



## HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT

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### **SECOND 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 –JANUARY, 2025**

#### **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 **Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2025** and interviewed **ten** Presidential nominees for the following appointments:

- i. Deputy Minister of Justice
- ii. Director –General, Sierra Leone Correctional Service
- iii. Deputy Director General, Sierra Leone Correctional Service
- iv. Member ,Board of Directors, Bank of Sierra Leone
- v. Member, Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO)
- vi. Member, Sierra Leone Roads Authority Board(SLRA)
- vii. Member,Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion
- viii. Chairman ,Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority(SLRSA)
- ix. Member,Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration(SLMA)
- x. Commissioner, National Commission for Arms and Ammunition

## 2. PROCEDURE

The Committee conducted its open hearing with live media trending to encourage active public participation, and within the usual framework of procedures. The nominees were interviewed on issues pertaining to their educational backgrounds to ensure that they have 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. **Seventh sitting of the Committee on Monday,27<sup>th</sup> January,2025**

The following nominees were interviewed on oaths:

i. **Ms Saptieu Elizabeth Saccoh ,Proposed Deputy Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice**

Madam Saptieu Elizabeth Saccoh is a Lawyer by profession with over 10 years of experience in Legal practice. She graduated with a Master's degree in Educational Administration, from Njala University, in 2004 and was called to bar in 2012 .

Prior to her appointment, this Legal luminary served this nation in several capacities:

- Administrator and Registrar General --2018 -2025
- Assistant Registrars General- 2012-2018
- Staff Attorney ,Office of the Administrator and Registrars General-2008-2012
- Executive Secretary, Political Parties Registration Commission- 2012-2018 and
- Acting Registrar, Corporate Affairs Commission -2024-2025, amongst others

In all these, her commitments and outstanding performance placed her amongst well-respected legal practitioners and other state personalities.

Reacting to questions on her suitability for the office ,this erudite lawyer said she believes in team work and promised to continue in collaboration with the Minister, the justice sector reforms programmes on course in the Ministry. "the Justice Ministry is almost home as my work in the previous office as Administrator and Registrars General was within the Justice Ministry that gave me acquaintances to legal personalities and procedures for effective delivery."

The committee acknowledged her exemplary work at the Office of the Administrator and Registrar General as a testament for her new assignment.

ii **Mr. Joseph John Senessie, Proposed Director –General ,Sierra Leone Correctional Service**

Mr. Joseph J. Senesie holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Njala University and other certificates in Strategic Leadership and Correctional Institutional Management from First Yumaj Nigeria Limited and International corrections management Training Centre, Colorado, United States of America respectively. He is a disciplined ,innovative and pushful character that has always shown remarkable leadership qualities in all spheres of life .

The nominee has spent 15 eventful years in the Correctional service and acquired lofty successful experience as he sailed through the ranks: thus:

- From November 2019 to April 2021, he served as Team Lead, at the United Nations Mission, as a Government Provided Personnel GPP attached to the Bentiu Detention Facility in South Sudan
- September 2023 – January 2025, Acting Director Human Resource, Sierra Leone Correctional Services
- April 2022-September 2022, Acting Regional Commander, North -East Regional headquarters
- He also served as Officer in – charge for the Correctional Centres in Freetown, Makeni, Mafanta and Pujehun

In his response to the Committee , the proposed Director General reaffirmed his commitment to fostering excellence and transforming the Correctional services to meet international best practices. " I am aware of the fact that, the office to which I've been nominated is difficult and controversial. My experience of Prison break, Drug peddling as reported amongst inmates will be looked into seriously as we will institute programs to engage able bodied inmates in capacity building such as the on going agriculture programs at Mafanta that has proven a laudable project to transform our youths to useful citizens .With respect to prison breaks during political upheavals, it is my intention to collaborate with relevant security sectors to train correctional officers in the use of fire arms. This in my opinion will minimize the issue of prison breaks" Mr Senessie was praised across party line for his loyalty and pragmatic response during his past services through the ranks. .

**iii Madam Susan Baby Koker, Proposed Deputy Director –General, Sierra Leone Correctional Services.**

Madam Susan Baby Koker is a household name in the Sierra Leone Correctional Service. The nominee was enlisted in the correctional service, then Prison Service on June 1, 1990 and has 33 years of accumulated service with demonstration of commitment and loyalty. She grew through the ranks and is currently serving as the Director of Support Services.

She holds a Master of Arts in Peace and Reconciliation from Coventry University in the United Kingdom, Bachelor of Arts in Conflict Resolution from Kampala International University, Uganda, Post Graduate diploma in Conflict Resolution skills from Coventry University in the United Kingdom.

