

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

**FIRST REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS
COMMITTEE**

ON

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

JANUARY 2025

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On Wednesday, 9th January 2024, H.E. the President, John Dramani Mahama, PURSUANT to Article 78(1) of the 1992 Constitution, communicated to Parliament the nomination of the following persons for appointment as Ministers:

- i. Hon Dr Cassiel Ato Baah Forson - Minister Designate, Ministry of Finance
- ii. Hon John Abudulai Jinapor - Minister Designate, Ministry of Energy
- iii. Hon Dr Dominic Akurintingua Ayine - Minister Designate, Attorney General and Ministry of Justice

The Rt Hon Speaker, in accordance with Order 217 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, referred the nominees 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 nominees:

- 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

According to Standing Order 217(10), the names of the nominees were published in newspapers for the public's attention. The publication also requested memoranda from the public regarding the nominees. The Committee subsequently sought and obtained Confidential Reports on the nominees from the Ghana Police Service and the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB). The Committee also requested the nominees submit Tax Status Reports from the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).

The Committee held a public hearing on Monday, 13th January, 2025, to consider the nominations. The nominees subscribed to the Oath of a Witness before a Committee and answered questions from Hon. Members. The nominees were asked questions relating to their curriculum vitae, eligibility, competencies, issues of national concern, and those pertaining to the office to which they had been nominated.

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

**4.0 HON DR CASSIEL ATO BAAH FORSON
MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC
PLANNING**

4.1 Background

Hon Dr Cassiel Ato Baah Forson was born on 5th August 1978 in Ajumako Besease in the Central Region of Ghana. He received his basic education at Sekondi Presbyterian School from 1984 to 1987 and at Bethel Hill International School at Ajumako Besease from 1987 to 1989. He then pursued his secondary education at Besease Senior High School (1989 to 1994). Dr Forson obtained an ACCA certificate at the Institute of Professional Studies, Accra, in 2000.

The nominee obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from South Bank University, London, in 2003, a Master of Science degree in Economics from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in 2017, and a Master of Science degree in Taxation from the University of Oxford in 2020. He obtained a PhD in Business and Management (Finance) from KNUST in the same year.

Before venturing into politics, Hon Forson was a Director at Protech Integrated Services, UK, from 2003 to 2005. Since 2009, the nominee has represented the Ajumako Enyan Essiam Constituency as a Member of Parliament. He became the leader of the Minority Caucus in Parliament in January 2023. Before that, he was the Ranking Member of the Finance Committee for six years, having served as a member of the Committee from 2009 to 2012. He also served as the Vice Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs from 2009 to 2011. The

nominee is currently the Majority Leader of the NDC Caucus and a member of the 2024 Transition Team.

Hon Forson served as the Deputy Minister for Finance of the Republic of Ghana from April 2013 to January 2017, during which he was a member of Ghana's Economic Management Team, a Board Member of the Bank of Ghana, a Board Member of the Ghana Cocoa Board, and Ghana's Alternate Governor at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. He also chaired the Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System Reforms (GIFMIS) Implementation Committee.

The Pan African Republic Honorary Awards named the nominee as one of the top 10 most influential Members of Parliament for 2017/2018. Additionally, the University of Professional Studies, Accra, awarded him a special recognition for his contribution to Ghana's financial administration and governance.

The nominee is a Christian, married with two children. His hobbies are reading and taking walks.

QUESTIONS ASKED OF THE NOMINEE AND HIS RESPONSES

4.2 Additional Financing from the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Based on a report that the current National Democratic Congress (NDC) administration intended to go to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for additional financing, the nominee was asked to share with the Committee, the proposal that will be put before the IMF for consideration. He refuted the claim

and added that the reportage was inaccurate. He explained that his statement was to the effect that the NDC Government will request additional funding from IMF if needed.

4.3 Scrapping of Some Taxes and Revenue Mobilisation

Reference was made to the NDC's Manifesto promise of scrapping some taxes, including the Betting Tax and the Electronic Transfer Levy (E-Levy). With such a decision, the nominee was asked how the Government intends to enhance revenue mobilisation and bridge the revenue gap as required by the IMF.

In his response, the nominee indicated that Ghana collects approximately 13.8 per cent of GDP in tax revenue. He said we can do better considering the latest data he cited, with the opportunity afforded him to work with the Transition Team. He also indicated that, as part of his response, he could conclude from his study on the economy of Ghana that the country has a huge potential for revenue mobilisation. He said we do not necessarily have to increase taxes before we rake in more revenue and added that there are other ways of raising additional tax revenues to make up for the revenue losses that will result from the implementation of the decision to scrap the taxes in question. He cited compliance as one of the ways and explained that more revenues can be raised from other existing taxes if compliance is ensured. He assured the Committee he would work with the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) and the Tax Policy Unit of the Ministry of Finance to ensure compliance.

He informed the Committee that in the medium term, his vision is to increase tax revenues from 13.8% of GDP to about 16% or 18% by helping to ensure that existing taxes will bring in the expected revenue instead of increasing their rates or imposing new taxes.

