

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

**EIGHTH REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS
COMMITTEE**

ON

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

MARCH, 2017

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

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article 78 (1) and 79 (1) of the 1992 Constitution, H. E. the President communicated to Parliament the nomination of four (4) Ministers of State and fifty (50) Deputy Ministers appointment on Wednesday, 15th March, 2017.

Consequently, the nominations were referred to the Appointments Committee by the Rt. Hon. Speaker for consideration and report pursuant to Order 172 of the Standing Orders of the House.

The nominations are:

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|-------|------------------------|---|---|
| i. | Hon. Sarah Adwoa Safo | - | Minister of State-Designate at the Office of the President (Public Procurement) |
| ii. | Hon. Bryan Acheampong | - | Minister of State-Designate at the Office of the President |
| iii. | Prof. Kwesi Yankah | - | Minister of State-Designate at the Ministry of Education (Tertiary Education) |
| iv. | Dr. Gyiele Nurah | - | Minister of State-Designate at the Ministry of Agriculture |
| v. | Hon. Henry Quartey | - | Deputy Minister-Designate for Interior |
| vi. | Hon. Kwaku Kwarteng | - | Deputy Minister-Designate for Finance |
| vii. | Hon. Abena Osei Asare | - | Deputy Minister-Designate for Finance |
| viii. | Mr. Charles Adu Boahen | - | Deputy Minister-Designate for Finance |

- ix. Hon. Joseph Cudjoe - Deputy Minister-Designate for Energy
- x. Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam - Deputy Minister-Designate for Energy
- xi. Hon. William Owuraku Aidoo - Deputy Minister-Designate for Energy

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

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

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

3.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE REFERRAL

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

4.0 HON. SARAH ADWOA SAFO

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MINISTER OF STATE-DESIGNATE AT
THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
(PUBLIC PROCUREMENT)

Background

Hon. Sarah Adwoa Safo was born in Accra on 28th December 1981. She was home schooled during her primary education and obtained her GCE 'O' and 'A' Level Certificates as a private candidate. She attended Alliance Francaise from January to July 1999 and obtained a Certificate in French. She enrolled at the University of Ghana, Legon in 1999 and was awarded an LLB in 2002. She subsequently enrolled at the Ghana School of Law in 2002 and was awarded Professional Law Certificate in 2004. She was called to the Ghana Bar the same year.

Hon. Adwoa Safo attended the George Washington University Law School, USA and obtained an LLM in Government Procurement Law in 2005. She also attended the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA and was awarded Certificates in Public Financial Management, Senior Executive in National and International Security and Senior Managers in Government, among others.

Hon. Adwoa Safo worked at the Legal Aid Board from 2006 to 2008 for her National Service. From 2007 to 2008 she worked as the First Legal Officer at the Public Procurement Authority. She is the Legal Advisor at the Kristo Asafo Mission and the head of Chambers of Safo & Marfo at Law, Aduana Chambers. She is currently the Member of Parliament for Dome Kwabenya Constituency, the Deputy Majority Leader of the Seventh Parliament and a Member of the Pan African Parliament.

Responses to Questions

Conflict between her Role and the Public Procurement Authority

The nominee notified the Committee that her role as Minister of State at the Office of the President responsible for Public Procurement is to internally advise government on public procurement to ensure that the appropriate procedures in any public procurement process is maintained to ultimately eliminate corruption. She added that if approved by the House, her position would not conflict with the Public Procurement Authority because she would not interfere with the

activities of the Authority. PPA is a regulatory body while her function will be restricted to advising the President on issues relating to procurement activities of the Authority.

Open Competitive Tender

The nominee informed the Committee that open competitive tender process is key in any public procurement procedure. She added that the hallmark of her tenure as the Minister of State responsible for Public Procurement would be transparency, fairness, integrity and value for money in the procurement process.

The nominee also informed the Committee that sole sourcing as a public procurement process is lawful, so far as the criteria stipulated under the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663) as amended by the Public Procurement Act, 2016 (Act 914) are adhered to. She advised that notwithstanding its legality, the usage of sole sourcing in the procurement process should be an exception to the rule rather than the general.

Local Participation in Competitive Bidding

The nominee informed the Committee that in line with government policy, seventy percent of all government contracts would be awarded to Ghanaian owned companies and a further thirty percent of government contracts awarded to companies owned by women. On companies owned by the physically challenged and by the youth, she intimated she would encourage them to build their capacities. She admitted that the Public Procurement Act would require an amendment to that effect.

Interest in Public Procurement

The nominee indicated that her interest to specialize in Public Procurement Law was due to the fact that it was an area of the law which was not widespread in the country, hence her decision to challenge herself to veer into that area. She mentioned that she aspires to leave a legacy having created opportunities for women, the physically challenged and the youth to engage in the bid for government contracts and the award of same in line with government policy.

Electronic Procurement

The nominee informed the Committee that as pertained in other jurisdictions e-procurement would eliminate the human element in the procurement process to reduce or eliminate corruption in the procurement process entirely. She added that the Public Procurement Authority would soon commence a pilot project in e-procurement and eventually roll out the project to all Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the country.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the House to approve *by consensus* the nomination of **Hon. Sarah Adwoa Safo** for appointment as the Minister of State at the Office of the President (Public Procurement).

5.0 HON. BRYAN ACHEAMPONG

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MINISTER OF STATE DESIGNATE AT
THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Background

Mr. Bryan Acheampong was born at Suhum on 27th November, 1972 and hails from Kwahu Nkwatia in the Eastern Region.

He had his primary education at Suhum Presbyterian School, Greenhill Preparatory School also at Suhum and schooled intermittently at Italy and England from 1978 to 1983. He continued at the Achimota Primary School from 1984 to 1988 and at the Presbyterian Boys Secondary School, Legon for his GCE Ordinary Level (1988-1993) and GCE Advanced Level (1994-1996) Certificates. From August, 2006 to September, 2006, he was awarded a United State Airforce (USAF) Certificate of Technical Training by the United States Airforce, Sheppard AFB at Texas. He later enrolled at the Johnson and Wales University, Providence, Rhode Island for a part-time Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Management from September, 2001 to June, 2006. He is currently pursuing an online MBA programme at the Johnson and Wales University, Providence, Rhode Island and hopes to complete by September, 2017.

characterize the payment of salaries of some public sector workers, the nominee disagreed. He stated that payment of salaries and preparation of public accounts is the core function of the Accountant General. The Controller, he said could only pay salaries based on information that is transmitted to him and so it is incumbent on Ministries, Departments and Agencies to ensure the prompt transmission of information to the Accountant General for payment to be effected.

Improving Payroll Management

On what recommendation, he would give to government to improve upon the management of payroll to reduce incidents of fraud and ghost names on our payroll, the nominee stated that the provision of electronic salary payment voucher service by his company to the CAGD removed 20,958 ghost names from the payroll and also saved the nation about seven hundred million Ghana cedis, (GH¢700m) which would have been the annualised salary of the individuals who were removed from the payroll. According to him, a lot has been done to address the payroll management challenges and the next frontier would be the introduction of a bi-monthly biometric verification system which would cure any loophole in the current systems.

Politics in Suhum

On whether he regrets any action of his as a result of his involvement in the politics of Suhum which has been associated with acrimony and mudslinging, the nominee acknowledged that with the benefit of hindsight, he regretted some of the incidents that happened and wished they had not occurred.

Assessment of the Security in Parliament and that of Members

When asked to assess the security situation in Parliament and that of Members of Parliament with respect to his background as a former Officer of the United States Airforce with knowledge in security issues, the Nominee stated that to talk about security loopholes in the House would amount to playing into the enemy's hand. Rather, he would make recommendations to the House Committee, which, he is a Member.

