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## **FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND**

### **REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**

## **THE FOURTEENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE ON PARLIAMENTARY VETTING OF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS – MARCH, 2024**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, cognizant of its constitutional responsibility of vetting and recommending of qualified candidates to this plenary for important offices of state, met on Tuesday, 5th March, 2024 and interviewed one Presidential nominee for the position of **Director General**, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC)

### **2. PROCEDURE**

The Committee conducted as usual its open hearing within the set framework of procedures and interviewed the aforesaid proposed nominee on issues pertaining to her educational backgrounds to ensure that she has the relevant education and necessary backup experience to effectively serve at the National Broadcaster. Further probing questions put to the nominee covered wide ranging issues relating to her track records in the Public service and other pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and vision for a nationally productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also closely looked into.

### **3. SIXTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2024**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the national broadcaster, the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service (SLBC), the official media mouthpiece of the government, has recorded tremendous successes over the years in propagating democratic governance

information to promote national cohesion, economic advancement and international events impacts on peoples' lives. The Committee was aware therefore, that such important appointment has a multiplier effect on the promotion of current government development agenda through the new Ministry of Information and Civic Education but cautiously also noted that whilst performing the above crucial roles, the SLBC requires swift digital transformation and additional seasoned media technocrats to attain a greater pluralistic media landscape coverage. This is cardinal especially in this advent of increasing growth of alternative private audio –visual stations in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members the under mentioned candidate for the aforesaid position as in Section 13(1) of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation, Act ,2011 was considered and interviewed on oath:

**i. Madam Josephine Fatima Kamara ,Proposed Director General, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC)**

Josephine Fatima Kamara is an award winning Journalist and a veteran media communications specialist for over two decades in broadcast journalism with keen interest in social and behavioral change, international development and strategic communications. She is a staunch gender activist with multilingual and events coverage knowledge exhibited at home and abroad

The nominee started her career as a rookie reporter in her native Sierra Leone after graduation in 1993 from the Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone and was among the new crop of reporters in the then revived Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service Television .Her work at the SLBC/TV exposed her to growth opportunities in journalism- from a specialized media training cadre to providing television production assistance to visiting international media crews ,such as the BBC Panorama team that covered the 11 year civil war in Sierra Leone.

The quest for astute professionalism, further led her to explore the global media landscape where she performed with creditable records to mention just a few:

- During the historic 1996 election, she collaborated with a French television team to give fact-based information on the elections. Fatima was among a selected few TV reporters who brought the then SLBS/TV to the world when she sent

news reports on various issues to the now defunct CNN World Report program which featured news from international journalists from around the world.

- Joined the Voice of America Radio in Washington DC in 1997 after the Sierra Leone rebel war initially as a general beat reporter, covering conflicts in Africa, Politics, Health and whatever was assigned to her. She was later assigned to co-host Voice of America's main news broadcast to Africa-Africa World Tonight-Where work output led to her being selected to report, produce, and host Voice of America's TV to Africa programs until 2005.
- Between 2005 and 2012, Josephine was the Country Director and Resident Journalism Advisor in Nigeria for the Inter News Network –a United States based organization where she imparted knowledge by training over 400 journalist and Civil Society networks on health and social issues in Nigeria.
- Prior to her nomination by His Excellency the President she served as the Development outreach Communications Specialist for USAID Zambia. Her principal responsibility then was to collaborate with senior-level officials from the United States Embassy, the Zambian government, and the International community on development programmes for the Zambia.

In her genuine assessment to the Committee on how the SLBC broadcasting status could differ from her knowledge gained outside, the nominee said "I started as a rookie reporter at SLBC then SLBS and later rose through the ranks to become an international reporter for the CNN, VOA and several international organizations. With that background I know the nuances associated with broadcasting. If approved by this Honourable House, I will build on the existing structures left by my predecessors, and will breathe in fresh ideas gained from past experiences to make the national broadcaster live to expectations "

Reacting to further questions on taking the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation country wide through linked Community Stations, Madam Kamara said once approved by the House, she would take stock of the extent of local connectivity and act accordingly with the supports of the legislature and the executive.

The Nominee assured the Committee that she would promote staff efficiency and fast track the process of digital reforms to realize the dreams legendary SLBS broadcasters (past and present) like Babatunde Roland-May; Violetta Luke-Decker; Gina Banda-Thomas; Joshua Nicol; Adun Wilson; Tommy Tucker; Patricia Macaulay; Ade Songu-Williams; Cyril Juxon-Smith etc.

#### 4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members, the Committee adjudged the Presidential nominee to be suitably qualified for her proposed appointment and is therefore accordingly recommended to the House for approval:

Madam Josephine Fatima Kamara, Proposed Director General, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC)

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, this **Fourteenth Report** is the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the **Fourteenth 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 Sahr Nyuma{JP}

Chairman & Leader of Government Business

Date:.....7/3/24.....