He recounted the reasons for introducing the Betting Tax, one being to discourage the youth from engaging in such enterprises and maintained it has not achieved its purpose. He stated that the Government gets less than GHC50 million a year from the Betting Tax and added we can get even more of the amount if we make some adjustments to our fiscal policy, particularly on the expenditure side.

He spoke about the number of ministries that has been reduced from 30 to 23 with the issuance of the Civil Service (Ministries) Instrument, 2025 (E.I. 1) by His Excellency John Dramani Mahama on 9th January 2025, for which seven cost centres will be eliminated to make some savings. He said the reduction demonstrates the Government's commitment to reducing public expenditures.

He said the Government will also abolish the E-Levy in the first Budget to be presented to the House in March 2025 because it discourages a cashless society, among other reasons. With the proposed scrapping and reduction of taxes, the nominee was asked whether fiscal consolidation would be a priority for the Government in the near term. He responded that fiscal consolidation is not only a priority for the Government but will be front-loaded to ensure growth and protection for the vulnerable.

4.4 Interest Rates and the Private Sector

The nominee was asked what he would do to ensure that our macroeconomic policies are more effective in lowering interest rates for the private sector. He shared the view that the Government has a role to play in bringing down interest rates as part of efforts to create a favourable business environment for investors, among other reasons. He said if the country is actively involved in borrowing from the market, with an amount of GHC111 billion being rolled over every week, interest rates will certainly go up.

He explained that aside from other economic factors or indicators, inflation is also a function of interest rates. Should he be approved, the Ministry of Finance will work to avoid excessive borrowing to reduce interest rates, bring down inflation, stabilise the Ghana Cedi, and create jobs.

4.5 Inflation

The nominee was asked what the Government will do to reduce inflation and interest rates. He admitted the Government has a key role to play regarding fiscal policy. He added that we need to take a critical look at our expenditure side, for instance, by reducing the waste in the system. He said the Government would also front-load fiscal consolidation in the short term to help deal with some of the country's economic challenges, including inflation.

4.6 Tax Exemptions

The nominee's attention was drawn to his position on tax exemptions, which is that it is not fair, transparent, or well targeted and has become a major source of tax expenditure in our fiscal framework. He did not depart from his position and earlier assertions on the matter. He maintained that if the Government believes tax exemptions on raw materials and other inputs for production or manufacturing are necessary, they should be legislated to benefit all qualified entities. He paid tribute to Hon Kwaku Agyemang Kwarteng, Member of Parliament for the Obuasi West Constituency, who shared similar sentiments on the matter and added that his position was not political.

He said we should not give huge tax exemptions to some entities while others suffer from increases in tax rates. The nominee was reminded of his comments and protests on some tax exemptions on raw materials and other inputs applied by some entities under the IDIF Policy. The nominee was reported to have protested the application because it was not transparent and had a huge quantum.

Asked whether he had reorganised his protest, the nominee said no and added that his stands on the matter had not changed. He recalled that initially, the House was called upon to approve \$458 million as tax exemption, but upon his insistence, the amount was reduced to about \$100 million. He said he was not involved in the protest that led to the reduction of the amount and added that they saved the Country some good money.

4.7 Funding Government Machinery

The nominee was asked how he intends to secure funding to enable Government machinery to run, given that lenders are reluctant to give long-term loans and the money market is already flooded.

In his response, he said we need to, first and foremost, bring back investor confidence by presenting a Budget that will contain stringent measures aimed at reducing particularly the expenditure side and achieving an inflation target of about 8%±2% to send the right signal. He said bringing down inflation will help cure the harm caused to those in the Domestic Bond Market due to the Domestic Debt Exchange Programme and reopen the Bond Market to enable us to avoid over-reliance on Treasury Bills.

He explained that we need to reduce system wastage and stay within our resource envelope. He said that if he is given the nod, the Ministry of Finance will work with our Development Partners, like the World Bank, IMF, European Union, and Africa Development Bank, to raise cheaper sources of financing to finance government spending and ensure inclusive growth.

4.8 Implementation of the Exemptions Act, 2022 (Act 1083)

There was a claim that even though the Exemptions Act 2022 (Act 1083) allows the Government to take an equity stake in entities that apply for tax exemptions, it has never been implemented since the enactment was made.

The nominee was asked whether he could be bold enough to fully implement the said provision in the law. He recalled that the said provision had been implemented once and cited Hon Kwaku Kwarteng as one who championed it. He recalled seconding the motion that set the tone and allowed for the implementation of the provision referred to. He explained that he is not opposed to granting tax exemptions but is the proponent of relevance or necessity, fairness, and transparency in the administration of such.

4.9 Mobilisation of Tax Revenues from the Informal Sector

Regarding the Mid-Year Budget of 2024, which states that taxes from Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) amounted to GHC21.113 billion and taxes mobilised from the informal sector amounted to GHC1.572 billion (a ratio of about 13:1), the nominee was asked what the Government can do to increase tax revenues from the informal sector.

