

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

**FIFTH REPORT OF THE  
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

**ON**



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

***FEBRUARY, 2017***

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MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 On 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, H.E. the President communicated to Parliament the nomination of eleven (11) persons for ministerial appointments in accordance with Article 78 (1) of the 1992 Constitution.

1.2 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.

1.3 The nominations are as follows:

- i) **Hon. Catherine Afeku** - **Minister-Designate for Tourism, Arts and Culture**
- ii) **Hon. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu** - **Minister-Designate for Parliamentary Affairs**
- iii) **Hon. Prof. Gyan Baffour** - **Minister-Designate for Planning**
- iv) **Hon. Isaac Asiamah** - **Minister-Designate for Youth and Sports**
- v) **Mr. Awal Ibrahim Mohammed** - **Minister-Designate for Business Development**
- vi) **Hon. Mavis Hawa Koomson** - **Minister-Designate for Special Development Initiatives**
- vii) **Hon. Boniface Abu-Bakar Saddique** - **Minister-Designate for Inner-City and Zongo Development**
- viii) **Hon. Cecilia Dapaah** - **Minister-Designate for Aviation**

- ix) **Hon. Kofi Dzamesi** - **Minister-Designate for Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs**
- x) **Hon. Elizabeth Afoley Quaye** - **Minister-Designate for Fisheries and Aquaculture**
- xi) **Mr. Mustapha Abdul-Hamid** - **Minister-Designate for Information**

## **2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

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

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

## **3.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE REFERRAL**

- 3.1 The names of the nominees and notice of the Committee's Public Hearing were published in national newspapers for the attention of the general public pursuant to Order 172 (3) of the Standing Orders of the House. As part of the publication, the Committee requested Memoranda from the general public in respect of the nominees.
- 3.2 The Committee subsequently obtained Confidential Reports in respect of the nominees from the Ghana Police Service and the Bureau of National Investigations (BNI). The Committee also obtained Tax Status Reports on the nominees from the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).
- 3.3 The Committee thereafter held a Public Hearing to consider the nominations. Prior to the commencement of proceedings, the nominees subscribed to the Oath of a Witness and proceeded to answer questions relating to their Curriculum Vitae, matters relating to their eligibility, issues pertaining to the offices to which they have been nominated and other issues of national concern.



3.4 The Committee has duly considered the nominations and reports as follows:

4.0 HON. CATHERINE AFEKU

**MINISTER-DESIGNATE  
FOR TOURISM, ARTS  
AND CULTURE**

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### **Background**

Hon. Catherine Abelema Afeku was born on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 1967 at Bibiani in the Western Region and hails from Axim in the same Region.

She started her elementary education at the Axim Methodist Primary School (1972-1973) and continued at the Kweikuma Primary School (1973-1974), Aggrey Memorial Primary School, Sekondi (1974-1975), Kweikuma Primary School (1975-1977) and completed at the Axim Roman Catholic Middle School (1978-1979). She proceeded to the Nsein Secondary School for her Secondary School from 1980 to 1985 for her 'O' Level.

Hon. Afeku studied at the United States International University, Kenya (1986-1988) and later at the Ecole les Roches Bluche, Switzerland from June, 1989 to December, 1989. She further attended the Devry University from August, 2003 to June, 2008.

Hon. Afeku did an attachment with Zevet Kenyan Architectural Firm (August, 1988 – December, 1988) and later as student trainee at Novotel, Accra (January 1989 – May 1989). She worked as a Bilingual at the InLingua School of Languages, Brescia, Italy from 1990-1993. She then moved to the United States of America where she worked with Ritz Calton Hotel Tyson Coner, Virginia as Public Relation Associate (1994-1995), the World Bank (IFC), and Washington D.C. as the Bilingual Temporary Staff (March – December, 1996). She again worked at Riggs Bank NA, Washington D.C. as Assistant Loan Disbursement Officer (February - December, 1997), the Honeywell, Atlanta as Accounts Payable Office Manager (1998 - 2000) and the Active Group, Norcross G A as Sales/Marketing Director from 2000 to 2004. She returned to Ghana in 2004 and worked at the Cybernantix Internet Café, Kumasi as Director/Proprietress from 2004 to 2006.



Hon. Afeku was appointed the Government Spokesperson for the Ministry of Information and National Orientation from December, 2006 to January, 2008.

She also became the Member of Parliament for the Evalue Gwira constituency in the Western Region from 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 to 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2013. The nominee was engaged by the Cape 3 Services Limited, Accra as a Development Consultant from February, 2013 to February, 2014. She also consulted for the SITICO Petroleum, Kenya, as Business Development consultant from March, 2014 to January, 2015.

Hon. Catherine Abelema Afeku returned to Parliament as the Member of Parliament for the Evalue Ajomoro Gwira Constituency in the Western Region

### **National Service Status**

The nominee said that she did not do her national service because she was living in Nairobi, Kenya after her University education and for some reasons she could not return to Ghana to do the service.

### **Citizenship Status**

Hon. Afeku stated that she once became an American citizen but indicated that she denounced it in May, 2008 to qualify to contest the Parliamentary Elections.

### **Establishment of Hotel Management Institute**

The nominee stated that the entire service culture requires re-engineering but indicated that as part of the NPP's Manifesto pledge, the Ministry intends to collaborate with the private sector to establish a state-of-the-art Hotel Management Training Institute to provide service training, kitchen management and hotel management to address some of the challenges in the hotel establishments in the country. She explained that the establishment of the institute will offer people the opportunity to be trained as professional hotel managers and to also provide refresher courses to those already in the hospitality industry. She explained that, hotel management and the hospitality industry is currently not being projected as a career because hotel

management is a skill based training which entails rigorous training in service, kitchen management and hotel management. As part of the training you need to undertake internship programmes so that the student will come out with the skill that is required for the industry. She disclosed that the establishment of the institute will be private sector led and investors from other jurisdictions who have experience in the establishment of such institutes would be looked for. According to her, the establishment of the Institute would help position Ghana as a preferred tourism destination.

### **Tourism Development Fund**

On how much has been raised from the Tourism Development Fund, The nominee disclosed that according to the briefing from the Ghana Tourism Authority given to her during the transitional meetings, the Fund as at two weeks previously had GH¢16m in investment and another GH¢16m in two different banks which brought the total amount raised from the Fund to GH¢32m. She however indicated that they have all been placed in investments.

On whether some of the money has been used for any purpose, the nominee disclosed that previous record from the Ministry showed that they have done some capacity building and some monies have also been used to procure Buses for the regional secretariats and 17 pick-ups have also been bought for the Regions.

### **Plan to Build Cultural Centres**

The nominee stated that as part of the NPP's Manifesto pledge, three (3) Cultural Centres have been earmarked to be constructed these included the construction of cultural centres in Kumasi, Sekondi and Tamale. She disclosed that the Cultural Centres in Sekondi in the Western Region is 90% complete. According to her, the initiatives will be implemented in collaboration with operators in the private sector who will be given tax incentives among others to ensure that the Regions get the status of national theatres to host plays and to promote operations of the creative arts industry.



## **Ensuring Quality Service at Hotel and Restaurants**

The nominee stated that she would ensure that we showcase the potential of Ghanaian cuisines and said she has visited certain localities where quality local dishes are being sold. With regards to the high hotel rates, the nominee believed that the development of hotels under the Accra Marine Drive Project will increase alternatives and deepen competition to bring the cost of hotel accommodation down.

## **Development of Beaches front with Marine Drive Project**

On how she intends to address the negative use of Ghana's coast line to generate wealth, the nominee disclosed that there have been engagement with residence and indigenes in some parts of our cost line but there have been some challenges with meeting their demands such as the provision of toilet facilities. She accordingly pledged to encourage the construction of decent places of convenience at these areas to address the situation. She also said that the Ministry will focus on the Accra Marine Drive Project in the short term and to diplomatically engage the Ga traditional council to resolve land acquisition issues for the project.

## **Funeral Tourism/Traditional Weddings**

On whether she would consider funeral tourism/festivals as a new policy focus, she acknowledge that the issue is a sensitive one but it is part of the strategies that the Ministry will pursue by engaging with renowned photographers to do royal funerals and believe that such initiatives have the potential to bring it more revenue to the State as witnessed during the burial of the late Princess Diana in the UK. She also hinted that the Ministry would promote traditional wedding as another tourist attraction.

## **Comment on the Proliferation of Foreign Telenovelas**

On how she intends to deal with the effect of proliferation of foreign telenovelas on TV stations on Ghanaian culture, the nominee acknowledged that the issue is a difficult one because of censorship challenges but said it is devastating to our local art industry. She however promised to support the local film industry to produce more local telenovelas which are modern and trendy to saturate the market and to compete favourably with the foreign



ones. She also promised to hold a national dialogue and consult all stakeholders to address the concern.

### **Promotion of Tourism Development**

On how she intends to promote tourism development in Ghana, the nominee noted that tourism is the fourth largest GDP inflator for the country and therefore needed to be given the necessary attention. For that reason, she indicated that she would definitely collaborate with sector Ministries that are directly inter-related to the progress of the tourism industry. She indicated that she would first and foremost collaborate with Ministry of Water and Sanitation to help address some of the sanitation issues at our tourist sites and also collaborate with the Ministry of Roads and Highways to ensure that roads leading to tourist destinations are improved.

On how she intends to expand tourism in Ghana, the nominee alluded to the implementation of the Accra Marine Drive project which will be used to promote tourism in Ghana and which has the potential to create 500,000 jobs. She also mentioned the single automation platform which will boost revenue collection and improve domestic tourism by encouraging about a half of Ghana's population to undertake domestic tourism.

### **Promotion of Arts and Culture**

The nominee observed that the Arts and Culture issues became part of the Ministry of Tourism in 2013 and indicated that since then the Ministry has been developing modalities to implement initiatives to promote arts and culture. She identified the preparation of the Creative Arts Bill as one of those initiatives in her view provided the needed legal backing for the industry. She also hinted of the establishment of the Creative Arts Council with a Secretariat to offer players in the arts industry a level playing field and to enable them offer ideas to promote arts industry in Ghana.

Regarding a proposal to use local arts as hampers for distribution on festive occasions, the nominee said she supports the idea and promised to use aggressive marketing strategies to promote Ghanaian hampers.

