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

**FOURTH 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 16th and 17th January 2013 and interviewed eleven Presidential nominees for appointments as:

i. Ministers and Deputy Ministers of State.

2. PROCEDURE

The Committee maintained strict consistency to its established procedure. Inquiring questions put to the nominees pertained to their educational backgrounds, track records in pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a successful 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. SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 16TH
JANUARY 2013**

3:1 The following nominees were interviewed:

**i. Mr. Abdul B. Barrie - Proposed Deputy Minister of Works, Housing
and Infrastructure**

Mr. Barrie is a politician and private businessman with extensive entrepreneurial work experience in the USA, UK and Sierra Leone. He has previously served as a Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Infrastructure (2007-2012)

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

ii. Mr. Hadiru Ibrahim Kaloko - Proposed Deputy Minister of Local Government and Rural Development

Mr. Kaloko was a veteran Educationist of repute and has held the following positions in the field of education:

1970 - 1971: Pupil Teacher, Magburaka Boys Secondary School

1985 - 1997: Principal, Sierra Leone Islamic Federation Secondary School, Masiaka

1997 – 2003: Inspector of Schools, Secondary, Ministry of Education

2002 – 2007: Deputy Director of Education, North-West Region and later District Director of Education, Port Loko District

Responding to questions on the non-payment of salaries of Chiefdom functionaries nationwide, Mr. Kaloko admitted that it has been very difficult for Government throughout the last five years. Attempts, he said, had been made to solve the problem because it included the non-payment of salaries to Paramount Chiefs as well. "This situation has arisen mainly because their salaries are drawn from the revenue they collect and we had a very deplorable situation of revenue mobilization at the chiefdom level nationwide. So what we did was to persuade Government to allow the salaries of chiefdom functionaries to be charged on the consolidation fund." Responses from Government, he said, were favorable in that direction. Thus encouraged, the Ministry, towards the end of last year, had put up a case for the payment of a backlog of salaries for at least one year for the chiefdom functionaries. "I am happy to report that salaries for six months of that one year were paid to the chiefdom functionaries by November 2012. We intend to pursue the other six months salary this year and from henceforth, for the salaries of the chiefdom functionaries to be charged on the consolidated revenue fund."

iii. Mr. Ahmed Khanou - Proposed Deputy Minister of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment

Mr. Khanou has worked as a teacher at the Sierra Leone Grammar School (1996-2002) and the West African Examination Council (WAEC) (2002- 2010) where he rose to the position of Senior Assistant Registrar. In 2010, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment, a position he has held to date.

Responding to probing questions, Mr. Khanou deposed that he had specifically supported the Minister in putting together arrangements for the

successful management and administration of land in that Ministry. Their Work, he went on, had included the drafting of policies that would enhance an effective and efficient land management. "That policy is ready for endorsement by Cabinet for Parliamentary approval."

Mr. Khanou believed that the law has to be implemented for things to be done the right way. "I came to the Ministry from the West African Examination Council (WAEC). With that background, I believe that things have to be done with integrity, honesty and sincerity. If we do not bring sanity into land management then we stand the chance of creating a situation of chaos and anarchy in our country again. We are relatively better off than other countries where land management is a crisis altogether. Things are not still right but we have started to put structures, policies, legal instruments and necessary technology in place to ensure irrefutable registration of title deeds," he said.

iv. **Rtd. Major Alfred Palo Conteh – Proposed Minister of Defence**

Rtd. Major Palo Conteh is a veteran military Officer. In addition to his military training, he is a Barrister in Human Rights and Constitutional Law and has a wealth of work experience in the States of America. In 2007 he was appointed Minister of Defense which position he has held to date.

When asked about his contribution to the development of the Sierra Leone military over the last five years, he said he was proud to have been the Minister of Defence. The rapid transformation of the Sierra Leone Army, he said, was visible enough for all to see. Mr. Conteh outlined the following as some of his achievements:

- "Sierra Leone had not contributed to the united Nations Peaces keeping mission for 50 years. The last time we were out under the 'Blue Beret' was between 1960 and 1961. Now we have a company in Dafur helping to bring peace to that region. Hopefully, in the next few weeks, we will have 850 personnel going to Somalia to restore order to that war-torn country
- "Years back, there was only one agricultural Unit of the army at Makeni. Now, they have two others, one at Motobong in the Moyamba district and the other at Kolifam-Mabang in the Tonkolili district . With time, the army would be able to feed itself.
- An industrial tailoring Unit has been established at Juba barracks. We want to see the Army making its own uniforms to cut expenditures on

uniform. Plans are being made to make uniform for other forces and for schools.

