



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



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

**TWENTIETH 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, alive to its Constitutional duties, met on Tuesday, 15th and Wednesday 16th September, 2015 to interviewed ten Presidential nominees for appointments as follows:-

- i. Sierra Leone Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal
- ii. Chairman Teaching Service Commission
- iii. Board Member, SIERRATEL
- iv. Member, Income Tax Board of Appellate Commissioners
- v. Board Member, Sierra Leone Housing Corporation.
- vi. Member, Minerals Advisory Board
- vii. Member National Commission for Privatization
- viii. Member, National Telecommunication Commission (NATCOM)
- ix. Two Board Members, Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO)

2. PROCEDURE

The Committee conducted the hearings within its set framework of procedures. The nominees were interviewed on issues pertaining to their educational background so as to ensure that they have the relevant education and necessary

backup experience to man such important offices of state. Further probing questions put to the nominees covered wide ranging issues relating to their track records in pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their vision for a nationally productive tenure.

3. **TWENTY- FOURTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2015**

3:1 The following nominees were interviewed on oath:

i. **Dr. Ebum Strasser-King (Mrs.) - Proposed Sierra Leone Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal.**

Dr. Ebum Strasser-King is the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. She had studied and practiced Law in the United States of America before returning home to Sierra Leone in 2010.

Answering to probing questions, Dr. Ebum Strasser-King said, "I'm very excited about my nomination because it is a demonstration of His Excellency, the President's continued confidence in me. I believe this is another opportunity for me to continue serving His Excellency's Government and the people of this country. I promise to put the national interest above all considerations and to work to the best of my ability."

ii. **Dr. Staneala Madie Beckley – Proposed Chairperson Teaching Service Commission.**

Dr. Staneala M. Beckley is a veteran Educationist of repute. Dr. Beckley started her working life with the noble profession, teaching of English and French at the Collegiate Boys School. (1969-1971)

1981-1991- she was Head of the French Department at the Milton Margai Teachers College, Goderich, Freetown;

1991-1995 she was Chief of Education, UNICEF Nigeria Country Office;

1995-2001 she was Chief of Education, UNICEF Pakistan Country office;

2001-2005 she was UNICEF Regional Chief of Education for the Middle East, and North Africa

2005-2008 she was UNICEF Regional Chief of Education for West and Central Africa;

2008- Retired from UNICEF but was appointed Interim Chief of Education, Iraq

Reacting to the Committee's inquiries, Dr. Staneala Beckley outlined a number of strategies to establish the Teaching Service Commission on a very sound footing that would enhance the service delivery system in all schools, nationwide. "I will reinforce that by holding regular consultations with teachers and other education authorities to chart the way forward and to find sustainable solutions to the challenges facing the educational system. This, I believe, will enhance service delivery for a better education in our Country," she said.

iii. Hon. Alhaji Alie Badarah Sheriff – Proposed Board Member – SIERRATEL

Hon. Alhaji Alie Badarah Sheriff is a former Member of Parliament (2002-2007) who had previously served in several institutions in the Country.

Responding to the Committee's inquiries, Hon. Alie Sheriff said that he viewed his nomination as another wake-up call to national duty and " if I obtain the approval of this Honourable House, I will bring to bear my experience and ideas in marketing for the development of SIERRATEL," he said.

iv. Mr. Christo Johnson – Proposed Member, Income Tax Board of Appellate Commissioners.

Mr. Christo Johnson is a veteran journalist who has spent the better part of his working life in that field of endeavor. Mr. Johnson has worked with reputable international Media houses like:

- i. United Press International (UPI) America
- ii. B.B.C, Focus on Africa

- iii. Spanish News Agency (EFE) Spain
- iv. Reuters News Agency – (British) etc,

Mr. Johnson is a founding member of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, (SLAJ) and is the current Chairman of the Veteran Journalists Union (VeJU)

Answering to the Committee's enquires, Mr. Christo Johnson said, "I have read through the 'Income Tax Board of Appellate Commissioners Act.' This is a Board that is established under the Income Tax Act. The Act empowers the Board to serve as a court that hears Income Tax appeals from business people so affected and the Chairman has the power to appoint sub-Committees." The Income Tax Board of Appellate Commissioners, he said, is not however well known to the public. "I think that is where I will step in to sensitize the public about the Board and its functions."

v. Mr. Emmanuel Tarmoh – Proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Housing Corporation (SALHOC)

Mr. Emmanuel Tarmoh is a middle level Financial Service Officer who has served without blemish in a number of Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the country.

Answering to probing questions, Mr. Tarmoh said, "I know that this country has made provision for Low-Cost Housing Schemes. I want to assure you that I am going to make it my business to look at the Housing Corporation Act that was passed by this Honourable House and ensure that its provisions are implemented to the letter. I will work collaboratively with colleague Board Members to find sustainable solutions to the challenges facing SALHOC."

vi. Mr. Abu B. Tarawalie - Proposed Member, Minerals Advisory Board

Mr. A. B. Tarawalie is a professional Accountant and the current Manager and Head of the "Extractive Industry Revenue Unit" of the National Revenue Authority (2014 – date.)

