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FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE
SEVENTH 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, in tandem with its constitutional obligations met on Tuesday, 10th October, 2023 and interviewed **seven** Presidential nominees for the following positions: i) the Chief Executive Officer of the National Public Procurement Authority (NPPA) ii) the Director General of the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) iii) the Executive Director, National Public Health Agency iv) the Commissioner, Youth Commission v) the Chairman, Monuments and Relics Commission vi) Chairman, Board of Directors, National Public Health Agency and vii) the Chairman, the Environment Protection Agency (EPA)

2. Procedure

The Committee maintained its usual consistency and established procedures and interviewed the aforesaid nominees on issues pertaining to their educational backgrounds to ensure that they have the relevant education and necessary backup experiences to lead such important offices of state. Probing questions covered wide ranging issues relating to track records pertinent to their declared assets, tax obligations and visions for sustainable and productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also strictly looked into by the Committee.

3. Ninth Sitting of the Committee on Monday, 10th October, 2023

The Committee interviewed the following nominees on oath:

1. Mrs. Musayeroh Barrie-Proposed Director-General-Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority

Mrs. Musayeroh Barrie is an adaptable, result oriented driven person with an outstanding background in Company Management, Business Development and Cross – Cultural expertise for conducting both local and international transactions. She is capable of managing supply chain disruptions and building relationships with relevant stakeholders. Prior to this appointment, she served as Country Director, Westminster Sierra Leone, an international security outfit of the Lungi International Airport that has given much safety credibility to the Airport by assessment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The nominee holds a Bachelor Degree in Psychology from Brunei University in the United Kingdom, a Master Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Leicester, UK and a Diploma from the Chartered Management Institute in Strategic Management and Leadership.

In her response to the Committee on what she would deliver at the Civil Aviation Authority, Mrs Barrie acknowledged that the Aviation Industry was a constantly changing world with emerging legal ramifications daily but was going with an open mindset to learn and work with the already established team to realize the expectations of the government

2. . Mr. Fodie Jangah Konneh - Proposed Executive Officer, National Public Procurement Authority-(NPPA)

Mr. Foday Janga Konneh is a renowned Accountant and Procurement Specialist with vast experience in management and policy relating to procurement and Supply Chain Management at local and Ministerial levels.

He holds a Master Degree from Robert Kennedy College, Manchester, UK in Procurement, Logistics & Supply Chain Management and a plethora of International accreditations at various learning Institutions worldwide on Procurement related Courses and trainings.

Mr. Konneh has worked with many government and Development partners with creditable reports. From 2014 to date he has been managing the procurement cadre of the central Government and Local Councils in assessing value for money in all procurement dealings.

In his response to the Committee, he said he was happy to have the opportunity to work at the regulatory body and emphasized that capacity building for staff across all sectors was key for both manual and automotive procurement solutions. On the issue of the Procurement Directorate in the Ministry of Finance, the nominee said it was a Civil Service creature that raised much concerns in 2016 but the NPPA still remains the regulatory body.

3. Prof Foday Sahr -Proposed Executive Director-National Public Health Agency(NPHA).

Prof Foday Sahr is a fine soldier, a renowned professor and a public health specialist with a plethora of proven scientific research records globally exhibiting astute competencies and exceptional management skills. He is currently serving as Head of Department of Micro-biology, College of Medicine and Allied Sciences, University of Sierra Leone. He is the Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of Sierra Leone.

He has 149 research publications to his credit and most of which he co-authored with Professor Aiah Gbakima ,the proposed Chairman of the Board of Directors for the National Public Health Agency .

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members the nominee outstanding research attracted world attention at the height of the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone, when he used the infected blood of Ebola survivor on Ebola patients who were in critical conditions and were later abled to recover.

Responding to the Committee on what he would be bringing to the NPHA, he said he was quite aware of the Health Sector and promised to work with the Board and health professionals to realize the dream of the Public health Act.

4. Prof. Aiah Albert Gbakima - Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors – National Public Health Agency(NPHA)

Prof. Aiah Albert Gbakima is a seasoned Lecturer and scientific researcher with vast experience in Molecular Microbiology and Immunology for decades in and out of the Country.

As an outstanding Lecturer and Researcher, Prof. Gbakima has involved in many WHO researches and training seminars globally in the field of disease control, preventions and other interventions.

