



**HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT
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FREETOWN**



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

**SIXTEENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND
THE PUBLIC SERVICE ON PARLIAMENTARY VETTING OF
PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS – JUNE, 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 Thursday, 30th May, 2024 and interviewed **eleven** Presidential nominees for the following appointments

- i. **seven** proposed Members (one Chairperson and six members) of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC) Board of Trustees and
- ii. **four** chairpersons, one each for the Board of Directors for the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration(SLMA), National Sports Authority of Sierra Leone; Board of Directors ,Guma Valley Water Company(GVWC) and the National Commission for Persons with Disability respectively.

2. PROCEDURE

The Committee conducted its open hearing with live media trending within the usual framework of procedures and screened the nominees 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 services. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also closely looked into.

3. Nineteenth Sitting of the Committee on Thursday 30th May, 2024

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the 2009 Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation Act, Section 3(1) explicitly states that "the governing body of the Corporation shall be the Board of Trustees consisting of representatives from Council of Paramount Chiefs Inter-Regions Council. Women Forum, Sierra Bar Association ,University of Sierra Leone Engineering Department, Youths Council, Sierra Leone Association of Journalists and the Civil Society Organization. It is further stated in the same Act that this Board works with the Director General as its Secretary to chart the way forward for the SLBC; the reason why the Committee considers the approval of this recently constituted Board, just after a month's approval of the SLBC Director General Ivy this House.

In fulfillment of the above as in Section 3(2) of the aforementioned Act, the following nominees were interviewed on oath:

I Dr. Williette Princess Ransolina Oluwakemi James, Proposed
Chairman, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting
Corporation(SLBC)

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Dr Williette Princess Ransolina Oluwakemi James is an esteemed Media and Communications expert with an outstanding record of academic and professional achievements. She previously served as a member, on the board, to which she has been nominated to serve as Chairman.

She holds a double Masters in Mass Communication and Gender respectively, and a PhD in Communications and Media Studies all from Fourah Bay College. Dr. Willette P.R.O. James is a highly respected Communications professional and known for her reform-

minded approach in every office she has occupied both in the public and private sectors. She has served with exemplary records in the following capacities

- August 2002 to date: Communications Manager, NP (SL) Limited
- 2018 to date: Chief Executive Officer, Brijette Media
- 2018 to date: Executive President and Founder, Women Leaders' Initiative
- July 2020 to November 2022: President, Academic Staff Association, University of Sierra Leone
- March 2018: UNDP Communications Expert to Sierra Leone Police

In her submission to the Committee, on her knowledge on the SLBC,,the erudite media expert said she was a Member of the immediate defunct Board and was familiar with the SLBC'S required areas of pressing reforms ranging from digital upgrading from analogues, staff demotivation and news programmer reforms among others.. As a Chairperson, she promised to work collaboratively with her Members and the management to move the institution forward. On the role of media in fighting Corruption, the proposed Chairperson mentioned " the media's sacred role is to inform and educate the masses with credible information . This cannot be attained without the involvement of other State actors including Parliament that will give support to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the media",she concluded

II. Mr. Isaac Sowa ,Proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC)

Mr. Isaac Sowa is a veteran Teacher, Journalist and Broadcaster that has contributed immensely to the fields of both broadcasting and education..He served as a free-lance news reader and announcer on both radio and television at the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service now (SLBC) from 1991 to 2011.He presented programmes like "Diary", African Miscellany" "From the World Press" and Musical program at the national Broadcaster

Mr. Sowa a former SLBC local news presenter said his presence on the Board is a continuation of service and would work earnestly with other colleagues Members to help management instill required Journalistic norms to the state broadcaster. "As a member of the second generation SLBC Journalist and an older member of SLAJ, I will

work with the Board to proffer recommendations for better institutional growth", he concluded.

III Madam Hawa Christiana Bah, Proposed Member Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC)

Madam Hawa Bah is currently serving as the Senior Manager and Policy on governance relations at the National Telecommunication Authority .Her job description includes assisting in development of corporate strategies, policies and plans that align with governmental laws, regulations and standards. She also responsible to support the Director in the implementation of policy issues agreed by aggrieved parties that are land owners and mobile operators. Additionally she is responsible to represent the authority on policy matters.

In her response to the Committee, Madam Hawa said her background as human Resource person and Women Forum activist would help her push for deeper gender programs and staff welfare prioritization reforms .She sounded hopeful that collective efforts of the Board and management would turn the SLBC current status around, she concluded

IV.. Mr. Mustapha Theophilus Kailie, Proposed Member Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC)

Mr. Mustapha Kallie is an Expert in Public Relations and Communications skills with strong competencies in Management and Leadership.Mr.Mustapha Kallie is currently serving as a Property evaluator at the Sierra Rutile and his key responsibility is to inspect properties that are to be likely destroyed by mining activities and proffers compensation to crop/property owners.