Reacting to the Members inquiries, Mr. Tarawalie said, "as a chartered Accountant and Head of the Extractive Unit of the NRA, I believe that my membership will help the board to make enlightened decisions."

4 TWENTY- FIFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2015

4:1 The following nominees were interviewed on oath:

i. Ing. Gertrude Sara Trudy Morgan – Proposed Member National Commission for Privatization

Gertrude Trudy Morgan is a Chartered Engineer with over 20 years of work experience on project based assignments in the construction industry affecting health, transportation, hotels etc and in delivering project management expertise to public sector clients.

Trudy is currently an Associate Director with Turner & Townsend, a project Management Consultancy in London, UK, where she leads teams on several multi-million pound assignments. She is currently on sabbatical working on the 70 million US\$ design and construction of the new Cape Sierra Hilton Hotel in Freetown. While in Sierra Leone, she has been engaged with the World Bank in developing a programme to address urban services within the capital city of Freetown.

Responding to probing questions, Ing. Trudy Morgan said that she has read through the 'National Commission for Privatization Act' and a few articles that highlight the challenges of the Commission. As much as Government position is to divest itself of Companies that are causing it to lose money, she said, some of the companies however only have management issues that could be resolved by putting in place the right caliber of people. Some other companies, she went on,

are however difficult to divest because prospective investors do not consider them sufficiently attractive. "I do not have adequate knowledge of any of these companies to tell which to divest. I hope to draw on my experience in business to help with whatever policies that are needed in that direction," she said.

Questioned on the Cape Sierra Hilton Hotel project, Ing Trudy Morgan said that the project is being developed for Sierra Leone by a Company called IDEA UK. "Cape Sierra Hilton Hotel project is a great asset to our country because it is being designed and built by Sierra Leoneans for Sierra Leone. The limitation we have is capital. We have external funds from Ecobank and other foreign banks like the 'First Bank of Nigeria. The hotel was initially meant to be a business hotel but because of its beautiful location, the Hilton Vice-President said it cannot only be a business hotel but a business hotel in a resort setting. Consequently, we will have the opportunity to use it to attract tourists into Sierra Leone. The timeline for the completion of the project is the end of December 2016," she said.

ii. Mr. Samuel Augustus Turay – Proposed Board Member SALWACO

Mr. Turay has been involved in local Government Administration in the Bombali District for the period spanning 1970 to date; He is currently the Bombali District Central Chiefdom Administrative Clerk (CCAC) 1990 – date.

Answering to the Committee's inquiries, Mr. Samuel Turay said, "if I obtain the blessings of approval of this honourable House, I will make it a point of duty to sensitize the people of Makeni about SALWACO and its activities. I will also work collaboratively with my colleague board members to ensure that we find sustainable solutions to the challenges of the company."

iii. Ms. Sonia Osho-Williams – Proposed Member, NATCOM

A Barrister-At-Law, Sonia Osho-Williams is a dedicated, efficient and adaptable person with vast experience and demonstrated career progress in project management and legal consultancy. She is currently the Acting Executive Director, **AdvocAid Sierra Leone**, an organization that helps women who come into conflict with the law and she has consistently served that organization since January 2012.

Responding to the Committee's inquiries, Ms. Sonia Osho-Williams had this to say: " I am an individual who believes in respecting and upholding people's rights in general. When I got the letter nominating me as a Board member, I must admit that though it is outside my professional zone, I was quite ecstatic because I have always wanted to be part of an institution that actually bridges the divide. In terms of Telecommunications in this Country, NATCOM is an institution that makes modern communication accessible to citizens. For me being part of that institution, I knew I could bring in my legal expertise because as a lawyer, I need to be generic in my practice. I believe that Telecommunication is one of the tools of economic development for this country. I also believe that I have a lot to bring to NATCOM and I assure you, I will not be a silent board member; I will always have something to say. I will definitely utilize what knowledge and skills I have for the success of NATCOM. In areas that are alien to me, I will do my research as I am always willing to learn. I was raised to believe that you do not venture into unknown territory without being sufficiently prepared and I can look straight into your eyes and say I'm prepared."

iv. Mr. Sidique Mansaray – Proposed Board Member, SALWACO.

A member of the noble profession, Mr. Sidique Mansaray has been a teacher at the TDC primary School, Rochen Kamandao from 1988 to date. He is also a member of the Mile 91- Yonibana water Management Committee (2014 to date)

Reacting to questions from the Committee, Mr. Sidique Mansaray said, "I will work hard with my colleague Board Members to ensure that pure and affordable drinking water is accessible to all in my community."

