



**HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT  
OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL  
FREETOWN**



**THIRD SESSION OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC  
OF SIERRA LEONE**

**TWELFTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS  
AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE ON PARLIAMENTARY VETTING  
OF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service met on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015 to interview six Presidential nominees for appointment as follows:

- i. Board Member, Petroleum Regulatory Agency
- ii. Board Member, National Insurance Company
- iii. Member, National Standards Council
- iv. Two Members, National Commission for Privatization
- v. Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority

**2. PROCEDURE**

The Committee maintained strict consistency to its established procedure. Inquiring questions put to the nominees were related to their educational backgrounds, track records in pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a successful tenure. Unsuitability in terms of character to hold such high offices of State were very closely looked into.

**3. FIFTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015**

3:1 The following nominees were interviewed on oath:

i **Mr. Charles Mereweather Thompson -Proposed Board Member,  
Petroleum Regulatory Agency**

Charles Mereweather-Thompson is currently the Acting Chief Director and Professional Head, Ministry of Trade and Industry with the responsibility to plan, supervise and coordinate the activities of the professional arm of the Ministry.

In his interview, while Mr. Charles Mereweather-Thompson agreed with the Committee that the fall in the world market price of fuel was not adequately reflected in the pump price on the local market and that had invariably affected the market price of goods and services, he however said that the issue could be the subject of a Commission that should be set up by Government. "It will do this nation a lot of good if this Committee could commission a study into the matter."

Questioned on the requirements of the Board for setting up petrol stations Mr. Mereweather-Thompson said the basic criteria were that:

- i. the location of the retail outlet should not be close to a dwelling house
- ii. the handling of bulk petroleum products: petrol, diesel and gas should be contained in specified overhead or underground tanks. Underground tanks would however need to be specifically constructed by engineers of oil marketing companies "to avoid explosion."
- iii. there should be fire extinguishers"

ii. **Mr. James Ahmed Mahoi - Proposed Board Member, National Insurance  
Company**

Mr. Mahoi is a Trade Unionist and Member of the Education Board, Sierra Leone Labour Congress.

Reacting to probing questions, Mahoi said, "I will work together with fellow board members to make the National Insurance Company a credible company in the eyes of the public."

**iii. Mr. Solomon Rene Fofana – Proposed Member, National Standards Council**

Mr. Solomon Rene Fofana is a Lecturer who has served at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone from 1977 to date and is currently the Deputy Marshall of the University. He has also served as Chairman of the University Games and Sports Management Committee and Warden of Students, Fourah Bay College.

Answering to pertinent questions, Mr. Solomon Fofana said, "as the Committee may know, Africa has always been the dumping ground for sub-standard commodities because we do not have the mechanisms in place to test these commodities. I wish to thank His Excellency, the President for providing a piece of land for the Standards Council and UNIDO, for providing the testing equipment.

"If I am approved by this Honourable House, I will enforce standards by testing all goods coming into this country to ensure that quality control is maintained at all times. The people of this country, our youths are dying from expired commodities particularly drugs and the kind of cheap alcohol flooding the markets. Things are coming into the country that are not good for our own consumption. The public should be sensitized to know, appreciate and to cooperate with the Standards Council."

**Mr. Osman Abdal Timbo – Proposed Member, National Commission for Privatization**

Osman Abdal Timbo Esq. is a legal practitioner who is currently serving as Legal Consultant and Adviser, Public-Private Partnership Unit, Office of the President, State House, Freetown.

In response to pertinent questions Osman Abdal Timbo, identified two important functions of the National Commission for Privatization and these, he said, were:

- i. To divest or sell government assets
- ii. To reform enterprises that are not up to standards.

Osman Abdal Timbo opined that the reason for privatization is because Government is not a good business man. Sometimes, he said, it is better to divest or to even go into Public Private Partnerships. "My role on the Board is

to give legal advice on how to go about divesting these properties. Secondly and more importantly, I would be there to advise on reforms that would give value for money when the enterprise is up for sale. The Twenty-four public enterprises that are under the Commission cannot all be sold; because if we sell them in their present state the Commission will sell them at a loss. Therefore we need to reform them, get them to a certain level and sell them later.”

