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

**NINTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE
ON PARLIAMENTARY VETTING OF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS- MARCH, 2025**

1. Introduction

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, in tandem with its constitutional obligations met on Monday, 24th March, 2025 and interviewed **six** Presidential nominees for the following positions: i) the Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Conakry, Republic of Guinea, ii). the Deputy Minister II, Ministry of Energy iii). the Chief Immigration Officer iv). the Chairman, Rokel Commercial Bank, and **two** Board Members, each for the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority (SLRSA) and the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion respectively.

2. Procedure

The Committee maintained as usual, its strict 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, 24th March, 2025

The Committee interviewed the following nominees on oath:

i. **Ambassador Mohamed Foday Yumkella, Proposed Ambassador of Sierra Leone Embassy, Conakry, Republic of Guinea.**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Ambassador Mohamed Foday Yumkella is an astute politician and one of the longest serving Cabinet Ministers and diplomats after Sierra Leone's civil war. He is a loyalist and believes in timely and quality delivery. He is a descendant of the great **Late Chief Yumkella**, one of the founders of the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) from Kychiom, Samu Chiefdom, Northern District of Kambia.

His plethora of experience as noted by the Committee below speaks volume to his suitability for the aforesaid assignment:

- i. He served as Sierra Leone's High Commissioner to Banjul, The Gambia, with accreditation to the Republic of Senegal and Mauritania (2005-2008)
- ii. 1996 – 1998, he was Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and the Environment
- iii. 1998 – 2002, Deputy Minister of Mineral resources
- iv. 2002 – 2003, Minister of Presidential Affairs and
- v. 2018 – 2023, Minister of Political and Public Affairs

The nominee's experience as a seasoned diplomat during scrutiny was deeply revealing both in terms of prowess in the languages across the borders with Guinea and the bilateral socio-economic and political ties both countries have enjoyed over the years. The revered Ambassador promised to use his diplomatic skills to work collaboratively with the Guinean Government to solve issues of mutual cooperation.

ii. **Dr. Abdul Rahim Jalloh, Proposed Deputy Minister II, Ministry of Energy**

Dr. Abdul Rahim Jalloh is a distinguished technocrat with over 42 years of engineering profiles. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) in Mechanical Engineering with post practical experience in project development, management and implementation in energy and infrastructure sectors, providing policy dialogue with international development partners and providing engineering policy advisory as consultant engineer at both local and international levels.

His proven track records in the energy sector over the years have been remarkable as noted:

- he served as Team Lead and Focal point for the Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact Development Programme
- Senior Technical Advisor for the World Bank- Africa Energy Sector.
- He served as Director of the Bumbuna I Hydroelectric project that operationalized the 161 kV transmission line, switchyards, substations and associated infrastructure to make the Bumbuna functional
- . Dr. Abdul Rahim Jalloh, has served as Project Coordinator for the construction of thermal generation power plants; and construction and rehabilitation of medium and low voltage transmission and distribution networks including the installation of solar street lights in Freetown and District Head Quarters.
- He has been a quiet but long standing consultant in the energy sector of Sierra Leone who has contributed immensely to the development of energy and is currently the Principal Adviser and Chief of Staff for the Chairman, Energy Governance Coordination Committee in the Ministry.

Responding to the Committee on the national energy crisis, the revered engineer said "the energy crisis is as old as over thirty years encompassing; low power generation, inadequate transmission. For instance; there is only one transmission line from Bumbuna Hydro to Freetown of 65 megawatts which is very low. During the rains, the hydro produces 50 megawatts but scales down to 8 megawatts during the dries. To fix this, we need to go back to the basis to repair and upgrade the dams, repair and upgrade the thermal machines and transmission lines. The energy access in 2018 was 16-18% but has now increased to 43%. 80% energy access is anticipated by 2030 but takes our collective resolve to achieve this".

When further asked on how he would advise on electricity theft and destruction of transformers, the engineer said EDSA will introduce smart meters for easy detection and institute task force for random checks in communities for defaulters.

He concluded that fixing the electricity generation and bills perforation will take time to resolve but also requires communities' response to protect national electrical equipment as their asset.

iii. **Mr. Moses Tiffer Baio, Proposed Chief Immigration Officer**

Mr. Moses Tiffa Baio is a self-motivated social entrepreneur, a public sector management expert. He has in-depth leadership, organizational behavior and strategic change management skills. His enduring and resilient administrative skills have propelled him in governance over the years.

He is an educationist of high standing and holds a LLB Hons Degree from Njala University 2024; Doctor of Business Leadership from Swiss Business School, Zurich, Switzerland – November 2021 and a Master in Applied Business Research from Swiss Business School, Zurich, Switzerland.

Prior to this appointment, he served as Director of Infrastructure, President Delivery; August 2017 – 2023, Director General, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority and 2015 – 2017, Director of Corporate Services, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority.

