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

## FIFTEENTH 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 for the Fifteenth sitting of the Committee on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014 and interviewed three Presidential nominees for appointment as:

- i. Minister of Energy
- ii. Deputy Minister of Energy II, Generation and Transmission
- iii. Member, Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission

#### 2. PROCEDURE

The Committee maintained strict consistency to its established procedure. Probing 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 of office. Unsuitability in terms of character to hold such high offices were very closely scrutinized.

## 3. FIFTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014

The following nominees were interviewed:

#### i. Mr. Henry Olufemi Macauley - Proposed Minister of Energy

Mr. Henry Olufemi Macauley is Sierra Leone's High Commissioner to Nigeria with accreditations to the Republic of Angola, Republic of Benin, Republic of Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic and ECOWAS. Mr. Macauley has significant experience in corporate business, development and international trade particularly in the West African subregion.

Responding to questions as to why he had chosen to give up an Ambassadorial position for that of a Minister of Energy, Mr. Macauley said that it wasn't an easy decision. "But I count myself





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lucky to have been given another opportunity by His Excellency, the President to serve my country in another capacity. "I think the Ministry of Energy is a significant cornerstone in the

'Agenda for Prosperity' and for moving this nation forward. And although I had lived and worked in Nigeria before my appointment as Ambassador, I think it is time to return home to serve my country."

Answering to further questions, he said that while he was serving as High Commissioner in Nigeria and, knowing the importance of the power sector to Sierra Leone, he had taken the liberty to do some work on issues of power. Without an inkling that I would be nominated for the position of Minister of Energy, he said, he was only fascinated by the emergence of Nigeria from a long transformation process in the power sector, 'the Energy Sector Reform.' "As Ambassador then, I was invited to all the significant meetings, summits, and conferences that they had. And at this point I think a few things have to be put into perspective. The reform process of the power sector is not a short term exercise. The power sector transformation in Ghana started 30 years ago. Nigeria's power sector transformation started in 2002 and they have only managed to bring private investors on board. These are daunting challenges but I think the exposure that I have acquired would be helpful."

Mr. Macauley however believe that as a nation, we need to regulate our expectations while forging ahead to improve the power situation and keeping the long term view in focus. "I believe there is a managerial issue involved in bringing on board all human and technical resources to bear and I think I stand a good chance to be able to do that."

#### i. Mr. Hassan Barrie – Proposed Deputy Minister of Energy II, Generation and Transmission

Mr. Barrie is a professional mechanical Engineer/Politician. In the years 1978-1990, Mr. Barrie lived and worked in Liberia where he taught and worked for the Liberia Electricity Corporation. He returned to Sierra Leone in 1991 and in 1994, joined the National Power Authority. (NPA) He rose through the ranks and voluntarily retired in 2011 as Deputy Manager of N.P.A.

In his interview Mr. Barrie deposed that as the Deputy Minister in charge of electricity generation and transmission, he would be responsible for the supervision, at the Ministry level, of the production of power. That would mean, he said, "all the government owned generators in Freetown, including the provincial stations and Bumbuna, would be under my authority." Transmission, he said, would involve taking the light from the power-house along the high-





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voltage cables to the primary and secondary sub stations. "That would be the limit of my responsibility. Anything beyond that will be the responsibility of the other Deputy Minister."

On the issue of challenges in the generation of power, he opined that for the efficient operation of the generators, attention would have to be paid to the quality of fuel used. The characteristics of the fuel, he said, must be known and properly used to efficiently operate the generators without losses. Secondly, he said, the timely maintenance requirements of the generators have to be undertaken otherwise the cost of production would increase.

On the issue of transmission, he said, the current high losses in the system of 30-40% would have to be reduced. "These losses mean that if you are generating 10 Megawatts, only about 6-7 megawatts would reach the consuming public due to 3-4 megawatts losses along the transmission line. "We must therefore ensure that the transmission lines are very healthy, that they are of the right size and right type of conductors."

#### i. Mr. Andrew Karmoh Keili —Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Electricity & Water Regulatory Commission

Mr. Andrew Keili is an accomplished engineer and management executive with over 30 years of work experience in positions of increasing responsibility in private sector institutions, the public sector and in consultancy work. He has considerable work experience and involvement in the formulation and review of Government policies in the mining, environmental, infrastructure, water and electricity, technical feasibility studies, project management and technical training. Mr. Keili is Director, CEMMATS Group Limited.

Giving a professional opinion to the Committee's suggestion to break up the regulatory Commission into two components: one for electricity and another for water, Mr. Keili said, "your concerns are valid. I was involved in the formulation of the energy policy for Sierra Leone and also in the privatization of the electricity sector.... However, as much as that is a very big job, it would depend on how the regulatory agency is structured. You can have the Commission to provide oversight over two distinct sections: one dealing with electricity and another dealing with water. But I share your concern; I think it is a very valid concern. But be that as it may, I am only responding to what the law is at the moment."

Reacting to concerns raised that the native Sierra Leoneans' were most reluctant to pay for water; Mr. Keili said that statistics has shown worldwide that there is a general reluctance to pay for water particularly in developing counties. Mr. Keili however held the view that "as long as you provide efficient services and you are up front and honest with the people, I believe you can convince them to pay for the service.





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#### 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. Ambassador Olufumi Macauley Minister of Energy
- ii. Mr. Hassan Barrie Deputy Minister of Energy II, Generation and Transmission
- iii. Mr. Andrew Karmoh Keili Member, S. L. Electricity & Water Regulatory Commission

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Fifteenth Report reflects the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Fifteenth Report of the Second 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 Bundu Chairman





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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 TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014 AT 1:00 P. 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
  - ii. Hon. L. S. Fofanah
  - iii. Hon. Chernor R. M. Bah
  - iv. Hon. Claude D. M. Kamanda
  - v. Hon. Brimah Conteh
  - vi. Hon. Alhaji Ansumana Jaia Kaikai
  - vii. Hon. Benneh Bangura
  - viii. Hon. Veronica K. Sesay

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

- ix. Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai
- x. Hon. Augustine B. Torto
- xi. Hon. Sidi Mohamed Tunis
- xii. Hon. Amadu Kanu
- xiii. Hon. Komba E. Koedoyoma
- xiv. Hon. P. C. Brima V.S. Kebbie
- xv. Hon. Mabinty Funna
- xvi. Hon. Bliss Osho Williams
- **3. PUBLIC HEARING** Hearing was open to the public and the press.





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- 4. Consideration of Presidential nominations for appointments listed against their names:
- 4:1 The following nominees were interviewed:
  - i. Ambassador Olufumi Macauley Proposed Minister of Energy
  - ii. Mr. Hassan Barrie Proposed Deputy Minister of Energy II, Generation and Transmission
  - iii. Mr. Andrew Karmoh Keili –Proposed Member, S. L. Electricity & Water Regulatory Commission

#### 5. Closed Session

5.1 The Committee unanimously accepted the nomination of all the three candidates interviewed.

The Committee rose at 3: 30 p.m.

Peter J. Kulagbanda

**Director of Committees**