



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

**TWENTIETH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND
THE PUBLIC SERVICE ON PARLIAMENTARY VETTING OF
PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS –AUGUST , 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 Monday, 5th August, 2024 and interviewed **Nine** Presidential nominees for the following appointments to Public Offices:

- i. One Ambassador
- ii. Three Deputy Ambassadors
- iii. Three Board Chairmen **and**
- iv. Two Board Members

2. PROCEDURE

The Committee conducted its open hearing within the usual framework of procedures. The Nominees were vetted 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 by the Committee.

3. Twenty-fourth Sitting of the Committee on Monday 5th August, 2024

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, pursuant to Section 10 and Section 53 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No.6 of 1991, His Excellency the President has deemed it fit to nominate the following suitably qualified Sierra Leoneans to be approved by the House of Parliament in a bid to transform the foreign, education and public sectors of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, in fulfillment of its Constitutional mandates, the Committee interviewed the following Presidential Nominees on oath:

I. Mr. Ibrahim Turay: Proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Dakar, Senegal

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, Mr. Ibrahim Turay is a Marine Professional with vast experience in fisheries management, marine law, and policy.

He holds a Masters degree in fisheries and marine resources and a post graduate diploma, from the International Ocean Institute, University of Dalhousie, Canada.

From May 2018 to July 2023 he served as the Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources responsible to provide policy direction for the achievement of the Government's vision for development and sustainable management of the Fisheries Sector in Sierra Leone. Additionally, he was responsible to assist the Minister to implement strategic actions of the Fisheries policy with a view to conserving the sustainable utilization of the marine resources in a manner that is ecologically efficient and socially viable.

In his response to probing questions from the Committee on seeking the interest of Sierra Leone, Mr. Turay said "As a patriotic Sierra Leonean and being fully aware of the vision of His Excellency the President on deepening diplomatic ties within the West Africa basin. I strongly believe that my

immediate predecessor has already set the pace towards this trajectory. If approved by this Honourable House.

However, he underscored that he will work with state institutions in Senegal to address some of the perennial migrant issues such as work permit, injustice and human rights abuses. These are issues that need constant engagements and negotiation with the Senegalese authorities". He concluded

The nominee promised to market Sierra Leone to potential investors since Senegal is a hub for business in West Africa

II. Mrs. Asmaa James: Proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone

Embassy, Brussels, Belgium

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members, Mrs. Asmaa James is a renowned award winning female radio broadcaster and journalist with over 22 years of broadcasting experience in post conflict Sierra Leone. She has an advanced diploma in Journalism from the London School of Journalism. Her passion for upholding and promoting active citizens' participation in strengthening democratic governance is always uncompromised and or unwavering.

She is currently serving as the Chief Executive of Asmaa James Incorporation which comprises of ; a radio station called "Rise Radio" , Asmaa James Foundation better known as "Girls Plus" which focuses on empowering women and girls. She was also Managing/Executive Director of the Society for Radio Democracy 98.1 FM for over 11 years, a radio station well known for it's instrumental role in the fight for the restoration of democracy and the consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone. This is a testament to her hard work and commitment in contributing to the development of this nation. Hence, in recognition of her contribution to society, she received several awards, some of which include:

- ❖ In 2016, she was selected as a young and emerging leader from Sierra Leone to participate in the young African Leaders Initiative, under the Mandela Washington Fellowship.
- ❖ In 2019, she was recognized as one of BBC's 100 inspiring and influential Women from around the world who are change makers.
- ❖ In April 2022, she was awarded the Officer of the Order of the Rokel, Sierra Leone's second highest honour for civilians by H.E the President.
- ❖ In May 2022, she and six other women, were honoured by the UK High Commission in Sierra Leone for championing issues affecting girls and women.

In her submission, to the Committee on coping with the nuances and complexities associated with diplomacy, Mrs. Asmaa James said" I know the world of diplomacy requires special skills and fitness among others. However, I am going with a journalistic and public service sector experience to make it successful. I intend to work closely with the substantive Ambassador and staff to ensure quality representation in all spheres on behalf of His Excellency the President and the Government of Sierra Leone". She affirmed.

The Nominee was praised across party lines for her unequivocal stance on issues of social injustices and her fair and impartial presentation on national issues. Members of the Committee expressed strong sentiments that the Nominee continues her advocacy skills to resolve some of the migrant problems that may arise in the Kingdom of Belgium.

