

IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA

**THIRD REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS
COMMITTEE**

ON

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT'S
NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS AS
MINISTERS**

JANUARY 2025

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EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT AS
MINISTER**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On Thursday, 16th January 2025, H.E. the President, John Dramani Mahama, in accordance with Article 78(1) of the 1992 Constitution, communicated to Parliament the nomination of:

- i. Hon Ahmed Ibrahim as Minister Designate for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs;
- ii. Hon Agnes Naa Momo Lartey (PhD) as Minister Designate for Gender, Children and Social Protection;
- iii. Hon Elizabeth Ofosu-Adjare as Minister Designate for Trade, Agribusiness and Industry.

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, in accordance with Order 217 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, referred the nominee to the Appointments Committee for consideration and report.

2.0 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the under-listed documents during the consideration of the nominee:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament;
- iii. The Curriculum Vitae (CVs) of the nominees

3.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE REFERRAL

In accordance with Standing Order 217(10), the name of the nominee was published in newspapers for the public's attention. The publication also requested memoranda from the public regarding the nominee. The Committee subsequently sought and obtained Confidential Reports on the nominee from the Ghana Police Service and the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB). The Committee also requested that the nominee submit tax status reports from the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).

The Committee held a public hearing on Tuesday, 21st January 2025, to consider the nomination. The nominee subscribed to the Oath of a Witness before a Committee and answered questions from Hon. Members. The nominee was asked questions relating to his curriculum vitae, eligibility, competencies, issues of national concern, and those pertaining to the office to which he had been nominated.

The Committee, after its deliberations, reports on the nominee as follows:

4.0 HON AHMED IBRAHIM

MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHIEFTAINCY, AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

4.1 BACKGROUND

Honourable Ahmed Ibrahim was born on 6th May 1974 in Sunyani and hails from Banda Ahenkro in the Bono Region of Ghana. He is a Christian and a member of the Church of Pentecost. He is married with one child.

The Nominee began his education at Banda Ahenkro L/A Middle School, obtaining his Middle School Leaving Certificate in 1989. He pursued his secondary education at Sunyani Business Secondary School and Sunyani Secondary School, earning his G.C.E. 'O' Level certificate in 1994 and his G.C.E. 'A' Level certificate in 1996. He later attended the University of Ghana, Legon, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with Philosophy in 2001. Additionally, he holds a Master of Business Administration (Finance) degree from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), which he completed in 2019.

Honourable Ahmed Ibrahim has participated in several international workshops and conferences, including capacity-building programmes organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the Commonwealth Secretariat/GIMPA. Notable events include the 51st Council Meeting of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) in Trinidad

and Tobago and the 61st Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure in London.

He undertook his National Service at the Salvation Army Secondary School from 2001 to 2002, teaching English. Between 2004 and 2009, he served as the Chief Executive Officer of Flamingo Publications Ghana Limited, overseeing corporate operations and book production.

In his political career, Honourable Ahmed Ibrahim served as the Member of Parliament for Tain from 2009 to 2013 and has been the Member of Parliament for Banda since 2013. He briefly served as a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament from January to May 2013. In the Parliament of Ghana, he held the positions of 2nd Deputy Majority Whip from 2013 to 2017 and 1st Deputy Minority Whip from 2017 to 2025. He currently serves as the 1st Deputy Majority Whip.

Throughout his parliamentary tenure, from the Fifth to the Ninth Parliament, the Nominee has been a member of various key committees, including the Judiciary Committee, Communication Committee, Business Committee, Local Government Committee, and Education Committee.

Honourable Ahmed Ibrahim began his leadership journey as House Prefect at Sunyani Secondary School from 1995 to 1996. He later served as President of the Sunyani Secondary School Old Boys Association, University of Ghana Branch, from 2000 to 2001.

The Nominee enjoys reading and debating in his leisure time.

QUESTIONS ASKED OF THE NOMINEE AND HIS RESPONSES

4.1 Land Ownership

The nominee was queried on the propriety of purchasing government land, as he had done through the Tema Development Company (TDC). In his response, the nominee emphasised that the sale of government lands is not uniform in nature. He clarified that there are legal and illegal government land sales, and only legally acquired lands are deemed legitimate. He cited the Tema Development Company's landed properties as notable examples, noting that such properties are lawfully sold on the open market and are available for acquisition by any individual with the means to do so.