He said we need to formalise the informal sector by educating and encouraging those in that sector to register with GRA and incentivising them like what pertains in Uganda, where a percentage of the taxes paid by those in the informal sector are set aside as pension contributions for them. He suggested we learn from Uganda which has been able to incentivise its informal sector and is now collecting more taxes than most of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. He said we can consider various options in addition to the model adopted by Uganda and make a choice based on our circumstances and experience as a Country.

4.10 Fiscal and Debt Sustainability Challenges

He said Ghana's debt management has been a major concern in recent years. He bemoaned the introduction of the Domestic Debt Exchange Programme and the restructuring of our Euro Bond by the NPP Government in the immediate past. He indicated that the new NDC Administration intends to introduce an Independent Debt Management Bureau to deal with debt management and mentioned, however, that we need first to make some settlements, including an amount of GHC6.8 billion due on 18th February 2025. He believed that the Ministry of Finance was preparing to make the payment. He said he would work with our Development Partners to avoid a second wave of the financial crisis experienced by the country in 2022.

4.11 Vision of Revenue Mobilisation

The nominee was asked to share his vision on revenue mobilisation with the Committee. He recounted his experience with Hon. Seth Terpkper, former Minister for Finance, describing him as an astute tax practitioner. He stated that he gained substantial experience during his tenure as Deputy Minister for Finance, working collaboratively with Hon. Seth Terpkper for a period of four (4) years. He disclosed that the former Minister for Finance held biweekly meetings with the revenue authorities, which contributed to notable improvements in revenue mobilisation during that period. He further stated that his vision is to leverage the experience gained from Hon. Seth Terpkper, adopt a similar approach, and collaborate closely with the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) to significantly

enhance revenue mobilisation. He lamented that other former Ministers of Finance did not pay as much attention to revenue mobilisation as they should. He emphasized the importance of the Ministry of Finance actively collaborating with the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) in revenue mobilization efforts, rather than leaving the responsibility solely to the Authority, to enhance overall revenue performance.

4.12 Description of the 2024 Economy Inherited by NDC

Reference was made to some successes chalked by the immediate past NPP Government in terms of revenue targets, inflation, banking sector assets, and other economic indicators. The nominee was asked to describe the 2024 Economy that the NDC has inherited.

He declined to make any pronouncement on the 2024 outturns before there were none and added that we need to wait for the end-year figures because one can draw any conclusion. He said he does not want to do any speculation. He believed that even though the revenue target was exceeded by about GHC400 million under the immediate past Government, as referenced, revenue alone cannot give a true picture of the state of the economy. He said he would present the true picture of the Country's situation when the time comes.

4.13 Resetting Ghana

The nominee was asked what the Government would do to reset the economy as indicated by the NDC in their Manifesto. He said Ghana is not out of the crisis

yet and added that there is much work to be done by the Government in the area of the macroeconomy. He, however, shared the view that we do not only grow the economy from the macro level but also from the micro side. He noted that over the past seven years, the Government has placed excessive emphasis on the macroeconomic aspects of the economy. He emphasised the need to refocus on the fundamentals by addressing the microeconomic dimensions to facilitate job creation, stabilise the Ghana Cedi, and achieve additional economic benefits. He indicated that cocoa production dwindled from 968,000 metric tonnes a year to less than 500,000 metric tonnes, adding that it is a microeconomic issue that needs attention.

4.14 Stabilisation of the Ghana Cedi

The nominee was queried on measures to stabilise the Ghana Cedi. He proposed anchoring the Cedi on the Gold Reserve Programme, suggesting the establishment of a Ghana Gold Board as a long-term solution, as outlined in the NDC's manifesto. He further advocated for the revitalisation of the oil palm and cocoa industries, as outlined in the NDC's manifesto, emphasising their potential to significantly boost the country's foreign exchange earnings. He noted that the Bank of Ghana (BoG) alone cannot stabilise the Ghana Cedi and reiterated the Government's commitment to reducing inflation to approximately $8\% \pm 2\%$ by implementing robust measures to enable the BoG and other monetary authorities to effectively address the depreciation of the Cedi. He expressed concern that, over the past eight years, no new sources of foreign exchange

earnings have been introduced, emphasising the urgent need for action to address this shortfall and mitigate some of the country's challenges. He further suggested intensifying efforts to develop additional upstream oil fields to enhance revenue generation from the oil and gas sector.

4.15 Priority Areas of the Nominee

The nominee was asked to share with the Committee the areas of the economy he will prioritise to enable him to deal with the challenges the Country is grappling with, given the opportunity to serve as Minister for Finance. He said his priority areas are the stabilisation of the Ghana Cedi, low inflation rate, and job creation. He stated that he would collaborate with Cabinet to allocate resources towards the Government's Policy on Agriculture for Economic Transformation, with the aim of reducing food prices and ensuring food security.

He reiterated that the Government will work closely with the Bank of Ghana and front-load fiscal consolidation within the shortest time possible to reduce inflation. He said the Ghana Cedi needs to be anchored to help bring down inflation. He also pointed out that monetary financing must be eliminated, adding that his position on the matter has not changed.