III. Madam Fatmata Sawaneh: Proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Conakry, Guinea

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Fatmata Sawaneh is a highly motivated performance driven and result oriented grass root politician with over 15 years active participation in politics and entrepreneurship. Her unique drive for excellence and success took her to the enviable position of National

Women's Leader of the Sierra Leone People's Party, a position she held from 2017 – 2022 and demonstrated honesty and transparency throughout her tenure.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Nominee was admonished by the Committee to acquaint herself with discipline, commitment and dedication in her new role. She was also praised across party lines for her extra-ordinary support and contribution to national politics. Madam Sawaneh was further acknowledged for her invaluable role and input in enacting the Gender and Women Empowerment Act.

IV. Mr. Lusine Kallon: Proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Monrovia, Liberia

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr. Lusine Kallon is a vibrant young leader with a Master in Business Administration (MBA), with specialty in Human Resource Management from the Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM).

From 2018 – 2023, he served this nation as Deputy Minister, Ministry of Youth Affairs, where he performed remarkably well in facilitating the establishment and operations of the Youth in Agriculture project which established 191 Chiefdom Youth Farms.

From 2014 – 2016, he served as Operations Manager, Uncle Hung Mining Ltd, Sierra Leone

From 2011-2014, he was Export/Import & Store Manager, Tropical Farms Ltd. Sierra Leone. And from 2007 – 2011, he was Administrative Assistant, Sierra Leone Youth Empowerment Organization.

Commenting on his role of strengthening the bi-lateral ties between Liberia and Sierra Leone Mr. Lusine Kallon said, "If approved by this Honourable House, I will work with the current Ambassador to deepen the bi-lateral ties with the Republic of Liberia by facilitating cooperation programmes such as

free trade zones, easing border restrictions and addressing issues revolving around human rights abuses and employment for Sierra Leonean migrant ". He averred.

V. Mr. Kabineh Moinama Kallon: Proposed Chairman, National Revenue Authority

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr. Kabineh Moinama Kallon is a motivated individual with a lot of experience in case management in social service and community development. He has served this country in several capacities especially in the public sector with the goal of achieving government's Public Service Objectives. He holds a Masters Degree in Social Work from Howard University, Washington DC in 2001. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from the University of the District of Columbia, Washington DC in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr. Kabineh Moinama Kallon served as Minister of Transport and Aviation, from 2018 to 2023, where he superintended over the novelty public transport modernization process in Sierra Leone, which seeks to make public transport services accessible, affordable, safe and comfortable for Sierra Leoneans. He was very instrumental in bringing to fruition several projects including "Waka Fine" bus service, overhead bridges, the new Freetown International Airport and more. His nomination to the position of Chairman of the Board of the National Revenue Authority by H.E the President is by no means a mistake because; he had once served that institution with dedication and diligence in the following capacities;

From September 2006 – 2008, he was Senior Tax Collector and from November 2005 to September 2006 he was Collector, preventive and special services division, customs and excise department.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Nominee was hailed by the Committee for his steadfast Commitment to duty and the radical transformation of the transport sector during his tenure at the Ministry. He was acknowledged for his role in the successful procurement of the Waka Fine buses by the World Bank that eased transportation for the general public.

On another note, the Nominee assured the Committee that he would work collaboratively with all stakeholders to provide policy guidelines to increase revenue mobilization at the National Revenue Authority to enable the Government of Sierra Leone implement the big five game changer agenda to help transform Sierra Leone.

VI. Mr. Edward Lebbie Williams: Proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, Mr. Williams is a Politician and Teacher of no mean standing. He holds a Masters degree in Educational Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Education.

From 2005 to 2018 Mr. Lebbie served as Principal of the Bullom Ahmadiyya Muslim Secondary School responsible to provide oversight and monitor the day to day activities of the School.

From 2018 to date, he served as Chairman, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Airport Authority responsible to provide policy guidelines and oversight on the management of the Sierra Leone Airport Authority .

Responding to the Committee's inquiry on transforming the Airport to meet International standards, the Nominee opined that, "I will work with all stakeholders to ensure the management of the Airport implement an effective aviation safety and security oversight system; to address the

requirements of the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation (1944) and ensure quality service delivery to customers at all times". He said.

The Nominee also promised to undertake key policy reforms aimed at improving the working conditions of the employees in the Sector to maximize their output to meet customer satisfaction.

VII. Ing. Andrew Karmoh Keili: Proposed Chairman, Electricity Distribution Supply Authority

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Ing. Andrew Karmor Keili is a qualified Mining Engineer with a Master of Philosophy degree (Mphil) from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne in the United Kingdom. He has worked for various mining companies including the then Sierra Rutile Mining Company in Sierra Leone, the United States of America, and Ukraine. He is a founding member and co-owner of Cemmat Group Ltd., a major multidisciplinary Engineering and environmental consultancy in Sierra Leone, where he currently serves as Managing Director.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, this fine gentleman is well vast in corporate governance issues in the public and private sectors, having served as the first Chairman of the Board of Ecobank, Sierra Leone, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, NASSIT and also a member of the Board of Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission. Mr. Andrew Keili has been involved in the formulation of government policies and delivery of projects dealing with Sierra Leone's electricity including being a member of the Management team for the National Power Authority. He is also a recipient of the national award of the Grand Commander of the Order of the Rokel.

Also ,his relevant project experiences related to the electricity sector include:

- ❖ 2023 : Lead Consultant for the formulation of a National Energy Policy for Sierra Leone, funded by UNECA

- ✧ 2020 : Project Director, Environmental Social Impact Assessment update to IFC standards for the 66KV Transmission Line (Eastern Corridor) project for Kalpatru, India
- ✧ 2016 : Project Director, Resettlement Action Plan for Bumbuna Phase 2 Hydroelectric Project, Joule Africa Ltd, Sierra Leone
- ✧ 2011 – 2012 : Project Director, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for Bumbuna phase 2 project, Lahmeyer International, Sierra Leone
 - ❖ 2004 : Project Director, Environmental Management Services, Liberia Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project/Upgrading of the Liberia Interconnected off-Grid Electricity System, World Bank, Liberia
- ✧ 2000 – 2002: Member of the Management Team, National Power Authority and the World Bank, Sierra Leone.

In allaying the fears of the Committee, on restoring sanity in the Energy Sector Ing .Andrew Keili said "I have spent the greater part of my professional career working in the Energy Sector. Therefore, I am quite familiar with the numerous challenges associated with that sector. I also have first hand experience on how a lot of countries have resolved the problems to achieve sustainable energy supply. I strongly believe that a holistic approach is required and this can only be achieved through effective collaboration with partners , institutions and building on the existing energy structures". He said.

VIII. Madam Cathryn Patricia Frances Turay: Proposed Commissioner, Southern Region, Tertiary Education Commission

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Cathryn Turay is a Legal Practitioner with over twenty years experience as the Chief Executive Officer of the Frandia Company a private company responsible to provide logistics and office equipment for public and private companies.

Madam Turay holds a Bachelor of Law degree, with Honours from the University of Northumbria, Newcastle, United Kingdom .

Prior to her appointment, Mrs.Turay served as Legal Practitioner at Holloway & Partners, responsible to negotiate settlements on behalf of clients and represent clients in court and provide counsel on legal issues and litigation. She was also responsible to work closely with clients to understand their needs and objectives and draft clients' legal documents.

Commenting on her role in ensuring strict adherence of the Tertiary Education Act by Universities and Colleges, Mrs.Turay said "If approved, I will be providing the necessary legal advice to the Chairman and the Board to enable them provide effective oversight and monitoring mechanism for all tertiary institutions in the Southern Region and to ensure adherence to the Act".

IX. Rev. Thomas Johnnard Barnet: Proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Rev. Thomas Johnnard Barnet is a retired bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone. He holds a Master of Divinity (Mdiv) degree from the Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubugue Town, United States of America.

He was elected as head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sierra Leone in 2003 and at the same time served as President, Council of Churches in Sierra Leone and the Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone

In April 2014, he was awarded the National Honour of the Order of the Rokel in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the achievement of Evangelism in Sierra Leone.

As representative of the religious Council, the Nominee promised to work with colleague board members to effect the necessary changes needed in

Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation to make it a modern broadcasting Corporation.

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. Mr. Ibrahim Turay: Proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Dakar, Senegal
2. Mrs. Asmaa James: Proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Brussels, Belgium
3. Madam Fatmata Sawaneh: Proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Conakry, Guinea
4. Mr. Lusine Kallon: Proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Monrovia, Liberia
5. Mr. Kabineh Moinama Kallon: Proposed Chairman, National Revenue Authority
6. Mr. Edward Lebbie Williams: Proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority
7. Ing. Andrew Karmoh Keili: Proposed Chairman, Electricity Distribution Supply Authority
8. Madam Cathryn Patricia Frances Turay: Proposed Commissioner, Southern Region, Tertiary Education Commission
9. Rev. Thomas Johnnard Barnet: Proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation

5. Conclusion

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

Honourable Mathew Sahr Nyuma,JP

Chairman,Committee on Appointment and Public Service