The nominee further elucidated that any acquisition of government or other stated-owned lands through insider information cannot be regarded as a lawful transaction.

Regarding whether foreigners should be permitted to own landed properties in Ghana legally, the nominee answered in the affirmative. He noted that Ghanaians are similarly afforded opportunities to acquire such properties outside the country's borders.

4.2 Line of Reporting of the Administrator of DACF

The nominee was asked his opinion on whether the Administrator of the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) should report to the Minister responsible for Local Government, Chieftaincy, and Religious Affairs. In

effective monitoring of the DACF by the Minister and the associated technical team. He explained that the District Assemblies Common Fund Act, 1993 (Act 455), which establishes the Office of the Administrator of the DACF, provides for the Administrator to report directly to the Minister responsible for Local Government. He, however, noted that this provision is inconsistent with Section 129 of the Local Government Act, 2016 (Act 936), which stipulates that the Administrator shall report to Parliament and the Office of the President. The nominee highlighted that the provisions of Act 936 have created practical implementation challenges due to the reporting structure and suggested that the law should be amended to resolve these issues.

He further remarked that Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs) have raised concerns regarding significant deductions from their share of the DACF at source for sanitation and other purposes. He opined that such matters could be better addressed if the Administrator were required to report to the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy, and Religious Affairs.

Expressing gratitude to His Excellency the President for appointing Hon Ato Forson as the Minister for Finance, the nominee noted that this appointment would enhance the ability of Ministers by helping to address many of the financial challenges confronting the various sectors of the economy, including the one he would oversee when he is given the nod. He concluded by affirming his commitment to working collaboratively with

Parliament and key stakeholders to review and amend the relevant laws to address pressing issues affecting the sector.

4.3 Improving the Local Economy in collaboration with MMDCEs

The nominee was asked how he intends to enhance the local economy in collaboration with the Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs). In his response, the nominee emphasised that the development of local economies is a fundamental mandate of the MMDCEs. He assured the Committee that he would collaborate closely with them to advance the growth and development of the Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs). He further explained that his approach would include giving due consideration to the comparative and natural advantages of each locality in addressing the development needs of local communities.

4.4 Inadequate Human Resource at the MMDAs

The nominee was questioned on how he intends to ensure that Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) are equipped with adequate human resources to fulfil their mandate effectively. In response, the nominee informed the Committee that one approach would be the establishment of a University of Local Governance and Development, a proposal that could not materialise during the Eighth Parliament due to time constraints. He stated that the University would also provide an opportunity to absorb some of the students graduating from Senior High Schools, thereby alleviating the pressure on existing universities, particularly public institutions.

4.5 Resources to Run MMDAs and Other Agencies under the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs

The nominee was asked to outline measures for enhancing revenue generation and ensuring adequate funding for the operations of Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) and other agencies under the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy, and Religious Affairs. The nominee acknowledged that MMDAs face significant challenges, including resource constraints. He assured the Committee of his commitment to collaborating with local authorities to secure the necessary funding to enable them to deliver on their mandate. He cited recommendations from the Committee on Local Government and Rural Development of the Eighth Parliament, based on its monitoring visits to approximately 154 Districts. Among these recommendations, he highlighted the potential of property rates to significantly improve the financial position of MMDAs if efficiently collected.

The nominee expressed concern over the centralisation of property rate collection by the immediate past New Patriotic Party (NPP) Administration. He assured the Committee that he would work with the Assemblies to address this issue, emphasising that the collection of rates would not remain centralised under his leadership.

4.6 District Road Improvement Programme (DRIP)

The nominee was asked whether the District Road Improvement Programme (DRIP) should be placed under the Ministry of Roads and

Highways or the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy, and Religious Affairs, given that it is an initiative of the latter. The nominee described the Programme as a laudable concept jointly developed by the parliamentary Committee on Local Government and Rural Development, the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, and the Office of the Administrator of the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF). He, however, noted that its implementation faced challenges from the outset, primarily because funding was to be sourced from the Office of the Administrator of the DACF, which reports directly to the Office of the President.