With recommendation for meritorious services, the nominee acted as a Correctional Advisor at the United Nations Mission in Sudan for 18 months and later as a Law Enforcement Advisor at the United Nations Development Programme in South Sudan for another 32 months. She also Served as Corrections Training and Development Officer at the United Nations Mission in Liberia for five years, consulting for both the United Nations Development Programme and UN Women in Liberia after the civil war.

In recognition of her contributions in Corrections and Public services, Susan was awarded the Officer of the Order of the Rokel and is the first woman to be promoted to the current Deputy Director General position within the Sierra Leone Correctional Service.

Responding to the Committee on gender parity institution, she remarked that she intends to inspire women to take the lead in administration. "I will work with my boss to enhance public visibility of our achievements especially women transformation skills ", she concluded.

**Iv Mrs Janisa Edwina Francess Momodu (Esq),Proposed Board of Directors**  
**,Bank of Sierra Leone**

Mrs Janisa Edwina Francess Momodu(Esq) is a lawyer by profession .She is a dedicated ambitious and professional with background in law, project management and gender advocacy. She holds a Master Degree in Gender and Globalization from the University of Galway,Ireland, Bachelor of Laws Degree with Honours from the Fourah Bay College ,University of Sierra Leone and other several certificates with merits.

As a renown lawyer, she has worked in various institutions of state as mentioned thus:

- 2020-date -Law Officer,International Law Division ,Ministry of Justice
- 2021-2023-In House Counsel and Head of Public Relations for Legal Access through Women Yearning for Equal Rights and Social Justice (L.A.W.Y.E.R.S)
- 2022-2024 Assistant treasurer,Sierra Leone Bar Association, etc

The nominee has served on several Sierra Leone delegations abroad as Legal Adviser on important businesses of state such as the Sierra Leone Delegation to Conakry Conference on "Negotiating Joint Border Management Cooperation Establishment of Inter Boundaries Commissions, Enforcement of Border Security,Combating the illicit flow of Drugs ,illegal activities and sharing intellegence to enhance border security" and legal Assistant to the office of Principal Defender, Residual Special Court of Sierra Leone responsible for legal research amongst others duties

Responding to the Committee on her role at the Bank, the nominee said she would be advising the Board on policy related issues to enable the bank function as required by law.

**V, Rev. Hindolo Solomon Bakiz-Kainjami Butsher-Proposed Member,Sierra Leone Water Company(SALWACO)**

Rev. Dr. Hindolo S.B. Butscher, holds a Doctor of Divinity Degree from Wohprag Biblical University, Nigeria (June 2018). He has served as Supervisor, Seed Multiplication, Agriculture division, Bombali district. He was also Staff Superintendent, Bombali District, provincial Administration and further worked as District Officer, Ministry of Agriculture in Bombali district, for 20 years. He is a renown Member of the ruling party and has astonishing loyalist records in the minds of his huge admirers.

The nominee promised to work with other Members of the Board to enable SALWACO to achieve the dream relating to government's pure water availability to its citizenry.

**Vi Mr. John Gbondo Margai, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Roads Authority Board(SLRA)**

Mr. John Gbondo Margai is the current Chief Executive Officer, Urban Stevedoring and Logistics Company in Feetown.. He has served as Deputy Chairman, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA), where he contributed immensely to developing the Authority's Strategic plans and policies to ensure alignment with national and international standards. He is also operations Manager, Dissimi Clearing and Forwarding Agency, a position he has held since 2001.

In his interaction with the Committee ,Mr Gbondo promised to collaborate with colleagues to support the SLRA administration to execute its mandate especially in speeding up delayed roads projects through lobbying for funds availability from the Roads maintenance Funds Authority (RMFA).

**Vii Madam Elenorah Jokomie Jane Matilda Metzger,Member Independent Commission for Peace and and National Cohesion(ICPNC)**

Madam Elenorah Jokomie Metzger holds a Bachelor Degree in Theology from the College of Theology and Management and Church Centre, an affiliate, University of Sierra Leone(2022) and also have several other leadership certificates to her credit. Her spanning years in the field of theology especially as Priest at various Dioceses and long standing experience in administration strengthened her for this nomination.

In her submission on peace consolidation, the revered Preacher pointed "building trust, promoting dialogue and resolving disputes are part of peace consolidation. I am going to the board of the ICPNC to collaborate with colleagues to achieve the mandates of the institution" ,she concluded.

