contained in the 2016 Manifesto of the NPP, the new administration intends to generate growth from the country's informal sector. He emphasized that employment must come from the private sector and that would be facilitated by making things easy for the private sector operators.

### **Matters Relating to the Macmillan Deal**

The nominee stated that before they sought to deal with Macmillan, the company had supplied books to the Ministry of Education for so many years and that about 60% of the books for primary schools were supplied by the company. He said that when the decision was made to buy books from Macmillan during his tenure as the Minister for Education and Youth and Sports, he made an application for sole sourcing and did indicate that the Article in the newspaper alleging some wrongdoing on his part appeared in the Dispatch the very day that the approval was granted for the sole sourcing. He said that he refused to carry out the tender to preserve his honour on the basis of that publication. He insisted that he did not buy a single book from Macmillan under that arrangement and described the publication spurious and incorrect.

## **CNTI Loan Scandal**

The nominee said that a press conference was held to respond to the issues raised on the CNTI Loan. He explained that, as was the practice at that time, he requested for confidential report from recognized International body to ascertain the credibility of the prospective lending institution. He disclosed that the response they received was positive and since they wanted the loan they started dealing with them. He however indicated that, along the line, he took steps establish the identity of the prospective lending institution but said he encountered some difficulties in that process. He emphasized that, as soon as they started having that difficulty, he came to Parliament to withdraw the request for the loan.

## **Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals**

On what he would do to ensure the attainment of targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the nominee said that the easiest way is to have the different efforts of Government coordinated to achieve better results. He was of the view that his role, if appointed will enhance the country's efforts at achieving targets under the Sustainable Development Goals. To him, with the SDGs, coordination is very important.

The nominee described the number of women appointees by the President as impressive. On his part, he assured the Committee that he would ensure that women are supported in their economic activities. He promised to achieve this by encouraging women in the informal sector of the economy.

## **Matter relating to sole sourcing**

Considering the increasing cases of sole sourcing in the country's procurement system, the nominee said that he is alarmed by the current state of affairs and the practice seemed to be the order of the day. He stated that, the practice be discontinued and suggested a strict enforcement of the country's procurement laws as the way forward.

## **Performance of the Nominee during his tenure as Minister for Finance**

Responding to a question relating to some alleged indiscretion in the process of signing an Agreement with the German Government, the nominee stated that the Agreement in question being an Agreement with the German Government was written in German. He explained that the Agreement in question involved the cancellation of a debt owed by Ghana by the German Government. He stated that he did not read the Agreement before signing it but that is the practice in such international discourse. He said that after giving the figure to the staff for



the drafting of the Agreement he did not need to read that Agreement when it was presented for signature in line with international practice. He further revealed that German Ambassador who signed the Agreement did not also read the Agreement in conformity with that norm. He lamented that some unscrupulous people distorted the issue and created that impression of indiscretion.

### **Views on Raising Resources to Fulfill Campaign Promises**

On how the New Patriotic Party (NPP) can raise revenue to implement the its campaign promises, the nominee stated that the promise by the NPP Government to give \$1m to every Constituency among other promises will not call for new spending but explained that the promise only entailed re-allocation of resources of the state to ensure that they are spent judiciously. He was optimistic the Government would be able to deliver on its promises through priority spending.

### **Response to Alleged Ethnocentric Comments**

In his response to alleged ethnocentric comments he made during the 2016 electioneering campaign in the Eastern Region, the nominee explained that as the battle for the elections centered on the economy, he met with some party members and discussed how poorly the country was been managed. He said after talking about the state of the economy and the courses of the economic challenges, he did state that the resource base of the country is located in five regions of the country. He believed that it is this aspect of his statement is what has been distorted by some people to create that bad impression.

---

### **Recommendation**

The Committee, *by majority decision*, recommends to the House to approve the nomination of Mr. Yaw Osafo-Maafa for appointment as Senior Minister.

**5.0 MR. BOAKYE AGYARKO - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR ENERGY**

---

### **Background**

Mr. Boakye Kyeremanteng Agyarko was born on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1956 in Kumasi in the Ashanti region. He hails from Krobo Odumase and Jamase in the Eastern and the Ashanti regions respectively. He started his basic education at the K. O Methodist Primary School and later continued at KNUST Primary School where completed with a Common Entrance Certificate in 1976. The nominee attended the Mfantshipim School for his 'O' and 'A' Level Certificates and later proceeded



to the University of Ghana where he obtained a degree in B. A. Economic and Political Science in 1979. The nominee had his national service as the National Coordinator of the Ghana United Nations Students and Youth Association (GUNSA) from 1979 to 1980.