He stated that, if given the opportunity to serve as Minister for Finance, he would collaborate closely with the Minister for Food and Agriculture to implement the Government's agricultural policies, aimed at expanding agribusiness and reducing food costs.

4.16 Value for Money

The nominee was asked to elaborate on how the NDC's manifesto commitments, such as infrastructure development and the establishment of a 24-hour economy, would be implemented while ensuring value for money and prioritizing the needs of vulnerable groups. He assured the Committee that the NDC Government would fulfill its promises by devising certain measures, including reducing the wastage in the system and tax compliance strategies. He asserted that he is firmly convinced that significant wastage exists within the system and emphasised his commitment to addressing this issue to free up resources for the Government to deliver on its promises. He highlighted the Government's intention to ensure value for money by establishing an Independent Value for Money Audit Bureau to minimise inefficiencies. He assured that the proposed measures would be designed to consider the needs of the vulnerable and support economic growth, aligning with the social democratic principles of the NDC.

4.17 Investor Confidence

The nominee was asked to share his plans for boosting investor confidence. He said he has plans to tackle the distorted VAT Regime, simplify our taxes, among other measures, to help create a friendly working environment for the private sector. He emphasised the importance of engaging with investors to develop a strategic blueprint that fosters private sector growth. He noted that providing the right signals to investors, such as reducing inflation and implementing a

robust, expenditure-based, and front-loaded fiscal consolidation plan within the shortest possible timeframe, is critical to achieving this goal.

The nominee posited that he will take suggestions from Hon. Members of the House and the investor community to determine how to deal with the issue. He informed the Committee that the Government is committed to effectively managing the public debt and urged against despair. He assured that an NDC Government would not default on debt servicing and emphasised the implementation of a robust debt management system to prevent repeating the mistakes of previous administrations. He reiterated the commitment to adopting improved strategies for better debt management.

He emphasised the need to establish financial buffers to facilitate refinancing when necessary. He expressed concern that the country currently lacks adequate buffers to address foreign debt obligations, contrasting this with the situation in 2016 when the NDC Administration left sufficient buffers for the incoming NPP Government.

4.18 Debt Management

The nominee was asked about his plans for managing the country's debt. He acknowledged the gravity of the debt situation and reassured that the Government remains committed to addressing the issue, urging against despair. He emphasised the Government's determination to mitigate the adverse effects of the Domestic Debt Exchange Programme. He highlighted the country's

significant financial obligations, noting that in 2025, Ghana would need to pay GH¢12.6 billion for amortisation, debt repayment, loan interest, and other commitments. He further indicated that repayments would increase to GH¢15.7 billion in 2026, GH¢53 billion in 2027, and GH¢48 billion in 2028.

He further indicated that there are significant financial obligations related to Eurobond payments, noting that the Government has already settled approximately US\$364 million. He disclosed that, starting in 2026, the country will be required to pay US\$1 billion annually toward Eurobond commitments. Additionally, he informed the Committee that the financial obligations to bilateral official creditors remain uncertain, as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has not yet been signed.

He acknowledged the financial challenges confronting the country and emphasised the need to reassess strategies by returning to the drawing board to explore refinancing options and establish buffers for debts that cannot be refinanced. He highlighted the Sinking Fund, introduced by Hon Seth Terkper, as a prudent measure for saving during favorable economic periods to address financial challenges during adverse times.

4.19 Road Tolls and Property Rates

The nominee was asked whether the NDC Administration would bring back the road tolls and decentralise the collection of property rates. In his response, he said the NDC had always indicated their position on the decision by the

immediate past NPP Administration to remove the road tolls. Therefore, he was not surprised when the NPP was later considering its reintroduction. He informed the Committee that the NDC Administration will not depart from its position and will re-introduce it and collect it effectively and efficiently to cater for road infrastructure development in the Country as done the world over.

4.20 Public Debt and the Depreciation of the Ghana Cedi

The nominee was asked to explain how he would deal with public debt since it is also a function of the depreciation of the Ghana Cedi. He admitted that the depreciation of the Ghana Cedi has an adverse impact on our public debt. He indicated that the NPP Administration was not transparent with the disclosure of public debt and cited the Energy Sector Levy Account (ESLA) Bond, Sinohydro Loan, Daakye Plc Bond, and many others excluded from our public debt. He noted that the NDC raised concerns in 2020 and 2021 regarding the exclusion of certain financial commitments from the country's debt profile. However, these warnings were ignored, and he expressed no surprise that the country was eventually compelled under the IMF Programme to include the previously exempted financial commitments in its debt obligations.

He was of the view that debt reports should be transparent enough to keep citizens informed about economic developments. He said that since public debt is also a function of the Ghana Cedi depreciation, the has the responsibility to ensure the stabilisation of the currency to keep public debt in check.

He also indicated that monetary financing plays a role and that the Government will work with the BoG to address the issue of depreciation and anchor the Ghana Cedi.