## **Promotion of Domestic Tourism**

The nominee stated that, in view of the fact that domestic tourism has not been the focus of tourism development in Ghana, she intends to implement a domestic tourism initiative where staff of the Ministry and its agencies will be encouraged to save and be supported with matching funds to enable them visit tourist sites during their annual vacations. She explained that the staff will report to the Ministry on their findings to help in the management of tourist sites. She indicated that the initiative will help rejuvenate the staff to enhance their productivity and to also bring about social cohesion. She indicated that if this initiative becomes successful, it will be expanded to all MDAs and Parliament as part of the measures to boost domestic tourism.

## **Review of the Culture Policy**

The nominee recounted the National Culture Policy which was adopted during the erstwhile Kufuor Administration but said that the Policy has become outmoded in view of modern trends and current fluid nature of culture. She accordingly promised to re-invigorate the policy and incorporate social media, new fashion trends, textile and food aspects of our culture to re-ignite our cultural pride.

## **Nominee's Comment on the Alleged Fraud Case**

The nominee stated that she has never been convicted for fraud and has no criminal background. She however referred to a civil suit between her and her business partner from Los Angeles, USA in 2007 and stressed that that it was a civil suit and no fraud issue came up during the said proceedings. She disclosed that a decision was given in favour of the American partners and she was ordered to refund US\$217,000. She also said that a video evidence later emerged which showed that the whole suit was a conspiracy between the American partner and a resident of Nzima in the Western Region to ditch her. Consequently, an Accra High Court has suspended the enforcement of that judgement following a new suit to set it aside which is pending.

## **Proposed Creative Arts Fund**

The nominee said that the proposed Creative Arts Fund as captured in NPP's 2016 Manifesto is quite different from the existing Tourism Development



Fund. She explained that the objective of the proposed Fund is to provide a dedicated source of funds to support the creative arts industry because it is not clear whether funds from the Tourism Development Fund could be used to support the creative arts industry.

### **Single Automation Platform to Support Tourism Promotion**

The nominee stated that the Ministry would create a Single Window Platform to allow prospective tourists to access information on tourist sites, hotels and other allied services before they embark on their tours.

On timeline for the launch of the project, the nominee indicated that it will be difficult to provide a timeline but promised to get the project done within her tenure as a Minister.

### **Major Selling Points for Ghana's Tourism Sector in Four Years**

On what will be the major selling points in making Ghana after four years, the nominee stated that one of the things the Ministry will pursue will be sanitation. She believed that once we are able to eradicate open defecation we will be able to take advantage of the country's 540km of coastal line which is undeveloped and said that she will liaise with the Ministry of Water and Sanitation to deal with the issue. She also alluded to the ongoing Accra Marine Drive project which was started in the 1960s and received Cabinet approval during the previous administration. She said that the Ministry will look for private sector operators to develop the project and use it as a catalyst for tourism development in Ghana. She further proposed that tourists should consider group booking to address the high cost of air tickets as individual bookings are expensive.

### **Promotion of local Ghanaian Dishes**

The nominee informed the Committee that her visits to some local hotels have revealed that some Ghanaian hotels serves very good Ghanaian dishes. She stated that the British Airways serves Jollof rice which provides a good opportunity to sell the idea to other 34 airlines which operate in the country.



## **Establishment of Presidential Museum**

On her plans to preserve information on the country's historical figures, the nominee stated that the concern formed part of the retooling of the Ghana Museums & Monuments Board to establish a Presidential Museum where information on all the country's legends will be showcased. She recounted the story of a slave who returned to the Nzema areas and later became a philosopher as some of the heroes. She maintained that we have the opportunity to turn the country's fortunes around.

## **Maximizing Educational/Health Tourism**

The nominee accepted the proposal to adopt measure to maximize Ghana's educational and health tourism and indicated that Ghana could learn from countries such as Trinidad and Tobago which has huge experience in that area. She noted that we have well trained medical doctors in the country and very good health facilities which make it possible to develop that industry. She also said that she was aware that some Ivorian nationals have been coming to Ghana to access our improved health service delivery. The nominee believes Ghana can leverage on this to mobilize more revenue for national development.

## **Tourist Sites in Ghana**

The nominee disclosed that she had received a brief from the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board that we have 64 forts and castles in Ghana but indicated that only 18 out of the number are in good standing. She mentioned some of the prominent ones as the Elmina and Cape Coast Castles, and the Fort St. Antonio at Axim as some of the prominent monuments. Accordingly to her, Ghana has the opportunity to promote the 18 prominent ones which actually drive traffic and to engage curators and conservationists to revisit some of our old sites to bring out their historical significance.

## **Promotion of ZongoFest**

The nominee indicated that she would draw on the success of the HomoFest to promote similar programmes such as the ZongoFest which was organized

last year at Asawase in the Ashanti Region to showcase our cultural diversity and religious tolerance.

### **Tourism Promotion at Airports**

The nominee observed that the first experience that travellers get is at the airports and that in order jurisdictions there are visitors' bureau and tourism offices at airports where travellers are introduced to tourist interests in their countries. She accordingly promised to establish a visitors' bureau at the airports and to aggressively market them on social media and the country's foreign Embassies to augment the physical presence of staff of the bureau.

### **Improving the Condition of Roads in Tourist Areas**

The nominee stated that she has had discussion with the Ministry of Roads and Highways to help invest in improving the condition of roads in tourist areas including those in the Cape Coast, Elmina, Nzulezu, and Seseme the Dome/Kwabenya Constituency. She accordingly promised to make a case at the incoming budget hearings and to meet with collaborative Ministries such as Roads and Highways, Water and Sanitation and Aviation to discuss it.

### ***Recommendation***

The Committee recommends to the House to approve ***by consensus*** the nomination of Hon. Catherine Afeku as the Minister responsible for Communications.

**5.0 MR. OSEI KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU- MINISTER-DESIGNATE  
FOR PARLIAMENTARY  
AFFAIRS**

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### **Background**

Hon. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 1957 at Bremang, Kumasi and hails from Afrancho-Bronkong.

He started his elementary education at the Afrancho L/A Primary School (1962-1966) and continued at the Suame L/A Middle School from 1967 to



1970. He attended Saint Peter's Secondary School, Nkwatia Kwahu for his Ordinary and Advanced Level certificates between 1970 and 1977. He also attended the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi from 1977 to 1982 and was awarded Bachelor of Science in Planning (Urban Option).

He did his national service at Kumasi Girls' Senior High School from 1982 to 1984 and proceed to take up teaching appointment at the same institution. He then moved to Zimbabwe where he worked with DATAME Consult as Project Manager between 1987 and 1989. On his return to Ghana, he became self-employed and operated his own business from 1990 to 1996.

Between 2002 and 2009, he served as the Director of the Cocoa Processing Company (CPC). He was also the Chairman for the Advisory Board on Water Restructuring for the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing (2001-2003).

Hon. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu is the Member of Parliament for the Suame Constituency and has maintained that seat since 1997. While in Parliament, the nominee became the Secretary for the Minority Caucus (1998-2001), Deputy Majority Chief Whip (2001-2002), Majority Chief Whip (2002-2007) and later appointed Deputy Majority Leader from 2007 to 2009. He was appointed Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs from 2007 to 2008. He also served as the Minority Leader from 2009 to 2017.

Hon. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu has led several Parliamentary Delegations both within and outside Ghana from 1997 to 2016 including Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), African Parliamentarians' Network Against Corruption and ECOWAS Parliamentary Delegations. He has also attended workshops and seminars organized by Parliament and some Committees of the House.

Hon. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu is the current Majority Leader of Parliament and Leader of Government Business and assumed this position on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.



## Nominee's Responses to Questions

### **Role as Majority Leader and Minister of State**

On how he would lead Parliament to exercise its oversight function over Executive, the nominee referred to the Westminster system where all Ministers of State are appointed from Parliament but they nonetheless exercise their oversight functions in other Committees other than those which have jurisdiction over their own sectors. He noted that, in the case of Ghana, he recounted that we have had Majority Leaders who doubled as Ministers for Parliamentary Affairs since 1993 starting with Hon. J. H. Owusu-Acheampong, Hon. (Dr.) Kwabena Adjei and that was continued under Hon. J. H. Mensah, Hon. Papa Owusu Ankomah, Hon. Felix Agyepong and Hon. Osei Aidoo. He however indicated that the tradition was discontinued during the last two NDC Administrations which he said introduced some challenges into the governance scheme in Parliament.

He was of the view that as the Majority Leader, if your Party controls the Executive, you also become the Leader of Government Business and for that matter you should be able to understand what Government is. He further stated that you should also be part of the evolution of Government policies and programmes so that you can lead the business of the House in a convincing and persuasive manner.

### **Review of the Standing Orders of Parliament**

On the critical areas for the review of the Standing Orders of the House, the nominee stated that there are so many areas in the Standing Orders which needed to be reviewed to make Parliament more effective. He was of the view that some of those provisions are constitutional and statutory while others are self-inflicted and in that respect suggested that the review of the Standing Orders must be looked at holistically. He also said that there would even be the need to amend some constitutional provisions. He cited for example that when it comes to the appointment of the Auditor-General, Parliament is cut off yet he is supposed to be a tool for Parliament in respect of its oversight functions. In that regard he stated that whilst the President could direct the Auditor-General, Parliament cannot do same to audit some malfeasance.

He also cited a similar arrangement for the appointment of the Government Statistician and the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission but indicated that in all such appointments there is the need for Parliament to have overriding powers to ensure that the President acts properly.

In the area of Private Members Bills, he noted that the provisions which prohibit Members of Parliament from introducing Bills which have financial implications is similar to those found in the Constitutions of other Commonwealth countries but those countries have found a way around it. He however said our Parliament has not been forthright on that but hoped that the Rt. Hon. Speaker will not pursue a similar course.

On the status of the review, he promised to bring the review process to a closure and called for the support of the minority Leader to bring the matter to a closure possibly within the Second Meeting of the First Session.

### **Nominee's Exemplary Service to Parliament**

The Minority Chief Whip, Hon. Muntaka applauded the nominee highly for his immeasurable service to Parliament and said that the nominee and Second Deputy Speaker, Hon. Alban Bagbin represent the kind of MPs who should be emulated not because of their long stay in Parliament but the substance and the expertise they have brought to bear on the work of the House.