Hon. Bryan Acheampong had his national service at the Achimota Primary School from 1996 to 1997 and worked as a Volunteer Manager at the Tomoni Orphanage at Kwahu from 1997 to 2000. He was a Partner in Action Networking (2003-2004) and a Founder of Ghana Youth Development Chamber (1996-2000). He served the Youth Impact International (2001-2004) and INTU-iT Open College (20014 - date). He is also the Owner of Rock City Hotels, Ghana (2007 to present), EZ Pay Ghana Limited (2014-present), Deep Earth Logistics (2015- present), INTU Equity Partners (2016-present), Rural Housing Development Company (2015-present) and the Pleroma Lysi (2016-present).

The Nominee was enlisted into the United States Airforce in August, 2005 and was honourably discharged on March, 2007, however, he received his Discharge Certificate in 2009.

He is currently the Member of Parliament for the Abetifi Constituency and has been an MP since July, 2016 and serves on the House and Trade and Industry Committees.

Responses to Questions

Nationality Switch

On whether he had ever changed or switched nationality since he was at one time enlisted into the United States Airforce, the nominee replied in the affirmative. He told the Committee that, it is a requirement for every Airforce Officer to be a citizen of America, and as such, he held the nationality of the United States of America but renounced it before he became a Member of Parliament.

Work with the Controller and Accountant's General Department (CAGD)

Asked about his working relationship with the CAGD, the nominee stated that one of his organisation is a principal consultant to the CAGD. He continued that his organisation is involved in the provision of services like electronic pay slips, electronic salary voucher, electronic input forms, third party reference systems, bank account monitoring platform and also offer a bank account investment platform to CAGD.

On the argument that the Controller and Accountant General's role should be limited only to the management of the treasury, to end delays that sometimes

Information Technology (IT) for enhanced Security of Ghana

On how his experience would be brought to bear on our management of security in Ghana, in view of his background in Security and IT taking cognizance of the sophisticated nature of terrorism in today's world, the Nominee stated that he has noticed major gaps in the management of security in the country as a result of his interaction with some security agencies. He reiterated that profiling the challenges at the public hearing would amount to exposing ourselves to the enemy, rather he should be allowed to channel his recommendations to the appropriate institutions like the Ministry of Defence, National Communication Authority (NCA) and National Information Technology Agency (NITA).

Relationship with Mr. Charles Knut

On his relationship with Mr. Charles Knut, an American Citizen, the Nominee informed the Committee that Mr. Charles Knut was once a business partner with whom he managed Ation Networking in 2003. He informed the Committee that the allegation of fraud and the subsequent investigation being levelled against him only came up when he declared his intention to contest the NPP Parliamentary seat at the Suhum Constituency. This allegation, he continued, led the party to ask him to withdraw his candidature, which he obliged. Surprisingly, after the party primaries, the issue disappeared. He intimated to the Committee that he was never charged or prosecuted.

Improvement to the Quality and Quantity of IT Professionals in the Public Service

On what recommendations he would give to improve the quality and quantity of the IT professionals in the public service and how he would facilitate the uptake of technology, the Nominee informed the committee that his experience with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) revealed that most of the IT professionals in the public service are technicians, and that most of the computers used in the public service are for typing and printing of documents. He recommended that government and for that matter, the public service should take advantage of the full benefits that IT offers by investing in IT applications, to make life easier and more productive.

He again recommended that the National Information Technology Agency should play a front role in this quest and ensure that the needed facilities are in place in all government agencies. He further recommended government to partner institutions like the Kofi Annan ICT Training Centre to train and offer refresher courses to IT professionals and the youth. According to him, we should undertake a project of Change Management where government would roll out a policy that would take us to the electronic age or steer a strong approach towards it.

Creating Awareness on the Dangers of Technology

On improving the cyber security framework and creating awareness on the dangers of the increasing use of technology that we are being exposed to in modern times, the Nominee stated three levels of security in the IT industry, namely; the use of IT, network security and national security. He informed the Committee that he was working on the first two with the institutions responsible for them.

His Role as a Minister of State

On what he thought would be his role as a Minister of State, the Nominee said that he has had discussions with the President on his role and the President had assured him he would handle Political Affairs at the Presidency.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the House to approve *by consensus* the nomination of Hon. Bryan Acheampong for appointment as Minister of State at the Office of the President.

6.0 PROF. KWESI YANKAH

- MINISTER OF STATE- DESIGNATE
FOR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(TERTIARY EDUCATION)

BACKGROUND

Prof. Kwesi Yankah was born on 30th October, 1950 at Agona Duakwa in the Central Region.

He had his primary education at Akim Ehyiamu Local Authority Primary School (1955-1957), Akim Osenase Local Authority Primary School (1957-1959) and Winneba Zion Primary School (1959-1961). He continued to Winneba Zion Middle School (1961-1962) and then to the Winneba Secondary School (1963-1970) for his G.C.E Ordinary and Advanced Level Certificates. He later enrolled at the University of Ghana and was awarded with Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics (1970-1973) and Master of Arts in Linguistics (1974-1976). He furthered his education at the Indiana University, Bloomington, USA and was awarded both Master of Arts in Linguistics (1982-1984) and PhD in Folklore in Linguistics (1980-1985).

Prof Yankah served the nation from 1973 to 1974 at the Linguistics Department of the University of Ghana and later as a Demonstrator/Teaching Assistant in that same University from 1976 to 1977. He was later employed at the University of Ghana as a lecturer at the Linguistics Department from 1977 to 1986 and as a Senior Lecturer from 1986 to 1990. From 1988 to 1989, he went to Stanford University, California, USA as a Post-Doctoral Fellow. He was a Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, USA from 1998 to 1999. He was promoted as an Associate Professor at the University of Ghana from 1990 to 1995 and later as a Professor from 1995 to 2011. From 2006 to 2011, he was elected the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana. He was a Visiting Professor at Michigan University, Ann Arbor Michigan, USA from August to December, 2011 and also from January to July, 2012 at the University of California. He became the President of the Central University College from September, 2012 to December, 2015 and later the Vice Chancellor of that same University from January, 2016 to date.

Responses to Questions

'Tweaa' Comments

When asked to elaborate on a Keynote Lecture delivered on the 50th Anniversary of the Department of Linguistics of the University of Ghana titled, "Tweaa: Meaning and the Social Power of Little Words". The Nominee said that the comment 'Tweaa' was the same comment articulated by an unknown person at a district gathering to a District Chief Executive. According to him, the expression sounded trivial but gained global prominence overnight. This seemingly trivial expression he said moved from being of district importance to national and to global. This he felt was a capsule of the sentiments people had harboured for a long time to express disgust, and others felt it should even be adopted by Parliaments across the world. He intimated that he felt proud of that work as a

scholar and thought it was probably an effective weapon for the weak and socially deprived persons.

Improving Capacities of Universities

As to whether he would recommend some pedagogical changes having worked in a public university and now a private university, the Nominee stated that he would not say one was superior to the other for which reason one should borrow from the other. But affirmed that these are two different worlds but all work towards the same objective of producing middle to high level manpower to serve the needs of the nation.

According to him, the responsibilities of a leader in a private university are somewhat different, operating entirely with fees from admissions without any subvention to pay for salaries at the end of the month. Thus one always had to think of means of raising funds, and one does this by offering courses that were in high demand. He intimated that this resulted in 'mission crepe' where there is very little differentiation in terms of course content and everybody was engaged in every course or programme.

These challenges notwithstanding, the universities need to carve a niche in certain areas of excellence that they would be known for and for which reason, students will subscribe to one university and not another.

Advocacy for a Needs Test as Means of Financing Higher Education

On whether he would advocate a need test to become a government policy to determine who needs what in terms of government support for financing higher education considering the fact that parents and students struggle to enter the private universities as a result of the high fees, the nominee said that the perception that private universities are more expensive was almost a myth. He detailed that over the years the gap between fees of public universities and that of the private universities was narrowing, particularly with the fee paying option of some category of science programmes.