4.21 Producer Price of Cocoa

The nominee was questioned on whether the NDC Administration intends to increase the producer price of cocoa to GHC6,000 as promised. He responded that, if approved, he would co-chair the Producer Price Review Committee alongside the Minister for Food and Agriculture, as mandated, which would provide him the platform to share his views and advance the Government's agenda in this regard. He expressed concern over the decline in cocoa production, attributing it partly to inadequate compensation for cocoa farmers. He emphasised the need to fairly reward farmers for their significant contributions to the economy and cautioned against complacency, noting that Ecuador is rapidly closing the gap as a major cocoa producer. He assured the Committee of his commitment to working with Ghana COCOBOD as an active player in the real sector to revitalise the cocoa industry, with particular focus on ensuring fair remuneration for cocoa farmers.

4.22 Construction of the National Cathedral and Related Matters

The nominee was asked whether he would set up an investigation into the \$58 million spent on the construction of the National Cathedral, which was not completed. He reiterated his position on the need for the Country to cut down

on wastage, adding that we need to learn from our mistakes and not have to commit the Country again to such reckless expenditures.

On whether the issue will be investigated, the nominee said the Ministry of Finance is not clothed with such powers. He said the Government may let the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and the newly established Operation Recover All Loot (ORAL) Offices handle such matters because of their mandate.

4.23 Youth Unemployment

The nominee was asked to share with the Committee specific programmes that the Government intends to implement to support entrepreneurship, skills training, and the expansion of industries with job-creation potential.

He stated that the job creation strategies outlined in the NDC's manifesto, including the implementation of a 24-hour economy, are already well-articulated. He emphasised that his primary responsibility would involve mobilising the necessary revenue to support the realisation of this objective. He expressed confidence in Ghana's potential to enhance its GDP through the effective utilisation of financial and human resources. He underscored the importance of skills development and assured the Committee of his commitment to collaborating with various ministries to ensure the efficient allocation of resources, with a focus on creating employment opportunities for the youth

4.24 Free SHS Policy

The nominee was asked to clarify the position of the new Government on the Free SHS Policy. He responded that the NDC's stance on the policy is well known, as evidenced by His Excellency the President's declaration that the policy is here to stay. He emphasised that there is no further assurance he could provide beyond the commitment already made by His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, who has unequivocally stated that the policy will not be abrogated.

4.25 School Feeding Programme

The nominee was queried on whether the School Feeding Programme would be sustained. He affirmed that the Programme would continue but expressed concern about the current allocation of GHC1.50 per child per day, describing it as grossly inadequate to cover the cost of food, let alone provide a profit margin for caterers. He indicated that the Government would consider increasing the allocation to caterers but refrained from specifying an exact amount.

4.26 24-Hour Economy

The nominee was asked to elaborate on the 24-Hour Economy policy proposed by the Government. He explained that a 24-Hour Economy involves continuous activity within the real sectors, ensuring that economic operations do not pause, typically through a three-shift work system. He cited the mining and power sectors as examples of industries where this model is effectively implemented.

He noted that while there are some existing elements of a 24-Hour Economy within the system, they are not present in the core real sectors.

The nominee expressed confidence that, if properly executed, the policy would significantly expand the workforce. When asked whether any cost analysis had been conducted for the policy, he declined to comment, explaining that the responsibility for such matters has been assigned to the Special Advisor to the President, and he would not preempt their findings.

4.27 Agenda 111

The nominee was asked to provide assurance to the Committee regarding the continuation and completion of ongoing projects under implementation, including Agenda 111. He affirmed that all such projects, except for the National Cathedral and similar initiatives, would be completed and utilised for their intended purposes.

4.28 Free University Tuition Fees

The nominee was asked whether the Free University Tuition Fee policy will be implemented now and also whether it will be extended to all the tertiary institutions including the colleges. He responded that the cost and other details, including the coverage and the rest of them, will be put in the Budget for 2025 and presented to the House for approval. He also informed the Committee that, given the opportunity to serve as Minister for Finance, he would present a comprehensive government plan regarding the policy to the House for scrutiny.

5.0 HON JOHN ABDULAI JINAPOR

MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY

5.1 Background

Hon John Abdulai Jinapor was born on 8th June 1979 in Buipe in the Savannah Region of Ghana. He had his secondary education at Ghana Senior High School in Tamale. The nominee proceeded to the University of Development Studies, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology in 2003. Hon John Abdulai Jinapor also holds several Master's degrees, including a Master of Business Administration Marketing Division in 2008, a Master of Science in Development Finance in 2019, and a Master of Arts in Economic Policy Management in 2022, all from the University of Ghana Business School (UGBS). He also obtained a Master of Science in Energy Economics from the Ghana Institute of Management Administration (GIMPA) in 2020.

The nominee acquired a Postgraduate Degree in Finance and Financial Law from the University of London in 2014 and a Diploma in Marketing from the Chartered Institute of Marketing in the United Kingdom in 2011. He is currently pursuing PhD in Development Finance at the University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa.