As a prone community media expert and youths activist Mr Kailie explained that at this critical moments of pervasive youths problems ranging from drugs to soaring migration to urban centres abandoning the rural sector, I will work with colleagues in giving directions on how management could strengthen Community SLBC transmission at District levels to complement government development drives. "The Public Broadcaster's voice in our homes, through Community radio transmissions will

once more bring governance to our door steps in advocating for Youths reforms", he concluded

v. Ing Dr, Samba Sesay , Proposed Member Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC)

Ing.Dr.Samba is a dynamic Professional Engineer with over eighteen years of experience in the field of Telecommunication and Electronic Engineering .He is a committed professional that has impacted positively on national development and globalization.

In his brief response on how his engineering experience would be useful to the SLBC ,Dr..Sesay said the digital upgrading from analogue to audio visual transmission expansion require scientific expert knowledge .The reason he said the Board made provision for the representation from the University. He promised to render the required scientific inputs to promote the national broadcaster.

VI. Ms. Cecilia Tucker Esq, Proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC)

Ms. Cecelia Tucker is Legal Practitioner who is currently serving as Manager of the Legal Aid Board. Her main duties includes to directly supervise all legal Aid Lawyers and paralegals .She also provides legal advice and legal representation in both criminal and civil cases for the defenceless.

Madam Tucker succinctly explained that as a representative of the Bar Association, the national broadcaster operates with emerging licensed private broadcasting stations within the media space that will have continued legal ramifications with both the Independent Media Commission and Clenteles. ." I will guide the Board on the laws that will make the Corporation sail through legitimate businesses", she concluded.

Vii Mr, Mohamed Bundu Koroma, Proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC)

Mr.Mohamed Bundu Kamara is a renowned Youth Activist with wealth of experience in Youth Advocacy, Programme Management and Accounting.Mr.Koroma served as Youth Ambassador for the Youth Empowerment and Development Association of Sierra Leone

(YEDA-SL) . He strongly advocates youths, women and disabled advancements in Sierra Leone . He currently serves as the Chairman, Network of Community Youth Organization (NYCO) Sierra Leone.

As a Civil Society activist, Mr Koroma said they always work with the media and so his presence on the Board will guide the Board to intensify SLBC's outreach to all facets of society especially through policies that will push for political pluralism . He promised to work collaboratively with colleagues Board Members to uplift the SLBC for better delivery.

Furthermore, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members the following Chairpersons as earlier stated were also considered and interviewed:

Viii Hon. Bintu Ndoella Myers ,Proposed Chair Board of Directors ,Sierra Leone Maritime Administrtrion (SLMA)

Mr. Speaker, Honourable. Members, Hon. Bintu Myers has been a politician of longstanding credibility and repute, and served this House as a Member of Parliament from 2002 – 2012, a period spanning for ten years. She is a motivated and performance politician spanning over thirty years in public service. While in Parliament, she served in many capacities including:

- Chairman, Committee on Health and Sanitation (2002 – 2010)
- Chairman, Committee on Gender and Social Welfare (2011 – 2012)
- Member, Committee on Appointment and the Public Service,
- Committee on Internal Affairs
- Committee on Marine Resources
- Prior to her appointment to this position, the former Mayor of Kenema Municipality served as Chair, Board of Directors, Guma Valley Water Company

Mr Speaker ,Honourable Members the Committee recognized Honourable Myers as one of their colleagues returning home and so was praised across party line as worthy for the reappointment. The Committee therefore reaffirms earlier commendations as were bestowed on the nominee during the Fifth Parliament.

Responding to whether she will replicate the revenue collection drive gains made at Guma Water Company to the SLMA Board , she said " I am going to the Maritime with

an open mind to collaborate and work for the state. I will look forward for their orientation,,take stock ,work with my colleagues to help the administration. As a politician and former lawmaker I am always guided by the Act that establishes the institution I serve”, she ended

ix. Dr Vandy Konneh, Proposed Chairman ,National Commission for Persons with Disability

Mr.. Speaker, Honourable. Members, Dr. Vandy Konneh holds Doctorate degree in disability and development coordination from Atlantic International University (AIU), Hawaii, United States of America

Dr. Vandy Konneh is a transformative leader who is widely known for his passion for civil society activism and a track record for advocating for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He registered a rich plethora of work experience thus:

2014 – 2017: Member, Sierra Leone Constitutional Review Committee

2015 – 2017: Liaison Officer on disability issues, Office of the Vice President

2016: Ambassador at Large, United Refugee Green Council

2012 – 2018: Commissioner, National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, South

2016 – 2018: Board Member and Executive representative in Sierra Leone, Vassili Group Ltd..

Mr. Speaker, Honourable. Members, Dr. Vandy Konneh is fearless fighter for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and has served as a perfect testimony that disability is not inability. His ability to permeate through the corridors of power and advocate for persons with disability is worthy of recognition.