The impression is that the public universities are more established, and with much more history and academic experience. This he believed accounted for the seeming preference for public universities. However he alluded to the fact that this trend was fast changing because many students and applicants are looking for universities that would best serve their needs.

Relevance and Quality of Higher Education

On his opinion and thoughts on the relevance and quality of tertiary education and what he would want improved when given the nod to head the tertiary education, he indicated that most universities had evolved over the years and had left their original mandate for which they were established. According to him, the University of Cape Coast originally was for Science and the University of Ghana, Liberal Arts, but added science along the line and was now rolling out engineering.

He attributed this to the fact that public universities who originally did not struggle for survival were now doing so, because of dwindling government subvention. This has compelled them to violate a norm which they shouldn't have. Universities he advised should stick to their mandate and avoid 'Mission Crepe'.

Improving Reading Culture for Ghana

On what should be done to encourage the culture of reading among Ghanaians, the Nominee intimated that elsewhere in the world, reading come as a part of their culture, not so in Ghana. To inculcate the culture of reading, there was the need to introduce reading as part of the academic skills in the school curriculum and also ensure the provision of adequate books for children to read. Also parents should be encouraged to read to their children and also supervise their ward's reading.

Four-Year/Three-Year Senior High School (SHS)

On his opinion on the duration of Senior High School, after a thorough analysis of the issue over a ten-year period, he feels that the four year duration gives the students much more contact hours. He however, recommended a flexible mode for those who want either the four or three year's duration.

Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the House for the approval *by consensus* the nomination of Prof. Kwesi Yankah for appointment as Minister of State for the Ministry of Education (Tertiary Education).

Background

Hon. Dr. Gyiele Nurah was born on 25th October, 1954 at Tarkwa in the Western Region of Ghana but hails from Nandom in the Upper West Region. He had his basic education from 1960 to 1969 at the Guo L/A primary and Middle School where he had his Common Entrance Examination Certificate. He then proceeded to Navrongo Secondary School in Navrongo for his Ordinary Level Certificate from September 1969 - 1972. He proceeded to the Nyankpala Agricultural College in January 1974, where he obtained a Certificate in General Agriculture in December 1975.

The Nominee entered the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) where he obtained a Diploma in Farm Management and Agricultural Extension from 1979 to 1980. He later obtained a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in June 1984 from the same University. He obtained his Master's Degree in Agricultural Economics from 1987 - 1990 from the Justus Liebig University, Giessen, Germany. He was awarded a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the same university in 1993.

Dr. Gyiele Nurah was a Teaching Assistant (National Service) in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management KNUST from September 1984 to September 1986. Before then, he was a Laboratory Assistant at the Wa Secondary School in 1973 and a Technical Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture/Upper Region Agricultural Development Programme (URADep) between January 1976 and January 1978. From October 1995 to June, 1999, he was a part time lecturer in the University of Ghana, Legon and University of Cape Coast. He moved on to become a Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economic, in Agribusiness and Extension Officer of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology from February 1994 to January 2017. In between that time, he was the Chief Director, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana, from October 2006 to October 2009.

The Nominee has had his fair share of various leadership positions at both educational and party levels. He was the SRC Vice president of KNUST from March 1982 to March 1983. He has held various positions in the New Patriotic

Party (NPP). He was the Chairman of the Ashanti Region NPP Research Committee, Member of the National Council of NPP, and Manager of the Vice Presidential Campaign of the NPP.

The Nominee has been a member of various management committees and governing boards and councils. He was Chairman for the Small Scale Irrigation Development Project Steering Committee and CODEX ALIMENTARIUS, (Ghana National Committee on Food Safety). He has been a member of the Academic Board, KNUST, Faculty of Social Sciences Board, KNUST, University Budget Committee, KNUST. Currently he is a member of the Ghana Animal Science Association (GASA).

Nominee's Responses to Questions

Plans for supporting the Minister to promote Agriculture and Food Security in the Country

In responding to a question on how he would support the Minister in promoting agriculture in the country, the Nominee indicated that as a former Chief Director of the Ministry (between 2006 - 2009), he had deep understanding and appreciation of the agricultural policies in the country as well as the workings of the Ministry. In addition, he had performed many assignments related to agricultural production in the country, particularly in the area of agricultural policy formulation, implementation and evaluation. The Nominee opined that with such an enormity of experience, he would undoubtedly be able to support the Minister achieve the country's agricultural objectives.

Development of Irrigation in the Country

The Nominee's attention was drawn to the over-reliance on rainfall for agriculture in Ghana which in most cases prevents an all year round farming due to the erratic nature of the rains, aside attempts by previous governments to establish dams like the Kamba Irrigation Project in the Upper West Region and the Nasia, Pagazaa, Sabari Dams in the Northern Region. He was asked what advice he would offer to the Minister in this regard. The Nominee acknowledged the challenges of having to depend on rain water for farming in Ghana, particularly in the north, where the rain season is very short

He attributed the prevailing condition to the huge capital requirements for developing large scale irrigation, poor management of the existing irrigation facilities and structural issues. The Nominee suggested that in addition to

repairing broken facilities, there would be the need to restructure such facilities to maximize their efficiency and effectiveness levels. He informed the Committee that the Ministry would focus on developing more of sprinkler and pumped irrigations to make use of the abandoned surface water bodies. He also added that given the huge capital requirements, Private Sector participation would seriously be encouraged by the Ministry.

Buffer Stocks Policy and Other Plans to Ensure Readily Market for Farmers

In responding to a question as whether the Nominee will advise the Minister to use Buffer Stock Policy as means to ensuring ready market for farmers, to reduce post-harvest loses and increase farmers income, the Nominee acknowledged the usefulness of the Buffer Stock Policy, but was of the view that such enterprise should not be the business of the government, rather, the Private Sector. He added that government should also create the right environment, for instance by developing standards and providing other enabling environment favourable for the Private Sector to engage in such ventures that promote viable and profitable business. Towards this end, the immediate policy he intends to advise the Minister would be the development of standards in the marketing of agricultural produce.

On other specific policies that would ensure ready and guaranteed prices for farmers, the Nominee proposed among others, the implementation of the Ghana Commodity Exchange Programme launched in 2015; and encouraging farmers to sign contracts with buyers - which currently is being run as a model programme under the Ghana Commercial Agricultural Productivity Programme (GCAPP).

Removal of Import Levy and its Implications on Local Rice and Poultry Production

The Committee sought from the nominee the correlation between abolishing the import levy and the promotion of local rice and poultry production as well as Job creation in the agriculture sector as envisaged by the government in its *Planting for Food and Job Creation* agenda. The Nominee explained to the Committee that the challenges confronting the local rice production is not attributable to the importation of rice, rather, post-harvest conditions and low input supply. He indicated that imported rice is preferred to the local rice because of its poor seed quality and the processing methods employed. Therefore, improving post-harvest conditions as well as the supply of adequate inputs and quality seeds

should be the approach government should adopt to promote local rice production.

In relation to poultry production, the Nominee attributed the constraint largely to the high poultry feed in the market. He explained that the low production in maize and the fact that maize is a major staple food for most Ghanaians, is bound to cause considerable competition between human and poultry. This being the cause of hikes in the poultry feed. Accordingly, he postulated the view that, with the ambitious programme of the government under the ***Planting for Food and Job Creation***, maize production would increase and the net effect would be a price decrease in the poultry feed to encourage more people to engage in poultry production.

Measures to Attract the Youth into Agriculture

In responding to a question on what specific policies the Nominee will facilitate to encourage the Youth to engage in farming as a business, the Nominee indicated that the Youth are not interested in agriculture because of the drudgery nature of the method of farming which give low return on investment. Among specific policy interventions, he suggested the promotion of agricultural mechanization and rural development. He explained that the agricultural mechanization agenda should be promoted through the establishment of more Farmers Services Centers to give affordable farming services and inputs to farmers. He was of the view that, with the right incentives and improved living conditions in the rural areas, the Youth would be enticed to go into farming.