Hon John Abdulai Jinapor underwent mandatory national service with the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of the National Service Secretariat in the then Northern Region from 2002 to 2003. After that the nominee has served in various

capacities. He served as Research and Development Officer at Africa Invest from 2003 to 2004 and became the General Manager of Sophie Fisheries Ltd. from March 2005 to December 2008. The nominee from 2009 to 2012 was the Special Assistant to the then Vice President, H. E. John Dramani Mahama and subsequently, Presidential Aide and Spokesperson to H. E. President John Dramani Mahama from July 2012 to May 2013. The nominee was later appointed Deputy Minister for Energy and Petroleum and Power, in which capacity he served from May 2013 till January 2017. Hon. John Abdulai Jinapor was elected Member of Parliament for Yapei-Kusawgu Constituency in 2017 till date.

The nominee has served on a number of Councils, Boards and Parliamentary Committees. Hon John Abdulai Jinapor was the President of the Students' Representative Council and National Union of Ghana Students and, by extension, the University Council of the University of Development Studies, Nyankpala. The nominee also served as the Graduate Students' Association president, a member of the University Council, and a Member of the Finance Committee of the University Council, University of Ghana, Legon. The nominee was a board member of the Electricity Company of Ghana, Chairman of the Nuclear Energy Programme Implementing Organisation under the Ministry of Energy, and a member of the Economic Management Team from 2015 to 2016. Regarding parliamentary Committees, Hon John Abdulai Jinapor has served on the Finance Committee as a member and on the Committee on Mines and Energy as a member and, subsequently, Ranking Member.

Hon. John Abdulai Jinapor enjoys reading and playing music.

QUESTIONS ASKED OF THE NOMINEE AND HIS RESPONSES

5.2 2017 Energy Sector Debt versus Current Debt

The nominee was asked to apprise the Committee on the energy debt at the time he left office as Deputy Minister for Energy in 2017. In his response, he stated that the debt stock consolidated was close to US\$2.1 billion. Referring to a document titled "Summary of Energy Sector Debts and Lenders", the nominee indicated that in August 2017, ESLA PLC got a full audit of the entire energy sector debts and that the total energy sector liability at the time was GHC9.4 billion.

On the current energy debt, the nominee said per information from the Ministry of Energy, Energy Commission, and the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG), the debt has ballooned to a little over US\$3 billion. He added that the Energy Sector Levies Act, 2015 (Act 899) raked in about GHC45 billion, and that paid part of the interest on the principal of GHC9.4 billion.

5.3 Implications of Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)

When questioned about the implications of signing Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and whether such agreements were signed during his tenure at the Ministry of Energy, the nominee confirmed that some PPAs were indeed signed during his time. He acknowledged that these agreements included take-or-pay

clauses and noted that, under the NPP administration, six additional PPAs were signed with similar take-or-pay provisions. Providing more insight into take-or-pay agreements, the nominee said that in energy parlance, these agreements are called capital recovery, where a developer who would have borrowed money to set up a plant can recoup the money invested in the infrastructure.

On whether take-or-pays contributed to the energy debt, the nominee said the country is consuming way above its contractual volumes; therefore, take-or-pay could not have been an issue. According to him, a chunk of the debts incurred were from power delivered and sold, with revenues not collected.

The nominee further referenced a debt owed Lukoil International Trading and Supply Company (LITASCO) for the supply of heavy fuel oil between 2017 and 2021 to the tune of GHC270 million on account of fuels and guarantees.

He added that once fuel is consumed, it means there is no take-or-pay, and that the plant is running.

Admittedly, the nominee said some elements of capacity charge contribute to debt, but the bulk of the debt is an account of power produced and consumed but not paid for.

5.4 ENI Negotiations

He asked if he believed the negotiated price with ENI at the time was good for the country, and the nominee said the Sankofa price of six was not the most

expensive. He further said the country saved GHC1.2 billion from import substitution from light crude while using gas, adding that he believes gas is competitive rather than expensive.

5.5 ECG Privatisation and ATC&C Losses

The nominee was asked for his opinion on the privatization of the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG). He stated that he has consistently advocated for private sector participation in the billing and collection components of ECG's operations. However, he expressed disagreement with the structure and approach of the Power Distribution Services (PDS) arrangement.

The nominee indicated that, as Deputy Minister of Energy, he led the privatisation process and travelled to several countries to learn from best practices.

He was further asked whether his Government supports the full privatisation of ECG. In response, he mentioned that his Government believes there should be private sector participation, and they intend to form a seven-member committee chaired by technical, legal, and financial experts, some industry players, and a consumer representative to develop a framework. This committee, he said, will be tasked to determine whether a concession approach or full privatisation will work. The nominee emphasised that the Government will initiate a competitive tender process and further stressed that they will not engage in sole sourcing when it comes to the ECG private sector participation. He added that

engagements towards encouraging private sector participation will be done in 2025.

5.6 ECG Metering

Concerns were raised about the non-availability of meters in some rural areas, and the nominee was asked what he would do about the situation. He was also asked about his initiatives toward revenue increase and his thoughts about proposals to phase out all post-paid metres.

In response, the nominee stated that the ideal approach is to adopt prepaid meters, particularly smart meters that meet all necessary requirements. He shared information obtained from the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG), indicating that the company has approximately 5.2 million meters, of which 4.8 million are active. However, he noted with concern that around 3 million of these active meters are not functioning properly. The nominee further noted that with advancements in technology, the Government is considering the option of selling meters directly to consumers. He added that plans are underway to license individuals, utilizing smart technology, to install these meters efficiently.