He also pursued an Advanced Professional Certificate in Banking at the American Institute of Banking and an MBA in Finance Economics from the Pace University.

The nominee worked at the Bank of New York for twenty-five years and rose through the ranks to the position of the Vice President in 2007. Prior to that, he was employed as a Junior Economist and later a Management Trainee by the Management and Investments Consultants located at Asylum Down in Accra.

The nominee has held various leadership positions including the Policy Adviser to the 2016 Campaign of the New Patriotic Party; the National Campaign Manager, 2012 Elections of the New Patriotic Party; and the Chair of the New Patriotic Party in North American Branches. He is a member of the American Economic Association as well as the American Institute of Bankers.

### **Nominee's Responses to Questions**

#### **Status of Power Supply in the Country**

On this assessment of the power supply situation in the country, the nominee stated that the “*dumsor*” phenomenon still lingers on but believed that we are gradually moving into a more stable power supply situation. In his assessment, the present *dumsor* is not a technical problem but a problem of money. He said the energy sector has been experiencing a cyclical debt situation as most of the power sector players were seriously cash-strapped. He maintained that about 40% of the operational capacity of the energy producers is lying idle due mainly to inability to procure fuel to run the existing power plants. In his view, the *dumsor* problem could be solved by improving the financial structure of the energy sector and gave his assurance to do so if given the nod.

#### **Tariff Reduction**

On whether it was feasible to fulfill the NPP's Manifesto promise to reduce electricity tariffs, Mr. Agyarko informed the Committee that Government has already started looking at the possibility of reducing electricity tariffs across board to bring relief to consumers especially for consumers within the lifeline bracket. He also revealed a plan to explore off-grid solutions for rural electrification. He further indicated his intention to aggressively harness the opportunities for Renewable energy in the country to take off some of the load from the national grid.

## **Plans for Nuclear Power Generation**

The nominee alluded to a major conference which was recently held in the country and ongoing preparation to construct nuclear power facilities within the next ten years. He however stated that the country needed to meet nineteen steps in order to obtain the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) certification. In that regard, the nominee indicated that he is committed to resourcing the Atomic Energy Commission to meet those benchmarks to enable us harness the full potential for nuclear power.

## **Vision for Hydro Power Generation**

The nominee said that he would segregate the Ministry of Energy into departments and assign one of them to be in charge of hydro matters. He also hinted of his plans to develop new hydro sites including Dwallee and Pwalugu sites in a bid to provide cheaper sources of power.

## **Matters relating to Acquisition of Floating Storage and Regasification (FSRU)**

The nominee said that he was aware that the previous government had taken a decision to acquire three (3) Floating and Storage Regasification Units (FSRUs) to transmit gas from Atuabo to the areas they are needed.

## **Potential for Coal Power Generation**

As to whether the nominee will consider relying on coal as an alternative source of energy, he stated that although coal is cheap, it is a dirty source of fuel. He informed the Committee that many countries that had relied on coal as their source of energy supplies are de-commissioning their coal plants. The nominee indicated that he was aware that the Sunon Asogli intends to set up 1000 Megawatts coal plant in the Central Region. While commending efforts being made by the previous Government to find a lasting solution to the *dumsor* phenomenon, he assured the Committee that he would establish stringent regulatory regime to regulate the establishment of coal power plants in the country so as to protect the environment.

On whether the nominee would consider biogas as part of the renewable energy agenda, the nominee indicated that the plan to generate energy from waste formed a significant component of the Government's agenda for the power sector and that is something that he would consider seriously since a lot of waste is generated in the country. He also disclosed that the Government had already received six proposals on biogas which were being studied to select the best solution that will serve the national interest.



