



HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT
OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL
FREETOWN



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

**SIXTH 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 Monday, 4th April 2016 and interviewed six Presidential nominees for appointments as follows:-

- i. Minister of Finance & Economic Development
- ii. Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone
- iii. Minister of Internal Affairs
- iv. Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea
- v. Chief of Defence Staff of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces
- vi. Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Gender & Children's Affairs.

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 public office, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a successful tenure. Issues of unsuitability and unconstitutionality or otherwise were closely looked into.

3. SIXTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON MONDAY 4TH APRIL 2015

3:1 The following nominees were interviewed on oath:

i. Mr. Momodu Lamin Kargbo - Proposed Minister of finance & Economic Development.

Mr. Momodu L. Kargbo is a professional with over 36 years of work experience in areas relating to economic and social development with particular reference to financial management, structural reforms, expenditure control and management, revenue and tax policy administration and promoting micro-economic stability.

Mr. Momodu Kargbo has recently served in the following capacities:

2014 – date, Governor Bank of Sierra Leone.

2012 -2014, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and economic development.

2007- 2012, Deputy Minister of Finance and economic Development

Questioned as to why he was leaving the office of Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone contrary to the provisions in **Section 16(3) of the Bank of Sierra Leone Act, 2011**, Mr. Momodu Lamin Kargbo replied that he has resigned from the office of Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone, **in accordance with Section 16(2g) of the Bank of Sierra Leone Act, 2011**. He submitted evidence of his resignation to the Committee.

Asked to share his envisaged challenges at the Ministry of Finance with the Committee, Mr. Momodu Lamin Kargbo said that a review has just been concluded with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) highlighted budgetary gaps that were needed to be filled. "Our economy is import dependent. We need to take deliberate action to gradually diversify the economy so that basic food, which is fundamental to life, is available locally. Secondly, the issue of public financial management and discipline needs to be addressed," he said.

Questioned on the alarming fall of the Leone against the Dollar, Mr. Kargbo opined that we need to first understand the current economic situation of the country which is that, we import nearly everything we need. "That is the foundation of the current exchange problem," he said.

Mr. Kargbo recalled that Sierra Leone once had a thriving industrial estate at Wellington that was producing many things. Nearly all the industries have just died out. Bonthé, he said, once had a very thriving Piassava export trade that has also died out. "In the course of all those developments, importation have become the substitute. But the question is what do we export as a country? Nothing more than a few containers of timber and, even that is not on a sustainable basis. The exporters of our cocoa and coffee, because of some

agreements, do not surrender any foreign exchange to the Bank of Sierra Leone. These are the problems we face as a country," he said.

ii. Dr. Kaifala Marah – Proposed Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone

Dr. Marrah is an expert in public sector finance, macro-economic management, strategic leadership and change management with about 22 years work experience. He has served as:

2012-2016 Minister of Finance and Economic Development

2012. Chief of Staff, in the office of the President

Answering to pertinent questions on the health of the economy, Dr. Kalfala Marah said that " a team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had recently visited Sierra Leone to make an impact analysis. "After their assessment, they made a press statement to the effect that the Sierra Leone's economy was picking up."

"In 2015 the economy contracted by 21% from an anticipated growth of 11.3 % to a contracting point of 21%. That was as a result of Ebola. What has happened recently is that the economy is picking up. For this year, we are anticipating a 4.3% growth and we also strongly believe that it will continue on that trajectory," he said.

Questioned as to which sectors were contributing the most to the 4.3% growth in the economy, Dr. Marah said that Shandong, the iron ore mining company that replaced African Minerals, has started mining operations. In addition, he said, agriculture has also been doing well with the eleven major agricultural businesses in the country - direct foreign investments. Total investments level, he said, was about a billion dollars and it is hoped that they would continue. "Most importantly, is ICT, particularly the Telecommunication sector. A lot is happening in that sector as well."

iii. Major (Rtd) Alfred Palo Conteh – Proposed Minister of Internal Affairs

Major (Rtd) Alfred Palo Conteh served in the Sierra Leone Army (1976- 1992) where he rose to the rank of Major. He left the army in 1992 and went abroad in pursuit of his legal education. Returning home in 2007, he was appointed Minister of Defense 2007-2016. From November 2014 - March 2016, he was on a

special assignment as Chief Executive Officer to the National Ebola Response Centre.

When he appeared for interview, Major (rtd) Alfred Palo Conteh was greeted with an applause. Described as Deputy Commander-in-Chief or Field Marshall, Major (Rtd) Alfred Palo Conteh was commended for leading the nation in fighting a victorious war against Ebola. The crowd had already approved of him even before the interview.

Responding to the Committee's inquiries, Major (rtd) Alfred Palo Conteh promised "to work closely with all Departments and Agencies under my purview to further strengthen and maintain the internal security of this nation," he said.

iv. Major General John E. Milton - Proposed Chief of Defence Staff of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces

Major General John E. Milton is a professional soldier of high standing. He enlisted in the Army as a Cadet Officer in 1984 and rose through the ranks to his current position.

Following what transpired during the interview of Major (rtd) Alfred Palo Conteh, the Chairman of the Committee said, "if Major (Rtd) Alfred Palo Conteh succeeded, it was because he had the Army and the Police standing by him and giving him all the support he needed." Major General John E. Milton was generally commended for the role of the army, under his guard, in the fight against Ebola.