The nominee expressed concern that Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs) lacked records of the Programme's implementation and that no committees had been established to ensure effective monitoring and execution. He further lamented the absence of mechanisms for procuring spare parts for graders and other equipment used in the Programme.

The nominee was of the view that the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy, and Religious Affairs should oversee the implementation of DRIP to ensure its success. He recommended the establishment of proper structures and systems, along with effective monitoring mechanisms, to facilitate the Programme's successful execution.

4.7 Waste Management Contracts

The nominee was asked whether he would consider decentralising waste management contracts to the level of Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs). In response, he stated that he was not privy to the details of any waste management contracts but acknowledged that such contracts are typically signed at the ministerial level. He further noted that waste management, globally, is a core function of MMDAs and emphasised that sanitation falls appropriately under the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy, and Religious Affairs.

The nominee asserted that the issue could be effectively addressed through proper and efficient monitoring mechanisms rather than focusing solely on the level at which such contracts are executed.

4.8 The Mandate of the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs

The nominee was asked how he intends to effectively deliver on his mandate if his nomination is approved by the House, given the realignment of the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy, and Religious Affairs, and the resulting expansion of responsibilities. In response, the nominee explained that, following the realignment, the Ministry will now have distinct Departments for Local Governance, Sanitation, and Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs. He assured the Committee of his commitment to working collaboratively with all Departments within the Ministry, particularly those highlighted, to

ensure effective supervision and ethical governance. He emphasised that this approach would enable him to meet the expectations of Parliament and, by extension, the Ghanaian people.

4.9 Turf War between MMDCEs and Members of Parliament

The nominee was asked to explain the persistent turf wars between Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) and how he intends to resolve such conflicts if his nomination is approved. The nominee observed that the roles of MMDCEs and MPs are distinct, raising questions as to why conflicts should arise between the two. He recounted a story shared with him regarding strategies to address such issues and expressed agreement with the storyteller's view that MMDCEs and MPs should focus on their respective mandates. He noted instances where MMDCEs had attempted to sabotage MPs, but such efforts had ultimately failed to yield success in bringing them to Parliament.

The nominee assured the Committee that he would not tolerate any disrespect by MMDCEs towards MPs. He pledged to create a collaborative platform to foster constructive engagement and cooperation between MMDCEs and MPs.

4.10 Election of MMDCEs

The nominee was asked whether Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs) should be elected and whether such elections should be conducted on a partisan basis. The nominee

expressed his belief that MMDCEs should indeed be elected. He, however, opposed the idea of such elections being conducted on a partisan basis. He explained that his position aligns with that of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), a stance that was endorsed by Ghanaians, contributing to the Party's electoral victory.

4.11 Leakages in Revenue Mobilisation

The nominee, in response to how he intends to address the issue of revenue mobilisation leakages, stated that the digitisation of revenue mobilisation points or channels within Districts is a critical step towards resolving the issue. He emphasised the importance of transparency and accountability. He explained that stakeholders, including chiefs and opinion leaders within communities, should be informed of the revenues collected from their electoral areas and Districts, as well as how these funds are utilised for their benefit. He further proposed that revenue mobilisation and utilisation should adopt a participatory approach to ensure efficiency and effectiveness at all levels.

4.12 Inadequacy of Revenue Collectors

The nominee was asked how he intends to address the issue of the inadequacy of revenue collectors. He revealed that during a monitoring visit undertaken by the Committee on Local Government and Rural Development of the previous Parliament, it was observed that some revenue collectors were being paid amounts exceeding the revenues they collected. He stated that this indicates the issue extends beyond merely recruiting additional revenue collectors.

The nominee proposed that rather than relying solely on financial clearance from the Ministry of Finance, National Service Personnel could be engaged on a commission basis. He further suggested providing additional incentives to motivate these personnel to support the Assemblies in revenue collection efforts.

4.13 The Judicial Councils of the Chieftaincy Institution

The nominee was asked how he intends to build the capacity of the Judicial Councils of the Chieftaincy Institution or provide them with the necessary resources to address matters brought before them. The nominee expressed satisfaction that the Chieftaincy Institution is now assuming its rightful place within the Ministry he would oversee when approved. He proposed that the Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Department could assist the Judicial Councils of the Chieftaincy Institution by assigning highly skilled lawyers with expertise in the traditional legal system. These lawyers would be retained to ensure continuity and institutional memory.