Livestock Development

The Nominee attention was drawn to the campaign promise of the government on the development of the livestock sub-sector and what specific policies he intended to pursue. The Nominee indicated that the livestock sub-sector offered the country so much economic potentials, yet little had been done in the past to realize such benefits. He cited the abundance of Cattle and animal fodder in Ghana as great economic opportunities. He indicated his intention to support the development of the meat industry to process and add value to the meat for possible export. He also promised to identify potential land areas and negotiate with the owners to develop fodder banks for commercial livestock rearing.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the House for the approval *by consensus* the nomination of Dr. Nurah Gyeile for appointment as Minister of State for the Ministry of Agriculture.

8.0 HON. HENRY QUARTEY - DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE
FOR INTERIOR

Background

Hon. Henry Quartey was born on 12th March, 1971, in Accra, Otublohum in the Greater-Accra Region of Ghana. He had his basic and middle school education at Hams International Preparatory School from 1977 to 1982. He proceeded to the Presbyterian Secondary School, Osu and obtained his G.C.E. Ordinary level Certificate. His ambition to pursue a Post-Graduate Certificate at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) in 2011 was cut short, when he was elected as a parliamentary candidate for Ayawaso Central in 2011.

He has served on a number of Committees in Parliament including, the Committee on Gender, Children and Social Welfare and the Finance Committee.

Response to Questions

Emergence of Delta Force and Invincible Forces as Vigilante Groups

When asked about the emergence of “Delta Force”, the nominee responded that he does not ascribe to the use of a vigilante group to settle scores within political groups or with other groups with different political persuasions. The nominee assured the Committee he would assist the Minister to enforce the law strictly against any group of persons or an individual who fell foul of the law irrespective of their political party’s affiliation or ethnic background. He further assured the Committee that he was going to work with the President’s assurance given during the State of the Nation Address that vigilante groups would not be protected and reiterated that all would be treated fairly under the law irrespective of political coloring. He intimated that the emergence of the vigilante group ‘Delta Force’ was matter of concern and that the activities of like groups should be monitored and checked.

Vigilante Groups

Responding to measures he would employ to stem the activities of vigilante groups, the nominee said that all activities of such groups must be condemned and not countenanced. He said that he was aware of some prosecutions of persons perceived to be members of such vigilante groups for their involvement in some criminal activities. However, he was of the opinion that politicians should provide good leadership in dealing with the issue and called on all sides to play their part since security was a shared responsibility.

Issue of Residency in the UK and Brash with Law Enforcement

On a question of whether, he had ever resided in the United Kingdom and ever had a brash with the law, the nominee answered in the negative and insisted he had never stayed in the UK, rather, had transited through. He vehemently denied any claim that he had ever had a brash with any law enforcing agency in the U.K. or ever using the name Abraham Quartey or Henry Dublin Coleman in the UK. He stated that never at any time had he been known as Abraham Quartey or Henry Dublin Coleman as being alleged and that he has been known as Henry Quartey all his life. He maintained that his date of birth was 12th March 1971 and not 12th March 1969.

Police Recruitments

On the question of the recent Police recruitment which resulted in the dismissal of some trainee recruits, the nominee assured the Committee that a thorough investigation would be conducted on the background of persons who applied for recruitment into the Ghana Police Service. He said a major mechanism had been put in place by his Minister that would ensure people with questionable characters were not recruited.

Nominee's view on Budgetary Allocation

In response to a question on the Ministry's budgetary allocation, the nominee bemoaned the allocation as woefully inadequate. He said the country needed to move in tandem with changing trends in crime fighting. He said the allocation of one billion, five hundred and seventy-one Million Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,571,000.00) was inadequate to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of operations of the Ministry. He said there were serious challenges with the Ministry's compensation allocation and asked that it be reviewed.

Measures to Decongest the Prisons

On decongesting the country's prisons, the nominee confirmed he held a belief that the country's prisons were over crowded. He stated that as captured in the NPP's 2016 Manifesto and with the support of the Minister, he would work hard to support the Minister's proposals for the introduction of non-custodial sentences, a review of pre-trial detention periods among others. The introduction of such measures he opined would help address the issue of congestion in the prisons.

Discrimination in the Ghana Police Service

Responding to the view that the Ghana Police Service was being accused of selectivity in the granting of permission to groups who seek to organize peace demonstrations, the nominee stated that the Police Service does not discriminate in granting such permission.

Bringing Innovation to the Ghana Police Service

On what innovation he would bring to the Ghana Police Service when given the nod, the nominee said he would support his boss, Hon. Ambrose Dery in any other capacity and on any strategy that he would put in place to improve the Service.

Recommendation

The Committee, recommends to the House for approval *by consensus* the nomination of Hon. Henry Quartey for appointment as Deputy Minister for Interior.

9.0 HON. KWAKU KWARTENG - DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE
FOR FINANCE

Background

Hon. Kwaku Agyeman Kwarteng was born in Obuasi on 12th February 1969. He attended Kwabena Fori L/A Primary School and sat for the Common Entrance Examination at St. Paul's Methodist Preparatory School, Tema in 1983. He

obtained his GCE 'O' Level Certificate from St. Peter's Secondary School, Nkwatia-Kwahu in 1988 and subsequently obtained his GCE 'A' Level Certificate from Prempeh College, Kumasi in 1990.

He enrolled at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi in 1991 and was awarded a BSc in Civil Engineering. He was also awarded an MSc in Water Supply and Environmental Engineering in 1999 from the same University. In December 2009, he was awarded an MA in Economic Policy Management from the University of Ghana.

Hon. Kwaku Agyeman Kwarteng was a tutor at Ghana Secondary School, Tamale from September 1996 to August 1997 where he served out his National Service. From September 1999 to February 2000 he was an Engineering Trainee at NCC Danmark A/S, Denmark. He was also an Engineering Trainee at Finchpalm Ltd, United Kingdom from June 2000 to August 2001. He worked as an Engineer at Globtek Line Services Limited, Accra from September 2001 to April 2005.

Hon. Kwarteng was the Government Spokesperson on Finance and Economy from January 2006 to January 2009 and the Communications Director of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) from February 2009 to November 2010. He was also the Policy Advisor of the NPP from November 2010 to November 2014. He is currently the Member of Parliament for Obuasi West Constituency.

Response to Questions

Tax exemptions

Hon. Kwaku Kwarteng informed the Committee that in view of the fact that the previous Government had a strategic policy to boost certain sectors of the economy, tax exemptions were placed on some import items to boost certain sectors of the economy. He indicated that there are some irregularities within the current tax exemption system. He informed the Committee that the extent to which companies have exploited the tax exemptions are virtually non-existent as there is a lack of database to collate and manage ceilings enjoyed by these companies. He added that government intended to comprehensively review the exemptions to eliminate the irregularities identified.

He intimated that the Ministry of Finance is not mandated to reverse the tax exemptions granted. He was reminded that article 174 of the 1992 Constitution solely empowers Parliament not ministers with that responsibility.

External Credit Facility with the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The nominee informed the Committee that many of the financial indicators verified under the IMF facility obtained by the previous Government were never met, in effect it was not successful. Consequently, Government seeks to review its obligations with the IMF. He indicated that in order to create fiscal space, Government has to institute measures that would raise revenue and reduce Government expenditures without impacting negatively on the lives of the citizenry. The nominee explained, that Government also seeks to broaden the tax net of the economy and provide more tax incentives to private businesses to enable the private sector thrive.

