



**HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT
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**FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF SIERRA
LEONE: EIGHTEENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND
THE PUBLIC SERVICE ON PARLIAMENTARY VETTING OF PRESIDENTIAL
NOMINATIONS –JULY, 2024**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service charged with the responsibility of vetting Presidential nominees to serve in public offices of state, met on Thursday, 11th July, 2024 and interviewed **nine** Presidential nominees for the following appointments:

- i. **Four** Commissioners of the Tertiary Education Commission
- ii. the Executive Director of the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration and;
- iii. **Four** Ambassadors of Sierra Leone **each** to the Gambia, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia , South Korea and the Kingdom of Morocco.

2.0 PROCEDURE

The Committee hearing was opened and within the usual framework of procedures. The nominees were interviewed 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 productive tenures. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also closely looked into.

3.0 Twenty-First Sitting of the Committee on Thursday ,11th July ,2024

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Tertiary Education Commission Act enacted by this House in 2002 ensures the orderly development of a well-coordinated and productive University system that will guarantee quality and relevant educational system for national development and global competitiveness. Pursuant to the recent government plan to establish regional Universities, the under mentioned regional nominees interviewed on oath, if approved, are expected to provide the required collective impetus to push government educational agenda :

i. Prof. Osman Alimamy Sankoh, Proposed Commissioner ,Tertiary Education Commission, North-East Region

Mr.Speaker, Honourable. Members, Prof. Osman Alimamy Sankoh popularly known as **Mallam O**, is an acclaimed academic, a researcher , prolific contemporary writer and development expert that has contributed immensely to the socioeconomic development both locally and internationally.

Professor Osman Alimamy Sankoh holds a Master of Science Degree (M.Sc)in Statistics and a Doctor of Science (D.Sc) in Statistics both from the same Technical University of Dortmund, Germany in 1996 and 2000 respectively. He is a proud awardee of the prestigious Commander of the Order of the Rokel, for his invaluable national services.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, few of Prof. Osman Sankoh's lengthy professional experience spanning over over 30 years in different countries across the world were noted thus:

- June 2024 to present: Principal Investigator, After the end Project of Oxford University UK, where he is currently steering the project towards a scientific success while ensuring ethical standards, financial integrity and impact dissemination of research findings
- June 2023 to present: Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), University of Management and Technology (UNIMTEC), Freetown, Sierra Leone
- April 2018 to March 2023: Statistician General and Chief Executive Officer, Statistics Sierra Leone
- April 2020 to June 2021: Acting Vice Chancellor and Principal, Njala University
- March 2022 to March 2023: Vice Chair, of the United Nations Statistical Commission

- October 2007 to March 2018: Executive Director, INDEPTH Network, Accra, Ghana
- June 2006 to September 2007: Deputy Executive Director, INDEPTH, Accra, Ghana
- July 2002 to May 2006: Manager, Scientific Communications and External Relations
- 1999 to 2002: Research Scientist (Epidemiologist/Biostatistician), Institute of Public Health, University of Heidelberg – Medical School, Heidelberg, Germany

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, this learned Professor has authored, edited and published several international journals and articles and also participated in several research projects on health, statistics, environment and climate change. He has also served as consultant for the European Union, University of Pennsylvania, USA, World Bank, Washington DC etc. This Committee considers the achievements of this nominee as a fine example of a quality national asset that deserves more

Responding on how he would share his expertise at the Commission level, the professor said commitment to work and maintaining standards with less resources will create a big challenge. He however expressed hope that letting people understand that hard work through standards would be his hall mark to facilitate research, innovations and projects that will catalyze growth of the tertiary institutions. To pursue this, he continued, "I will collaborate with colleagues of the Commission, the responsible Ministry and the Parliament for required assistance".

He concluded on the patriotic note that his lofty résumé was really to him not a prerequisite to work for his country but the **interest** to serve the people of Sierra Leone has been his cardinal wish, and this he stressed will always be upheld with the help of God.

Ii Madam Edna Margaret Rachael Jones: Proposed Commissioner, Tertiary Education Commission, North West Region,

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, Madam Edna Jones is a bi-lingual educationist with a post graduate diploma in Applied Phonetics in Audio – Visual Methods and a Bachelor of Arts with honors in French Language and Literature, from the University of Montpellier, France. She also holds a certificate and a diploma in teaching of French as a Foreign Language via direct and audio-visual methods.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Edna Jones has over 40 years of professional work experience in the Education sector at secondary and tertiary levels, with vast knowledge and expertise in curriculum planning and development. Tips of her profile can be viewed thus: .