Vii . **AIG Rtd. Thomas Mustapha Lahai: Proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority**

Mr. Thomas Mustapha Lahai holds a Master's Degree in Applied Criminology, from Leicester University, United Kingdom. He is a retired Police Officer who rose through the ranks from lower cadre to Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG), Sierra Leone Police. He spent 25 remarkable years in the Police Force heading key/strategic positions and providing technical and administrative support to both senior and junior Police officers .

Mr. Mustapha Lahai is one of the architects of the reformed Police **"A Force for Good"** which has gained admiration and recognition both locally and internationally. He is widely acclaimed within the walls of the National Security apparatus for his transformational skills and competences especially in the areas of safety and access to justice.

In his words of assurance to the Committee on crashes on our roads, the retired officer said, "I am no stranger to the incidence on and off our roads. I shall focus on ensuring the safety through proper road signs and traffic lights, especially in the urban towns. The Board will also collaborate with the Administration to look into the proliferation of street garages contributing to traffic slowing especially during rush hours".

He promised to use his expertise to advise the traffic division of the Authority to enforce laws on abandoned and stationary vehicles in dangerous locations on the roads.

**Ix PC Bai Shebora Lion II,Proposed Member, Board of Directors Sierra Maritime Administration(SLMA)**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, PC Bai Shebora Lion II hails from the Mambolo Chiefdom in the Kambia District where he is presently serves as the traditional ruler. Prior to his ascendency to the throne in 2011, he worked on the Maritime Board (2015-2018) during which he exhibited great knowledge in handling unlicensed vessels within our coastal waters . His creative and innovative skills coupled with experience to lead, always accelerate his development programs to fruition.

He has served on the Council of Paramount Chiefs as treasurer with excellence for four years that exemplifies his stern on accountability.

Responding to the Committee on what he will be taking to the SLMA, the Paramount Chief said he will work with colleagues to ensure the SLMA succeeds in meeting the mandates of the Government.

He concluded that, collectively with the administration, they will change the narrative of SLMA to a better revenue generating institution.

#### **X . Maj,Rtd Christian Fayimba Marah, Proposed Commissioner for Arms and Ammunition**

Maj. General . Christian Fayimba Marah recently served as Assistant Chief of Defence Staff, of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces. He holds a Master Degree in Strategic Studies, from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He has served RSLAF in several capacities including:

- Director of Military operations: September 2016 – July 2017
- Brigade Commander, 5<sup>th</sup> brigade: October 2013 – to August 2014
- Commander Training group, Benguema: January 2013 to October 2013
- Commanding officer, Peace Mission Training Centre, Hastings: May 2012 to January 2013
- Chief of Operations, Sector West UNAMID, Darfur: April 2011 to April 2012
- Chief of Operations, HQ Joint Forces Command: September 2009 to March 2011
- Commanding Officer, 1 Battalion Commanding Officer, 11 battalion and many more....

He also served in International Peace Keeping missions in Monrovia as Platoon Commander, Adjutant, Company Deputy from October 1991 to August 1994 and in Mogadishu (AMISOM), Somalia, as Chief Military Administrative Officer from July 2017 to July 2018

Maj Rtd Fayimba Marah was praised by the Committee for his astute leadership and services in the Army .He promised in response to Members that he will work on the road map of the institution especially those leading to reduction in fire arms' proliferation and prolong licensing duration.

#### **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. Ms Saptieu Elizabeth Saccoh ,Proposed Deputy Minister of Justice
2. Mr. Joseph John Senessie, Proposed Director –General ,Sierra Leone Correctional Service
3. Madam Susan Baby Koker, Proposed Deputy Director –General, Sierra Leone Correctional Service
4. Mrs Edwina Frances Momodu(Esq),Proposed Board of Directors ,Bank of Sierra Leone
5. Rev. Solomon Hindolo Bakiz-Kainjami Butsher-Proposed Member,Sierra Leone Water Company(SALWACO)
6. Mr. John Gbondo Margai, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Roads Authority Board (SLRA)
7. Madam Elenorah Jokomie Metzger,Proposed Member,Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion
8. Mr. Thomas Mustapha Lahai. Proposed Chairman ,Sierra Leone Roads Safety Authority(SLRSA)
9. PC Bai Shebora Lion II, Proposed Board of Directors Sierra Maritime Administration(
10. Maj,Rtd Christian Fayimba Marah, Proposed Commissioner for Arms and Ammunition

## **5 Conclusion**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the **Seventh Report** reflects the **unanimous** view of the Committee. I therefore move that the **Seventh 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 & Leader of Government Business