Prof. Gbakima also served as focal person and consultant in key health institutions such as USAID, Global Fund HIV/ AIDS, West African Health Organization to address disease conditions of Malaria, Tuberculosis, etc and environmental water systems.

Apart from many volunteer and consultancy services, the nominee served as Country Director, USAID and provided training and supervisory role in making sure that staff safety and health conditions were maintained.

He later served as Minister of Technical & Higher Education Ministry from 2018 to 2021 to support and strengthen the technical and Vocational sector in the middle educational system to achieve human capital development and resourcefulness.

Prof. Gbakima is still recognized as a key corner stone in the Country's educational transformation system and health interventions drive for which this appointment in the Health Agency is like 'bringing the professor home'. He has done extensive research with his former student and now co-researcher; the current proposed Executive Director for the same Agency in question, Brigadier General Prof.Foday Sahr.

Responding to the Committee inquiry on his contributions to the NPHA, the learned professor said he would work with all professionals to build a strong public health structure in Sierra Leone.

5. Dr. Joseph Kaifala – Proposed Chairman , Monuments and Relics Commission

Dr. Kaifala is a Lawyer, Writer and Consultant in many freelance consulting services in the area of International Law and Human Rights. Mr. Kaifala started his early education at the Sierra Leone Grammar School and proceeded to acquire his Bachelor of Arts with Honours in French, Skidmore College, USA in 2008, MA International Relations, 2011 and Juris Doctorate , Vermont Law School United States , 2013.

He is an outstanding Writer with several Honours and awards internationally in the field of education, conflict resolutions, gender, human rights and hosts of others. The Committee was very interested in his passion for relics and monuments exhibited over the years especially when it was discovered that prior to this appointment, he was serving the principal for Centre for memory and Reparations is a transitional justice institution facilitating remembrance and collective narratives around the brutal Sierra Leone Civil War-1991-2002.He is currently the Director of **Joseph Kaifala Consulting** in the area of human rights and Justice.

From his considerable experiences in Project Management, the young educationist promised to attract world attention (especially UNESCO) to the rich and seemingly unnoticed Sierra Leonean monuments and artifacts.

6. Mr.Ahmed Atata Mansaray-Proposed Commissioner –National Youth Commission

Mr.Ahmed Atata Manasaray is a Barrister – at-Law and a communication expert with in-depth knowledge on policy formulation and implementation on youth's programs and plans for integration into the National Development Agenda. Prior to this appointment, he served as Field Manager, Ministry Youth Affairs where his key responsibilities were to plan field visits and projects and expedited monitoring activities of all projects..

The articulated lawyer promised to live to the expectations of his excellency in job creations and promised to challenge and rehabilitate youths engaged in drug abuses, wage war on drug dealers and reduce the increasing illegal youths migrations to foreign countries.

10.Dr, Abu-Bakar S Massaquoi- Proposed Executive Chairman Environment Protection Agency (EPA)

Mr. Speaker Honourable Members, Dr. Massaquoi, is a seasoned consultant and educationalist with admirable experience in environment and development as well as climate change phenomenon both locally and globally. Prior to this assignment he was a Consultant, policy and Institutional Analyst for Coastal Zone Management of Wetlands International Africa.

He has a profile of academic Degrees and research papers to his credit.

Dr. Massaquoi promised to strengthen the upward trajectory of the EPA's progress on Climate Change and environment protection as espoused in the Environment policies of the Country.

4. Recommendations

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominees to be adequately qualified for their proposed appointments and are therefore recommended to the House for approval:

- i. Fodie Jangah Konneh- proposed Chief Executive Officer, National Public Procurement Authority(NPPA)
- ii. Musayeroh Barrie- proposed Director General ,Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority
- iii. Prof.Foday Sahr - proposed Executive Director, National Public Health Agency
- iv. Joseph Kaifala- proposed Chairman, Monuments and Relics Commission
- v. Prof Aiah Gbakima –proposed Chairman ,Board of Directors ,National Public Health Agency
- vi. Mr.Ahmed Atata Mansaray-Proposed Commissioner –National Youth Commission
- vii. Dr, Abu-Bakar S Massaquoi- Proposed Executive Chairman Environment Protection Agency (EPA)

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

Signed.....

Hon. Mathew S Nyuma (JP)

Chairman and Leader of Government Business