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- i. Mrs. Eburn Strasser-King (Dr.) - Sierra Leone Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal.
- ii. Dr. Staneala Madie Beckley - Chairman, Teaching Service Commission
- iii. Hon. Alhaji Alie Badarah Sheriff- Board Member – SIERRATEL
- iv. Mr. Christo Johnson - Member, Income Tax Board of Appellate Commissioners
- v. Mr. Emmanuel Tarmoh - Board Member, Sierra Leone Housing Corporation
- vi. Mr. Abu B. Tarawalie - Member, Minerals Advisory Board
- vii. Ing. Gertrude Sara Trudy Morgan - Member, National Commission for Privatization
- viii. Ms. Sonia Osho-Williams- Member, National Telecommunication Commission (NATCOM)
- ix. Mr. Samuel A. Turay –Board Member, Sierra Leone Water Company(SALWACO)
- x. Mr. Sidique Mansaray- Board Member, Sierra Leone Water Company(SALWACO)

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Twentieth Report reflects the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the Twentieth 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.....



**HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT
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 TWENTY-FOURTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE IN COMMITTEE
ROOM NO.1, PARLIAMENT BUILDING, ON TUESDAY
15TH SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 11:00 A. M.**

1. **Prayers** – Prayers were said by the Clerk.

2. **Attendance**

2.1 The following Members of the Committee were present.

- i. Hon. Ibrahim Bundu - **Chairman.**
- ii. Hon. Chernor R. M. Bah
- iii. Hon. Leonard S. Fofanah
- iv. Hon. Alhaji Ansumana Jaia Kaikai
- v. Hon. Sidi Mohamed Tunis
- vi. Hon. Claude D. M. Kamanda
- vii. Hon. Amadu Kanu
- viii. Hon. Komba E. Koedoyoma
- ix. Hon. P. C. Brima V.S. Kebbie

2.2 The following Members of the Committee were absent:

- x. Late Hon. Bliss Osho-Williams
- xi. Hon. Mabinty Funna
- xii. Hon. Augustine B. Torto
- xiii. Hon. Benneh Bangura

- xiv. Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai
- xv. Hon. Brimah Conteh
- xvi. Hon. Veronica K. Sesay

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

4. Consideration of Presidential nominations for appointments as listed:

4:1 The following nominees were interviewed on oath:

- i. Dr. Ebum Strasser-King (Mrs.)- Proposed Sierra Leone Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal.
- ii. Dr. Staneala Madie Beckley- Proposed Chairman, Teaching Service Commission
- iii. Hon. Alhaji Alie Badarah Sheriff- Proposed Board Member – SIERRATEL
- iv. Mr. Christo Johnson - Proposed Member, Income Tax Board of Appellate Commissioners
- v. Mr. Emmanuel Tarmoh – Proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Housing Corporation
- vi. Mr. Abu B. Tarawalie – Proposed Member, Minerals Advisory Board

5. Closed Session

5:1 The Committee unanimously accepted the nominations of all the six candidates interviewed.

The Committee rose at 3:25 p.m.

Peter J. Kulagbanda
Director of Committees



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

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE IN COMMITTEE
ROOM NO.1, PARLIAMENT BUILDING, ON WEDNESDAY
16TH SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 11:00 A. M.**

1. **Prayers** – Prayers were said by the Clerk.
2. **Attendance**
- 2.3 **The following Members of the Committee were present.**
 - i. Hon. Ibrahim Bundu - **Chairman.**
 - ii. Hon. Chernor R. M. Bah
 - iii. Hon. Leonard S. Fofanah
 - iv. Hon. Alhaji Ansumana Jaia Kaikai
 - v. Hon. Sidi Mohamed Tunis
 - vi. Hon. Claude D. M. Kamanda
 - vii. Hon. Amadu Kanu
 - viii. Hon. Komba E. Koedoyoma
 - ix. Hon. P. C. Brima V.S. Kebbie
- 2.4 **The following Members of the Committee were absent:**
 - x. Late Hon. Bliss Osho-Williams
 - xi. Hon. Mabinty Funna
 - xii. Hon. Augustine B. Torto

- xiii. Hon. Benneh Bangura
- xiv. Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai
- xv. Hon. Brimah Conteh
- xvi. Hon. Veronica K. Sesay

6. PUBLIC HEARING - Hearing was open to both the public and the press.

7. Consideration of Presidential nominations for appointments as listed:

4:1 The following nominees were interviewed on oath:

- i. Ing. Gertrude Sara Trudy Morgan - Proposed Member, National Commission for Privatization
- ii. Mr. Samuel A. Turay –Proposed Board Member, SALWACO
- iii. Ms. Sonia Osho-Williams- Proposed Member, NATCOM
- iv. Mr. Sidique Mansaray- Proposed Board Member, SALWACO

8. Closed Session

5:1 The Committee unanimously accepted the nominations of all the four candidates interviewed.

The Committee rose at 2:00 p.m.

Peter J. Kulagbanda
Director of Committees