



Parliament of Sierra Leone
Parliament Building
O.A.U Drive, Tower Hill
Freetown

Website: www.parliament.gov.sl



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

**FIRST 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 Tuesday 4th February 2014 and interviewed five Presidential nominees for appointment as:

- i. Ambassadors
- ii. Members, Boards of Directors of state institutions

2. PROCEDURE

The Committee adhered strictly to its established procedure. Probing questions put to the nominees were centered on their educational background, track records in pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a successful tenure of office.

3. FIRST SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2014

3:1 The following nominees were interviewed:

i. Mr. Soulay B. Daramy - Proposed High Commissioner to The Gambia

Mr. Soulay Daramy is a career diplomat of eminence. Entering the Sierra Leone Civil Service as an Administrative Officer in 1975, his enthusiasm, efficiency and commitment to work led to his rapid ascendance in the Foreign Service and his subsequent appointment as Chief Protocol Officer to two Heads of State. Mr. Soulay Daramy has a wealth of experience in diplomatic work and international relations. He has proven organizational management and development skills in designing and formulating bilateral and multilateral cooperation documents, opening of new embassies abroad and training of Foreign Service personnel.

Members of the Committee, across party lines, expressed fine sentiments and commendations for Mr. Daramy's diplomacy and professional efficiency in the foreign Service.

Reacting to the Committee's inquiries, Mr. Daramy deposed that he was well aware of the sensitive position of the Gambia in diplomatic circles. Mr. Daramy assured the Committee that it was probably because of that sensitivity that he was particularly assigned to the Gambia. "Because of my experience in diplomacy for the past 25 years and my interaction with



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particularly certain well-placed people in the Gambia, I believe I will be able to maintain the good relationship that has always existed between our two sister states for the mutual benefit of our people. God being my help.”

ii. Mr. Brima Acha Kamara- Proposed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Liberia

Mr. Acha Kamara is a retired Senior Police Officer. He was enlisted into the Sierra Leone Police Force as a Cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police. He rose through the ranks and retired as Inspector - General and Head of the Sierra Leone Police in 2010.

Responding to probing questions, Mr. Kamara prided himself to have had a very successful tenure as Inspector-General of Police. Giving an instance of his success, he said that “after the departure of the expatriate Inspector- General, Keith Biddle, there were a lot of criminal activities in the country. There were a lot of ex-combatants with weapons. The situation was very chaotic.” Mr. Kamara recalled that he held a press conference immediately after his approval by Parliament, where he promised to bring the situation under control. “I gave myself a hundred days action plan and within those one hundred days, no gun shots were heard in Freetown.”

Questioned on what he would be taking to Liberia, Mr. Kamara assured the Committee that he would be going with the enthusiasm to further strengthen and maintain the good relationship that already exist between the two neighbouring states. Mr. Kamara further promised to maintain an open door policy to the large Sierra Leonean community in Liberia and to work in their best interest to ensure that they live amicably in Liberia. “Above all,” he said, “I am appointed to Liberia with accreditation to the Ivory Coast. With my security background, I will closely monitor the security situation in those two sister states.”

iii. Alhaji Mohamed Sillah Kargbo - Proposed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Mr. Kargbo has, since the 1980s to date, been a very active player in the ruling party and has held very important positions in the party hierarchy. His recent positions included:

- 2007 - 2013 - Special Assistant to the President on Political matters, Office of the President, State House
- 2009 - 2013 - National Organizing Secretary (APC)



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2010 – 2013 - Coordinator, Sierra Leone Hajj Mission

Answering to probing questions, Mr. Kargbo adjudged himself to be suitably qualified to undertake the challenging demands of his new job. He assured the Committee that he would draw on his wealth of experience in public works, party and religious organizations and to work to the best of his ability for the realization of His Excellency, the President's Agenda for prosperity.