Reacting to the concerns of the Committee for the 'War- wounded' Ex-Service men, Major-General Milton deposed that immediately he took office, he held a meeting with the Heads of the war-wounded and had taken notes of their concerns. "As a matter of fact, we had discussed the issue with His Excellency, the President and the President had manifested a lot of interest in the matter. The war-wounded group needs to exercise a little bit of patience. A team has been put together to prepare a document on the war-wounded. Once the document is prepared, the Office of National Security (ONS) would be called upon to certify it and we go back to H. E. the President for necessary orders."

v. Ms Mabinty Daramy – Proposed Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea

Ms Mabinty Daramy is currently the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry who has served the Government of Sierra Leone as follows:

- i. 2007 -2013 Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry
- ii. 2013 – 2015 Deputy Minister of Finance
- iii. 2015-2016 - Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry

Responding to the Committee's inquiries, Ms Mabinty Daramy said, "I will do my best to sustain and promote the existing bilateral relationship between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Republic of Guinea. I will also explore the possibilities for increased trade, cultural and economic opportunities for the mutual benefits of our two sister countries."

vi. Ms. Rugiatu Neneh Turay – Proposed Deputy Minister of Social Welfare Gender & Children's Affairs.

Ms. Rugratu Neneh Turay is a Civil Society activist who has founded Civil Society Organisations in Sierra Leone and in the Republic of Guinea. She had previously served as a teacher and Councilor, Ward 72 and as Deputy Chairman of the Port-Loko District Council (2008-2012) She is currently the National Coordinator, Amazonian Initiative Movement. (2012-date)

Responding to Members' inquiries, Ms. Rugratu Neneh Turay said that she was well aware that she was going to a Ministry that is close to the hearts and minds of Sierra Leoneans. "Gender, is about men and women and I am going to give equal priority to both men and women," she said.

**4. EXCERPT FROM THE FOURTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE**

i. Dr. Christiana Thorpe – Proposed Deputy Minister of Education Science and Technology

Dr. Christian Thorpe is a veteran educationist of the Forum for African Women Educationalist (FAWE) fame. In 2005, she was appointed Chief Electoral Commissioner of Sierra Leone and was reappointed for a second term in June, 2010.

Commenting on her transition from the National Electoral Commission to her new assignment as Deputy Minister of Education Science and Technology, Dr. Christiana Thorpe said, "it is like going back home. People are usually happy to

go back home. When you have a house that needs renovation, you will be happy to go and do it in whatever capacity. We are now in the period of post-Ebola recovery and there are various recovery programmes including the education sector. I hope I will be able to assist with improving learning outcomes in our schools and other educational institutions. I think our school going children must leave school with some knowledge. The two pillars that should be attended to are improved learning outcomes and school feeding for this post-Ebola recovery period. I hope that by the time we finish this emergency period in June 2017, the education sector would have been on a firm foundation for our children to be able to compete at any level anywhere in the world. I only want to give my little expert knowledge to help develop the nation.

Dr. Christiana Thorpe absolutely denied currently holding any office in the National Electoral Commission.

5. **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. Mr. Momodu Lamin Kargbo – Minister of Finance & Eco. Development
- ii. Dr. Christiana Thorpe – Proposed Deputy Minister of Education
Science and Technology
- iii. Dr. Kaifala Marrah – Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone.
- iv.** Mr. Alfred Palo Conteh- Minister of Internal Affairs
- v. Maj. General John E. Milton – Chief of Defence Staff of the RSLAF
- vi. Ms. Mabinty Daramy- Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea
- vii. Ms. Rugiatu Neneh Turay- Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Gender & Children's Affairs

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Sixth Report reflects the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the Sixth Report of the Fourth Session **and the Excerpt from the Fourth Report** 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



**HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT
OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL
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**SECOND SESSION OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND
REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE IN COMMITTEE
ROOM NO.1, PARLIAMENT BUILDING, ON MONDAY
4TH APRIL 2016 AT 1:00 P. M.**

1. **Prayers** – Prayers were said by the Clerk.
2. **Attendance**
 - 2.1 **The following Members of the Committee were present.**
 - i. Hon. Ibrahim R. Bundu – Chairman
 - ii. Hon. Chernor R. M. Bah
 - iii. Hon. Leonard S. Fofanah
 - iv. Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai
 - v. Hon. Amadu Kanu
 - vi. Hon. Claude D. M. Kamanda
 - vii. Hon Abie Kaloko
 - viii. Hon Mabinty H Bangura
 - ix. Hon. E. K. Koedoyoma
 - x. Hon Jusufu Barry Mansaray
 - 2.2 **The following Members of the Committee were absent:**
 - i. Hon Patrick L M Kargbo
 - ii. Hon. Benneh Bangura
 - iii. Hon. Veronica Sesay

- iv. Hon Habib Mundu
- v. Hon PC Joseph Alie Kavura Kongomoh II
- vi. Alhaji Ansumana Jaia Kaikai

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

2. Consideration of Presidential nominations for appointments as listed:

5:1 The following nominees were interviewed on oath:

- i. Mr. Momodu Lamin Kargbo – Proposed Minister of Finance & Eco. Development
- ii. Dr. Kaifala Marrah –Proposed Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone.
- iii. Mr. Alfred Palo Conteh-Proposed Minister of Internal Affairs
- iv. Maj. General John E. Milton –Proposed Chief of Defence Staff, RSLAF
- v. Ms. Mabinty Daramy- Proposed Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea
- vi. Ms. Rugiatu Neneh Turay- Proposed Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Gender & Children’s Affairs

3. Closed Session

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

The Committee rose at 4: 15 p.m.

Peter J. Kulagbanda

Director of Committees