Government indebtedness

The Committee inquired from the nominee whether Government would borrow money to support the economy. The nominee in response, indicated that the payment of existing interests on previously borrowed money, payment of Statutory Funds and the payment of wages took away a large chunk of government revenue, Government would have no other option than to borrow to support the economy. He however advised that Government should be frugal in expenditures to help reduce the indebtedness of the country.

Impact of the size of Government on the Economy

The nominee admitted that concerns of the tax payer on the size of Government was indeed legitimate. However, he explained that if sufficient cost cutting measures are deployed by Government, the cost of Government machinery would be greatly reduced irrespective of the size of the Government. He added that the moratorium on the purchase of new vehicles for Ministers has been the quintessence of such measures.

Capping of Earmarked Funds

The nominee stated that these funds have come to take up a chunk of the money accrued from taxation there and created rigidities in the system. The idea he intimated is not to abolish those taxes but to create a balance in funding government priorities since extensive borrowing is not sustainable. He indicated that wages, debt service and statutory funds virtually consume all tax revenue.

Bank of Ghana (BOG) Practices and Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) Data Credibility

The nominee intimated that over the years he has had a good working relationship with the BOG and the GSS. He said he would be working with these institutions directly and would continue to support them to ensure that their outputs meet the needs and aspirations of the people.

He told the Committee all he did in the past was to encourage a constructive discourse about the work of these state institutions.

That some of his past criticisms have helped to improve on the work of the state institutions, BOG forex rate numbers now match the true rates on the market. He promised to help these institutions to improve their performance.

Reduction in Petroleum Prices

On the reduction of petroleum taxes from 17.5% to 15%, the nominee stated that as a consumer, he had seen a marginal decrease in the ex-pump price of petroleum products and that had it not been for the reduction in the taxes, ex-pump prices would have shot up.

Review of Exemption Regime

The nominee stated that there will be a comprehensive review of the exemption regime which may involve legislative changes and parliamentary approval. However, in the interim, the government was putting in place a mechanism of a “pay and refund” method.

He said Parliament could do more to exact accountability from state institutions on the tax exemption enjoyed in relation to their work over some specified periods. Where Parliament has to reverse a tax exemption already approved by same, government would come back to Parliament for a further approval, especially if dual waivers are to be revoked.

The process he said would be expedited and refunds should be received within 30 days of the completed application. Government, he intimated, has a commitment to make it work and he hoped it would come into fruition than the anticipated 30 days.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the House for the approval *by consensus* the nomination of Hon. Kwaku Kwarteng for appointment as Deputy Minister for Finance.

10.0 HON. ABENA OSEI ASARE - DEPUTY MINISTER- DESIGNATE FOR FINANCE

Background

Hon. Abena Osei-Asare was born on 16th January, 1979 in Accra in the Greater Accra Region. She attended Achimota Primary and Junior High School from 1985 to 1994 for her basic education. Between 1994 and 1997, she attended Wesley Girls High School where she obtained her Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSSCE) Certificate.

Hon Osei-Asare later attended the University of Ghana from 1999 to 2003 to pursue a degree programme and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Certificate in Economics and Geography. Between 2013 and 2015, she pursued a master's programme in the University of Ghana where she obtained a Master of Science (MSc) in Development Finance.

Hon Abena Osei-Asare did her national service at the Office of the President's Special Initiative on Garments and Textiles from September, 2003 to August 2004. She later worked as an Assistant Director for Finance and Facilities with the New York University (Ghana Campus) from August 2004 to November, 2007.

Hon Abena Osei-Asare worked with the Barclays Bank Treasury Department as a Dealer and Sales Personnel from February, 2009 to December, 2012. She has been the Member of Parliament for Atiwa East Constituency from 7th January, 2013 to date. She is also a Member for the Parliamentary Service Board since January 2017.

As a Member of Parliament, Hon. Abena Osei-Asare has served on a number of Committees of the House. She was a member of the Public Accounts Committee from January, 2013 to January, 2017. She was also a Member of the Committee on Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprises from January, 2013 to date and a member of the Finance Committee from January 2017 to date.

Hon Abena Osei-Asare has held a number of leadership positions. She was the NPP Finance Committee Member for the Atiwa Constituency from 2008 to 2010. She was also the NPP Polling Station Women's Organiser for the Atiwa Constituency from 2008 to 2010.

The nominee is a Fellow of Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA), UK and Certified Forex Dealer-Financial Markets Association (ACI).

Hon Abena Osei-Asare has attended a number of capacity building programmes. She attended a conference on Public Financial Management Systems for Members of the Public Accounts Committee in New Delhi, India in November, 2016. She also attended the 134th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference in Lusaka, Zambia in March 2016 and the International Labour Organisation conference (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland in July 2016, among others.

Responses to Questions

Use of Electronic Point of Sale (EPS) devices

The nominee informed the Committee that the Electronic Point of Sale device is a means of collecting revenue more efficiently. She indicated that the EPS device serves as an electronic platform used at retail sales points to help track revenue, more efficiently.

She explained that if well implemented, the EPS would help reduce the human interface which is fraught with lots of leakages. Further, it would assist capture tax revenue in real time; that is, the moment a person pays tax at any of these device points, it is automatically captured and deducted on the Ghana Revenue Authority revenue systems. She agreed to the suggestion that some of the challenges facing the system is, it being compromised and tempering with.

She informed the Committee that as a policy to improve revenue collection, Government intends to implement this system across the country.

She said as a Deputy Minister, she would assist the Minister for Finance to implement the policy and also address the challenges that may confront the EPS policy, to make it successful.

Challenges facing revenue collection

The nominee identified tax evasion as one of the major challenges facing the sector. She intimated that lack of a comprehensive database of the informal sector makes it easy for people in the sector to slip out of the tax net.

Government, currently is addressing the challenge by using the National Identification System to help capture all taxable persons and taxing them accordingly.

She said she would assist her Minister to pursue this policy to help maximize tax revenue collection, if given the nod.

Using technology to enhance revenue collection

The nominee alluded to the fact that technology has now become part and parcel of society and an important tool in our development process. She indicated that with technology things have become easy and cheap and that technology can be deployed to assist in revenue collection. This is done by using technology to identify taxable persons. She stated that Government was employing this using the National Identification System where details of residents are captured. This would assist the revenue authorities to easily identify persons who are qualified to pay tax.

She also informed the Committee that another way of using technology to help identify taxable persons is by deploying it under the national address system. She explained that under the system, technology would identify households and automatically provide their addresses. This would help identify every household in the country. She stated that with technology, revenue collection would be greatly enhanced.

She said that she would advise and assist her Minister to adopt technology related methods to assist and enhance revenue collection, when given the nod.

Fuel Prices

The nominee informed the Committee that the prices of fuel are generally not determined within the country, rather influenced by market forces.

She however indicated that as a Deputy Minister she would consult with her colleagues to come up with advice that would be given to the Minister of Finance to ensure that the price of fuel is stabilized.

Coverage of Banks in the Country

The nominee agreed to the suggestion that the coverage of banking activities is not spread out to the entire country.

She noted that in recent times and with the influx of the Nigerian banks into the country, the activities of banks have grown extensively to cover a greater part of the country. She said this is mainly due to competition and technology. Today banking is at the doorsteps of people and urged the citizens to take advantage of the trend.

She attributed the inability of banks to cover the entire country to the attitude of some persons who do not trust the bank system with their personal financial information. She called for the sensitization of the people on the activities of banks to enable them use more of the banking system

She said that she would assist her Minister to pursue this initiative.

Freezing of financial clearance for newly employed Teachers and Nurses

The nominee conceded that a number of appointments had been put on hold including that of about 22,800 teachers and 8000 nurses due to the fact that government wants to audit their appointments.

The nominee explained to the Committee that these appointments were inherited by the current administration and Government and that there is need to audit these appointments to ensure that they complied with recruitment policies before they could be regularized.