Dr Konneh was hailed by cross section of the Committee Members for his job profile stability and efforts made over the years in promoting national disability issues. In his response to what he intends offering for the sector, the nominee said “ I am going to push for reforms but the cardinal would be to review the moribund Disability Act and make it workable. ” He ended on the note that mainstreaming vocational education at

all levels of the Commission programme would be prioritized to take our disability youths out of drugs abuses.

X. Mr. Ibrahim Nyelenkeh: Proposed Chairman, National Sports Authority of Sierra Leone

Mr. Speaker, Honourable. Members, Mr. Ibrahim Nyelenkeh is not a stranger to sports loving fans due to his astute leadership in the Ministry of Sports. My Speaker, Honourable. Members, it was under his leadership that the national team Leone Stars made their return to the international stage by participating in the 2021 African Cup of Nations after more than 20 .

Mr. Speaker, Honourable. Members, Mr. Ibrahim Nyelenkeh's name in the records of the Ministry of Sports for resolving an 8 years old conflict in the Sierra Leone Football Association and other sixteen sporting disciplines. He also restored the Sierra Leone Male and Female Premier Leagues after eight years of standoff.

The National Stadium is currently undergoing massive rehabilitation due to the hard work of our nominee for facilitating a 40 Million United States Dollars project from the Peoples Republic of China.

Mr Nyallenkeh was acknowledged by Committee members as a reformer of the national sports having worked with all key players for some years now. He was hailed for his courage and administrative prowess – an astute element for state governance.

In his response to the new assignment, he said he was returning not as a stranger but as a man that will consolidate the gains this Government has made in the Sporting Sector. He promised to diversify the sports rather than banking only on Football but will look for opportunities and supports for extensive national leagues in other sports ranging from acrobats ,Rugby ,tennis, Crickets and many others.

Xi Ing David Karim Fonne, Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors ,Guma Valley Water Company(GVWC)

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, this nominee is a qualified Civil Engineer with vast professional knowledge in planning, designing and construction spanning over 40 years. Additionally, he has over 10 years' experience in public engineering works

assessment needs for rural/feeder roads and construction contracts document preparation for international donor agencies. He is also well experienced in Environmental Impact Assessment that will be vital for our water supply sustainability of the Guma Water Company.

In South Africa, he served as technical adviser in the Expanded Public Works Programme in the National Department of Public Works.

He holds a Master of Science degree in Road Engineering from Delft University of Technology and the International Institute in Infrastructural, Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering and a Bachelor of Engineering degree from the Fourah Bay College. Ing. David Fonnlie is widely acclaimed for his professional experience working with diverse institutions both locally and internationally.

Answering to barrage of questions on how he would respond to the increasing diminishing catchments areas of the Guma reservoir in the Western part of Freetown, he explained "I am aware of the existing problems around the main reservoir and the ongoing demolition of structures to **reshift** the green belt that has been seriously encroached upon.. Though is too late now to regain the 1960 boundary around the dam, we do hope that this Presidential initiative to salvage the water sources will be complemented with immediate massive tree planting by all stakeholders.

Ing. Fonnlie assured the Committee as Chairman if approved, ,he will work with colleagues to prioritize GVWC activities to sustain water supply and generate more revenues.

4. . **Recommendations**

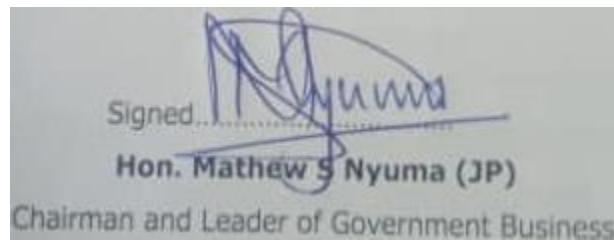
Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominees to be adequately qualified for their proposed appointments and are therefore recommended to the House for approval:

1. Dr. Williette Princess Ransolina Oluwakemi James, Proposed Chairman, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC)
2. Mr. Isaac Sowa , Proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC)

3. Madam Hawa Christiana Bah,,Proposed Member Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC)
4. Mr. Mustapha Theophilus. Kailie,Proposed Member Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC)
5. Ing Dr, Samba Sesay , Proposed Member Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC)
6. Ms. Cecilia Tucker Esq, Proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC)
7. Ms. Cecilia Tucker Esq, Proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC)
8. Mr, Mohamed Bundu Koroma, Proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation(SLBC)
9. Dr Vandy Konneh, Proposed Chairman ,National Commission for Persons with Disability
10. Mr. Ibrahim Nyelenkeh: Proposed Chairman, National Sports Authority of Sierra Leone
11. *Ing David Karim Fonne, Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors ,Guma Valley Water Company(GVWC)*

5.Conclusion

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

Signed.....

Hon. Mathew S Nyuma (JP)

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