**Mr. Frederick Alfred Jones - Proposed Member, National Commission for privatization**

Mr. Frederick Jones is a Civil and Structural Engineer with over thirty-five years of work experience. He is currently a retainer for structural works, Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure

Answering to the Committee’s inquiries, Mr. Fredrick Jones said, “as a technocrat, I hope to assist the Chairman on technical issues pertaining to both parastatals and governmental institutions, because I have had practical work experience in dealing with nearly all of them. As a Structural Engineering Consultant, I think I can render my expertise to the Commission for the benefit of Sierra Leone.

**Mrs. Ayodele Wak-Williams – Proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority**

Ms. Ayodele Wak-Williams has spent the better part of her working life in the hospitality and tourist industry in the United States of America and major hotels in Sierra Leone. She owns and manages her own company, Del-Wak Agencies, which specialises in Tourism, Real Estate, and Property Management/Developer. Ms. Ayodele Wak-Williams was (2001-2005) a Member Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture.) with the oversight responsibility for setting up the Sierra Leone National Committee for Africa Growth Opportunity Act.

Reacting to the Committee’s inquiries about what value she would add to the Sierra Leone Port Authority, Ms. Ayodele Wak-Williams said that she had observed some serious lapses in the security sector of the Port Authority.

“If I am approved by this Honourable House, I will endeavour to work with fellow Board members to upgrade the security sector of the Sierra Leone Port Authority

to international standards equipped with closed circuit cameras to surveillance movements within the entire port facility. Secondly, I will ensure that the administration of the Port Authority keep proper records of all transactions.”

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominees to be adequately qualified for their proposed appointments and are recommended to the House for approval:

- i. Mr. Charles Mereweather Thompson – Board Member, Petroleum Regulatory Agency
- ii. Mr. James Ahmed Mahoi- Board Member, National Insurance Company
- iii. Mr. Solomon Rene Fofana- Member, National Standards Council
- iv. Mr. Osman Abdal Timbo – Member, National Commission for Privatization
- v. Mr. Frederick Alfred Jones - Member, National Commission for Privatization
- vi.** Ms. Ayodele Wak-Williams-Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Twelfth Report is the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Twelfth Report of the Third Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Hon. Ibrahim R. Bundu

Chairman

Date.....



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OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL  
FREETOWN**



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**SECOND SESSION OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND  
REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE IN COMMITTEE  
ROOM NO.1, PARLIAMENT BUILDING, ON FRIDAY  
8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015 AT 11:00 A. M.**

1. **Prayers** - Members observed a moment of silent meditation.

2. **Attendance**

**2.1 The following Members of the Committee were present.**

- i. Hon. Ibrahim Bundu - **Chairman.**
- ii. Hon. Leonard S. Fofanah
- iii. Hon. Augustine B. Torto
- iv. Hon. Ansumana Karkai
- v. Hon. Amadu Kanu
- vi. Hon. Claude D. M. Kamanda
- vii. Hon. Benneh Bangura
- viii. Hon. Komba E. Koedoyoma
- ix. Hon. Brimah Conteh

**2.2 The following Members of the Committee were absent:**

- x. Hon. Bliss Osho Williams
- xi. Hon. P. C. Brima V.S. Kebbie

- xii. Hon. Chernor R. M. Bah
- xiii. Hon. Veronica K. Sesay
- xiv. Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai
- xv. Hon. Mabinty Funna
- xvi. Hon. Sidi Mohamed Tunis

**3. PUBLIC HEARING** - Hearing was open to the public and the press.

**4. Consideration of Presidential nominations for appointments as listed:**

5:1 The following nominees were interviewed on oath:

- i. Mr. Charles Mereweather Thompson –Proposed Board Member, Petroleum Regulatory Agency
- ii. Mr. James Ahmed Mahoi- Proposed Board Member,National Insurance Company
- iii. Mr. Solomon Rene Fofana- Proposed Member, National Standards Council
- iv. Mr. Osman Abdel Timbo – Proposed Member, National Commission for Privatization
- v. Mr. Frederick Alfred Jones -Proposed Member, National Commission for Privatization
- vi. Ms. Ayodele Wak-Williams-Proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority

**6. Closed Session**

6:1 The Committee unanimously accepted the nomination of all the six candidates interviewed.

The Committee rose at 2: 55 p.m.

Peter J. Kulagbanda

Director of Committees