- 2011 to present: Centre for Modern Languages and Culture, providing tutorial, translation/interpretation services for conferences both at local and international levels
- 2005 to 2011: Director, Educational Programmes and Services, then Ministry of Education, Youths and Sports
- 2003 to 2005: Acting Director/Coordinator, Educational Programs and Services, then Ministry of Education, Youths and Sports, Sierra Leone
- 2002 to 2011: Chairman, Scholarship Award and Advisory Committee, Ministry of Education, Science and technology
- 1999 to 2000: Acting head of Inspectorate Directorate, Primary and Secondary Education, Ministry of Education, Science and technology

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members, Madam Edna Margaret Rachael Jones epitomizes the women of strong character, passion and zest to transform the educational landscape of Sierra Leone especially at this period of prioritized government agenda on education.

Responding on her role on the Commission, the nominee said their responsibilities as in the Tertiary Education Act ,2001 very clear but " I will work in collaboration with other Members to advocate that our tertiary education meets the aspirations of our country by reviewing some of the curricular that are currently not in tuned with the country's development plan.", she concluded.

iii Haja Alimatu Abdallah: Proposed Commissioner, Tertiary Education Commission Western Area,

Mr. Speaker, Honourable . Members, Haja Alimatu Abdallah holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics with Accounting bias from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. She is a highly experienced financial management professional with strong managerial and administrative capabilities spanning over twenty years of credible services in the private sector.. Her humane and professional skills have earned her tremendous opportunities to executive calls for public service .Her brief resumee spoke volumes of her previous responsibilities thus:

- 2009 to date: she served as Chief Accountant at the Freetown Cold Storage
- 2014 – 2001 to 2009: Chief Accountant, Samking Services Ltd,FREETOWN

- 2002-May to October,.2002 Finance Consultant, Interim Secretariat, Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- 1980 to 2000: Chief Accountant, Sierra Leone Ore and Metal Company Ltd
- 1979 to 1980: Accountant, Sierra Leone Ore and Metal Company Ltd
- 1975 To 1979: Accountant, Sierra Rutile Company Ltd

On her role on the Commission, the seasoned accountant said she would use her experience to advice on tertiary institutions' financing, project implementations and risk management among others that have created myriads of problems for our higher institutions.

Iv Dr. Lawrence Sao Babawo: Proposed Commissioner, Eastern Region, Tertiary Education Commission

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Dr Lawrence Sao Babawo is a result oriented person with high level thoroughness, critical analytical outlook and a veteran academic. His resume speaks to the fact that, he has spent a greater part of his professional career in the education sector. Dr. Lawrence Sao Babawo holds a PhD in Public Health, Njala University/London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine with Infectious Disease and Health Systems option. He is also a Fellow of the Sierra Leone Postgraduate College of Health Specialists (College of Nursing and Midwifery) and West African Postgraduate College of Nurses and Midwives. He further holds a Master in Public Health (MPhil) in Environmental Health and Sanitation, from the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS), University of Sierra Leone

- From September 2023 to date: He he served as Dean, School of Post Graduate Studies, Eastern Technical University of Sierra Leone. In this capacity, he is the Principal administrative officer of the Post Graduate school, to develop and implement plans in support of the University's strategic plan
- 2021 to 2023: Principal, Mattru school of Nursing, Mattru Jong, Bonthe District
- October 2018 – April 2019: Consultant, Ebola Preparedness Program, World Health Organization, South Sudan
- September 2017 – September 2018: Consultant Multidisciplinary Clinical Teams (MDCT) Coordinator, Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Sierra Leone
- January – June 2015: Consultant. Infection, Prevention and Control of diseases in the District ,Moyamba District
- 2009 – 2021: Lecturer, School of Community Health Sciences, Njala University

- 2011 – 2012: Programme Manager, Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone (CHASL)
- 2010 – 2011: Hospital Manager, Serabu Catholic Hospital

Mr. Speaker, Honourable. Members, with this very academic and professional background, the Committee inquired from the nominee what he was going to deliver at the Tertiary Education Commission and he responded thus "my years of tertiary working experience speak volumes in knowing the problems. I have always stood for quality delivery and products which to a very large extent have been undermined by poor infrastructural developments, exam malpractices, overcrowding with wrong entry requirements among others. To all these we will work collaboratively as Members of the Commission and with the guidance of the TEC Act, to formulate uniform disciplinary measures to enable our institutions grow in desirable directions "

He concluded that to change the story, he will work in collaboration with other Commissioners to advocate for serious curricular reforms to embrace self-job creations after graduation in all tertiary institutions and to further invigorate a thorough uniform review of the conditions of service for the lecturers and administrators holding the forth.

4.0 Ambassadorial and other Appointments

Mr. Speaker Honourable Members, the following Ambassadors/High Commissioners of Sierra Leone were also intervened on oaths

v Mr. Paul Sobba Massaquoi: Proposed Ambassador of Sierra Leone to the Republic of South Korea

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr. Paul Sobba Massaquoi is a grass root community development expert , with a tangible and visible track record of initiating and delivering social capacity building programs for the less fortunate. He is an astute and dedicated project management and business entrepreneur, and a notable consultant across a broad spectrum businesses, innovations and setting up establishments.