She assured the Committee that soon the processes would be completed and the Minister for Finance would give directions on how to handle the issues.

Assisting Women Entrepreneurs/Micro Credit for Women

The nominee agreed to the suggestion that there was the need to support women in entrepreneurship with micro credit. She said it was for this reason that

in the Budget statement, Government had reserved thirty percent (30%) of all procurement to women and the disabled.

She also stated that special contributions would also have to be made for women in entrepreneurship by way of micro credit. Training would also be given to these women to train them in entrepreneurship skills. This is to enable them invest these financial supports wisely.

Payroll Audit

The nominee agreed to the suggestion that a chunk of revenue losses is occasioned through bloated payroll. This was evident in a number of the Auditor-General's Reports to the House.

She informed the Committee that there is a directive not to pay employees who have not been biometrically verified. She was of the view that this would help reduce ghost names on the payroll. Further, the implementation of the national identification system would also assist to get rid of ghost names on the payroll.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Hon. Abena Osei Asare for appointment as Deputy Minister for Finance.

11.0 MR. CHARLES ADU BOAHEN

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DEPUTY MINISTER -DESIGNATE
FOR FINANCE

Background

Mr. Charles Kofi Asare Adu Boahen was born on 1st May, 1970 at Accra in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. He had his basic education from 1973 to 1982 at the University Primary School, Legon. He then proceeded to Achimota Secondary School for his Ordinary Level and Mfantsipim Secondary School for his Advanced Level Certificates between 1982 and 1989.

Between 1991 and 1993, the nominee alternated between the University of Ghana where he studied Statistics, Chemistry, Geology and Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey. The nominee obtained his first degree at the University of Southern California (USC) Los Angeles, California between 1993 and 1996 in

Chemical Engineering. He went to the Harvard Business School in New Haven from 1998 to 2000 where he obtained a Master's Degree in Finance.

The nominee has a vast experience particularly related to the position he is seeking to occupy. He has held various leadership positions in a number of organizations such as the Creative Hub, Eris Properties Afrimax Ghana BV and The Adu Boahen Foundation. He is currently a Member of Ghana Securities Industry Association and a Fund Manager of the Christian Community Mutual Fund (CCMF)

Mr. Charles Kofi Asare Adu Boahen had his national service at Mobil Ghana Ltd (Accra, Ghana) from 1989 to 1990. From June to August 1995, he was an intern at Salomon Smith Barney (Wall Street, New York) where he later became an Analyst from 1996 to 1998. He became an Investment Officer from 2000 to 2001 at AIG Africa Infrastructure Fund (Washington, DC). He was the Vice President of JP Morgan, (London UK/Joburg, RSA/Lagos, Nigeria) from 2001 to 2006, Director of Standard Bank (Johannesburg, RSA) and he currently the founder and CEO of Black Star Advisors/Primrose Properties GH (Accra, Ghana).

Responses to Question

Dual Citizenship

In response to a question as to whether the Nominee is a citizen of another country, he admitted, having held allegiance to the United States of America but had taken the necessary steps to denounce his citizenship. The nominee was not a citizen at the time of his nomination on 14th March, 2017. A receipt dated 20th March, 2017 confirming the payment of prescribed fees in that respect was provided to the Committee. The nominee was asked to provide Renunciation Certificate. The Committee was hopeful that the process would be completed before he is sworn in as the Deputy Minister of State.

Measures to Improve Public Debt Management

The Nominee was asked about his view on whether Ghana could be described as a debt distressed country and what specific policies he would recommend to the Minister in managing the debt. In response, the Nominee indicated that he does not share the view that Ghana is a debt stricken country and that there was nothing wrong with borrowing to fund development. The challenge, he indicated, related to the high cost of borrowing which he attributed to the negative impression on the risk level associated with Ghana, consequently advocated for a *Road Show* where suitable platforms are used to demystify such negative impressions.

He however accepted the fact that Ghana's debt portfolio was worrying but added that with good policies and proper debt management measures, it could be contained. With respect to specific policies to be applied to manage the debt, the nominee pleaded with the committee that he needed to be in the Ministry before he could make an informed suggestion.

Government Policy of Cutting Down Tax and Payment of Huge Public Debt

The Committee sought the view of the nominee on good intentions to cut down taxes yet unable to raise the necessary resources to pay-off the huge public debt. The Nominee explained that the rationale of the Tax Reduction Policy is to leverage the environment to entice more private sector to invest in strategic parts of the economy. He was of the view that with expanded growth, more revenue can be raised to pay-off the debt and at the same time, create more jobs.

Using Mobile Money to Mobilize unbanked Financial Resources

In responding to a question as whether the Nominee believed in the Mobile Money Transfer concept and that it could be used to mobilize the unbanked resources, the Nominee answered in the affirmative but added that there is the need to improve on the Information Privacy Principles (ipp) to properly identify customers and reduce fraud.

Capping Earmarked and Internally Generated Funds

Considering the Nominees experience as an Investment Banker and a Fund Manager, the Committee sought his view on the government policy to Cap Earmarked and Internally Generated Funds. The Nominee demonstrated little knowledge about earmarked funds indicating that the only time he heard of earmarked funds was during the transition period. However, his understanding was that such move is being engineered to provide a window of flexibility for effective budget management by creating the necessary fiscal space to implement priority projects. He was of the view that the tax net needed to be widened to cover more of the informal sector.

Zero Financing of the Bank of Ghana under IMF

In responding to a question as whether or not the government's deal with the IMF on the Zero Financing by the Bank of Ghana was a prudent decision, the nominee intimated that he was of the view that there may emerge emergency situations which may require the intervention of the Bank of Ghana and

consequently, some level of flexibility would be necessary to respond to such situations, hence some percentage of financing should have been allowed.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Mr. Charles Adu Boahen for appointment as Deputy Minister for Finance.

12.0 HON. JOSEPH CUDJOE

- DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR ENERGY

Background

Hon. Joseph Cudjoe was born on 2nd October 1964 in Takoradi but hails from Effia in the Western Region.

He began his elementary education at the Effia Methodist Primary School (1972-1978) and continued at the Tanokrom STCC Middle 'A' School (1978-1982). He attended Fijai Secondary School for his 'O' Level (1982-1987) and continued at the same School for his 'A' Level (1987-1989). He also studied at the KNUST from (1990-1993) and was awarded BSc in Mathematics. He further attended the University of Ghana from 1998 to 2000 and obtained a Master's in Business Administration (MBA Finance option).

Hon. Joseph Cudjoe did his national service at Nana Bonsu Junior High School Secondary Technical School (1989-1990) in the first instance and later at the Daboase Secondary Technical School (1993-1994). He thereafter taught at Archbishop Porter Girls Secondary between January, 1995 and October, 1995. He later became an Instructor at the Takoradi Polytechnic from November, 1995 to June, 2000. He then joined ENO international, LLC as Financial Analyst and Planning manager from August, 2000 to March, 2002. From April, 2002 to October, 2003, the nominee worked with SEM international Associates as a Senior Consultant and was subsequently appointed as the General Manager for SEM Capital Management Limited (November, 2003-March, 2004). Between 2004 and 2012, the nominee was appointed the Investment Manager for the Cocoa Board.

Hon. Joseph Cudjoe has, since the year 2000, done a number of part-time jobs and facilitated a number of seminars and training programmes in the area of investment and corporate finance.

Hon. Joseph Cudjoe is the Member of Parliament for the Effia Constituency in the Western Region and has held that seat since 2013. As MP, Hon. Cudjoe served on the Committee on Mines and Energy as Vice Chairman and has been a member of that Committee from 2013 to 2017. He is also a Member of the Appointments Committee.