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- He is currently pre-occupied with barracks accommodation which, he said, required a huge capital outlay. "Four hundred pre-fabricated housing units have been constructed at Benguema, Wilberforce and Murray town barracks. Other achievements included the rehabilitation of the 'other-ranks' Canteen at Benguema barracks, upgrading of the 34 Military hospital which is serving not only the soldiers but the local community as well, establishing a military Mortuary, upgrading the engineering Units of the army to start making feeder roads nationwide etc etc.

These, he said, were some of his achievements and he planned to do more for the army

v. Dr. Abu Bakarr Fofanah – Proposed Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation

Dr. Abu Bakarr Fofanah is a medical practitioner with an admirable background in tropical medicine. He has acquired a wealth of experience in the field of medicine, both in the United Kingdom, United States of America and Sierra Leone in the following capacities:

- 2009 – Date: Managing Director, Adding Years to Life Ltd, UK
- 2004 – 2007: Lecturer 1, COHMAS, University of Sierra Leone
- 2002 – 2004: Held Several Positions in the Ministry of Health including Medical Officer and Senior Registrar
- 2001 – 2003: Lecturer 2, COHMAS, University of Sierra Leone
- 1993 – 2001: Served the University of Sierra Leone in Research and Teaching Assistant capacities

Reacting to the committee's perception that he would be better placed in the medical field than in politics as a Minister, Dr. Fofanah deposed that in 2007, he was actually nominated for the same position. He had, he said, humbly declined the offer because he wanted to stay put in the medical field. "This is the second time I am being nominated for the same position. I consulted with my family and they said to me, 'look, you can't continue turning down a good and genuine offer forever, you don't know why the President keeps making the offer.' So I decided to give it a go and though I am entering politics, I want to continue teaching in the medical school, not for money though but a free service."

vi. Mr. Momodu Lamin-Kargbo -Proposed Minister of State, Ministry of Finance & Development

Mr. Kargbo is a professional Economist and Management Executive with extensive work experience in Projects Management, Rural Development and policy formulation, operation of financial institution and development of credit schemes geared towards poverty reduction among others. Mr. Kargbo is also held in high esteem for his cautious handling of the national budget at Ministerial levels and in dealing with multilateral and bilateral agencies such as IFAD, EU, World Bank. He has served Sierra Leone in the following capacities:

2007 – 2012: Deputy Minister of Finance

2004 – 2007: Private Businessman

1991 – 2004: Chief Executive Officer, National Co-operative Development Bank

1979 – 1990: Senior Agricultural Economist, National Authorizing Office

1978 – 1979: Project Officer, National Development Bank

Addressing the concerns of the Committee for the disrespect shown by the Ministry of Finance to Members of Parliament by treating them like daily wage workers with respect to their pay package of December 2012, Mr. Momodu Kargbo, "Honourable Members, I am fully conscious of the scope of government, the executive, the legislative and the judiciary arm's of government and each has enormous responsibility and commands respect. I cannot in any way think of treating Parliament with contempt. I have had the information that in the course of the adjustments for November /December of 2012, only six days of November was paid for. I cannot say here that, if approved, I will go to change the decision because there must have been some bases for that decision. All I can say here is that, if confirmed, I will carry the import of the message and how strongly you feel about it. I will relay the message to the Minister to see what could be done on the bases of the facts. If it becomes necessary for changes to be made them they would be made accordingly."

4. EIGHTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON THURSDAY 17TH JANUARY 2013

4:1 The following nominees were interviewed:

i. Mr. William Juana Smith - Proposed Resident Minister, East Province

Mr. Smith is a resilient and consistent politician whose unflinching loyalty to his party is widely acclaimed as unquestionable. In 2007, he was appointed Resident Minister, Eastern Province, a position he has held to date.

In his interview, Mr. Smith deposed that he believed that he had performed excellently enough as Resident Minister for the President to reappoint him to the same position. "Peace and Unity is the watch-word for my second term and I will endeavour to bring peace, unity and reconciliation to all people in the Eastern Province."

ii Mr. Arrow John Bockarie- Proposed Deputy Minister of Justice

Mr. Arrow Bockarie is a private Legal Practitioner in the Southern city of Bo. In 2010, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Justice and is being reappointed to the same position

Questioned on how he would like posterity to remember him in the light current widespread injustices in the country, Mr. Bockarie said, "I share your view and we do accept the fact that we have challenges in the Ministry of Justice but we are making desperate efforts in order to meet those challenges. We are trying to enhance the professional human resource capacity of the Ministry. Two years ago, there were only fourteen professional staff charged with the responsibility of manning the various Divisions of the Ministry. Now, we can boast of forty-four professional staff. I think we are on the right track in meeting these challenges."

iii. Mr. Sheka Tarawallie - Proposed Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs

Mr. Tarawalie is a journalist of no mean standard who has practiced his profession in diverse capacities in Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom. He was appointed Presidential Press Secretary(2007 – 2010) and later Deputy Minister of Information and Communication. (2010 – 2011)

Responding to questions of how his journalistic background was going to help him as a politician, he said that currently there was a war of words between the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ)and the police who were directly under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Mr. Tarawalie promised to use his journalist background to mend bridges to bring the Police and SLAJ together for a good working relationship.