Mr. Paul Soba Massaquoi holds a Master of Science degree in Management from the University of West London, United Kingdom in 2016 and a Post Graduate Diploma in Executive Maritime Management from the World Maritime University

Until his recent appointment, he has served as Executive Director, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration from 2020 to date, where he became a leading advocate of the Blue Economy Initiative in Sierra Leone, which immensely boosted the Maritime Economic sector.

Previously, he had served as:

- Member, Board of Directors, First International Bank/Vista Bank, Sierra Leone (2020 – 2023)
- Proprietor and Executive Director, MARS Health Care UK (2014 – 2018)
- Registered CQC Business development Manager, First Choice UK(2010 – 2014)
- : Procurement Analyst, East London NHS Hospital(2003 – 2010)

In his response to the Committee , the nominee said he had always delivered on assignments as manifested during his tenure at the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration where he instituted contemporary changes in the domestication of international conventions and delivering on corporate social responsibilities of Maritime in the riverine areas .He expressed awareness of the complexity and distant differential of his assignment area but equally so appeared confident before the Committee in striking this note “ I am not going to be an armchair diplomat, but I am going to explore through vigorous diplomatic tactics to contribute to our Government’s development big five game changers. I will work on established links to create new ones and will lobby for both Public and Private investments flow to Sierra Leone”, he concluded on this promising tone.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee reaffirms its commendation for the approval of Mr. Paul Soba Massaquoi as it did in the Fifth Parliament.

Vi Mr Abdul Aziz Turay Proposed Deputy Ambassador of Sierra Leone to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Mr Abdul Aziz Turay is a seasoned Civil Servant, a Career diplomat, development expert with a more than decade experience working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone. He has in-depth experience in handling global economic and inter-governmental policies and Parliamentary diplomacy.

He holds a Master of Arts Degree in Conflict, Security and Development from the University of Bradford(2021) and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Relations

from the London Metropolitan University(2010) and many other certificates including multilingual and computer proficiency.

His following work records of ascendancy within a short pace at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs manifests a great deal of commitment and trust thus:

- April 2023-June 2024- Director of Europe –acted as first point of contact on foreign policies and projects related to the Europe and Sierra Leone through the Foreign Affairs Ministry.
- June 2022-April-2023: Director of America and South Pacific among numerous roles, he was responsible to facilitated trade, investment and promoted tourism between the two regions.
- October,2021- June 2022-Director,Asia and the Middle East .He facilitated diplomatic, bilateral visits and accompanied the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone to Turkey,Vietnam,Qatar,Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Senegal,UAE and Pakistan ;and most of these facilitated tours by the Minister or Excellency secured development funds to improve the lives of Sierra Leoneans
- June 2021-October,2022 ;Director of Diaspora Affairs-supported migration opportunities with updated information and assisted Sierra Leonean workers outside.

Responding to the Committee as a seasoned administrator on issues of Sierra Leonean migrants employment in the Saudi and his flexibility to work with colleagues, he said he was a team player that had always allowed others views that had enabled him led from both the back and front of subordinates as circumstances would allow. This he said had earned him commendations in performance deliveries as Director of Strategy, Policy and Planning at the Office of the President (2018-2021) and other International non-governmental Organizations he served prior to his employment at the Foreign Affairs Ministry. On his support for the Sierra Leonean domestic labour agreement with Saudi Arabia championed by the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations, he succinctly said “ I was part of that arrangement that led to the signing of the agreement as Director covering the middle East and so as a Deputy Ambassador,if approved, I assure you of my support and will support my boss the Ambassador to address any emerging critical issue that will make our compatriots uncomfortable”

He concluded on the optimistic tune to lobby for more development funds and investments flow to the country.

Vii .Alhaji Momodu Koroma, proposed Ambassador of Sierra Leone to the Kingdom of Morocco

Mr Momodu Koroma is an educationist a scientist, a seasoned diplomat and a pragmatic Politician. Prior to his appearance on the national political platform, he served the Njala University College (USL) now Njala University for more than a decade as a Lecturer in Physics and Mathematics and rose to the rank of Acting Head of Department of Mathematics in 1992 till his call to national politics. He holds two Masters Degree ,one of Science (University of Reading,1983) and the other of Arts in Peace building from the Coventry University (2006)

.His name is on record as one those who work tirelessly in the late President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's Government to end the civil war and embarked on the post war reconstruction of the Country, The Committee therefore reaffirms all commendation bestowed on this nominee during the Fourth Parliament

The nominee portfolios at those critical times were:

- 1996-2001- Minister of Presidential Affairs and the Public Service ;he served as the Principal Assistant to the President on Political Affairs and the management of the Public service.He was part of the disarmament,resettlement and rehabilitation etc through UNAMSIL and NACSA programs
- 2001-2002: Acting Minister of Energy and Power- worked with World Bank for the planning ,project development and implementation of the 33kva transmission line from Kingtom to Regent Village,rehabilitated Kingtom Power Station with 50 Megawatts capacity and designed projects for the Blackhall Road Power plant,etc
- 2002-3007-Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation as Principal adviser to the President on diplomatic relations;
- and hosts of other appointments outside government to which he performed exemplarily well.