Nominee's Responses to Questions

Power Sector Inefficiency Losses

The nominee alluded to the losses which has transcended across Ghana's power supply chain and which has spanned from generation to distribution. He stated that the rate of transmission losses is currently below 4% but that of distribution losses is still around 20%. For his part, the nominee committed to assist the sector Minister in undertaking a diagnostic analysis of the problem and further work with him to adopt appropriate strategies to minimize the current losses if approved by the House.

Expertise of the Nominee

On his expertise, the nominee stated that he would bring his managerial and financial expertise to bear on the work of the Ministry if given the nod.

Self-Help Electrification Programme (SHEP)

The nominee promised to work under the direction of the Sector Minister to increase output of the Programme. In that regard, he promised to assist the Minister to increase the country's electricity coverage from the current 82.3% to 85%. He was also optimistic that the country would achieve 100% electricity coverage at the earliest possible time.

Solar Energy and Management of Electronic Waste

The nominee was of the view that the problem of electronic waste associated with solar power generation should be addressed at the level of standardization where measures could be put in place to check quality of solar panels that are used in the sector. According to him, such a measure would help avoid the use of poor quality solar equipment to ensure efficiency in power generation, reduce the incidents of dysfunctional equipment and hence reduce the volume of electronic waste and its management.

Deregulation of the Petroleum and Power Sector

On whether he would support any move to deregulate the petroleum and power sectors, the nominee indicated his commitment to effectively support the sector Minister to take necessary actions to deepen deregulation of the country's petroleum and power sectors to achieve optimal benefits.

Status of the Country's Power Generation

On the question of whether the country's power supply challenges popularly referred to as "dumsor" has ended, the nominee responded that the current power supply in the country is precautionary stable. He was of the view that the challenges in the sector had to do with financial, technical and fueling challenges which may partly be addressed through sound economic management if we are to achieve a more durable solution.

He observed that, over the years, emphasis have been placed more on acquiring more generation assets but indicated that we must equally consider the financial wherewithal if we are to achieve the desired results. He also suggested that the country had opportunities at the generation side that could be explored including construction of mini hydros.

On whether he had knowledge of an alleged report by a Special Committee on the Ameri Power Agreement, the nominee responded in the negative.

Issues relating to the Takoradi Port Expansion Project

The nominee stated that he joined his Colleague MPs in the Western Region to challenge an aspect of the Lonrho Agreement which relates to the Takoradi Port Expansion Project. He stated that their intention was not to stop or delay the project as they were aware of the economic potential of the project and its prospects for employment creation. He explained that they rather sought to challenge the exclusivity clause contained in the Lonrho Agreement which sought to prevent the Takoradi Port from expanding its oil and gas facilities.

Comment on the NPP's 2016 Manifesto on the Power Sector

The nominee indicated that he subscribed to the assertion contained in the NPP's 2016 Manifesto that the country's power sector is fraught with some critical challenges including questionable power projects and broken down thermal plants. He based his answer on a briefing he received from Officials of the VRA at the time. As a result the water in the Akosombo Dam had to be over-drafted to mitigate the challenge. He stated that though such a measure was technically bad, the exigencies of the time justified it.

View on the Millennium Compact II

The nominee took the position that he would go by the decision of the Sector Minister.

Job Opportunities for Ghanaians who have been trained in Oil and Gas

On how he intended opening, to assist Ghanaians who have been trained abroad in Oil and Gas to secure job, the nominee alluded to the opportunities in the construction of thermal plants which could be explored and accordingly encouraged them to send their applications. He however cautioned that we should consider the demands of the industry before taking up courses in Oil and Gas to enhance their chances of securing jobs after pursuing courses in the Oil and Gas Sector.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the House to approve *by consensus* the nomination of Hon. Joseph Cudjoe for appointment as Deputy Minister for Energy.

13.0 DR. MOHAMMED AMIN ADAM

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DEPUTY MINISTER-
DESIGNATE FOR ENERGY

Background

Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam was born on 15th April 1974 at Tamale in the Northern Region of Ghana. He had his primary education at the Ahmadiyya Primary School, Tamale from 1982 to 1986 and middle school education at the Kalpohin Middle School (1987).

He sat and passed the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Ordinary Level (O' Level) examination as a private candidate in 1990 and pursued his Advanced Level Certificate at the Tamale Secondary School where he attended from 1991 to 1993.

Dr. Adam obtained his Bachelor of Arts (Economics) and Master of Philosophy (Economics) degrees from the University of Cape Coast in 1998 and 2002

respectively. He further holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) with specialization in Petroleum Economics and Policy from the University of Dundee, United Kingdom (2009-2014).

Dr. Amin Adam has held a number of positions including Commissioner, Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) (April 2002 -January 2009), Metropolitan Chief Executive, Tamale (July 2006 - January 2009), Deputy Northern Regional Minister (March 2005 - June 2006).

He has rendered consultancy services for several local and international organizations including STAR-Ghana and the International Labour Organization (ILO). He is the founder and the out-going Executive Director of the African Center for Energy Policy (ACEP).

Nominee's Responses to Questions

Switch between Politics and Civil Society Work

Asked why and how he managed to switch smoothly from politics to civil society and back to politics, the nominee intimated that in switching to civil society and setting up his NGO known as ACEP, he was partly seeking to demonstrate that politicians can also be technocrats first and foremost. He explained that while he had been an active politician, he had shown with his civil society work that he retains his independence of thought and approach national issues on a non-partisan basis. He stated that there were occasions when his organization issued statements in support of certain policies of the then NDC administration for which he received a lot of criticism from his own party members. Again, there were times in which his organization opposed certain policies of the NDC administration in relation to which he had received stern criticism from members of the NDC who felt that he was using his organization to do the work of the then opposition NPP. In all these, he said he took confidence in the fact that the criticism from both sides of the political divide showed that he was being objective in his work.

Volta River Authority (VRA) Restructuring

The nominee described the VRA as the dominant and state generator of power. As to whether he would weigh-in his support to the privatization of the Authority, the nominee answered in the negative and indicated his preparedness to look at possibly the restructuring of the Authority especially with respect to

areas such as thermal generation where the VRA has not been very efficient compared to hydro power management.

Petroleum Revenue

Asked of what the government would do to bridge the revenue gap if world market prices dropped below expectation, Dr. Adam stated that the 2017 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government had projected certain prices for the calculation of expected petroleum revenue. He explained that due to the world market price volatilities, many countries had moved to establish stabilization mechanisms and Ghana has done same.

He proposed to support his Minister to liaise with the Minister for Finance to strengthen the stabilization mechanisms so as to deal with the eventualities of the “rainy day”.

Solar Power

The nominee revealed that he had previously worked closely with the Minister of Energy and could attest to how passionate the Minister is about solar power in particular, and renewable energy as a whole. He informed the Committee that both he and the Minister currently used solar power in their homes.

While he could not set any targets of how many homes would be provided with solar power by the end of the four years of the first term of the government, that notwithstanding ending he nonetheless was reassuring that he would expend all efforts to support his Minister in developing policies to provide renewable energy for the people.

Installed Electricity Generation Capacity

Dr. Amin Adam disclosed that Ghana now has about 4600 megawatts of installed electricity generation capacity but the country still was unable to meet her peak demand of about 2100 megawatts because installed capacity did not necessarily mean “available capacity”. He was emphatic that he would counsel against the politics of addition of capacity rather he would look at how to make that capacity available for use, especially during peak periods.

Technology Transfer in the Petroleum Sector

It was suggested to the nominee that in the year 2016, the award of local content contracts in the petroleum sector amounted to about US\$200 million and that he should find it a praiseworthy achievement.

Responding, the nominee stated that from the background of a portfolio of about US\$10 billion of contracts awarded in the same period, US\$200 million was not good enough.

He proposed to accelerate technology transfer and technical apprenticeship in order to broaden the base to help speed up the pace of technology transfer in the sector.

