



**HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT
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**SECOND SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**

**SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND
THE PUBLIC SERVICE ON PARLIAMENTARY VETTING OF
PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS –OCTOBER, 2024**

1. INTRODUCTION

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service that is charged with the responsibility of vetting Presidential nominees to serve in public offices of state, met on Tuesday , 15th October, 2024 and interviewed **Nine** Presidential nominees for the following appointments to Public Offices:

- 1.** One Board Chairman,
- 2.** One Deputy Chairman,**and**
- 3.** Seven Board Members

2. PROCEDURE

The Committee conducted its open hearing within the usual framework of procedures. The Nominees were vetted on issues pertaining to their educational backgrounds to ensure that they had the required proven track records in pertinent work situations for appointments in such important offices of State. Further probing questions put to the appointees covered wide ranging issues relating to declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also closely looked into by the Committee.

3. Second Sitting of the Committee on Tuesday 15th October, 2024

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, in recent times several reforms have been instituted by the government of Sierra Leone to provide public institutions with standards to maximize output. The Consumer Protection Act, 2020 (No. 7 of 2020) and The National Revenue Authority Act, 2022 were enacted by this House of Parliament are among-st the many reforms aimed at providing policy guidelines and oversight for these institutions.

In fulfillment of the above therefore the Committee interviewed the following Presidential Nominees on oath:

1. Mr. Gibril Saccoh-Proposed Chairman-National Consumer Protection Commission Sierra Leone

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, Mr. Saccoh is a certified Chartered Accountant, Investment Policy Expert and Financial Advisor. He is a holder of the prestigious Association of Chartered Certified Accountant certificate and a Master's in Business Administration degree all from the United Kingdom. In addition to these the nominee also holds several certificates in Leadership and entrepreneurship to his credit.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr. Saccoh is currently serving as a Private Business Consultant and Financial Advisor that provides corporate financial analysis, auditing, risk and quality management to major corporations, public and private enterprises.

In his response on addressing the numerous problems associated with sub-standard products and goods that have proliferated the market, the Nominee said "The National Consumer Protection Act clearly spells out the punishments, penalties and fines the law imposes for selling fake or sub standard products. In order, to make these laws potent we must have strong institutions such as the police, the justice system to enforce compliance and adherence".

Mr.Saccoh further promised the Committee that if approved by the House of Parliament he would provide the needed guidance to management to facilitate the prosecution of perpetrators to break chain of impunity .

2. Chief Mathew Young JP: Proposed Deputy Chairman, National Consumer Protection Commission of Sierra Leone

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Chief Mathew Young JP is the longest serving mende tribal head in the western area who has served in that position for over twenty-five years.He is reputed to have successfully mediated several inter tribal squabbles . Chief Mathew Younge was appointed Justice of the Peace by Former President Kabbah in 1999 in recognition of his role maintaining tranquility amongst the various ethnic groups in the western area. He Started as a nurse in 1992 at the New-ham General Hospital , United Kingdom and later built up his political career due to his distinguished leadership qualities and good reputations admired by many Sierra Leoneans.

The Nominee assured ,the Committee that he would work closely with the Chairman and other Members of the Board to draw on his wealth of experience as Tribal Head to advise on holding a consultative engagements with all stakeholders to develop a National Strategy to cut the chain of the proliferation of fake and sub standards goods in flooding the market.

3. Dr.John Arouna Karimu-Proposed Member –National Revenue Authority Board

Mr.Speaker ,Honourable Members, Dr.John Arouna Karimu is a hybrid Economist and Tax Expert.He is reputed to have sound ability and an excellent track record in institutional building and reforms with particular reference to tax administration, institutional reform and modernization. Additionally, Dr. Karimu has an excellent knowledge and experience in governance and management of state institutions with particular reference to providing leadership and strategic direction.A clear attestation and testament to this credit is that Dr.John Karimu pioneered the establishment National Revenue Authority under the late President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah and also served as its first Commissioner General of the NRA,the institution that is now the **engine** of our economic growth.

Mr.Speaker ,Honourable Members ,Dr.Karimu graduated with a first class honours in geography from the Fourah Bay College ,University of Sierra Leone and went on to obtain his Doctor of Philosophy in economics at the esteemed University of London in September 1981.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, prior to his nomination Dr.Karimu served Public Financial Management Advisor at the Ministry of Finance, Government of Sierra Leone providing support and advice on public financial management issues to the Ministry of Finance.

Commenting on his roles as a Tax Expert of the National Revenue Authority Board Dr.John Karimu said” As a Tax Expert on the board my roles will be to advise the Chairman and the Board in the area of tax legislation and obligations from tax payers.I will be also proffering advise to the management of the National Revenue Authority to help them navigate the complex world of taxation to ensure compliance with the applicable laws and regulations.Additionally,I will assist the Authority with tax preparation,tax planning,auditing and calculating taxes for diverse public investment portfolios”.He averred.

4.Madam Memunatu Bernardette Rogers-Member National Revenue Authority Board

Mr. Speaker ,Honourable Members Madam Memunatu Rogers is an acclaimed Legal Practitioner with in-depth knowledge in tax regimes and laws,leadership,administrative management, public relations, litigation , mediation and arbitration.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members ,Madam Rogers graduated with a First Class in Bachelors of Laws from the Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, and was called to the bar in 2018.

She is currently serving as legal practitioner and Partner at the Brewah & CO, Mahitech Chamber at 24 Pa Demba Road.

Commenting on her role on the board as the Legal Practitioner ,she said " my main responsibilities includes providing the National Revenue Authority with the guidance on interpreting laws relating to taxation. Additionally , I will be representing the Authority in all litigation and law suits related matters to fulfill the Authority's Vision and Mission ". She opined.

5. Mr.Andrew Bangalie-Pessima - Proposed Member – National Revenue Authority Board

Mr.Speaker,Honourable Members, Mr. Andrew Bangalie Pessima is Development and Planning Specialist with wealth of experience in town and urban planning .His key deliverables include conducting research, analyzing data, developing plans, consulting with stakeholders, overseeing and addressing issues on urban planning.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr. Pessima graduated with Bachelor of Degree in Economics from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone in 1978 with emphasis in Economic Development and Panning. He then proceeded to the University Of Edinburgh, Scotland where he studied Urban and Regional Planning and graduated with a Masters of Philosophy in 1987.

Prior to this appointment he served as a Board Member of the National Civil Registration Authority where his key role among others was to control supervise and provide policy guidelines to the institution as provided for by the NCRA Act 2016.

The Nominee was admonished by the Committee to monitor the operations of the consumer markets in Sierra Leone and consider how they would improve for the long term interest of the consumer.

6. Mr.Mahmoud Ruskin Kabbah-Proposed Member-National Consumer Protection Commission of Sierra Leone

Mr.Speaker and Honourable Members, Mr.Kabbah , is a Project Management Specialist with a strong background in Peace and Development Studies .He possesses strong interpersonal character coupled with excellent communication and presentation skills.

Mr.Kabbah holds a Masters of Arts in peace and development studies from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone in May 2015 and a Diploma in Project Management.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members from October 2019 to present Mr.Kabbah served as Executive Director of the Consumer Protection Council of Sierra Leone responsible to provide technical oversight, strategic direction and performing quality assurance and ensuring the organization runs efficiently.

Responding to probing questions on the value he will add to the Commission he said,"as a Member of the previous Council I will be providing an in depth analysis on the policies ,research,and information to move Commission forward" .he retorted.

7. Ms. Koloneh Sankoh – Proposed Member- National Consumer Protection Commission Sierra Leone

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Ms. Koloneh Sankoh is an Administrator and Public Relations professional and is well grounded in project management and strategic communications. Ms. Koloneh Sankoh holds a Masters in Governance and Leadership from the Institute of Public Administration and Management, a constituent college of the University of Sierra Leone and also holds several professional and short term courses to her credit.

From September 2018 to April 2020 Ms. Koloneh Sankoh served as Director of Administration responsible to effectively plan, direct, monitor and control administrative activities of the Anti Corruption Commission. Additionally she was responsible to plan direct and coordinate the procurement, logistics and fleet management functions of the Commission.

The Nominee was praised across the aisle for her diligent and meritorious service in the Public Service. She was further advised to encourage the Chairman and other board Members to form a synergy with other Statutory Regulatory bodies to build a robust strategy to ensure the concerns of the public relating to standards are upheld.

8. Mr. Francis Gbondo: Proposed Member, National Consumer Protection Commission of Sierra Leone

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr. Francis Gbondo is a household name in the political realms of Kono district, having served the Sierra Leone People's Party for more than two decades in various capacities including Constituency secretary and as an aspirant Member of Parliament for consecutive Parliamentary Elections. He has also served as Regent Paramount Chief for Lei chieftdom.

Responding to probing questions on the value he will add to the board Mr. Gbondo opined that "with the approval of the board I will help to provide the guidance to suppliers, manufacturers and other interested persons to function in accordance with the policy details of the board".

9. Madam Susan Williams: Proposed Member, National Consumer Protection Commission of Sierra Leone

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Susan Williams has been a consumer activist for over 10 years and has served with great passion to protect the welfare of Sierra Leoneans. She has also served as Commissioner for the Local Government Commission where she contributed immensely to ensuring that government programmes and priorities were effectively implemented at local level.

In her response to Members' concerns over the increase of substandard products in the market for consumers, madam Susan Williams said "As a Board we will use our tools that is providing strong policy guidelines for the management to enforce compliance and prosecution of defaulters. We also will advise the government to provide the needed resources for the Commission to execute its mandate".

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:

1. Mr. Gibril Saccoh-Proposed Chairman-National Consumer Protection Commission of Sierra Leone
2. Chief Mathew Younge-Deputy Chairman-National Consumer Protection Commission of Sierra Leone
3. Mr. Andrew Pessima- Proposed Member-National Consumer Protection Commission Sierra Leone.
4. Madam Memunatu Rogers-Proposed Member-National Revenue Authority Board
5. Dr. John Arouna Karimu-Proposed Member-National Consumer Protection Commission Sierra Leone.

6. Mr.Mamoud Ruskin Kabbah-Proposed Member-National Consumer Protection Commission Sierra Leone.
7. Madam Koloneh Sankoh-Proposed Member-National Consumer Protection Commission Sierra Leone.
8. Mr.Francis Gbondo-Proposed Member-National Consumer Protection Commission Sierra Leone.
9. Madam Susan Williams -Proposed Member- National Consumer Protection Commission Sierra Leone.

5. Conclusion

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

Honourable. Bashiru Silike

Deputy Chairman 1 and Leader of Government Business