On his part, the Minority Leader, Hon. Haruna Iddrisu wished him well in his new role as the Leader of Government business, Majority Leader and Minister of State of the Republic. He therefore assured him of his unflinching support to build a stronger and independent Parliament which is responsive to the needs of the people of Ghana and ready to deliver its mandate in a manner that is more efficient and transparent. He also assured him that he would lend his full and absolute support to see this 7<sup>th</sup> Parliament through with a revised and dedicated Standing Orders.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends to the House to approve **by consensus** the nomination of Hon. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu for appointment as Minister responsible for Parliamentary Affairs.



## 6.0 HON. PROF. GYAN BAFFOUR - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR PLANNING

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### Background

Prof. George Yaw Gyan-Baffour was born on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1951 at Wenchi in the Brong Ahafo Region.

He had his primary and middle school education at L/A Methodist Primary School at Tromeso in the Brong Ahafo Region and L/A Roman Catholic Middle School at Wenchi in the Brong Ahafo Region from September 1956 to June 1964 respectively. He proceeded to the Opoku Ware Secondary School in Kumasi where he obtained his Ordinary Level Certificate from September 1964 to June 1969. From September 1969 to July 1971 he went to Dormaa Secondary School in Dormaa Ahenkro where he obtained his Advance Level Certificate.

He attended the University of Ghana, Legon and was awarded a Bsc, (Hons) in Economics in 1974. He also attended the University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA and obtained a Master's Degree in Public Policy in 1985 and proceeded to obtain a PhD. in Industrial Relations from the same University. He is currently a member of the Ghana Institute of Chartered Economists.

Prof. George Yaw Gyan-Baffour did his national service from August 1974 to August 1975 at the Ministry of Industries, Science and Technology, Accra. From July 2001 to March 2003, he was the Technical Advisor at National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) where he later became Director-General between 2003 and 2004. He was also the Deputy Minister for Finance and Economic Planning between 2005 and January, 2009. He was a Member of the Board of Bank of Ghana (2005-2009) and the Board of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), (2003-2005).

The nominee has several academic publications in Journals of international repute, and has made various presentations at both local and international fora on management and economic analysis for policy reforms. In 2015, he also published a book titled "*Strategic Management: Concepts and Analysis*".



Hon. (Prof.) George Yaw Gyan-Baffour has been the Member of Parliament for the Wenchi Constituency since 2005.

## **Responses to Questions to the nominee**

### **Nominee's Role as a Minister for Planning**

On whether his responsibilities as a Minister for Planning as anticipated by His Excellency the President was not similar to those prescribed in the Constitution for the National Development Planning Commission, the nominee stated that his role would be to provide political directions in the planning processes in order to realise the President's vision. He explained that even though the Article 86 of the 1992 Constitution provides that NDPC should advise the President on matters of national development planning, experiences have shown that the Chairman of the Commission often finds it difficult to coordinate planning activities between the Presidency and the Commission largely because the Chairman is often not a politician. As a result, Presidential directions do not impact on the work of the Commission as expected. He admitted that attempts have been made in the past to address the lacuna by appointing very high prominent personalities such as Mr. P.V. Obeng and Mr. J.H. Mensah but have not yielded much results. He stated that it was in the bid to address the gap that made the President create the Ministry for Planning.

### **Views on the 40-Year National Development Plan**

On his view on the 40-Year National Development Plan which was adopted during the previous administration, the nominee noted he does not subscribe to the idea of having a long term development plan for the country. He also stated that the country should rather have long term development vision, goals or perspectives plan to paint the picture of where the country aspire to be in 40-years. He said the word 'Plan' connotes rigidity and may not allow different political leadership to use different approaches towards achieving same goals. He further added that given the political history and system practiced in the country, a long term plan would be difficult to implement. He cited the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an example to buttress his position and argued that the reason why countries are able to adopt it was because of its flexibility. He further affirmed his support for long

term spatial development plans as opposed to long term economic development plans due to the unpredictability of the external environmental.

### **Implementation of Land Use and Spatial Planning Law**

The nominee indicated that he was aware of the law currently being implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation which provides guidelines on spatial planning in the country. While lauding the passage of the law, the nominee expressed his displeasure about the haphazard development of social and commercial infrastructure in the country without recourse to towns and city plans. He believes the object of the law would be better achieved if the responsibility of its implementation is assigned to the Ministry of Planning instead of the MESTI. He hinted of pursuing a realignment of the responsibilities, if he is approved by the House. He further promised to seek the approval of His Excellency the President to realign all agencies responsible for planning to the Ministry of Planning to harness synergies necessary to move the developmental agenda of the country.

### **Enforcement of Development Plans**

The nominee expressed his regret about the non-implementation of development plans by State institutions in the country. He attributed the situation to the weaknesses of the enforcement agencies in the country and cited the Town and Council Planning Department as one of such institutions which have failed to live up to expectation due to logistical constraints. He further blamed the situation on the constant realignment of the enforcement agencies under different supervisory Ministries. He emphasised the need for the enforcement agencies to be adequately resourced to enable them play their role and pledged to find measures to address their logistical constraints.

### **Ensuring Reliable Statistical Data for Planning**

Responding to a question on how he would ensure that Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) generate a reliable data needed for planning purposes, the nominee stated that the GSS has been doing its utmost best to generate data under challenging circumstances. He posited that the work of the GSS required highly motivated staff and adequate resources. He said he has been an advocate of the GSS particularly during his tenure as the Deputy Minister



of Finance for more resources to be allocated to the Service. He pledged to continue in the same stead even though the GSS will not be under his supervision if he approved by the House.

### **Relationship between Political Manifestoes and the National Development Plans**

The nominee noted that it was important that plans in political manifestoes are in tandem with the development plans of the country. He alluded to the restrictive nature of national development plans as one of the rationale for the lack of adoption of the plans by political parties. To address the challenge, the nominee proposed that long term national development plans must focus on broad goals and not prescriptive to allow different political parties come up with their own approaches to attain the goals. He recommended that such goals should be legislated if possible to make the goals binding on the political parties. Further, he suggested a bi-partisan approach in its endeavours to deal with the challenge.

### **Funding for the NDPC**

On measures he intends pursuing to secure sustainable funding for the NDPC, the nominee acknowledged that funding for the activities has been one of the major challenges confronting the Commission. Alluding to his experiences as the former Director-General of the Commission, he said the country's development partners have always been ready to support the planning activities of the country but prefer to engage Government rather than the Commission. He posited that the creation of the Ministry of Planning with supervisory responsibility over NDPC is likely to resolve such an obstacle and provide an avenue whereby the development partners could financially support the NDPC.

### **Relationship between the NDPC and the District Planning Units**

In describing the relationship between the NDPC and the District Planning Units, the nominee stated that the NDPC provides guidelines on national policy framework to the District Planning Units to develop their own plans. However, the major challenge has been that the plans developed by the District Planning Units are hardly implemented. He pledged if approved by the House, he would take steps to harmonise the development planning

process at all levels and to ensure that such plans are implemented to the letter.

### **Discrepancies in Data**

The nominee stated that NDPC generates primary data only when it is conducting monitoring and evaluation but largely depends on the Ghana Statistical Service and the MDAs for its data. He said most of the time the NDPC data is the same as those published by the Ghana Statistical Service and said that the discrepancies may arise between the data from the MDAs and that of the Ghana Statistical Service. Despite this, the nominee acknowledged that the Ghana Statistical Service is logistically challenged and must be supported to discharge its mandate.

### **Views on Zero financing by Bank of Ghana on IMF**

The nominee affirmed that he does not subscribe to the policy of a zero financing of Central Government's expenditure by the Bank of Ghana as provided for under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Agreement. He argued that managing an economy such as ours would require that Government is bailed out by the Central Bank at some point in time and therefore it is important the Central Bank comes to the aid of Government to deal with such situations. In this respect, he said he would prefer a range between zero to five percent and also for some flexibility for the Minister of Finance to use his discretion in the allocation of funds.

On whether reduction in taxes as pledged by the NPP Government would not worsen the country's financial situation, the nominee indicated that the plan of the NPP Government was to re-allocate resources and even if the need arises to borrow to undertake critical developmental projects it must not be too excessive. He further stated that deficit financing for project in itself is not wrong approach to funding project except when it is excessive.

### **Support for the Private Sector**

The nominee observed that access to affordable credit has been one of the major challenges confronting the private sector in Ghana. He advocated for a subsidy for the sector to enable them procure credit facility at cheaper interest rates. Explaining the subsidy mechanism further, he said in



advanced countries, interest on loans for the private sector from Exim Banks are subsidized through the national budget mechanism to boost exports to create jobs for their people. He said such measures are critical in supporting the private sector in Ghana in order to make them competitive in the international market. He also lauded the previous Government's effort at establishing the Ghana Exim Bank and stated that if the Bank is effectively managed it would support the economic growth agenda of the country.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends to the House to approve **by consensus** the nomination of Prof. George Yaw Gyan-Baffour for appointment as the Minister responsible for Planning.

**7.0 HON. ISAAC ASIAMAH - MINISTER-DESIGNATE  
FOR YOUTH AND  
SPORTS**

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### **Background**

Hon. Isaac Kwame Asiamah was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> December, 1975 and hails from Tano Dumasi in the Ashanti Region.

He began his primary education at the Anglican Primary School, Tano Dumase from (1980-1987) and continued at the Chirapatre L/A Junior Secondary School in Kumasi from (1988-1989). He then proceeded to Kaneshie Anglican Junior Secondary School, Accra where he obtained his Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) from (1989-1991). He later went to Accra Senior High School and acquired his Senior Secondary School certificate. The nominee pursued his first degree programme from 1996 to 2000 at the University of Ghana, Legon and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Resource development with Political Science. He also attended the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and obtained an Executive Masters in Governance and Leadership from 2005 to 2008.

Hon. Asiamah taught at Northern Ghana Girls Academy at Navrongo for his national service between 2001 and 2002. He then worked as a Research



Officer at the Head Office of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) in Accra (2009-2003) and thereafter became a Policy Analyst for the Party from 2003 to 2009.

The nominee has been the Member of Parliament for Atwima Mponua Constituency since 2005 to date and has served on several Committees in Parliament such as Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Finance Committee, Public Accounts Committee, Committee on Mines and Energy and the Committee on Youth, Sports and Culture.

Hon. Asiamah has held several other leadership positions including being the Vice President, Students Representative Council, Accra High School (1993-1994), Chairman, NPP Branch – University of Ghana, Legon (1999-2000) as well as Chairman, Youth and Sports Sector Committee for NPP 2016 Manifesto.