In his response to the Committee,to what new developments he would be bringing to the country,he said " I considered it an honor to reserve the country and I am familiar with Morocco. As the then Foreign Minister,I signed a Cooperation Agreement with Morocco when I renewed our diplomatic relations after some years of break.I am aware that there are lots in that Cooperation agreement that have not been fully realized including tourism,electricity and energy. I know for sure that if we are to make a paradigm shift in our area of energy as a country from thermal to renewable, Morocco has the technology top notch in wind, Solar and thermal to exploit diplomatically for which I am prepared"

The Committee drew his attention to the topical issue of human trafficking in that region that may involve many Sierra Leoneans. To this he said he would adopt the necessary diplomatic options to address any emerging issue in collaboration with his immediate boss.,the Minister of Foreign Affairs

vii Mrs. Martha Consilla Kanagbo- Proposed High Commissioner of Sierra Leone of to the Gambia

Mrs. Kanagbo is highly accomplished Politician, Administrator with extensive experience spanning over 25 years on programmes and development projects in Sierra Leone. She has in-depth knowledge in financial management, strategic planning, social organization, and program evaluation. She is a team player and result oriented..

Mrs. Kanagbo is the founder of the Women's Development Association, a vocational institute that provides financial support and resources to ensure sustainable and operational effectiveness of women in both rural and urban area.

She holds an advanced degree Master of Arts Degree in Gender Studies(,2008) from the Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

She is currently, serving as the Board Chair National Insurance Company providing strategic leadership, direct and ensure effective corporate governance practices. On the political stage, she is one of the frontline women of the ruling party and serves as the national treasurer of the party.

In her response to this diplomatic appointment, she expressed gratitude to His Excellency and said " this is a new journey to which I am ready to build on the existing diplomatic relations established over years. The Gambia and Sierra Leone have worked together from colonial era and I am going to promote that bilateral relationship which am sure the Commission staff and the parent Ministry would guide me in this direction"

She concluded on the promise to represent the country in the defined scope as required.

iX .Mr. Daniel Kaitibie –Proposed Executive Director-Maritime Administration

Mr. Daniel Kaitibie is a specialist in Information Technology, Business Administration, Health Information Systems, Project Management and Procurement.

Mr.Kaitibie graduated with a Master degree from the University of Keller, Illinois, United States and Started his career as Material Handler for the Fed Ex Express, Memphis in the United States.

From March 2020 to July 2023 he served as the Director General of the National Communications Authority responsible for the day to day administration and Management of the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority. During his tenure as Executive Director he also served as Chairman Board of Trustees of the Universal Access Development Fund. His exemplary job at NATCOM might have triggered his nominations to Maritime that has experienced so much administrative turmoil.

In his response to the Committee on how his experience would be relevant to to the Maritime Administration, ,he said “ I have been a regulator at National Telecommunication Authority(NATCA) and was one of the catalysts that transformed the Commission to an Authority. I will draw on my experience at NATCA to effect the needed changes at Maritime sector.I will also initiate the automation system to ensure accountability and transparency”.

He promised to work with the National Revenue Authority (NRA) and all security apparatus to ensure strict compliance of the Maritime laws to generate the required revenues and other expected results.

5.0 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. Prof. Osman Alimamy Sankoh, Proposed Commissioner ,Tertiary Education Commission, North-East Region
- II. Dr. Lawrence Sao Babawo, Proposed Commissioner, Tertiary Education Commission, -Eastern Region
- III. Madam Edna Margaret Rachael Jones, Proposed Commissioner, Tertiary Education Commission, -North-Western Region
- IV. Mr Momodu Koroma,Proposed Ambassador of Sierra Leone to the Kingdom of Morocco

- V. Haja Alimatu Abdullah, Proposed Commissioner, Tertiary Education Commission, -Western Region
- VI. Madam Martha Consilia Kanagbo, Proposed High Commissioner of Sierra Leone to the Gambia
- VII. Mr Abdul Aziz Turay Proposed Deputy Ambassador of Sierra Leone to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- VIII. Mr. Paul Sobba Massaquoi Proposed ,Ambassador of Sierra Leone to the Republic of South Korea
- IX Mr. Daniel Kaitibie –Proposed Executive Director-Sierra Leone Maritime Administration

5.0 Conclusion

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