The nominee further suggested the establishment of a faculty, such as the Royal Academy of Chiefs, under the proposed University of Local Governance and Development. This faculty would provide specialised training for chiefs and enhance the capacity of lawyers and other stakeholders in addressing matters related to chieftaincy.

The nominee was also advised to work closely with traditional leaders to effectively address chieftaincy-related issues in the country.

4.14 Late Releases of the District Assemblies Common Fund

The nominee was asked how he intends to address delays in the disbursement of the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) to ensure the effective functioning of Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs). In response, the nominee assured the Committee of his commitment to addressing delays in the disbursement of the DACF to facilitate development within the MMDAs and avoid any adverse impact on his Party's prospects of retaining power. He further noted that Parliament could play a supportive role in resolving the issue and appealed to the Committee to ensure that the nominee for the position of Administrator of the DACF provides assurances on how the matter would be addressed if approved.

Additionally, the nominee suggested that the Committee on Assurances of Parliament should, in the future, compel the Administrator of the DACF to fulfil such assurances to ensure accountability and timely delivery.

4.15 Deterioration of MMDAs Properties

The nominee was asked how he intends to address the issue of deteriorating properties belonging to Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs). The nominee stated that he would ensure all Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs) assume full responsibility for the maintenance of these properties. He

further emphasised that he would enforce compliance by taking decisive action, including disciplinary measures, where necessary.

4.16 Administrative Boundary Disputes of MMDAs

The nominee was asked how he intends to address the issue of administrative boundary disputes among Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs).

In his response, the nominee stated that such disputes could be effectively resolved through the involvement of key stakeholders, including chiefs and opinion leaders. He further emphasised the importance of engaging highly experienced surveyors in the country to provide technical expertise in addressing these boundary issues.

4.17 Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the House by **CONSENSUS** the approval of the nomination of **HON AHMED IBRAHIM** as Minister for the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy, and Religious Affairs.

5.0 HON AGNES NAA MOMO LARTEY (PhD)

MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

5.1 BACKGROUND

Honourable Dr Agnes Naa Momo Lartey was born on 16th April 1976 in Nungua, located in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. She is fluent in English, Ga, and Twi. Her educational journey began at Teshie Estates Preparatory School, where she completed her primary education from 1981 to 1986. She subsequently attended Nungua Secondary School in Accra, obtaining her Ordinary Level Certificate from 1988 to 1993. For her Advanced Level Certificate, she attended the West Africa Secondary School in Accra from 1993 to 1995.

The Nominee pursued a research-based Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management at Central University College, Accra, from 1998 to 2002. She went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in Human Resource Development from the University of Cape Coast between 2003 and 2005. To further develop her leadership potential, she completed an MPhil in Leadership at the University of Professional Studies, Accra, from 2014 to 2017, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, from 2014 to 2020.

The Nominee's professional career spans a diverse range of roles across private and public sectors. She served as Administrator for the Christian Medical Missions Resource Foundation in Accra from 1999 to 2001. She later became Project Coordinator for the Ark Foundation Project's REAP (Rights, Empowerment, Access, and Participation) initiative, part of the

DFID-funded Rights and Voice Initiative Programme. Additionally, she provided research and organisational support to the Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) in 2006.

As a consultant-trainer, Hon. Dr Lartey delivered training and capacity-building services from June 2006 to January 2007 to various profit and non-profit organisations. Notably, she trained 30 members of the Ashaiman Women Progressive Development (AWPD). She also served as consultant-facilitator for the Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (NREG) Mission, hosted by the Netherlands Embassy in Ghana, in 2007. From 2007 to 2013, she held the position of Executive Director of the Global Initiative on Rights and Development (GIRD), where she facilitated strategic partnerships with organisations such as Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT), Abantu for Development, the Women's Manifesto Coalition (WMC), and the Ledzokuku-Krowor Municipal Assembly to support deprived communities.

In 2017, she served as ECOWAS In-Country Expert for the Children on the Street Project, developing country-specific recommendations with a regional approach to address the Street Children Syndrome. Hon. Dr Lartey has also participated in numerous professional development conferences and workshops, including the Women's Human Rights Advocacy Training of Trainers (2005), Women and Inheritance (2006), and the 53rd and 54th Sessions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York, USA, in 2009 and 2010.