The nominee has attended a number of conferences, notable among which are International Young Democratic Union conference, Ottawa, Canada (Feb. 2007), West African Association of Public Accounts Committees (WAAPAC) Conference, Lome, Togo and the African Union Conference, 28<sup>th</sup> Edition– Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (January, 2017).

Hon. Asiamah has also been to some major tournaments organized including the FIFI U-17 World Champions as Leader of Parliamentary Delegation to Peru (September-October, 2005), the 2012 Olympic Games as Member of Parliamentary Delegation to London as well as AFCON 2017 – Gabon as President's Representative.

## **Response and Questions**

### **Establishment of Youth Development and Sports Centres**

On when the Youth and Sports Centres be established as promised by the NPP, the nominee believed that the establishment of these Centres would help create jobs for the teeming youth in the country especially those in sports. He was optimistic that the Centres will be established within his four year term and there was a plan to roll it out in all Regions in the country.



## **Lesser Known Sports**

The nominee stated that he does not really agree that any sport is a lesser known sport as interests in sports differ. He accordingly promised to be a Minister for all Sports disciplines not only football as there are about forty (40) sporting disciplines for which the youth could participate in. He disclosed that he would set up a special desk at the Ministry to focus on youth and women in sports. In that regard, he said he would draw funds from the Youth Employment Agency (YEA) which has a reliable sources of income to support these projects.

He also stated that it is important that sporting disciplines are treated equally. That he has already requested a report on the concentration of each of the forty (40) sports disciplines in the country. He assured the Committee that all the Associations that get support from the Ministry would be those which have presence in at least two thirds of all the Districts in the country and disclosed that equal support would be based on an objective criteria.

Regarding Paralympics, the nominee stated that the Ministry would support the Paralympic teams in the country.

## **Establishment of Sports Colleges**

On the proposal for the establishment of three (3) Colleges of Sports to train the youth in sporting disciplines, the nominee stated that the proposal forms part of the NPP's 2016 Manifesto and promised to pursue it if he is approved by the House. He lamented that there is no Sports College in the country since Winneba does not have any accreditation to run tertiary programmes. In furtherance of their establishment, he hinted that a College of Sports Bill would be laid in Parliament.

## **Dealing with Corruption in Sports**

The nominee stated that he would ensure due process, transparency and accountability in football activities in particular and in all other sporting disciplines to reduce the perception of corruption in football. He accordingly urged the Parliamentary Committee on Youth, Sports and Culture and the Public Accounts Committee to provide the needed oversight over the sports industry and the Ministry to fight against corruption in sports. He also promised to seek advice from the Attorney-General on the way forward on

the Maputo and the Dzamefe Reports relating to corruption in the Sports over the years.

On alleged Corruption in football officiating, the nominee indicated that he would engage the Ghana Football Association, the Ghana League Clubs Association, the Premier League Board and the Referees Association to find a lasting solution to the problem.

### **Relationship with the Ghana Football Association**

He stated that all the programmes of the GFA would be routed through the Sports Authority before they get to the Ministry for approval in accordance with the new Sports Act. He thought it was improper for the Minister to deal directly with the GFA in negotiating bonuses with National Teams and that he would strengthen the National Sports Authority and other state agencies to work effectively. He however stated that he would retain ultimate responsibility and oversee the agencies under the Ministry in that endeavor.

### **Sports Potential**

That no detailed studies have been done yet on the value of sports in Ghana and its contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product. He promised to work on undesirable practices such as "ambush marketing" in a bid to optimize opportunities in sports. He stressed that the sports sector has huge potential and promised to promote it to the business world.

### **Youth Development Initiatives**

He stated that he intends to achieve youth empowerment through quality education, leadership skills and other training programmes such as ICT and sports development. He hinted that there would be a Youth Development Authority under which will be put all the youth programmes such as Youth in Agric and the Youth Enterprises Scheme (YES) and bring all the scattered programmes together for a coordinated monitoring, synthetization, and reporting.

### **Promotion of Sports in Schools**

The nominee acknowledged that in the past, Inter-Schools sports were the breeding grounds for unearthing talents for the various National Teams and accordingly promised to pursue it both at local, regional and national levels.



## **Construction of New Sports Stadia**

Hon. Asiamah stated that the Government would build modern sports stadia in the five (5) Regions without the sports infrastructure and these include the Upper East, Upper West, Brong Ahafo, Eastern and Volta Regions. He further assured that where there is a community initiative, it would be assisted by the Ministry as far as resources would permit.

## **Relationship with GFA/Promotion of the Local Premier League**

The nominee commended the current GFA for doing well for the country by qualifying the country for three consecutive World Cups but said that as it is with every organization they have also had their failures, especially when it comes to the local league. He also promised to have a discussion with GFA to ensure “local content” in the selection of players into the National Teams as a way of promoting the local league. He again pledged to encourage good players to play in the domestic league to sustain interest in the league. He further hinted that policies would be put in place and have dialogue with GFA to ensure that each Region in the country has a premiership club and encourage the GFA to comply with all international requirements especially those relating to FIFA.

## **Establishment of Sports Development Fund**

The nominee stated that a Sports Fund would be created within the first term of the Government and enumerated some of the expected sources of funds for the Fund as sports betting, sin taxes and a portion of the revenue from the Communications Service tax. He said the Fund would be used for investment in sports and sports infrastructure maintenance as well as giving tax credits and incentives to private sector operators who will employ the youth especially fresh graduates.

## **Cost of Participation in Gabon 2017**

The nominee said that he was yet to receive the details of expenditure and promised to come before the House to answer the question if his nomination is approved. He however disclosed that the total of \$4.4m was approved by the Ministry of Youth and Sports but said that he managed to negotiate the bonus structure downwards slashing it by 50% and thereby resulting in savings of about US\$1.4m to the State. He also disclosed that the budget of

\$1,500 per head was approved for qualifying after the first three matches. He again stated that the amount was paid to the players for qualifying into the next stage notwithstanding the fact that the team lost the 3<sup>rd</sup> game. He further revealed that the amount of US\$6,000 was paid to the team for winning the quarter final game and for reaching the semi-finals. According to him, the total bonus per head came to US\$21,000.

### **Promotion of Basketball and Boxing**

The nominee stated that he would work with the Basketball and Boxing Associations to identify their peculiar needs so as to develop specific interventions to develop the two sports to raise champions.

He further assured that the new Boxing facility constructed in Accra will be well maintained to stand the test of time.

### **Physical Education**

The nominee stated that physical education is a key component of the classical definition of sports and accordingly promised to give P.E. and athletics their pride of place in Ghana sports. He also said that the Ministry would provide support to supporter unions to create the necessary enthusiasm in sports. He again promised to create walkways and community parks in communities in the country in collaboration with the District Assemblies. He finally proposed a possible National Day of keep Fit to help keep citizens keep fit

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves **by consensus** the nomination of Hon. Isaac Asiamah for appointment as the Minister responsible for Youth and Sports.



**8.0 MR. AWAL IBHRAHIM MOHAMMED - MINISTER-  
DESIGNATE FOR  
BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT**

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**Background**

Mr. Awal Mohammed Ibrahim was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1961 in Kumbungu in the Northern Region.

He started his basic education at Tishigu Anglican Primary School and continued at Ghana Secondary School for his Ordinary and A' Levels from 1977 to 1984. He attended the School of Journalism in the Netherlands from 1991 to 1994 and obtained Bachelor of Arts in Journalism.

Mr. Awal further obtained Masters in International Journalism from the University of Wales, United Kingdom after going through the course from 1991 to 1994. He again obtained an Executive Master's in Business Administration, from the University of Ghana Legon from 2001 to 2003 and subsequently also acquired Masters in Applied Business Research in Switzerland Business School from 2014 to 2016.

The nominee did his national service at Graphic Communication Group Limited from 1987-1988 and continued to work with the company as a correspondent in Upper West Region from 1989-1999.

The nominee was appointed as a Deputy Feature Editor in 1998 to 1999, and a Metropolitan Editor from 1999 to 2001. He was also an Advertising and Business Development Manager from 2002 to 2004, General Manager, Marketing and Public Relations from 2004 to 2006 and Managing Director, from 2007 to 2010. He rose through the ranks to become the Managing Director, Graphic Communications Group Limited from 2007 to December 2016.

He was also the Managing Director of the Chase Petroleum Ghana Limited from January 2011 to September 2011 and also served as the Chief Executive Officer of Marble Group from 2011 to 2017.

## **Responses to Questions**

### **Nominee's Response to Corruption Allegation/Investigations by EOCO**

The nominee confirmed that while he was the Managing Director of Graphic Communications Group, a member of staff wrote a petition in 2009 to the Graphic Board alleging acts of corruption. He said upon receipt of the petition, the Board duly constituted a Committee to look into the matter but stated that the said Committee did not make any adverse findings against him.

The nominee further informed the Committee that the same petition was submitted to the Economic and Organised Crimes Organisation (EOCO) in the same year by the petitioner but EOCO did not find any adverse findings against him. He informed the Committee that he continued as the Managing Director until he left the company in 2011.

### **Achievements at Graphic Communications Group**

The nominee informed the Committee that he joined Graphic Group as a reporter and rose through the ranks to become a manager. He disclosed that as a managing director, he achieved the highest dividend payment to Government and paid taxes which earned the company a platinum award. He also purchased a press machine at the cost of €10m and further assisted over 350 workers to acquire their own building plots. He informed the Committee that he could not have achieved this without the help of his management team and staff.

### **The Role of the Minister for Business Development**

The nominee informed the Committee that his role was to coordinate with relevant ministries and develop policies to promote the private sector, improve competitiveness of Ghanaian businesses and operators of SMEs. He said as part of his responsibilities as a Minister, he would be responsible for the National Board for Small Scale Industries and Ghana Investment Promotion Council.



## **Mandate of the Ministry**

The nominee informed the Committee that he would be a Minister of State at the Presidency and would be responsible for initiating policies and measures to achieve the best competitive value for local businesses on the international platform. He will therefore identify the challenges facing local businesses in the country and come up with policies that would ensure that they are competitive at the international level to attract businesses and investments to key areas of the economy. He will also have supervisory responsibilities over GIPC, NBSS and others.