## Review of Power Sector Agreements

On what he would do about the Agreements in the power sector which have generated controversy in recent times, the nominee stated that he would undertake a periodic review of such Agreements and that Agreements such as the Karpowership, the Ameri Power Purchase Agreement would be reviewed. He explained that Emergency Power Agreements should have properly been for a period ranging from five to seven years but noted that some of these Agreements were contracted for as long as 20 years with other onerous terms and hence the need for a review. Although the nominee admitted that MCC Compact II transaction is not an outright sale but a grant or a concession for a period of time, he raised issues of equity and fairness in the entire transaction. He indicated that the proposed review of the MCC Compact II is intended to find a common ground so that the project could move forward. He assured Members that the intended review would be done to secure the national interest.

## Energy Debt situation

Mr. Agyarko disclosed to the Committee that the energy sector debts now stood at about US\$3.3 billion. He further revealed that about eight banks in the country have exceeded their single-obligor limits by very high margins as a result of excessive lending to the sector and government. He was of the opinion that the debts need to be structured in a holistic manner so as to remove the danger that they pose to the affected banks and the financial system. He mentioned for instance that the amount owed to one Bank alone stood around US\$800 million and also described the US\$160 million indebtedness to the Bulk Oil Distribution Companies (BDCs) as a tip of the iceberg.

## Recommendation

The Committee, *by majority decision*, recommends to the House to approve the nomination of Mr. Boakye Agyarko for appointment as the Minister responsible for Energy.

6.0 HON. (DR.) MATTHEW OPOKU PREMPEH-

MINISTER-  
DESIGNATE FOR  
EDUCATION

---

## Background

Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1968 in Kumasi in the Ashanti Region of Ghana.



He had his basic education from 1974 to 1980 at the University Primary School, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). He then proceeded to Prempeh College for his Ordinary Level and Advanced Level Certificates from 1980 to 1987. He attended the KNUST from 1988 to 1991 and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Human Biology. He went back to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology from 1991 to 1994 where he obtained Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB.ChB). He later in 1997 to 1998 proceeded to the ERASMUS University where he obtained a degree in Clinical Epidemiology.

Nominee has also undertaken several Certificate Programmes mostly related to management, leadership and governance. These includes Executive Certificate in Public Leadership, Applying Behavioral Insights to the Design of Public Policy and Programmes at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (USA). The Nominee has partaken in various workshops and conferences including Legislative Drafting, Project and Programme Management and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Hon. Dr. Opoku Prempeh began his carrier as a National Service Personnel at the Manhyia Polyclinic (Kumasi) from 1987 to 1988. He was first employed at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi as a House Officer from 1995 to 1997. He later travelled abroad and employed as a Senior House Officer of the National Health Service in the United Kingdom from February 1999 to June 2003. From June 2003 to January 2009, he was the Executive Chairman of Keyedmap Services Limited, Ghana (A Private Security Firm). He became the Member of Parliament for the Manhyia Constituency in the Ashanti Region from 2009 to 2013 and now a Member of Parliament for Manhyia South.

The Hon Nominee has held various leadership positions in his line of service to the country. He was the Assistant House prefect (Guggisberg House, Prempeh College) in 1987. In 1990 to 1991 he was the General Secretary of the Medical Students Association of Ghana (KNUST/SMS) and also the Local NUGS President in the same year. He became the National President of The Asante Students Union and Local NUGS President (1<sup>st</sup> National Vice President) from 1991 to 1992. He is currently a member of the Ghana Medical and Dental Council and General Medical Council, UK 5189481.

The Honourable Nominee has won several national and international awards. Of these awards include, Best Student 'O' Level Geography and 'A' Level Chemistry in 1985 and 1987 respectively at Prempeh College. Best Student in Community Medicine and Best Student in General Surgery (SMS – KNUST) in 1995. He also won the University Fellowship Award by the Netherlands Government in 1997.

---

## Responses to Questions

### **Plans to implement promises for the education**

The Committee enquired from the nominee specific steps and timelines for fulfilling the Government's promises made under education such as abolishing of school utility charges, extension of free wifi to all tertiary and secondary schools as well as making secondary education free. The nominee indicated to the Committee that he was yet to be approved by Parliament and the President to operationalize such campaign promises. He accordingly declined to give the details as how and when those policies would be initiated; but pledged his commitment to actualize the vision and all those promises contained in the NPP Manifesto.