5.7 Inconsistent Power Supply

When asked how he plans to address inconsistent power supply in the country, the nominee stated that his priority would be to bridge the fuel supply gap, identifying it as a critical challenge in the energy sector. He explained that the country currently faces a deficit of approximately 40 to 60 mm scale of gas. The

nominee highlighted that he has already engaged in discussions with Jubilee Partners, Ghana Gas, and other operators, expressing confidence that liquid fuel reserves can be supplemented through reconditioning efforts.

On the financial challenges plaguing the energy sector, the nominee emphasised the need to enhance operational efficiency to generate sufficient revenue to cover the cost of power consumption.

5.8 CENPOWER and Other Contractual Issues

The nominee responded in the affirmative, indicating that he was aware that the light crude oil at Cenpower was for a period of 23 days.

He was further asked about the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) contract with Stratcon Energy to supply 12 million litres of HFO to AXA. In response, the nominee said that, per his checks at the GNPC, the company indicated that they do not have a contract with Stratcon to supply those litres.

Regarding Stratcon's supply of some 19,561 tonnes, the nominee said he would not be surprised by any such supply and intends to investigate the issues surrounding these supplies.

He further explained that on 9th January, he learned that some people were discharging heavy fuel oil into the tanks at AXA and that the Chief of Staff had tasked him with leading a technical team to avoid the looming challenge of fuel shortages.

The nominee further mentioned that he contacted the Energy Ministry, ECG, VRA, and GNPC to seek clarification on a reported fuel discharge, but none of these institutions were aware of such an operation. He stated that he has recommended halting the delivery pending a thorough investigation, which he intends to pursue if confirmed as Minister. The nominee emphatically stated that, to the best of his knowledge, the Government had not officially received any site delivery. He clarified that while delivery processes were underway, they were being conducted without proper authorization. Consequently, directives were issued to halt the delivery and ensure compliance with the appropriate procedures.

5.9 Institutional Investment in ECG

The nominee was asked if he would consider local institutional investors like the Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) and Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) who may want to invest in ECG. In response, he said getting institutions in Ghana to take up shares and getting a technically competent company, would be the ideal situation since that would lead to a lot of value retention.

He pointed out that the primary issue with ECG extends beyond revenue collection, emphasising concerns about how the company allocates and manages the funds it collects. The nominee noted that, although ECG collects an average of GH¢1.3 billion monthly, only GH¢850 million to GH¢900 million is channeled into the cash waterfall mechanism. He stressed the importance of improving

efficiency and ensuring that ECG adheres strictly to the cash waterfall mechanism to enhance financial accountability and resource allocation.

5.10 Position on Gold for Oil Policy

When asked for his opinion on the Gold for Oil Policy, the nominee argued that the policy was not well-conceived, referencing a publication that outlined the Bank of Ghana's decision to phase it out. He remarked that if the policy had been effective in addressing the issues and delivering tangible results, the Governor of the Bank of Ghana would not have recommended its discontinuation. The nominee stated that, under his leadership, the Gold for Oil Policy would undergo a thorough review and analysis to develop a fit-for-purpose model. He also proposed the establishment of a Gold Board to centralise and manage all gold resources effectively.

On the issue of foreign exchange, the nominee highlighted that the country maintains an escrow account where foreign exchange or hard currency would be deposited. These funds would be utilised to support fuel imports and meet financial obligations to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and gas suppliers.

5.11 Plans for Tema Oil Refinery (TOR)

Outlining his plans for the Tema Oil Refinery (TOR), the nominee stated that his primary objective is to seek strategic partnerships, ring-fence existing liabilities, and leverage the refinery's assets for capital injection. He emphasized the importance of identifying a strategic partner willing to invest funds into the

refinery. Additionally, he noted that while the refinery requires a workforce of approximately 250 employees, it currently has over 700 staff members, underscoring the need to address these inefficiencies. He stressed the urgency of resolving these issues to restore the refinery's operations, which have been dormant for the past four years. The nominee highlighted that, according to the Petroleum Revenue Management Act, revenue from crude oil must be deposited into the Petroleum Holding Fund within a stipulated timeframe. He explained that for any refinery, including TOR, to access crude oil, it must comply with this requirement. He described TOR as a "hydra-headed problem," emphasizing the complex challenges it faces that require comprehensive solutions.

5.12 Upstream Petroleum Sector

Commenting on the Voltaian Basin Programme and how he intends to add value to what his predecessors have done, the nominee stated that he would engage stakeholders to get Ghanaians' buy-in and incentivise the upstream players to invest because it is very expensive.

He further mentioned that 2D seismic data has been acquired and allocations made in the Voltaian Basin. He emphasised that these agreements are required to be presented to Parliament for approval. He indicated his intention to review the agreements thoroughly, and if they are deemed satisfactory, the necessary actions will be undertaken. The nominee raised issues with the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act, 2016 (Act 919), stating that Ghana's

neighbouring countries' participating interest is 10 per cent. As the country moves through the energy transition, there is a need to tap its stranded assets.