In response to the Committee on Immigration problems, the proposed Chief Immigration Officer said he was futuristic about the growth of the institution especially to gain financial and economic status. He agreed that cross border porosity would be detrimental to security if remained unchecked and added, he would opt for statutory reforms that will clearly promote decentralization of immigration services at regional levels and ensured the safety of our passports.

He concluded on the acknowledgement note that much progress had been made by his predecessors at the Immigration Department and promised to expand on those gains.

iv. **Mr. John Sumailah, proposed Chairman, Rokel Commercial Bank**

Mr. John Sumailah has served the civil service of Sierra Leone for over 40 years, part of which includes providing strategic and administrative services to Ministries, Departments and Agencies in line with national priorities. Until his recent appointment, he served as Cabinet Secretary and Head of Civil Service, Office of the President, where he excelled in results-based management, reviewing and reporting on Public/Civil Service Reforms and Performance managements across the public sector. He is a quiet and unassuming character who is revered across the Civil Service echelon for standard, transparency, loyalty and utmost adherence to oath of secrecy in serving the Country's executive as a scribe.

Mr. John Sumailah in addition to his University Degree, bagged many Certificates and diplomas in administration and human resource management that enabled him to administer well in his assignments.

Prior to this assignment, the nominee served as Permanent Secretary/Head of Administration in several Ministries and Departments of government, including but not limited to, the Ministry of Development and Economic Planning, Ministry of Education, Ministry of health, Human Resource Management Office to name but a few.

In his remarks to the Committee on his transition from a strict clerical world to head a board in a financial sector, the renowned administrator said “my long experience in the civil service has taught me that team work yields commendable dividend if properly harnessed. As chairman of the Board, I will look at the statutory documents guiding the operations of commercial banks and would work with colleague board members to assist the Rokel Commercial Bank administration to achieve its dreams as expected by government”, he concluded

Mr. John Sumailah was praised across party lines for his selfless and diligent services to the nation over the years.

v. **Madam Mary Massah Katta, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority (SLRSA)**

Madam Mary Massah Katta is a highly trained and accomplished Midwife Nurse with an exceptional record of providing medical and emotional services to pregnant patients, lactating mothers and children under five. She is adept at performing under pressure and possesses excellent skills and good sense of humour.

She is currently serving as District Women’s Leader, for the Sierra Leone People’s Party, Bo District.

In her contribution to the Committee on incidences relating to safety on the roads; she explained that road crashes involving women and children are mostly fatal or costly. “ I will therefore work with colleagues to help the SLRSA administration to be constantly redoing the road signs on the roads to signal speed limits, blind curves, narrow bridges etc; and to organize trainings for drivers to observe whilst plying the routes”, she ended.

Madam Mary Massah Katta was praised for her staunch leadership skills in handling women’s affairs whenever called upon.

vi. **Mr. David Fortune, Proposed Board Member, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion**

Mr. David Fortune is a conscientious professional social worker with a track record of over 25 years work experience in humanitarian services. His competence in peace building and reconciliation, mediation for peaceful coexistence of communities in conflict is notable. He has vast knowledge and experience in resolving domestic conflict and supporting communities in crisis especially relating to handling of victims and resettlement.

He holds a Master's degree in Sociology from Njala University. His long career in peace and conflict resolutions enabled him to serve in the following capacities

- Supervisor, Child Protection Programme, International Rescue Committee, 2000-2001
- Assistant Programme Manager, Child Protection Programme, IRC – 2001-2003
- Programme Manager, IRC Kenema and Pujehun, 2004
- Capacity building officer, Arms for Development, United Nations Development Programme
- Programme Manager, Caritas; Justice and Peace Commission, 2010 – 2020
- District Coordinator, Covid 19 Emergency Response Centre, Bo, 2020-2022
- Senior Disaster Management Officer, National Disaster Management Agency, South Region, 2022 to date

In his submission to Members, he said all his life has been spent on peace building and would therefore go to the Independent Peace Commission to work with colleagues to achieve a “peaceful nation” through frank dialogue and justice.

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. Ambassador Mohamed Foday Yumkella, Proposed Ambassador of Sierra Leone Embassy, Conakry, Republic of Guinea
- ii. Dr. Abdul Rahim Jalloh, Proposed Deputy Minister II, Ministry of Energy.
- iii. Mr. John Sumailah, Proposed Chairman, Rokel Commercial Bank
- iv. Mr. Moses Tiffa Baio, Proposed Chief Immigration Officer
- v. Madam Mary Massah Katta, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority (SLRSA)
- vi. Mr. David Fortune, Proposed Board Member, Independent Commission for Peace and National cohesion

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

Signed.....

Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma, JP

Chairman and Leader of Government Business