In a related response to a question as whether or not Ghana can afford free secondary school education, the nominee indicated that free education is a constitutional requirement that needs to be fulfilled at all cost. He added that education is key to unlocking poverty and ensuring national development. As a result, he would use his position to canvass for every support to implement policies and programmes that produces the needed human resource base for growth and development of the country.

### **Enhancing Teacher Motivation**

In response to a question as how teachers could be motivated to give off their best, the nominee informed the Committee that Teachers are the fulcrum upon which the government expects to actualize its education goals. As a result, every effort would be made to provide teachers with the right incentives to deliver quality services for better education outcome. He informed the Committee that some initial discussions have been held with the Teachers Unions to receive firsthand information about their challenges and the details of the support services would be worked out if given the nod.

### **Review of the Focus of the Ghana Education Trust Fund**

The Committee sought from the nominee his view on the objective and focus of the Ghana Education Trust Fund as provided for by Section 2 (2) of the GETFund Act, 2000 (Act 581). The nominee indicated to the Committee that he believes the Act should be reviewed to provide flexibility for the Ministry of Education to prioritize the distribution of the Fund in response to the exigencies of the time. He was particularly of the view that efforts at ensuring quality education start from the basic and that would automatically translate to the higher levels. He accordingly holds the view that more resources should be channeled to building the foundation at the basic level.



## **Technical Vocational and Education Training (TVET)**

In response to how the nominee would invigorate TVET to take its useful position in producing middlemen human resource base to support industrial agenda of the country, he indicated to the Committee that TVET constitutes the central instrument for actualizing the government Industrialization and Job Creation Agenda. He attributed part of the current situation to management challenges particularly coordination issues due to scattering of such Vocational Training Schools across in other sector ministries. Some of the specific steps he committed to undertaking are the rationalization of the Technical and Vocational Training Schools scattered in other sector ministries under one umbrella under the Ministry; upgrading at least, one Colleges of Education in each region dedicated to training teachers in technical and vocational education; and upgrading all polytechnics to Technical Universities and providing them with the necessary resources to be more functional.

In response to a related question as whether the nominee would consider alternative source of funding TVET, for instances from industries, the nominee informed the committee that provision of free Technical and Vocational Education is a responsibility of the State under Article 38 of the 1992 Constitution. He accordingly holds the view that financing of TVET should be a priority of the government.

### **Specific Plans to Ensure Quality Education and the Use of Local Language as medium of instruction**

In response to a question as what specific interventions the nominee would put in place to improve quality of education, the nominee informed the Committee that Ghana's education outcome has not been as expected. He mentioned three key actionable measures to improving the situation including enhancing teacher motivation and student support services.

In answer to whether the nominee would consider using local language as a medium of instruction at least at the formative stage, the nominee indicated he was not in support of such proposition. The rationale he provided was that Ghana is a multi-language country which makes it too difficult to prescribe particular language to use. He also added that education is meant for the rest of the world not Ghana alone. Accordingly, in his view, the students must be encouraged to learn the English language as used as a medium of instruction.

### **Ensuring Parity in Education**

The Committee sought from the nominee specific policy interventions he would institute to reverse increasing preferences for certain schools particularly those located in major cities. The nominee acknowledged the situation is worrying and



pledged to upgrade at least one school in every District to serve as a model school. He also assured the Committee of his intention to ensure equitable distribution of educational resources to ensure that graduates from those deprived schools excel just like those in cities.

### **Examination Leakages/Malpractices**

In response to a question as what the nominee would do to avert the frequent leakage of examination questions, the nominee indicated to the Committee that he would do all that it could to deal with the phenomenon. He pledged to do diagnostic assessment of the causes of the leakage in order to prescribe the best solutions. He added that other independent bodies apart from WAEC may be encouraged to conduct secondary school examinations in order to bring competition in the process. He also indicated that education programmes would be rolled out to change the mindset of the students to appreciate the fact that education is not just passing exams but the skill to be relevant in their societies.

### **Improving BECE Performance**

On how he would sustain and improve the best BECE performance achieved in 2006, the nominee said he would collaborate with the National Inspectorate Board to improve its supervisory role to reduce teacher absenteeism which would lead to improvement in time-on-task. He emphasized that the difference in performance between public schools and private schools lies in the quality of supervision. He believed that if supervision is improved, the public schools will perform better than the private schools.

### **Regulation of Private Tertiary Institutions**

The Committee enquired from the nominee what specific steps he would take to regulate the proliferation of private tertiary schools to ensure that quality standard of Ghana's education is not compromised. The nominee indicated to the Committee, he would collaborate and work closely with the National Council for Tertiary Education, the National Accreditation Board and the National Curriculum Development Board to achieve the standards required of private tertiary institutions. He further promised to collaborate with the regulatory bodies as contained in the Ghana Education Service Act in this regard.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends, *by consensus*, the approval of the nomination of Hon. (Dr.) Matthew Opoku Prempeh for appointment as the Minister responsible for Education.

### Background

Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu was born on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 1955 at Dormaa Ahenkro in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana.

He had his primary education at the Krakrom L/A Methodist Primary School in Krakrom from 1961 to 1965 and proceeded to the L/A Methodist Primary School at Dormaa Ahenkro for his Middle School education (1965-1968). He progressed to the Dormaa Secondary School in Dormaa Ahenkro for his Ordinary Level from 1968 – 1973 and later attended the Presbyterian Boys Secondary School, Accra for his Advanced Level from 1973 to 1975. He again attended the University of Ghana, Legon and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Statistics (1975 to 1978). He further obtained a Certificate in Associate Chartered Management Accountant from the London School of Accountancy from 1985 to 1988. He is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu taught at the Acherensua Secondary School for his national service from 1978 to 1979. He was thereafter engaged as the Head of the Prices Section of the Ghana Statistical Service from 1979 from 1981. Between 1981 and 1985, he taught at the Government Science Secondary School in Zuru, Sokoto State Nigeria. He later worked with Richwills Furniture Reproduction Company Limited, UK as Assistant Management Accountant from 1989 to 1990. He again joined Mim Timber Company Limited as Deputy Chief Accountant of (1990 to 1994). He then moved to Toyota Ghana Limited as Director of Finance (1994 to 2000).

Hon. Agyeman-Manu served as a Deputy Minister for five sectors of the economy from 2001 to 2009. He served as the Deputy Minister for the Ministries of Trade and Industry, Interior, Finance, Roads and Transport and Communications.

Hon. Agyeman-Manu entered Parliament as the Member for the Dormaa West Constituency (2009-2013) and he is currently the Member of Parliament for Dormaa Central constituency. As Member of Parliament he served as the Vice Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (2009-2013) and later as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (2013-2017).

---



## Response to Questions

### **Ongoing projects in the Health Sector**

On ongoing health sector projects dotted around the country, the nominee confirmed that there is quite a number of such uncompleted projects including one at Fomena which commenced over 30 years ago. According to him, a lot of investment projects were on-going but noted that work was progressing steadily in the case of those with funding. He added that, considering the Manifesto pledge of the NPP and the commitment of the President for the health sector, funds would be made available to address the infrastructural issues at the sector and possibly complete some of the uncompleted projects. He assured the Committee that one of the first things he will do, if given the nod, would be to request for stocktaking of all uncompleted projects and adopt the appropriate actions in respect of each of them.

### **Implementation of the Ghana Aids Commission Act, 2016**

The nominee noted that the Ghana Aids Commission Act, 2016 had not yet been implemented. She said the Act sets up a Commitment Fund by the Government and the Global Assistance Fund. He acknowledged the Government's commitment to allocate GH¢30 million every year since 2013 to support HIV/AIDS activities. The nominee also stated that even though HIV/AIDS issues are not directly under the Ministry of Health but under the Ghana Aids Commission, he would support measures that would make available highly subsidized anti-retroviral drugs and other preventive commodities available to the HIV/AIDS community. In that regard, he assured the Committee that, if given the nod, he would collaborate with the relevant authorities to support the HIV/AIDS community.

### **Promoting Mental Health in the Country**

On how he would make mental health services more accessible and efficient throughout the country, the nominee stated that since the Mental Health Act, 2012 (Act 846) is yet to be implemented, he would give serious attention to get the law and ensure it is fully implemented to improve mental health service delivery in the country. Committee that mental health is one of the areas that he will give a serious attention when given the nod. He added that, he had identified a number of opportunities in terms of laws that are yet to be implemented and would take steps for the making of the necessary Legislative Instruments to help implement those laws. He further alluded to a portion of the NPP's 2016 Manifesto which seeks to scale up investment into the health sector and hoped to pursue that commitment to fund the implementation of the health sector laws.

## **Restructuring of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)**

The nominee disclosed that he has been tasked specifically by the President to take a critical to devise workable arrangements to transform the National Health Insurance Scheme including finding sustainable funding to enable the Scheme work again and to also ensure its survival and growth. He also informed the Committee that he had studied the Report of the Committee instituted by the previous administration which reviewed the NHIS. He noted that the Recommendations in that Report is insightful and promised to fine-tune it for implementation. In that regard, he appealed for a more dispassionate discussion of issues pertaining to the NHIS and asserted that MPs would be relieved of the medical burdens that their Constituents place on them if the Scheme is transformed.

### **Medical Officers shifting to Administrative positions**

On his plans to prevent medical Officers from leaving practice to take up administrative positions, the nominee stated that he opposed the idea that trained medical professionals should be allowed to take up administrative positions at hospitals. He however stated that, when you assess the phenomenon you will realize that when you practice a profession for a long time, boredom would set in and as such, there may be a natural crave for change. On that score, he said he would compromise and allow the policy to operate. He however stated that when the services of certain medical professionals are critically needed, those professions would not be allowed to move to administrative areas.

### **Improving Access to healthcare for the Elderly/Aged**

When asked about how he intends to improve access to healthcare for the elderly in the country, the nominee indicated that he appreciated the difficulties that the elderly in our society go through in their quest to access healthcare services. He assured the Committee that he would to explore opportunities in the sector and believed that the intended restructuring of the NHIS would help address the challenge and suggested the introduction of reforms in the sector. He further proposed the creation of an Exclusive List for the elderly to enable them access the healthcare services they require.

### **Improving Maternal and Infant healthcare**

The nominee alluded to an existing programme which seeks to improve maternal and infant healthcare in the country. He alluded to an ongoing programme under which the country has made considerable gains. He accordingly promised to continue the implementation of the programme if he is given the nod. He was optimistic that we will be able to achieve our targets in maternal and infant health by the time the programme is completed. He



promised to bring a Report to the House after his first year in office on the status of the programme.

### **Increasing Health Financing**

The nominee indicated that he would explore more options to enhance healthcare financing in the country. In that regard, he advocated for the use of part of the Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA) to finance health care delivery in Ghana. He also promised to institute better control systems to reduce fraud and thereby save more money to implement some of the numerous projects in the sector. He also promised to consult widely with Stakeholders in the sector to find sustainable funding to prosecute the agenda for the health sector. He therefore hoped to receive total support from the Government in view of the President's commitment to improve healthcare system of the country.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee, *by consensus*, recommends that the House approves the nomination of Hon. Kwaku Agyeman-Manu for appointment as the Minister responsible for Health.

## **8.0 HON. (DR.) OWUSU AFRIYIE AKOTO - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR AGRICULTURE**

---

### **Background**

Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto was born on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1949 in Kumasi in the Ashanti region of Ghana. He comes from Koforidua in the Eastern region of Ghana.

Hon. Akoto had his Common Entrance Examination Certificate from the St. Joseph Catholic School, Kumasi (1955 - 1963). Between 1963 and 1969, he attended Opoku Ware School, Kumasi for his 'O' and 'A' Levels Certificate. He progressed to the University of Ghana to pursue a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from 1969 to 1973. In 1974, Hon. Akoto was awarded the prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship for his Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics the University of Cambridge which he duly completed in 1976. He later obtained his Doctor of Philosophy from the same university between 1981 and 1985.

Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto worked as an Agriculture Economist (Pioneer National Service) at the Ministry of Agriculture (1973 - 1974) and as an Economist at International Coffee Organization (ICO) in London, England (1977 - 1981). He was then promoted to the position of Senior Economist at ICO in

London, England (1981 - 1987). He further worked as the Principal Economist at ICO (1987 - 1991) and went on to become the Chief Economic Advisor at ICO in London, England (1991 - 1993). Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto has experience in consultancy and has worked as a consultant to the World Bank, UN, on Soft Commodities (Cocoa, Coffee, and Sugar). He was the Chief Executive Officer at Goldcrest Commodities Ltd, Ghana (1995 - 1998) and the Chief Executive Officer at Plantain Resources Ltd, Ghana (1998 - 2008). He served as the Member of Parliament for Kwadaso and Deputy Ranking Member: Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs (2009 - 2012). He also served as the Member of Parliament for Kwadaso and Ranking Member: Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs (2013 – Jan, 2017).

Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto was the Chairman of the Opoku Ware School Old Students Association, UK Branch (1985 - 1991). He was also the Acting General Secretary of the United Kingdom and Ireland Branch of the New Patriotic Party. He has been the Chairman of the Manifesto Committee of the New Patriotic Party (2007 – 2008). He has also been the New Patriotic Spokesperson on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs. He also served as the Chairman of the New Patriotic Party Committee on Agriculture (2016).

## **Responses to Questions**

### **Response to a Petition from Food Sovereignty Ghana**

Commenting on the petition received from Food Sovereignty Ghana, the nominee denied claims that he has been a champion for the introduction and development of genetically modified organism (GMO) products in the country. He said his arguments over the matter has been misconstrued and that he only argued for the adoption of improved seeds developed by Ghanaian scientists to increase production to enable famers derive the maximum benefits from their toil. Touching on the Plant Breeders Bill, he said he understood the object of the Bill to be to protect the intellectual property rights of Ghanaian Scientists who have developed new breeds of seeds and not to promote GMO seeds as claimed by the Petitioners.

### **Strategies to attract foreign direct Investment in the Agriculture Sector**

Responding to a question on strategies he would adopt to attract foreign direct investment into the agriculture sector, the nominee stated that the sector has suffered limited public investment. He assured the Committee of government's commitment to prioritise public investments into the sector.



## **Cash Crop Development in the Country**

In assessing the potentials of cash crop development in the country, the nominee stated that the country stands to benefit enormously if the adequate resources are committed to the sector. He said his experience at the sector revealed that the country has the human resource capacity and a well organised farmer-based associations which can help drive the sector. He recounted how through his encouragement to the former Minister for Finance, Mr. Seth Terpkor, Cocobod was supported with an amount of GH¢4million to undertake a pilot scheme for coffee production in some parts of the country which resulted into revenue generation for the State and job creation for inhabitants within the production zones. He pledged to introduce such schemes and also encourage the private sector to participate in the sector.

## **Producer Prices of Cocoa**

On why he disagreed with the producer price of GH¢475 for the 64kg bag of cocoa for the 2016/2017 cocoa season as announced by the previous Mahama administration, the nominee said his view was that the government should have used gross free-on-board (f.o.b) rather than net f.o.b in determining the producer price. The nominee averred that the margin between the gross f.o.b and net f.o.bs must not be significant in the determination of the producer prices of cocoa. He explained that the cocoa farmers would not receive much income from their sales of the cocoa as they should have if the margin is significant. He said, per his calculations, the margin of about twenty-five percent (25%) between the f.o.bs in 2016/2017 as significant. He noted that the basis of using net f.o.b under the Kufuor administration was because the margin between the f.o.bs had always hovered around ten percent (10%) which was insignificant and therefore did not impact on the producer prices. He said the cocoa farmers would have been paid GH¢600 if the government had used the gross f.o.b to determine the producer prices.

## **Revamping the Cocoa Sector**

Regarding how he intends to boost cocoa production in the country, the nominee bemoaned the decline in the cocoa production and attributed the cause largely to limited access to farm inputs such as pesticides and low technological content in the sector. He promised to revisit the mass spraying exercise introduced

under the Kufuor administration and also ensure that farm inputs are available to cocoa farmer at the right time.

### **Addressing the high food Import Bill of the country**

The nominee attributed the high importation of food stuffs into the country to low productivity of the agriculture sector. He stated the most of the foodstuffs imported into the country are also produced locally and that it was because of the inability of farmers to meet demand that has resulted into the high importation. He said the government has a plan dubbed “Planting for food and Jobs” which spells out strategies to increase productivity of our farmers to make the country the food hub of West Africa. He stated further that the plan has a strategy to boost agro-processing add value to farm produce.

### **Liberalisation of the Cocoa Sector**

On his view about liberalisation of the cocoa sector, the nominee acknowledged that liberalisation the sector could stimulate private sector participation and lead to injection of the necessary capital and efficiency in the value chain. He admitted that even though the policy is worth implementing, it would need to be careful examined within the context of the country. He indicated that Government was yet to consider such a policy proposal.