The Nominee is affiliated with organisations such as WiLDAF, the Women's Law and Human Rights Institute (WLHRI), and the National Coalition on Domestic Violence (NCDV). She is also a partner of ABANTU for Development.

In her leadership roles, Hon. Dr Lartey is a Member of the 9th Parliament, representing the people of Krowor. In the 8th Parliament, she served on several key committees, including the Committee on Gender, Women and Children's Affairs, the Committee on Local Government and Rural Development, and the Appointments Committee.

Hon. Agnes Naa Momo Lartey is married with two children and enjoys reading as a hobby.

QUESTIONS ASKED OF THE NOMINEE AND HBR RESPONSES

5.2 President Vision for the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection

Responding to a question on His Excellency's vision for the ministry in pursuance of the manifesto of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), the nominee stated that the President is committed to ensuring equity within the gender space. She added that the passage of the Affirmative Action Act would facilitate the realization of this initiative by the President. The nominee pledged to ensure that the gender equity committee and other necessary subcommittees are established to realize the president's vision.

The nominee assured the Committee that she would ensure that enough social protection policies are available to the vulnerable like children,

women and persons with disability by making resources available to cater for their needs.

5.3 Strategies to improve the School Feeding Programme

In response to the strategies that she would adopt to ensure the caterers of the School Feeding Programme do not embark on persistent industrial actions, the nominee opined that the NDC manifesto intends to solve the numerous bottlenecks that have bedevilled the School Feeding Programme and the capitation grant and even extend the initiative to cover private schools.

She informed the Committee that the debt owed to the caterers had been partly paid and pledged to engage the various stakeholders like the ministries of Finance and Education to honour the arrears to bring a lasting solution to these bottlenecks. The nominee indicated that she would ensure the smooth implementation of the programme coupled with quality food for the students.

On a related question on how she intends improving the quality of the meals served to the students, the nominee indicated she plans to decentralise the programme to allow the local people the opportunity to take ownership of the implementation of the programme whiles providing support services and guidance to all the stakeholders.

5.4 Assistance to the People of Nungua under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection

On what benefit would the people of Nungua derive from the Ministry, the nominee admitted that Nungua and other coastal communities are quite deprived and her ministry intends to minimize poverty in those coastal communities. The nominee assured the Committee that the coastal communities, including Nungua, would benefit from the various initiatives such as the School Feeding Programme, Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) and other social protection programmes being rolled out by the ministry.

5.5 Benefits of the Women Development Bank

Apprising the Committee on the importance of the Women's Development Bank, the nominee stated that the product and services of the traditional Banks are not competitive to the business financial needs of women. The Women's Development Bank therefore seeks to design financial services and products targeted at supporting women, who are mostly in the informal sector to grow their business by providing low interest rates and flexible payment plans.

She added that the Bank would mitigate some of the challenges that women encounter in securing loans from traditional banks such as collateral security and high interest rates among others. She intimated that other stakeholders like donor partners and the private sector would be brought on board to ensure the fruition of this initiative.

5.6 Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (Leap)

Touching on whether the LEAP programme should be reviewed to cover a large portion of the vulnerable, the nominee stated that she intends to engage the various stakeholders to identify possible gaps and proffer the necessary solutions to make the programme more expansive to achieve its intended objectives.

5.7 Importance of the Affirmative Action Law

In responding to aspect of the Affirmative Action law considered as utmost importance, the nominee indicated that the objective of the law, among other things, is to ensure the attainment of gender equity in the political, social, economic, educational, and cultural spheres of society, and to promote policies and programmes that address gender imbalances. She added that the law serves as legal basis for engendering national discourse on mainstreaming gender in the planning process and practices at all levels of national development.

The nominee disagreed with the notion that the law is skewed towards favouring women. She explained that 'gender' refers to both male and female.

5.8 Distribution of Sanitary Pads among Students

Responding to a question on whether the ministry would roll out the free distribution of sanitary pads initiative canvassed by many Ghanaians, the nominee indicated that there is an urgent need to enact legislation to waive some of the taxes imposed on sanitary pads to make the product affordable. The nominee intimated that the lack of funding to procure

sanitary pads had made some girls more vulnerable and fell prey to some unscrupulous persons who lure them with the sanitary pads.