Concluding, Mr. Kargbo said, "I will be going to Saudi Arabia as Sierra Leone's Ambassador, to represent the Government and people of Sierra Leone. I will endeavour to maintain the existing good relationship between Sierra Leone and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the mutual benefit of our people. I shall endeavour to protect all Sierra Leoneans out there."

iv. Dr. Lansana Nyalley - Proposed Member of Council, Statistics Sierra Leone. (Rept. Eastern Region)

Dr. Nyalley is a former Deputy Minister of Education, Science & Technology, a position he held from 2007-2012.

Questioned on his preparedness for the upcoming census, Dr. Nyalley said he was well aware of the importance of reliable statistical data for planning and the challenges entailed. "I am fully prepared and ready to make my own contribution to ensure that Statistics Sierra Leone presents credible and reliable figures for the 2014 Census that would earn the respect and admiration of all," he said.

Dr. Nyalley said among other things that "...there is confusion between data produced by Statistics Sierra Leone, the Bank of Sierra Leone and the Ministry of Finance. We want to harmonize these by relying on a single methodology.... And rather than having Statistics Sierra Leone alone, we want to establish a statistics system in which international best practices and the fundamental principles of the United Nations are well embedded. We believe that this upcoming census, and any in the future, would have to inform and educate the masses. The people must know the importance of statistics, why they are to be counted and why they have to be honest in giving the figures. The schooling would have to be done so adequately that people would feel compelled to be counted and to be honest about it."

v. Mr. Francis K. Gbondo - Proposed Member, National Minerals Agency



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Mr. Gbondo hails from the diamondiferous Kono District, where he acquired a wealth of experience working with the National Diamond Mining Company (NDMC). Mr. Gbondo has also amassed a wealth of board experience serving as Board Member of various institutions in the country.

Answering to inquiring questions, Mr. Gbondo said that the National Minerals Agency is responsible for overseeing all mining companies in the country. He promised to ensure, with the cooperation of other Members, that Sierra Leone and its people benefit from their God-given mineral endowment.

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. Soulay B. Daramy - High Commissioner to The Gambia
- ii. Mr. Brima Acha Kamara- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Liberia
- iii. Alhaji Mohamed Sillah Kargbo - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- iv. Dr. Lansana Nyalley - Member of Council, Statistics Sierra Leone (Rept. Eastern Region)
- v. Mr. Francis Kai- Andrew Gbondo - Member, National Minerals Agency

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

Date.....



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**MINUTES OF THE FIRST SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND
THE PUBLIC SERVICE IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO.1 PARLIAMENT BUILDING
ON TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY 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 - **Chairman**
- ii. Hon. Chernor R. M. Bah
- iii. Hon. Leonard S. Fofanah
- iv. Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai
- v. Hon. Alhaji Ansumana Jaia Kaikai
- vi. Hon. Amadu Kanu
- vii. Hon. Bliss Osho-Williams
- viii. Hon. Veronica Sesay
- ix. Hon. Claude Kamanda
- x. Hon. Augustine B. Torto
- xi. Hon. Benneh Bangura
- xii. Hon. E. K. Koedoyoma
- xiii. Hon. Mohamed Sidi Tunis
- xiv. Hon. Brimah Conteh

2.2 The following Members of the Committee were absent:

- i. Hon. Mabinty Funna
- ii. 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 Ambassadorial



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and other appointments:

4:1 The following nominees were interviewed on oath:

- i. **Mr. Soulay B. Daramy** - Proposed High Commissioner to The Gambia
- ii. **Mr. Brima Acha Kamara**- Proposed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Liberia
- iii. **Alhaji Mohamed Sillah Kargbo** - Proposed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- iv. **Dr. Lansana Nyalley** - Proposed Member of Council, Statistics Sierra Leone (Rept. Eastern Region)
- v. **Mr. Francis Kai-Andrew Gbondo** - Proposed Member, National Minerals Agency

5. Closed Session

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

The Committee rose at 3: 15 p.m.

Peter J. Kulagbanda
Director of Committees