He also explained that the local industries cannot develop within the scope of the current ministries and that time was due for H. E the President to set up this portfolio to look solely into matters concerning small and medium scale enterprises in the country.

## **Assisting local business ventures**

Mr. Awal stated that his mandate also included bringing up twenty (20) big companies in Ghana that would be able to compete with other International companies.

He posited that in order to create companies such as the Dangote, there is the need for Government to come up with similar strategies to hand-hold selected companies and indicated that the success of these companies would encourage other investors in the private sector to develop their competitiveness.

He informed the Committee that the Government has indicated its commitment to support the establishment of up to twenty big companies within four years and that this initiative would be private sector led. According to him, Government would also roll out incubators and talent search programmes to identify potential businesses for assistance.

## **Measures to Address Challenges facing Local Businesses**

On challenges facing local businesses, the nominee identified some of the challenges as difficulties in land acquisition, access to credit and macro-environment. In order to address these obstacles, he said that there would be the need to coordinate and collaborate with other sector ministries such as the Attorney-General's Department, Ministries of Finance and Local

Government and Rural Development to implement measures that would address the concerns of businesses in order to make them competitive.

### **Support for Women in SMEs**

The nominee acknowledged the role of women in SMEs and indicated that the Ministry's incubator and talent search initiatives would identify women with viable ventures and support them and disclose that Government intends to target sixty (60) percent of women under the programme. According to the nominee the idea is to ensure that within a period of four or five years, significant number of women in the private sector would have been successful in their businesses.

He also acknowledged that most women in the private sector especially the market women do not require huge capital in order to run their businesses. To him some require about GH¢2,000 to make their business viable and assured the Committee that when given the nod, he would secure the necessary funding to assist these women in order to improve their business.

### **Making the Ghanaian Entrepreneur Successful**

The nominee informed the Committee that the findings as part of his theses on ensuring business continuity after the exit of the founder and (owner), revealed that in most businesses collapse due to factors such as insufficient networking capacities, management skills and rivalry between relatives.

He said networking skills assist businesses to liaise with companies with similar products, donors and governments for support and exchange of ideas. Management skills also play an important role to ensure that businesses are managed with international best practices.

The nominee further indicated that sibling's rivalry also impacts negatively on business continuity after the exit of the founder (owner). There have been instances where businesses had to be sold due to such practices. He emphasised that there was therefore the need to build the capacity of stakeholders to address these issues.

He said that there was the need for capacity building for SMEs to understand these challenges and come up with ways of addressing them. Further, SMEs have also to be trained to ensure that management are able to groom successors to take over successfully when they are no longer in charge.



He said when given the nod, he would come up with the necessary policies to build the capacity of the private sector to enable them improve on their operations.

### **Financing the private sector**

He agreed that inadequate financing is a challenge facing the SMEs and this had impacted negatively on the private sector. He admitted that the cost of credit was very high and mentioned some institutions such as the ADB which have stopped pursuing their core mandate. He indicated that there were a number of viable revenue sources within and outside of the country that are available for the SMEs to access. Other existing banks were also ready to give loans at a lower rate. The challenge, for the financial institutions has been the poor record keeping and accounting practice of the SME's.

### **Government's efforts to support SMEs**

Mr. Awal further indicated that Government is committed to support local businesses with funding assistance from the Ghana Exim Bank. He explained further that banks such as ADB would be directed to pursue their core mandate in order to ensure that businesses benefit from these existing initiatives. He assured the Committee that the capacity of local businesses would be built to enable them improve upon their record keeping and accounts to enable them to meet the requirements of banks.

He also indicated that there was the need to encourage businesses to be listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange to enable them raise the needed capital and investment.

He also said that businesses such as Great KOSA network of companies could be assisted to expand and create jobs for the youth.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves **by consensus** the nomination Awal Mohammed Ibrahim as the Minister responsible for Business Development.

**9.0 HON. MAVIS HAWA KOOMSON - MINISTER-DESIGNATE  
FOR SPECIAL  
INITIATIVES AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

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**Background**

Hon. Mavis Hawa Koomson was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 1966 at Sekondi in the Western Region of Ghana and hails from Salaga in the Northern Region.

She had her primary education at Zubzea Primary School, Gambaga from 1980 to 1985 and continued at the Central Middle School, Bimbilla from 1985 to 1986. The nominee attended the Evangelical Presbyterian Teacher Training College, Bimbilla from 1987 to 1991 for her Cert “A”. She also attended the Christian Methodist School, Sekondi between 1995 and 1997 for her ‘O’ Level. The nominee later enrolled at the University of Education, Winneba from 2002 to 2006 and was awarded a Diploma in Basic Education. She went back to study at the same university between 2008 and 2011 and obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Basic Education.

The nominee attended the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) from September to November, 2014 and obtained a Postgraduate Certificate in Public Administration. She later continued at the same institution and obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration (February to May, 2015). She is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy at the same institution.

Hon. Koomson worked as a professional teacher from 1991 and 2012.

The Nominee has been an active member of the New Patriotic Party and has held various positions including the Constituency Women Organizer for Awutu Senya Constituency from 2009 to 2011. She was elected as a Member of Parliament for Awutu-Senya East.



## Responses to Questions

### **Role as a Minister for Special Initiatives and Development**

While relating to the objectives for the creation of the Ministry of Special Initiatives and Development by His Excellency the President, the nominee noted that her role would be to coordinate the implementation of special projects of the Government at the constituency and district levels. In this regard, she would have supervisory role over Development Authorities both existing and those that are yet to be established, to bring about efficiency in project delivery. On special initiatives that she will spearhead if approved by the House, she mentioned women and youth empowerment, poverty reduction, and skills development programmes.

### **Nominee's Apology for Alleged Derogatory Statement**

On her response to a derogatory statement she allegedly made against the former President, H. E. John Dramani Mahama by referring to him as a “mad person”, the nominee conceded to have made that statement during the heat of the 2016 electioneering campaigns. She however expressed her regrets for that act and accordingly apologised to the former President.

### **Nominee's Experience**

On the experiences she would bring to bear on the work of the Ministry, the nominee recounted that she had the opportunity to live in several parts of the country when her father went on regular transfers as a police officer. She stated that during such travels, she came into contact with people from different backgrounds and has come to appreciate the daily struggles of people especially women to secure their livelihoods. She indicated that said those experiences have shaped her views in life and that has motivated her to strive to improve the living conditions of the poor and the vulnerable in society.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves **by consensus** the nomination Hon. Hawa Komsom as the Minister responsible for Special Initiatives and Development.



**10.0 HON. BONIFACE ABU-BAKAR SADDIQUE - MINISTER-  
DESIGNATE  
FOR INNER-  
CITY AND  
ZONGO  
DEVELOPMENT**

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**Background**

Hon. Boniface Abu-Bakar Saddique (Alhaji) was born on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1960 at Salaga in the Northern Region of Ghana. He had his basic and middle school education at Kpembe Primary school and R/C Primary School, Salaga and continued at the Yamba Middle School, Yeji between 1964 and 1973. He attended Tamale Secondary School for his 'O' and 'A' Level Certificates from September 1973 to July 1980.

He graduated from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences in 1985. He proceeded to University of Essex, U.K where he had his Post Graduate Diploma in Economics from June 1991 to July 1992 and a Master's Degree in International Economics from September 1992 to October 1993. In October 2012 he further obtained a Master's degree in Conflict, Peace and Security, from the Kofi Annan International Peace Training Center.

Hon. Boniface Abu-Bakar Saddique from February 1987 to August 2000 worked as a Senior Economics Officer (Economist/Financial Analyst) at the Ministry of Finance. Between January 7, 2001 and January 6, 2009, he was the Member of Parliament for Salaga Constituency. He served in his capacity as the Deputy Minister for Ministry of Trade and Industries and Ministry of Tourism and Modernisation of The Capital City between May 2001 and February 2005. He later became the Northern Regional Minister from February 2005 to May 2006. He also served as the Sector Minister for the Ministry of Manpower Youth and Employment and the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing from May 2006 to August 2007 and August 2007 to January 2009 respectively. He worked in the Ministry of Finance for 13 years as an Economic Officer, eventually becoming a Senior Finance Officer.



In politics, he has been a two-time MP for Salaga from 2001-2009. Alhaji Saddique during the period from 2001 to 2009 held seven (7) Ministerial positions; five (5) positions as a Minister and two positions as a Deputy Minister.

He is currently the Member of Parliament for Madina Constituency in the Greater Accra Region.

### **Responses to Questions**

#### **Funding for the New Ministry under the Presidency**

Regarding how the nominee would access funds to implement activities of the new Ministry, the nominee said there are processes that have to be followed before a Fund can be established. He explained that a Bill will have to be passed to establish the Zongo Fund which may take some time to be done. In the meantime, the nominee disclosed that the budget of the Ministry would be under the Presidency called facility. He said that while waiting for the establishment of the Zongo Fund he would be accessing the facility to carry out the activities of the Ministry.

#### **Expectations from the Ministry**

The nominee assured that he would set a very sound foundation for the total transformation of Inner Cities and Zongos. He disclosed that he would first and foremost embark on serious conscientisation to change the mindset of people living in Zongos and Inner Cities, Public Institutions and the general public to secure their support to develop our Zongos and Inner Cities.

#### **Processes to Identity Inner Cities**

The nominee defined Inner Cities as distressed, deprived poverty more pronounced localities in cities which are mostly created by rural-urban migration, colonialization and segregation among other factors. On how to identify the localities, he promised to carry out detailed research or survey to identify the exact locations in the country.

## **Conflict in the Enskinment of Zongo Chiefs**

The nominee stated that issues connected with chieftaincy do not form part of his Ministry but assured that he would collaborate with about fifteen (15) Ministries including the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs in the discharge of his duties. He also advocated for the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to address such issues. He further stated that part of the conscientisation programme will be dedicated to inform people about the processes to follow in enskinment of Zongo Chiefs.

## **Role of Minister for Inner-City and Zongo Development**

The nominee stated that his specific role is to assist “Zongos”, primarily the “Hausa” spoken settler communities in cities in the various parts of Ghana. He informed the Committee that H.E. the President made it clear his reason for establishing the Inner-City and Zongo Development Fund. It was his duty therefore to ensure that the Fund will not be used to support social and traditional activities such as christening or naming a child, or packaged for funerals. He emphasized the creation of awareness on the as priority areas of the fund, which included infrastructure development, economic empowerment, social development and cultural development.

## **Education and Empowerment of Zongo Communities**

The nominee said he would embark on a serious sensitization to help change the mindset of the people and public institutions to bring change to Zongos. The NPP in its manifesto promised to develop the Zongos and inner cities. This was why the President of the Republic has created the portfolio. He also revealed a plan aimed at motivating tutors in schools in the Zongos in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

## **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves **by consensus** the nomination of Hon. Boniface Abu-Bakar Saddique (Alhaji) as the Minister responsible for Railways.



### Background

Hon. Cecilia Abena Dapaah was born on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 1954 at Kumasi in the Ashanti Region and hails from Mpasatia in the same region.

She had her primary education at the Bantama Methodist Primary School, Bantama, Kumasi between 1960 and 1965 and middle school education at the Mmofraturu Girls' Boarding School, Tafo, Kumasi between 1965 and 1967. The nominee attended Wesley Girls' High School, Cape Coast to obtain her GCE Ordinary Level Certificate from 1967 to 1972 as well as her GCE Advanced Level Certificate in the same institution between 1972 and 1974.

Between 1974 and 1979, she enrolled at the University of Ghana where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in French and Linguistics. As part of her undergraduate degree programme, she studied at the University of Dakar, Senegal for her French language proficiency from June, 1976 to July 1977. She holds a number of postgraduate certificates from the world's acclaimed educational institutions which include postgraduate certificate in International Development Studies from the University of Oslo, Norway (June, 1984 to August, 1984); certificate in Leadership Development for Women in Management from the Atlanta Management Institute, Atlanta, USA (May, 1992 and June, 1992); and certificate in Leaders in Development from the Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, USA (June, 2012).

Hon. Dapaah performed her national service at the Ghana Cocoa Board in Accra from 1979 to 1980. She began her career as a Public Relations Manager after her national service at the same institution and rose to become Head of Protocols between 1980 and 1994. She exited and established her own company, Dermacare Skin Care and Health Products Enterprise which she managed as a Director between 1995 and 2005. She was also the Executive Director of Media Influence, Public Relations/Translation and House Help Agency, an Agency which she also established and manned between 1996 and 1998.

The nominee later became the Special Assistant to the Former President, His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor between 2001 and 2005. Between 2005 and 2007, she was appointed as a Deputy Minister for Water Resources, Works and Housing and later as a Minister of State at the same Ministry from 2007 to 2009.

The nominee was a two-term Member of Parliament for Bantama Constituency and had occupied the seat between 2005 and 2013. She served on a number of parliamentary committees including Works and Housing, Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprises, Special Budget, Gender and Children Affairs Committees.

The nominee participated in a number of conferences and capacity building programmes which dwelt on water policy, health, gender and children, and conflict management in Africa and other parts of the world. As part of her service to the community, the nominee has served as patron of a number of organisations including Bantama Onua Do Kuo Group and the Women's Fellowship of the Bethany Methodist Church, Dzorwulu, Accra. She was a Member of the Government Transition Team in 2000 and again as Team Leader on the Transition Sub-committee on Transport in 2016.

## **Responses to Questions**

### **Proposed dedicated Airline for Ghana to improve travel**

The nominee noted that the revival of the defunct Ghana International Airlines was a critical component of the overall agenda of the Government to transform the aviation industry and to create job for Ghanaians. She observed that the country stands to benefit enormously from the aviation industry by taking advantage of about sixty percent of the people who travel by air in the West African sub-region and on the continent for tourism and other purposes. She disclosed that the previous Administration commissioned the Messrs Pricewaterhouse Coopers to conduct feasibility studies on the viability of the country operating her own airline. She intimated that she will examine the feasibility reports and any other relevant reports and where necessary harmonise them to ensure that Ghana gets its own airlines if approved by the House. She was optimistic that the country would achieve its agenda to acquire its own Airline within the next two years.



## **Measures to address Challenges facing Domestic Airlines Industry**

On how she intends to address the challenges impacting on the operations of the domestic airlines, the nominee indicated the resolve of the government to tackle the dwindling fortunes of the domestic airlines by implementing its 2016 Manifesto promise to the letter. She revealed that the airlines have been burdened with the high cost of handling charges and aviation fuel which represent fifteen percent and thirty percent respectively of the operational cost of the domestic airlines. To address the challenges, she said the government will abolish the 17.5 VAT charged on domestic airlines as pledged in its Manifesto. She also assured the Committee of holding stakeholder consultations to unravel the root causes of the challenges in order to devise responsive solutions to them.

## **Settling debts owed Ghana Meteorological Agency by Ghana Civil Aviation Authority and Ghana Airport Company**

The nominee indicated that she was aware of the challenges relating to the non-payment of fees owed the Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMET) by the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority and Ghana Airport Company. She emphasised the need for a sustainable funding mechanism to adequately resource the GMET given its critical role in the aviation industry. The nominee revealed that the Ministry of Transport was in consultation with the stakeholders to ensure that the fees are paid. She pledged to ensure that a permanent solution is put in place through legislations to avoid the recurrence of the situation and to collaborate with the Ministry of Communications on GMET sharing revenue with the agencies.

## **Completion of Airport Projects commenced under Previous Administration**

The nominee pledged to complete the various aviation projects commenced by the previous NDC government. She said the second phase of the Ho, Wa, Kumasi and Tamale Airports as well as the Terminal Three of the Kotoka International Airport will be executed and not abandoned. She disclosed that the Wa Airport was functional and could take light aircrafts and chartered aircrafts and added that a building belonging to National Commission for Civic Education close to the airport was being rehabilitated to serve as a terminal. Commenting on the Ho Airport project, the nominee said the

runway has been completed leaving other related projects which would also be addressed. Similarly, the first phase of the Tamale International Airport has been completed with the second phase being worked on. She promised to consider the building of cold stores as part of the ancillary projects of the Tamale International Airport to promote the export of horticultural products to the international market. On the terminal three project of the Kotoka International Airport, the nominee noted that all first two phases have been completed with the remaining phase under construction.

The nominee also promised to complete the second phase of the installation of the instrument landing system as well as address the issue of limited parking space for domestic travellers.

### **Policy on Gender and Disability for the Aviation Sector**

On the need for a policy to address gender and disability issues in the aviation sector of the country, the nominee admitted that the lack of such policy in sector has created a lot of discomfort to the physically challenged and other vulnerable groups. She pledged to pursue the development of the policy to guide the industry to conform to international best practices. Speaking on gender issues, the nominee stated that even though a number of Ghanaian women are working in the aviation industry as airhostess, caterer and baggage handlers there are other areas that are still male dominated such as pilots and engineering services. She believed that having a gender policy could ensure that the women are also engaged in the male dominated areas.

### **Factors impacting on the cost of domestic aviation fares**

Relating to the reasons why the reduction in aviation fuel in 2015 did not impact on the domestic aviation fares, the nominee indicated that the cost of aviation fuel was not the only factor which determines the cost of aviation fares but also the aviation tax regime. She said the high cost of the domestic aviation fares could be due to the VAT charge of 17.5% on aviation fuel and stressed the commitment of government to abolish it. She said while foreign carriers have taxes on their aircraft spare parts reduced, the same cannot be said of the domestic airlines. She promised to liaise with the Ministry of Energy to thoroughly examine the aviation fuel tax regime and also consult widely with the stakeholders to find measures to reduce the domestic aviation fares.



## **Decoupling of Air Navigation and Regulation**

The nominee noted that the current arrangement whereby the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), the industry regulator, provides air navigation services within the Accra Flight Information Region (FIR) falls short of international best practices. She said the Ministry of Transport has begun the process of decoupling the regulatory and air navigational service functions of the GCAA. She pledged her commitment to ensure that the functions are decoupled to ensure operational efficiency and improved safety within the FIR.

## **Establishment of an Aviation School**

The nominee disclosed that she would consider the establishment of an aviation school to train pilots and said she was aware of an aviation school opened at Afiemya which was no longer in operation. She also mentioned that the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority has a training school that trains various technical staff for the industry and not pilots. Whilst noting that having training school for pilots would reduce the difficulties some Ghanaians go through in order to access the training, the nominee promised to hold discussions with the GCAA on modalities to employ in order to establish the training school in the country.

## **Development of Airstrips across the country**

On whether she would prioritise the development of airstrips across country to facilitate air travels, the nominee responded in the affirmative and added that she was aware of a number of airstrips developed during the colonial era to facilitate the operations of the colonial administrations. She mentioned Kete-Krachi, Sunyani, Koforidua, Kintampo, Bolgatanga and Cape Coast as some of the areas where such airstrips exist. She indicated that Cape Coast has about 3,000 acres of land reserved for the development of an airstrip and promised to pursue the project further. She also agreed to the proposal from the Committee on the need to develop them as part of the agenda to expand airport infrastructure in country to boost domestic air travels and ecotourism.

## **Treatment of Ghanaian passengers by British Airways at Heathrow Airport**

The nominee regretted the treatment meted out to some Ghanaian passengers on board British Airways and at Heathrow Airport. She said one of the approaches to deal with the matter, for instance the charging of luggage, was to follow the Nigerian example where the country petitioned the airline and had their concerns resolved. According to the nominee, another option was to break the monopoly of the British Airways flight. She was of the view that such measures would introduce competition into the sector which could lead to reduction in the airfares. In the case of mishandling of Ghanaian passengers at Heathrow Airport, the nominee stated it was beyond her responsibility as the Minister for Aviation but promised to make more enquiries on how the issue can be resolved.

## **Plans on finishing a new Airport in Accra**

The nominee confirmed that there was a plan to build a new airport at Prampram for which a 61,000 acre land has been reserved for. She said the project concept entails having dedicated roads and railways, fly-overs, schools, restaurants, hotels, recreational facilities and other ancillary facilities. On whether the government has the intention of commencing the project within its four year term, the nominee said it was not among the priority projects for the sector but pledged to continue to work on the feasibilities necessary for the take-off of the project if she is approved by the House.

## **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves **by consensus** the nomination of Hon. Cecilia Dapaah as the Minister responsible for Aviation.



**Background**

Mr. Samuel Kofi Ahiave Dzamesi was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1959 at Ablekope near Dzodze in the Volta Region. He had his primary and middle school education at Kave in the Volta Region and Bole in the Northern Region respectively. He continued his education at St. Martin's Secondary, Nsawam for his Ordinary Level Certificate (1972-1978) and at Accra Academy for his Advanced Level School Certificate (1979-1980). In 1981, Mr. Dzamesi was admitted at the University of Science and Technology (UST) now Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1986. He later obtained a Diploma in Strategic Marketing and Personnel Support from France in 1993. Mr. Dzamesi enrolled at the Leicester University in Ghana in 2010 where he is pursuing an MBA programme but he is yet to complete.

After his first degree, the nominee served the nation in the capacity as Assistant Area Engineer at the Ghana Railways Corporation from 1986 to 1988. He later travelled to Israel as a Volunteer Technical Assistant at the Agricultural Research Station from 1988 to 1991. The Nominee returned to Ghana and was employed as Sales Manager for L'air Liquide Ghana Limited from 1992 to 1994. He later established and was the Managing Director of Sodza Limited from 1995 to 1998. From 1999 to 2000, the Nominee was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tesyd Consultancy Service. He was later appointed as the Deputy Volta Regional Minister from 2001 to 2004. He moved on by being appointed the Regional Minister for the Volta Region from 2005 to January 2009.

Since 2009 to date, the Nominee has been the CEO of Tesyd Consultancy Service. He has also been an elected member of the NPP National Council since 2014. Again, he has been the Chairman since 2016 of the sub-committee of manifesto on chieftaincy, religious affairs and civil society and the sub-committee of the transition team on chieftaincy and religious affairs. Mr. Dzamesi is a member of the Ghana Institute of Engineers.

## **Responses to Questions**

### **Measures to Redeem the Image of Chieftaincy Institutions**

In an answer to a question on what the nominee would do to disprove claims by some critics that chieftaincy institution has lost its original image, the nominee informed the Committee that he does not agree with the assertion by those Critics, indicating that Chiefs are still revered by all manner of persons. He however conceded that the chieftaincy institution needs reformation to enable it contribute to wealth creation.

### **Abolishing of Bad Cultural Practices**

The Committee sought from the nominee what practical steps he would take to promote good cultural practices and abolish bad ones like the Female Genital Mutilation. In reaction to the question, the nominee informed the Committee that the Research Department at the Ministry had identified and documented all such bad cultural practices. He therefore pledged his commitment to study the document and map out strategies to implement the recommendations.

### **Nkonya and Alavanyo Conflicts**

The Committee commended the nominee's role in resolving the dispute between Nkonya and Alavanyo when he was the Volta Regional Minister; and consequently, asked what he would do to permanently resolve the impasse since it has resurfaced. The nominee indicated to the Committee that the litigation borders on Land and not chieftaincy issues and therefore does not fall under the jurisdiction of his intended office. He expressed displeasure of the reemergence of the dispute and was hopeful that the concerned bodies including the Volta Regional Coordinating Council would be able to bring lasting and amicable solution to the impasse.

### **Chieftaincy and Land Disputes**

In an answer to a question on how the nominee intends to use his office to facilitate adjudication of the many pending land disputes and reduce such conflicts in future, the nominee informed the Committee that there are 353 disputes including the recent impasse concerning the enstoolment of a Ga-Mantse currently pending. According to him, there are well defined structures at the Ministry to resolve such conflicts. These he stated includes



the Traditional Councils, the National and Regional House of Chiefs and expressed confidence in the existing structures in dealing with the disputes. He indicated lack of resources as the major constraint to effective functioning of the Judicial Committees and accordingly pledged his commitment to look for more resources to support the work of those bodies.

### **Involvement of Chiefs in Active Politics**

The attention of the nominee was drawn to the violation of the provisions of the Article 276 of the 1992 Constitution by some chiefs and sought his opinion on this increasing development. In reaction to the concern expressed by the Committee, the nominee indicated awareness of the matter and described it as an unfortunate development. The nominee suggested two ways of dealing with the matter. He suggested instituting what he called a “Royal College” where the chiefs would be taken through appropriate education programmes to constantly appreciate the need to remain neutral in politics. He also informed the Committee that, the National House of Chiefs, under the presidency of Prof. Nabila, has developed a code of ethics for all chiefs and would facilitate the implementation of the said ethics.

### **Integration of Cultural Values into National Development Planning**

In reference to Article 39 (1) of the 1992 Constitution, the nominee was asked how he intends to operationalize the integration of cultural values into the national development planning as provided by the said provision. In an answer to the question, the nominee informed the Committee that some initiative in that regard has already begun and would collaborate with the chiefs and other state actors to implement those laudable ideas. He also pledged to institute what he called “Royal Visits” to constantly dialogue with the chiefs on how to work together to promote national growth and development.

### **Possible Attempts to Regulate Activities of Religious Bodies**

In an answer to a question as whether the government intends to regulate religion by way of legislation or policy given the new designation of ‘**Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs**’, the nominee informed the Committee that the government acknowledged the fact that Ghana is a circular state and would therefore not interfere with the religious beliefs of Ghanaians. He indicated that the religious bodies have well organised groups

and therefore do not need control. He however indicated that government would implement policies to ensure that the fundamental human rights of the people are not violated by virtue of any religious practices. He also pledged to institute what he called Religious Consensus Programme to educate the public on the religious rights and freedoms.

### **Empowering Chiefs to Adjudicate Disputes**

The Committee sought from the nominee what he would do to empower Chiefs to be able to successfully adjudicate disputes. The nominee informed the Committee that there are Judicial Committees in all the Traditional Councils with the responsibility of adjudication of disputes. The constraints he noted were financial resource to support the work of the Committees and lack of requisite human resource with legal backgrounds. The nominee indicated his intention to recruit and remunerate legal officers to assist the work of the Judicial Committees.

### **Murder Incident Reported in the Nominee Residence in 2008**

The Committee observed that in 2008, there was a reported murder incident in the nominee's residence where a young man was reportedly killed by an unknown person. In reaction to the Committee's observation, the nominee indicated that the incident happened in his absence and currently he is not a party to the case. He declined to comment further on the matter because the case is currently pending before court.

### **Successful organization of Muslim Pilgrimage (Hajj)**

In response to how the nominee intends to sustain the successful organization of the Muslim Pilgrimage as observed during the last year, the nominee explained to the Committee that the major setback is poor planning which normally comes about as a result of late start of the planning. He informed the Committee that he was aware a Committee for this year's Pilgrimage has been inaugurated and would collaborate with that Committee to ensure successful evacuation of those who may wish to undertake such holy visit.

### **Gazetting and Payment of Allowances to Chiefs and Queen Mothers**

In an answer to a question on whether or not the nominee intends to continue the gazetting and payment of allowance to the Chiefs and Queen mothers, the



nominee answered in affirmative. He stated that currently the chiefs and Queen mothers receive GH¢500 and GH¢350 respectively as monthly stipends. He pledged his commitment to increase the allowance after further consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

### **Gazetting of Traditional Lineages**

The Committee sought from the nominee whether he intends to continue the programme of gazetting traditional lineages in terms of land ownership to avoid the land disputes in the country. The nominee answered in the affirmative and stated that the Research Department of the Ministry has done a lot of work on the code of succession of some traditional areas. He stressed that the code of succession for the peaceful traditional areas will be tackled first while still working on the less peaceful traditional areas. He also stressed the need to delineate the various traditional areas to avoid the situation where chieftaincy disputes ends up in land disputes.

### **Non-political Interference in the Enstoolment/Enskinment and Disenstoolment/Disenskinment of Chiefs**

On the issue of political interference in the Enstoolment/Enskinment and Disenstoolment/Disenskinment of chiefs, the nominee assured the Committee that his Ministry will do its possible best not to interfere with those aspects of the chieftaincy institution.

### **Royalties for the Chiefs**

On how his Ministry will insulate and protect chiefs from attacks from the youth in relation to the disbursement of revenue accruing from stool lands as stipulated by Article 267(6) (a) of the 1992 Constitution. The nominee reiterated the need for education to help people understand the disbursement of revenue of stool lands and to look up to the Assemblies for development not the chiefs. He however, stressed the administration of stool lands is under the purview of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and not Chieftaincy.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves **by consensus** the nomination of Hon. Kofi Dzamesi as the Minister responsible for Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs.

**13.0 HON. ELIZABETH NAA AFOLEY QUAYE -MINISTER-  
DESIGNATE  
FOR FISHERIES AND  
AQUACULTURE**

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**Background**

Hon. Elizabeth Afoley Quaye was born 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1970 at Nungua in the Greater Accra Region. She is also a native of Nungua.

The nominee had her primary education at Hams International School in Dansoman, Accra between 1978 and 1979. She obtained her Common Entrance Certificate after attending St John's Preparatory School, Accra between 1980 and 1984. She proceeded to the Chemu Secondary School, Tema from 1984 to 1989 and obtained her GCE Ordinary Level Certificate.

Between 1990 and 1992, the nominee enrolled at the Kwadaso Agricultural College in Kumasi in the Ashanti Region where she was awarded a Certificate in General Agriculture. She later attended the University of Ghana for her National Diploma in General Agriculture (2000-2002) and the Central University College, Accra for her Bachelor of Science Degree in Agribusiness (2009 – 2012). She is currently pursuing a Master of Philosophy Degree in Agricultural Administration at the University of Ghana.

Following the completion of her course at Kwadaso Agricultural College in Kumasi, the nominee was self-employed dealing in poultry and vegetable business (1992 -1995). In 1995, she was employed as a Technical Officer Grade II by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and rose through the ranks to become a Principal Production Officer. She exited the Ministry in 2015 to contest as the parliamentary candidate on the ticket of the NPP in the Krowor Constituency.

The nominee is currently the Member of Parliament for the Krowor Constituency (January, 2017 to date). In Parliament, she is a member of the Standing Orders Committee and the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology (January, 2017 to date).



In 1997, she participated in a course on Artisanal Fish Processing at the University of Ghana sponsored by the Government of Ghana and the Government of the Netherlands.

## **Responses to questions**

### **Construction of Landing Beaches and Cold Stores**

The nominee noted that the NPP administration was committed to fulfilling its 2016 Manifesto pledge of building fourteen landing beaches in communities such as Keta, Krowor and James Town. She said she has sighted contractual agreements regarding the construction of the landing beaches and cold stores as part a West African Fisheries Program. She promised to review the Agreements and ensure that the projects are completed within scheduled if she is approved by the House.

### **Improving Access to Premix Fuel by fisher folks**

On how he would improve access to premix fuel by fisher folks, the nominee said she was concerned with the difficulties with the supply of premix fuel in the country. She bemoaned the recurrent reports about the diversion and adulteration of the premix fuel meant for the fisher folks. She hinted of employing people who would monitor and coordinate the supply of the fuel to designated areas as part of measures to tackle the canker. Whilst encouraging the fisher folks to form watchdog committees to police the supply of premix fuel, she pledged to strengthen the enforcement unit of the Ministry if she approved by the House to ensure that the laws on the procurement and distribution of premix fuel are enforced. She also counted on the support of the National Security in addressing the challenge.

### **Measures to reduce the Importation of fish**

When asked about measures she will adopt to reduce the importation of fish into the country, the nominee attributed the situation to the huge fish production deficit of the country. She stated that the Ghana currently produces about four hundred and forty thousand metric tonnes of fish instead of producing about one million metric tonnes to meet the demand of the country. To tackle the production deficit, the nominee intimated that she will implement the Fisheries Management Plan to the letter if given the nod.

She added she enforced the observance of closed season for all categories of fishers to ensure the replenishment of fish stocks.

### **Resolving the difficulties in the acquisition of permit for Aquaculture**

On strategies she would employ to reduce the number of days spent in acquiring permits to undertake aquaculture projects, the nominee observed that current procedures does not augur well for the development of the sector as prospective investors are often frustrated with the processes. She promised if approved by the House to liaise with her colleague Ministers to establish an inter-sectoral committee involving the Environmental Protection Agency, Water Resources Commission and the Fisheries Commission to come up with structures that provide a one-stop-shop for permit acquisition.

### **Measures to eliminate light fishing**

The nominee expressed her disapproval of the rate at which light fishing was being practised in the territorial waters of the country. She explained that fisher folks who employs this method of fishing use aggregating devices and chemicals such as dynamite in order to capture more fishes. She averred that practice destroys the marine ecosystem and also poses a health risk to consumers and therefore needed to be stopped. She advocated for continuous retooling of the Ghana Navy in order to monitor and arrest those who do not follow the legal methods of fishing. She pledged to collaborate with the Naval Command to tackle the issue as well fast-track the devolving of the powers of the Fisheries Commission to empower citizens to arrest the offenders if approved by the House.

### **Regulating the Importation of Old Fishing Vessels**

On how she would regulate the importation of old fishing vessels into the country to ensure safety on our waters, the nominee noted that the situation was of concern to all stakeholders in the industry and attributed the challenge to Ghanaians fronting for foreigners. She promised to collaborate with the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority, the Ghana Revenue Authority and the Fisheries Commission to ensure that vessels imported into the country are



inspected for their sea worthiness before they embark on any fishing activities.

### **Establishment of Fisheries College**

The nominee lauded the initiative of the previous government to establish a Fisheries College at Anomabo in the Central Region to train Extension Officers. She said if approved by the House she will find out factors delaying the commencement of the College and provide the necessary policy direction in order to realise the objectives of establishing the College. She believes that when the College becomes functional, more Extension Officers will be trained to support the delivery of fisheries extension services in the country.

### **Avoiding European Union Ban on fish exports**

The nominee acknowledged the ban on fish exports by European Union had a toll on the economic fortunes of the country estimated at about US\$150million. On steps she would take to avoid a ban in the future, the nominee disclosed that after the EU ban was lifted, the Ministry developed a fisheries management plan to guide the industry. She added that the Ministry has also commenced processes to streamline the country's fisheries laws into a single law. She pledged to enforce the fisheries management plan if approved by the House and to also undertake legislative reforms to provide stringent enforcement mechanisms to deter illegal fishing activities in the country.

### **Alleviating poverty in fishing communities**

In relating to strategies she would employ to alleviate poverty in the fishing sector, the nominee disclosed she will institute educational programmes for the fisher folks to train them on modern methods they can adopt to improve upon their fishing businesses to enable them realise more income. She also alluded the commitment of government to establish fish production plants under its one-factory one-district policy as one of the steps that would create jobs and reduce poverty in the fishing sector. She promised that if she is approved by the House she will endeavour to convince private investors to partner the government in that regard.

## Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Hon. Elizabeth Naa Afoley Quaye as the Minister responsible for Fisheries and Aquaculture.

**14.0 MR. MUSTAPHA ABDUL-HAMID -MINISTER-DESIGNATE  
FOR INFORMATION**

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## Background

Mr. Mustapha Abdul-Hamid was born on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1971 at Tamale in the Northern Region.

He had his elementary education at Station Experimental School, Tamale from 1977 to 1982 and continued at Bawku Secondary School, from 1982 to 1987 for his 'O' level and later proceeded to Tamale Secondary School for his 'A' level from 1987 to 1989.

He also attended the Cape Coast University from 1991 to 1996 where he obtained Bachelor of Arts and Diploma in Education respectively. Mr. Mustapha further obtained Masters of Philosophy in Religious Studies in Cape Coast University from 1997 to 2003 and has been a part time doctor of philosophy (PhD) Candidate in Cape Coast University since 2012.

The nominee started his carrier as a National Services personnel in Nalerigu Secondary School from 1989 to 1990 and has worked in various capacities as a Teaching Assistant at Cape Coast University from September 1996 to December 1996. He was also an English Teacher at Saddique Secondary School, Agona Nyarkrom from January 1997 to June 1997 and client service Manager of Ghana Advertising and marketing Limited from July 2000 to January 2001.

The nominee also had a stint at E&C Global Limited from February 2001 to October 2001 as a strategic planning manager; and also as editor, High Street Journal from November 2001 to March 2002. He was also the Editor for the Statesman Newspaper from April 2002 to August 2002.



The nominee also worked with Choice FM, an Accra Radio station as News Editor from September 2002 to December 2002. He became the Spokesperson for Presidential Candidate of the New Patriotic Party from June 2006 to December 2016 and a Lecturer at the Department of Religions and Humanities, University of Cape Coast from August 2009 to March 2014 concurrently with the Danquah Institute as Executive director from September 2013 to July 2015 and as a Senior Lecturer since April 2014 to date.

The nominee is a member of the African Association for the study of Religion (AASR) and Language Association of Ghana. He has also held Leadership position as the NPP National Youth Organizer from 2003 to 2005, Student Representative Council (SRC) President from 1998 to 1999, Local National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) Secretary from 1993 to 1994 and Secretary Northern Student Union in Cape Coast University respectively.

### **Responses to Questions**

#### **Relevance of the Information Ministry**

When asked about the relevance of the Information Ministry, the nominee stated that the difference between free democratic societies and societies that are undemocratic and not free is that under autocratic societies information is controlled and for that matter citizens do not have access to government information's. Citizens don't have a way of giving government a feedback. According to the nominee our current democratic dispensation with regards to the Ministry of Information is vital and therefore gives timely, reliable, accurate and transparent information to the citizenry on the state of the nation and also receive feedback from the citizens which goes a long way to reshape government policy decision and direction.

#### **Modernization of Information Service Department**

The nominee reiterated that the department lack the modern tools and technology to be able to meet the best services globally and also carry out its core mandate effectively and efficiently. He informed the Committee that the department is the bedrock of the ministry and that when given the nod he will reengineer and retool the department so as to enable it work effectively and efficiently.

## **Status of Ghana Publishing Cooperation**

Mr. Mustapha bemoaned the current state of the Ghana Publishing Cooperation and stated that it is not in a very good shape due to the fact that it does not have the machinery and other relevant accessories to meet the current demand for both domestic and the global market competitiveness. According to the nominee, the cooperation is running on a three color printer machine but the current trend is five or six color printer. He assured the Committee that he will find the avenue to raise the needed funds to put its back on track when given the nod.

## **Digital Migration**

When asked about his view on the movement of digital migration from the Ministry of Communication to the his sector, the nominee stated that he is not abreast with the view as to whether it should be at the Communication or Information Ministry and informed the Committee that his main priority is to meet the September deadline for being completely digital. The nominee stated that he will collaborate with the Ministry of Communication so as to work in tandem to ensure that that there is no turbulence with the entire process.

## **Media Development Fund**

The nominee informed the Committee that capacity building is one of the major challenges confronting the media industry and lauded the initiative by the previous administration in establishing the Media Development Fund. He stated that since government is a continuous process he will commit part of the fund in building the capacity of our journalist within the media sector. In his view this will go a long way to ensure timely and accurate reportage within the media fraternity.

## **State of the Broadcasting Bill**

The nominee informed the committee that he has seen The Broadcasting Bill in its draft form and has been asking around to see where it is in the legislative mix but unable to find the answer. He assured the Committee that when given



the nod, He will ensure that the Bill is passed within the shortest possible time.

### **Media Censorship**

The nominee stated that the country has gone far with its democratic experiment and that it will be very difficult for any government to censor the media. He stated that the National Media Commission attempted through LI 2224 to bring in some regulatory frame work that will control the action and inaction of the Journalist and the court ruled in favor of the journalist .He therefore indicated that he will abide by the Constitutional Provision that allows Journalist unfettered freedom to do their work.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves **by consensus** the nomination of Mr. Mustapha Abdul-Hamid as the Minister responsible for Information.

## **15.0 CONCLUSION AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATION**

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

- i) **Hon. Catherine Afeku** - **Minister-Designate for Tourism, Arts and Culture**
- ii) **Hon. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu** - **Minister-Designate for Parliamentary Affairs**
- iii) **Hon. Prof. Gyan Baffour** - **Minister-Designate for Planning**
- iv) **Hon. Isaac Asiamah** - **Minister-Designate for Youth and Sports**
- v) **Mr. Awal Ibrahim Mohammed** - **Minister-Designate for**

- Business Development**
- vi) **Hon. Mavis Hawa Koomson** - **Minister-Designate for Special Development Initiatives**
- vii) **Hon. Boniface Abu-Bakar Saddique** - **Minister-Designate for Inner-City and Zongo Development**
- viii) **Hon. Cecilia Dapaah** - **Minister-Designate for Aviation**
- ix) **Hon. Kofi Dzamesi** - **Minister-Designate for Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs**
- x) **Hon. Elizabeth Naa Afoley Quaye** - **Minister-Designate for Fisheries and Aquaculture**
- xi) **Mr. Mustapha Abdul-Hamid** - **Minister-Designate for Information**

Respectfully submitted.

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

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

***FEBRUARY, 2017***