She added that the State needs to establish a dedicated fund to address the biological and peculiar needs of women and girls. The nominee stated in the short run, she would collaborate with relevant stakeholders to mobilise resources to provide sanitary pads to students, especially those in rural areas, to boost enrollment and academic performance.

5.9 Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the House by **CONSENSUS** the approval of the nomination of **HON AGNES NAA MOMO LARTEY (PhD)** as Minister for the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

**6.0 HON ELIZABETH OFOSU-ADJARE
MINISTRY OF TRADE, AGRIBUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

6.1 BACKGROUND

Hon Elizabeth Ofosu-Adjare was born on 1st March 1974. She received her foundational education at St Monica's Secondary School, where she obtained an Ordinary Level Certificate in 1991 and an Advanced Level Certificate in 1993. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, in 1998, and continued to the University of Ghana, Legon where she acquired her Bachelor of Law (LL.B Hons) in 2002. She proceeded to the Ghana School of Law, where she obtained her professional law qualification in 2004. In 2019, she earned an M.A. in International Relations from Webster University, Greater Accra, and further obtained an LL.M. in Alternative Dispute Resolution from the University of Ghana, Legon, in 2024.

The nominee is the Founder and Head of Elizabeth Law Centre, Accra, a position she has held since 2019. In 2022, she was appointed as a Notary Public. From 2010 to 2013, she served as a Legal Practitioner with the Legal Aid Scheme in the Ashanti Region, where she provided mediation services, represented clients in court, and conducted in-house training for new lawyers. Having worked as a lawyer at Holy Trinity Chambers from 2004 to 2008, she rose to the rank of Partner, a position she held from 2008 to 2010. She rendered her National Service at SSNIT,

Accra, from 1998 to 1999, and at the National Council on Women and Development from 1993 to 1994.

Mrs Ofosu-Adjare is the Member of Parliament for the Techiman North Constituency since 2021. In 2024, she served as the Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee, leading efforts to ensure that human rights issues are effectively addressed through legislative and policy frameworks. She also served on the Appointments Committee from 2021 to 2024, where she played a key role in vetting and approving presidential appointees. Additionally, she was a member of the Health Committee from 2021 to 2024, contributing to health policy development and oversight.

From February 2013 to January 2017, Hon Elizabeth Ofosu-Adjare served as the Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Creative Arts, where she led initiatives to promote Ghana as a leading tourism destination. In addition to her political and legal responsibilities, Hon Elizabeth Ofosu-Adjare has served on several boards, contributing her legal and strategic expertise to various institutions, including: Phoenix Life Assurance Limited, Accra (2017 – 2020); Cocoa Merchant Company Limited, Accra (2017 – 2020); Multi Trust Financial Services, Kumasi (2012 – Present); and Tema Oil Refinery (TOR), Tema (2009 – 2013). Additionally, the nominee has been a member of the Ghana Bar Association and the Ashanti Bar Association since October 2004.

She enjoys reading, listening to music, watching movies, and cooking.

QUESTIONS ASKED OF THE NOMINEE AND HER RESPONSES

6.2 Dwindling Revenue Mobilisation at The Ports

The nominee was informed that available data from the ports, points to a dwindling revenue generation since GcNET was replaced with ICUMS and was asked whether she would consider reinstating GcNET to improve revenue mobilization. The nominee indicated in her response that she was yet to be briefed on the reasons for the dwindling revenue mobilisation. She assured the Committee that once approved by the House, she would investigate the causes of the dwindling revenue and arrive at a decision that best serves the interest of Ghana.

6.3 Revamping Defunct State-Sponsored Agro-Farms

The nominee was asked about what strategies she would put in place to revive the numerous state-sponsored agro-farms that had run down. She stated that these defunct state-sponsored Agro-Farms already exist and she would not hesitate to put in measures to revamp the Agro-Farms. This would create employment for the youth within the sector to bolster the 24-hour economy.

6.4 Position on 1D1F

The Honourable Nominee was questioned on her position regarding the "One District, One Factory" (1D1F) programme, specifically whether its implementation was to commence or be discontinued. In her response, she emphasized the immense benefits of the flagship initiative, notably the establishment of factories and the addition of value to raw materials.