### **Linking Science to Agriculture**

According to the nominee, the application of science in the agriculture sector has dwindled over the years which has contributed to the low productivity in the sector. He attributed the situation to the reduced extension services which hitherto have served as mechanism to encourage the application of science and technology in the sector. He indicated the commitment of the current NPP government in reversing the trend through the implementation of its “Planting for food and Jobs” strategy. In this respect, he hinted that the government would recruit about three thousand two hundred graduates of the Agricultural Colleges who are yet to be engaged as Extension Officers as well as encourage Scientists to make their research finding available to farmers.



## Measures to ensure Guaranteed Market for farmers

When asked about the measures he will employ to ensure a guaranteed price and market for the farmers, the nominee commended the initiative taken to establish the Buffer Stock Company by the previous administration to support the farmers but added that the company was starved of resources to pursue its objectives. He said he intends revamping the Grains Development Board through a public-private partnership arrangement as vehicle to support the farmers.

### Recommendation

The Committee, *by consensus*, recommends that the House approves the nomination of Hon. (Dr.) Owusu Afriyie Akoto for appointment as the Minister responsible for Agriculture.

## 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.

The Committee 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.

Further, all the nominees demonstrated through their answers to questions posed to them by Members of the Committee that they have the intellectual capacity, skill, experience and the requisite training to (a) to “assist the President in the determination of general policy of the Government” and (b) “necessary for the efficient running of the State” as envisaged by Articles 76 (2) and 78 (2) of the Constitution.

Notwithstanding the forgoing, Members of the minority of the Committee have indicated that they do not support the recommendation to approve Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafa, the Senior Minister-Designate and Mr. Boakye Agyarko, the Energy Minister-Designate by consensus.

Consequently, in accordance with Order 172 (4) of the Standing Orders of the House the Committee recommends to the House to approve the nomination by majority decision:

- i) Mr. Yaw Osafo-Maafa - Senior Minister-Designate;
- ii) Mr. Boakye Agyarko - Minister-Designate for

## Measures to ensure Guaranteed Market for farmers

When asked about the measures he will employ to ensure a guaranteed price and market for the farmers, the nominee commended the initiative taken to establish the Buffer Stock Company by the previous administration to support the farmers but added that the company was starved of resources to pursue its objectives. He said he intends revamping the Grains Development Board through a public-private partnership arrangement as vehicle to support the farmers.

### Recommendation

The Committee, *by consensus*, recommends that the House approves the nomination of Hon. (Dr.) Owusu Afriyie Akoto for appointment as the Minister responsible for Agriculture.

## 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.

The Committee 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.

Further, all the nominees demonstrated through their answers to questions posed to them by Members of the Committee that they have the intellectual capacity, skill, experience and the requisite training to (a) to “assist the President in the determination of general policy of the Government” and (b) “necessary for the efficient running of the State” as envisaged by Articles 76 (2) and 78 (2) of the Constitution.

Notwithstanding the forgoing, Members of the minority of the Committee have indicated that they do not support the recommendation to approve Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafa, the Senior Minister-Designate and Mr. Boakye Agyarko, the Energy Minister-Designate by consensus.

Consequently, in accordance with Order 172 (4) of the Standing Orders of the House the Committee recommends to the House to approve the nomination by majority decision:

---

i) ~~Mr. Yaw Osafo-Maafa~~ - ~~Senior Minister-Designate;~~

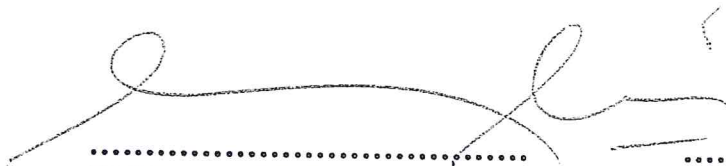


- ii) Mr. Boakye Agyarko - Minister-Designate for Energy.

The Committee also recommends for approval by consensus the following nominations:

- i) Hon. (Dr.) Matthew Opoku Prempeh - Minister-Designate for Education
- ii) Hon. Kwaku Agyeman Manu - Minister-Designate for Health
- iii) Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto - Minister-Designate for Agriculture

Respectfully submitted.



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



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

*JANUARY, 2017*