Electricity tariffs

The nominee stated before the Committee that electricity tariffs were indeed high in Ghana compared to what pertained in the ECOWAS sub-region, both in terms of domestic consumer and commercial consumer rates. He stated that while Ghana charged about US\$0.31 /kh for commercial consumers, Ivory Coast charged the same category of consumers, about US\$0.13 /kh. To him, this made it difficult to export our excess power (most of which is produced by independent producers on “take or pay” basis) to neighboring, countries.

He promised to support his Minister, if approved, and find ways to reduce the cost of electricity generation in the country. He said future projects would look at efficiency levels and the availability capacity so as to positively impact tariffs in favour of consumers.

ABFA and Free SHS

As to the propriety of the government financing the free Senior High School (SHS) Policy with the Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA) from petroleum revenue, the deputy minister-designate for Energy explained that the law required that 70% percent of ABFA should be allocated to capital expenditure and therefore the 2017 Budget respected the law by allocating only 30% of the ABFA to support the Free SHS programme. He emphasized that the remaining 70% had appropriately been allocated to capital expenditure in accordance with the requirements of the law.

Dumsor

Dr. Adam conceded that the outgoing NDC administration did a lot of work aimed at helping to end the “dumsor” crisis. He was however quick to add that the NDC government did not completely end *dumsor* and that the country is still in *dumsor* as “we are operating at the margins”. He expressed unhappiness with some of the costs of the emergency power facilities that were procured by the former government. He assured the committee that he would work with his Minister to find ways to completely end *dumsor*.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Dr. Mohammed Amin Anta for appointment as Deputy Minister for Energy.

14.0 HON. WILLIAM OWURAKU AIDOO - DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE
FOR ENERGY

Background

Hon. William Owuraku Aidoo was born on 30th January, 1964 in Wenchi in the Brong Ahafo Region but hails from Hemang-Ankaase in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. He had his Basic Education at the Ashanti New Town L/A Primary School in Kumasi from 1969 to 1975. Between 1975 and 1980, he gained admission into Opoku Ware Secondary School in Kumasi where he obtained his Ordinary Level Certificate.

He continued at the William Parker School Hastings, Sussex, United Kingdom, he obtained his Advanced Level Certificate in 1982. From 2003 to 2006 he enrolled into the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and received a BA (Hons) in Entrepreneurship. He later had his L.L.B Degree from the same institution between 2010 and 2013. He is currently a student of the Ghana School of Law where he enrolled in 2014 to become a Barrister at Law.

Between 1982 and 1985, the nominee was a police officer at the Sussex Police department in the United Kingdom and moved on to become a Sales/Exhibition Executive of Alfred Dunhill Ltd, London SW1, United Kingdom from 1985 to 1994. From 1994 to 1998 he was a Settlement and Bank Reconciliation Executive in NIG Skandia Stock Brokers, City of London, E. C. 1., United Kingdom. He was a Managing Director of Kucons Company Limited, Ghana from 1999 to 2012. He has

been a Member of Parliament for Afigya Kwabre South Constituency from January 2013 till date.

Nominee's Responses to Questions

Plans to Expand the Coverage of Electricity Supply in Rural Areas

In responding to a question as to what specific advice the Nominee would offer to the Minister towards effort at expanding electricity supply in the rural areas with particular emphasis on renewable energy source, the Nominee explained that because of the remoteness of some rural communities, it may be cost effective to resort to renewable energy source such as solar, wind, biomass or wave and tidal energy sources. He further indicated that the government had committed in this year's budget to increase renewable energy power from the current level of 1% to 2.3% of the generation mix by the end of the year. He therefore intends to support the Minister in achieving the set targets.

Energy Sector Levy

The Nominee was asked about his view on the Energy Sector Levy. In responding to the question, the nominee acknowledged the contribution of the Energy Sector Levy to resolve the financial challenges of the power supply institutions, and added that, the government is committed to ensuring a clean balance sheet for those institutions to enable them borrow from the commercial market to finance their operations. He accordingly pledged to support the Minister towards achieving such goals.

Privatization of Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) and Volta River Authority (VRA)

The Nominee was asked about his view on the ongoing debate about the government's plan to privatize ECG and VRA. The Nominee responded by indicating that he was not aware of any definite statement by the government to privatize ECG or VRA. The nominee added that he was only aware of plans by the government to encourage private sector participation in the energy sector and also establishing different management bodies for Thermal and Hydro Energy sources.

Press Conference on Sankofa Gas Deal

The nominee's attention was drawn to a Press Conference held on the 11th February, 2016 in respect to the Sankofa Gas Deal with an Italian Oil firm, ENI. According to the Statement, the Nominee was purported to have accused the government of signing a bad deal with state-owned Italian oil giant and that Ghana was likely to lose about 2 billion dollars in the project as kick-backs. The Committee sought confirmation from the nominee as whether he had ever made that Statement and if he still stood by that assertion. The nominee admitted having made that statement. He however, explained that the Statement was based on the information available to him as at that time and assured the Committee he would retract the Statement if he gets the nod to go to the Ministry and found contrary facts. On the other hand, if facts confirm his earlier information, he will take the necessary steps to retrieve the money.

High Electricity Tariffs

Reference was made to the 2016 New Patriotic Party campaign promise of reducing electricity tariffs to relieve the burden on households and industries, and the view of the nominee on policies of the government towards fulfilling the promise. The nominee indicated that the government had disclosed its intention to review all power purchasing agreements entered into by the previous government. He was therefore hopeful that such a move would help make critical decisions in respect of the current tariffs.

AMERI Power Deal

The nominee's attention was also drawn to the vociferous nature in which he contributed to the debate leading to the passage of the AMERI Power Deal on the floor of Parliament in spite of the fact that the nominee was a Member of the Committee on Mines and Energy, and the recommendation of the Committee' report to the House was unanimous. The nominee informed the Committee that he did so because he was not given enough opportunity at the Committee Sittings to state his concerns, particularly on the cost of the Deal. He however indicated that the Committee did its best based on the information available to the Committee at that time.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Hon. Owuraku Aidoo for appointment as Deputy Minister for Energy.

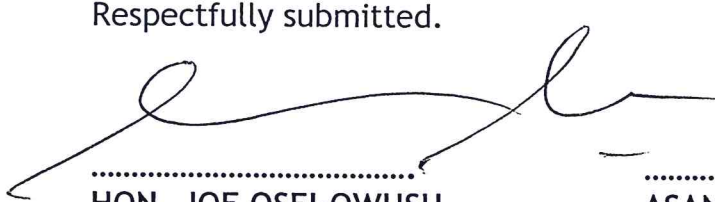
15.0 CONCLUSION AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

The Committee has duly considered the nominations of His Excellency the President for Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers of State appointments in line with the 1992 Constitution and the Standing Orders of the House and recommends the following eleven (11) nominees to the House for approval:

- i. Hon. Sarah Adwoa Safo - Minister of State-Designate at the Office of the President (Public Procurement)
- ii. Hon. Bryan Acheampong - Minister of State-Designate at the Office of the President
- iii. Prof. Kwesi Yankah - Minister of State-Designate at the Ministry of Education (Tertiary Education)
- iv. Dr. Gyiele Nurah - Minister of State-Designate at the Ministry of Agriculture
- v. Hon. Henry Quartey - Deputy Minister-Designate for Interior
- vi. Hon. Kwaku Kwarteng - Deputy Minister-Designate for Finance
- vii. Hon. Abena Osei Asare - Deputy Minister-Designate for Finance
- viii. Mr. Charles Adu Boahen - Deputy Minister-Designate Finance
- ix. Hon. Joseph Cudjoe - Deputy Minister-Designate for Energy

- x. Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam - Deputy Minister-Designate for Energy
- xi. Hon. William Owuraku Aidoo - Deputy Minister-Designate for Energy

Respectfully submitted.



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



.....
ASANTE AMOAKO-ATTA (MR.)
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)

MARCH, 2017