However, she highlighted significant challenges impeding its success, such as the unavailability of adequate raw materials for agro processing industries. She further noted that the lack of capital had been a major obstacle, notwithstanding government support for the factories. The Nominee informed the Committee that although the government initially capped the interest rate for loans under 1D1F at 20%, this rate later surged to 35%, creating a financial burden for the companies as production costs had been calculated based on the original rate.

To address the challenges outlined, the Nominee proposed several interventions. She cited the 24-hour economy policy introduced by the ruling party as an effective solution, noting that companies participating in this initiative would benefit from incentives to enhance their operations. Additionally, she proposed the adoption of Commercial Contract Farming for Agribusiness Growth, which would ensure a consistent supply of raw materials to sustain production. The Nominee explained that the 24-hour system would facilitate a shift-based operational model, enabling efficient utilization of raw materials and minimising wastage caused by overproduction or delayed processing.

The Honourable Nominee concluded by assuring the Committee of her commitment to fostering collaboration between the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Finance. She indicated that, if given the nod, she would work to design and implement tailored financial packages for industry players under the 1D1F programme to address the prevailing challenges and bolster the initiative's impact on the nation's industrial development.

6.5 Trade Balance

When asked how she would improve the trade balance, the Honourable Nominee informed the Panel that the introduction of Contract Commercial Farming would facilitate the local production of raw materials, thereby reducing the reliance on imports. She emphasized that the excessive importation of raw materials has been a significant contributor to the high demand for foreign exchange, negatively affecting the trade balance.

The Honourable Nominee further explained that addressing the trade imbalance would require a shift towards the importation of more value-added and finished products. This strategy, she noted, would enhance the country's capacity to export processed goods, thereby boosting foreign exchange earnings and reducing the trade deficit.

She assured the Panel of her commitment to implementing policies that would align with this objective if given the opportunity to serve.

6.6 Weak Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

When the Honourable Nominee was requested to outline company-specific risk factors that hinder Ghanaian companies from competing globally, she identified limited capacity and inadequate funding as key challenges preventing Ghanaian companies from competing globally. She assured the Committee of her commitment to implementing capacity-building programmes under her leadership to enhance the skills and productivity of industry players, thereby strengthening their global competitiveness.

The Honourable Nominee further intimated her intention to collaborate with the Ministry of Finance to review financing options and develop tailored packages to support entrepreneurs.

6.7 Extensions Granted By Ghana Standards Authority

The attention of the nominee was drawn to reports that the Ghana Standards Authority(GSA) has flouted its establishment legislation by granting extensions to the shelf-life of expired products.

On what the Ministry would do to ensure its agencies comply with the law, the nominee stated that as a regulator, the GSA ought to abide by the law and the Ministry would not condone illegalities perpetrated by its agencies.

6.8 Cross-Border Trade

When the nominee's opinion was sought on how she would collaborate with other agencies to enhance Ghana's revenue generation, stemming from cross-border trade, she indicated that she would collaborate with the security and other relevant agencies to promote the imposition of a reasonable and fair tax system. According to the nominee, when the tax system is attractive, non exorbitant and reasonable, people are more willing to pay than avoid it. A fair and reasonable tax system would ensure compliance and enhance revenue generation and cross-border trade.

6.9 Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the House by **CONSENSUS** the approval of the nomination of **HON ELIZABETH OFOFU-ADJARE** as Minister for the Trade, Agribusiness and Industry.

7.0 CONCLUSION


In accordance with the provisions of Article 78(1) of the 1992 Constitution and Standing Order 217, the Committee considered the nomination by His Excellency the President. The nominees demonstrated competence, knowledge, and expertise on matters relating to the Ministry.

The Committee, therefore, recommends to the House by **CONSENSUS** the adoption of its report and approval of:

- i. Hon Ahmed Ibrahim as Minister Designate for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs;
- ii. Hon Agnes Naa Momo Lartey (PhD) as Minister Designate for Gender, Children and Social Protection;
- iii. Hon Elizabeth Ofosu-Adjare as Minister Designate for Trade, Agribusiness and Industry.

Respectfully submitted.


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GIFTY NUNA JIAGGE-GOBAH (MRS)
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE


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HON BERNARD AHIAFOR
FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE