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

**FIFTH 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 the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 and interviewed Seven Presidential nominees for appointments as:

- i. Ministers and Deputy Ministers of State**
- ii. Director- General, National Minerals Agency**

**2. PROCEDURE**

The Committee strictly adhered to its established procedures. 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 and nationally productive tenure. Allegations of malpractices in public office and or unsuitability in terms of character to hold such high offices of State were very closely looked into.

**3. NINTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON MONDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY, 2013**

3:1 The following nominees were interviewed:

**i. Mr. Oluniyi Robbin Coker - Proposed Minister of Energy**

Mr. Oluniyi Robbin-Coker is an outstanding business professional with an admirable work experience in both the public and private sectors. He has a proven entrepreneurial track record, particularly while working with Citigroup Global Consumer Marketing in the United States of America. He has previously served as Private Sector Adviser to the President and Minister of Energy and Water resources.

Answering to inquiring questions about the objectives of the Ministry, Mr. Robbin Coker deposed that the objective has been to provide some amount

of electrification in all the district headquarter towns. "So far we have continued to build on what we have achieved in Bo and Kenema. We have been working on rehabilitating supplies in Moyamba and Pujehun. Makeni has the good fortune of being along the Bumbuna line and is fully connected. A mini-hydro project has been started in Port-Loko. We have generators awaiting the mending of the road to deliver to Kono. We are hoping to start some work in Bonthe and Kambia this year."

Questioned on the status of Bumbuna, he said, "I need to be very cautious in my response because there are some legal issues on which we are seeking advice from the Law Officers Department. On the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012, Bumbuna, which runs two turbines, experienced problems with turbine No.1 that resulted in it being shut down. This meant that we automatically lost 50% of the dam's generating capacity. Thereafter, we decided to monitor turbine No 2 which continued to operate. We however soon discovered that it was also beginning to manifest symptoms similar to those which had resulted in the shutting down of turbine No. 1. Currently, Bumbuna is operating at eight (8) Megawatts, which is the primary reason for the shortfall in our energy delivery at this point in time..."

**ii. Vandy Chidi Minah - Proposed Minister of Transport and Aviation**

Mr. Vandi Chidi Minah is a professional legal practitioner who has acquired a wealth of work experience in the United States and the United Kingdom. He has also served the United Nations' Missions as Legal Officer and Adviser in New York, East Timor, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sierra Leone. He yielded to the call of the President to serve his country as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, (2008 – 2010) and as Minister of Transport and Aviation. (2010 -2012)

Giving an opinion on 'Operation WID' in response to probing questions, Mr. Minah said, "Operation WID represents the effort of Government to address a long standing problem within the city i.e. the problems of congestion, the confusion as to who has the right-of-way, pedestrians, two wheel vehicles, four-wheel vehicles and other road users." The Ministry, he went on, was in full support of the operation because it has a role to play in the transport sector. "We have operators, especially the bike riders who have already approached the Ministry to see how we can support their effort to get their members to do the right thing. The Ministry has promised to support but impressed upon them that the right-of-way as determined by law and as supported by Government stands paramount. So while we are willing to collaborate and cooperate with them, we are not ready to abdicate our responsibility to ensure that the right-of- way is secured for all citizens."

On the issue of increase in license fees charged by the Sierra Leone Road Transport Authority ( SLRTA ), Mr. Minah agreed with the committee that it was illegal for SLRTA to increase those fees without reference to Parliament that has the ultimate power to increase taxes.

**iii. Mr. Martin Alex Bash Kamara - Proposed Deputy Minister of Energy**

Mr. Bash-Kamara has acquired a wealth of professional administrative and management work experience from diverse businesses and management outfits in the United States. Before his sojourn in the Diaspora, Mr. Bash-Kamara had served in Sierra Leone Civil Service as Assistant Secretary and Acting Students Secretary in the Ministry of Education. The nominee has also previously served as Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources. (2007 – 2012)

Responding to questions, Mr. Bash Kamara deposed that the objective of the Ministry was to deliver energy, particularly to the district headquarter towns to enhance the development of the country. The provision of energy, he said, was capital intensive but he believed that considerable progress has been made.

Answering to further questions, Mr. Bash Kamara said that “on the update, Kono is in the process of benefiting from the energy programme by the provision of six Mega Watts of electricity for the district. Work as I speak, is in progress. Poles have been provided and two machines of three mega watts each would soon be installed.”

Questioned on how soon Lungi would have electricity, the Committee was informed that two machines of six mega watts have been installed in Lungi. The transmission lines i. e. the high voltage and low voltage lines have been installed. A customer survey had been undertaken for 5000 customers that have opted to apply for pre-paid meters and arrangements were in progress to install those meters. “I believe that by March 2013, Lungi would have electricity.”

**iv. Mr. Lovell C. Thomas - Proposed Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Security**

Mr. Lovell Chandi Thomas is an Agricultural Engineer who has spent the better part of his working life in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. In 2007, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, a position he has held to date.

Reacting to the Committee's concern that he must be getting bored with the Ministry; Mr. Thomas replied that on the contrary he was very happy to be reappointed Deputy Minister to the Ministry of Agriculture. "For the past 25 years, I have worked in that Ministry as an Engineer and was later appointed as Deputy Minister to the same Ministry. For continuity, I understand that Ministry far better than any other Ministry. Hence I would be able to contribute a lot more. I have learnt a lot of lessons working in foreign countries that I could draw upon to help develop my country. I am very grateful to the President for the appointment. I am glad that I have been given the opportunity to continue the work that I have started."

**v. Mr. Sylvester E. O. Hanciles - Proposed Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Technology**

Mr. Hanciles is an Educationist who has contributed in various capacities to learning and development, particularly in Bonthe Island, where he was (1992-2009) Registrar and later the Principal, Bonthe Technical Training Institute. (Bonthe Tech) In 2009, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation, a position he has held to date.

Responding to Members concern about what he was going to do for 'Bonthe Tech' than any other institution, Mr. Hanciles assured the committee that "because I am now going to serve in a national capacity, my concern is not going to be focused on Bonthe Tech alone but on the whole spectrum of technical and vocational education nationwide. I believe there is more work to do in that area if we are really to make the progress we want to make as a country. 'Bonthe Tech' is, without doubt, going to be very close to my heart because I started it but my focus is going to be beyond Bonthe Technical towards the wider field of technical and vocational education in the country."

#### **4 TENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON MONDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2013**

4:1 The following nominees were interviewed:

##### **i. Mr. Sahr Wonday - Proposed Director General National Minerals Agency**

Mr. Sahr Wonday is a seasoned Mining Engineer with significant operational experience in mining and mineral processing specifically related to diamond and mineral sand i.e. Rutile, Ilmenite and Zircon.

Mr. Wonday had a brief four year sojourn with the National Diamond Mining company in Kono ( 1975-1978) before moving to the Sierra Rutile Limited where he has worked uninterruptedly for 34 years.( 1978- date) He rose through the ranks to the position of General Manager in 2009 from where he was further promoted as Director of Strategic projects. (2011-2012)

Questioned on whether Sierra Rutile mining communities were better off economically after decades of mining, Mr. Wonday replied that he would, with some reservation say "yes, they have benefited." The company, he said, has been providing employment and paying taxes and revenue to government which had benefited the people. The company has also been paying surface rent directly to the land owners, providing agricultural development funds, etc. The company has also provided a professional technical school to build the capacity of the indigenes for middle level jobs. "The benefits of mining outweigh the disadvantages."

The nominee promised to work to the best of his ability for the success of the Agency.

##### **ii. Mr. Alie Badara Mansaray– Proposed Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry,**

Mr. Alie Badara Mansaray has a strong professional background in developing strategies and operation plans, preparing and monitoring impact assessment plans and planning and managing livestock programmes. Mr. Mansaray has previously served as Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security. (2007- to date)

Reacting to questions on what he was taking to the Ministry of Trade that would be of help to him in his new assignment; Mr. Mansaray replied that he viewed his transfer as a challenge, "...being an agriculturist by discipline and experience. It is an exciting challenge I am looking forward to. With the experience I have gathered in the last five years in building up small scale

farmers, I would be going to the Ministry of Trade to translate the efforts we have nurtured in the Ministry of Agriculture to build the capacity of small farmers, and to transform them into commercial farmers.”

Propounding, Mr. Mansaray made particular reference to the Agricultural Business Centers (ABCs). “They are meant to serve as a nucleus for small holder farmers to be able to produce, add value to their produce, store them properly and open up marketing channels. They are operated and owned by farmer based organizations. My movement from Agriculture to Trade would of course give me more interest in working with the Ministry of Agriculture to make these entities viable and functional.”

## **5. RECOMMENDATION**

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. Oluniyi Robbin-Coker, Minister of Energy
- ii. Mr. Vandy Chidi Minah, Minister of Transport and Aviation
- iii. Mr. Lovell Chandi Thomas, Deputy Minister of Agri. & Food Security
- iv. Mr. Martin Alex Bash Kamara, Deputy Minister of Energy
- v. Mr. Sylvester Earl Osmond Hanciles, Deputy Minister of Education,  
Science and Technology
- vi. Mr. Alie Badara Mansaray, Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry and
- vii. Mr. Sahr Wonday, Director General, National Minerals Agency

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

Hon. S. B. B. Dumbuya  
Chairman

Date.....

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

**MINUTES OF THE NINTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE IN COMMITTEE  
ROOM NO.1 PARLIAMENT BUILDING ON MONDAY  
21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2013 AT 11:00 A. M.**

1. **Prayers** - Members prayed in silence
2. **Attendance**
  - 2.1 All Members of the Committee were present.
    1. Hon. S. B. B. Dumbuya
    2. Hon. Chernor R. M. Bah
    3. Hon. Ibrahim Bundu
    4. Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai
    5. Hon. Alhaji Ansumana Jaia Kaikai
    6. Hon. Augustine B. Torto
    7. Hon. Mabinty Fornah
    8. Hon. Amadu Kanu
    9. Hon. Bliss Osho-Williams
    10. Hon. Dr. Matthew Teambo
    11. Hon. Benneh Bangura
    12. Hon. Alimamy Kamara
    13. Hon. E. K. Koedoyoma
    14. Hon. Alice Foyah
    15. Hon. Brimah Conteh
    16. Hon. P. C. V.B.S. Kebbie

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

**4. Consideration of Presidential nomination for ministerial appointment as listed:**

4:1The following nominee was summoned for interview on oath:

- i. Mr. Oluniyi Robbin-Coker - Proposed Minister of Energy
- ii. Mr. Vandy C. Minah - Proposed Minister of Transport and Aviation
- iii. Mr. Lovell C. Thomas - Proposed Deputy Minister of Agri. & Food Security
- iv. Mr. M. A. Bash Kamara - Proposed Deputy Minister of Energy
- v. Mr. Sylvester E O Hanciles – Proposed Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Technology
- vi. Mr. Alie Badara Mansaray– Proposed Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry,

**5. Closed Session**

- 5.1 .Mr. Alie Badara Mansaray, proposed Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry, was absent for the hearings.
- 5.2 The Committee unanimously accepted the nomination of all the candidates interviewed.

The Committee rose at 2:45 p.m.

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

**MINUTES OF THE TENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE IN COMMITTEE  
ROOM NO.1 PARLIAMENT BUILDING ON MONDAY  
28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2013 AT 11:00 P. M.**

1. **Prayers** - Members prayed in silence
2. **Attendance**
  - 2.1 The following Members of the Committee were present:
    1. Hon. S. B. B. Dumbuya
    2. Hon. Chernor R. M. Bah
    3. Hon. Ibrahim Bundu
    4. Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai
    5. Hon. Alhaji Ansumana Jaia Kaikai
    6. Hon. Augustine B. Torto
    7. Hon. Mabinty Fornah
    8. Hon. Bliss Osho-Williams
    9. Hon. Dr. Matthew Teambo
    10. Hon. Benneh Bangura
    11. Hon. E. K. Koedoyoma
    12. Hon. Alice Foyah
    13. Hon. Brimah Conteh
    14. Hon. P. C. V.B.S. Kebbie

2.2 The following Members were absent

- i. Hon. Amadu Kanu
- ii. Hon. Alimamy Kamara

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

**4. Consideration of Presidential nomination for ministerial appointment as listed:**

4:1The following nominee were interviewed on oath:

- i. Mr. Alie Badara Mansaray– Proposed Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry
- ii. Mr. Sahr Wonday – Proposed Director General, National Minerals Agency

**5. Closed Session**

5.1 The Committee unanimously accepted the nomination of the two candidates interviewed.

The Committee rose at 1:00 p.m.