On what he hoped to bring to the Ministry, he said, when the President had said that he would not encourage lawlessness in his second term, he had noted the enormity of the work involved in the fight against lawlessness and

indiscipline. When the President nominated me to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, I believed the President was asking me to help make Sierra Leone a lawful, orderly and structured society. It would not only be about "operation WID", it has to go beyond that to all facets of society so that we can restore law and order in Sierra Leone for prosperity to thrive. This I am prepared to do with diligence," he said.

iv. Mr. Foday Sawi Lahai – Proposed Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation

Mr. Foday Sawi Lahai has vast knowledge in Development Studies and Public Health Nutrition and has amassed a wealth of work experience in emergency relief programmes.

Questioned on how best he could influence the diet of the citizens of this country to improve on their health, Mr. Lahai said "I have been thinking very seriously about that. I have a whole strategy about what this country could do to be able to positively influence both the dietary practice and the nutritional value of the diet of this country. Beginning with the children in school, if we are able to influence them from that point, then this whole business of mono-diet of rice can be overcome by introducing other kinds of locally grown food and in the process create markets for them. In the process we could also change the long term food habits of those children. I have a whole concept on these, but I would not like to open them here because it would take too long to explain."

v. Mabinty Daramy - Proposed Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Development

Miss Mabinty Daramy has many years of managerial work experience in diverse areas, including retail, financial services and property management especially in the United States of America. She has proven ability in development strategies and achieving project goals. She was appointed Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry (2007 - 2012.)

Reacting to question, Ms Daramy said that she did not have an inkling of what her work in the new Ministry was going to be "but I know it is about money and I know how to handle money." From the Ministry of Trade, she said, she was hoping to bring over lessons learned from handling the fuel sector of the Ministry. She promised to draw on lessons learned for the success of her new assignment.

4. RECOMMENDATION

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. iv. Maj. Rtd Alfred Palo Conteh – Minister of Defence;
- ii. Mr. Momodu Kargbo – Minister of State of the Ministry of Finance & Economic Development;
- iii. Mr. William Juana Smith– Resident Minister, Eastern Province;
- iv. Mr. Abdul B. Barrie – Deputy Minister of Works, Housing & Infrastructure;
- v. Mr. Hadiru Ibrahim Kaloko – Deputy Minister of Local Government & Rural Development;
- vi. Ahmed Khanou -Deputy Minister of Lands, Country Planning & Environment;
- vii. Dr. Abu Bakarr Fofanah –Deputy Minister of Health & Sanitation;
- viii. Arrow John Bockarie - Deputy Minister of Justice;
- ix. Sheka Tarawalie- Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs;
- x. Mr. Foday Sawi Lahai – Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation;
- xi. Mabinty Daramy- Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Development.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Fourth Report portrays the collective view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Fourth 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 SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE IN COMMITTEE
ROOM NO.1 PARLIAMENT BUILDING ON WEDNESDAY
16TH 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. Abdul B. Barrie – Proposed Deputy Minister of Works, Housing & Infrastructure
- ii. Mr. Hadiru Ibrahim Kaloko – Proposed Deputy Minister of Local Government & Rural Development
- iii. Ahmed Khanou – Proposed Deputy Minister of Lands, Country Planning & Environment
- iv. Maj. Rtd Alfred Palo Conteh – Proposed Minister of Defence
- v. Dr. Abu Bakarr Fofanah – Proposed Deputy Minister of Health & Sanitation
- vi. Mr. Momodu Kargbo – Proposed Minister of State of the Ministry of Finance & Economic Development

5. Closed Session

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

The Committee rose at 3:45 p.m.

Peter J. Kulagbanda

Director of Committes

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

**MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE IN COMMITTEE
ROOM NO.1 PARLIAMENT BUILDING ON THURSDAY
17TH JANUARY 2013 AT 11:00 P. M.**

1. **Prayers** - Members prayed in silence
2. **Attendance**
 - 2.2 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
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 11. Hon. Benneh Bangura
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- iii. Sheka Tarawalie- Proposed Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs
- iv. Mr. Foday Sawi Lahai – Proposed Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation
- v. Mabinty Daramy- Proposed Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Development

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Director of Committees