The nominee noted the need to increase investor incentives in strategies to attract big players in the energy sector.

He also mentioned the Government's posturing, stating that the many legal cases the Government lost affected the country. The nominee said his approach would be to sit around the table and discuss the real problems and try to resolve them.

5.13 Energy Legacy

Commenting on his leadership approach and legacy, the nominee acknowledged the challenging nature of the role but expressed his determination to enforce discipline within the energy sector. He stated that he aspires to be remembered as a Minister who carried out his duties with integrity, dedication, and hard work, while maintaining humility throughout his tenure.

5.14 Commitment to Nuclear Power Implementation

Providing insight into efforts to promote the use of nuclear power, the nominee noted that during his last briefing as Chairman of the Nuclear Energy Programme Implementing Organisation (NEPIO), it was revealed that two potential sites, two partner countries—China and the USA—and two technologies have been identified for the project. However, he emphasized that

nuclear energy involves significant milestones, and the earliest timeline for generating power from nuclear sources is approximately six years.

5.15 VRA and Bui Power Merger

Speaking on the timelines for the proposed merger of the Volta River Authority (VRA) and Bui Power Authority, the nominee outlined a distinct approach that does not involve privatisation. He stated that the merger would lead to the creation of the Ghana Power Company, a holding entity with three subsidiaries: hydro components, thermal components, and renewable energy components. These subsidiaries would operate under a unified structure overseen jointly by VRA and Bui Power.

He emphasised that, as a strategic measure, it is not prudent to place all energy assets in private hands. The nominee assured that staff from both institutions would be consulted before critical decisions are made. Additionally, he highlighted the Ministry's plan to consolidate the expertise of VRA and Bui Power to enhance specialisation and operational efficiency.

5.16 Affordable Energy Prices

On how he seeks to stabilise energy prices and ensure affordability to Ghanaians, the nominee said the first requirement for the energy sector is the anchoring of the currency because a lot of the receivables and expenditure are dollar-denominated. As a result, he said the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Ghana would have to work hard to anchor the currency.

From the technical side, the nominee noted that measures would be implemented for efficiency and added that when collections are increased, tariffs will not need to be increased.

5.17 ENI Arbitration Case

Asked whether any order was made against the Government in the ENI arbitration case, the nominee said that in the arbitration involving Eni Ghana Exploration and Production Limited, Vitol Upstream Ghana Limited, and the Republic of Ghana, along with Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), the tribunal found Ghana liable for breaching the underlying contract, specifically regarding unitisation directives for the Sankofa oil field.

**HON DR DOMINIC AKURINTINGA AYINE
MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

6.1 Background

The Hon. Dr Dominic Akuritinga Ayine was born on 6th January 1966, in Zuarungu in the Upper East Region of Ghana. He attended the Lawra Muslim Primary School in the Upper West Region, the Tongo-Beo Primary School, and Adekura Middle School in Zuarungu in the Upper East Region for his basic and middle school education from 1976 to 1981. He gained admission to the Notre Dame Seminary Secondary School in Navrongo in the Upper East Region for his Ordinary Level Certificate from 1981 to 1986 and then to the Tamale Secondary School in the Northern Region for his Advanced Level Certificate from 1986 to 1988.

The nominee proceeded to the University of Ghana, Legon, from 1990 to 1993 for his Bachelor of Laws (LL. B) degree. From 1993 to 1995, he entered and completed the Ghana School of Law and obtained his Professional Practice Certificate. He further pursued and obtained a Master of Laws (LL.M) specialisation in International Economic Law from the University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, from 1997 to 1998. The nominee furthered his education at the Stanford Law School, Palo Alto, California, USA, where he obtained a Master of the Science of Law (JSM) from 2002 to 2003 and a Doctor of the Science of Law (JSD) with specialisation in Trade Law and Democracy from 2003 to 2006.

He was a Fulbright Fellow at the Stanford Law School, Palo Alto, California, USA, from July 2002 to June 2003. He was also a Library of International Relations Fellow at the Chicago Kent Law School in Chicago, Illinois, USA, from April to June 2002.

Hon Ayine served his graduate national service as a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ghana in Accra from 1996 to 1997 and his undergraduate national service at the Notre Dame Seminary Secondary School from 1988 to 1989. The nominee has had a sterling career as a Director of the General Law Consult, which he co-founded and was a shareholder from 1998 to 2001. He was also the Executive Director of the Center for Public Interest Law from 2001 to 2009. The nominee undertook several teaching and non-teaching assignments at the University of Ghana and Stanford University from 2000 to 2013, during which he researched and published many academic journal articles relevant to teaching areas.

Hon. Dr. Ayine serves as the Managing Partner of the law firm Ayine and Partners and has, over the years, applied his extensive knowledge and expertise to provide consultancy services to numerous key state and non-state organisations. His notable contributions include the preparation and drafting of the Dam Safety Regulations for the Water Resources Commission in 2012; the development of a guide for analyzing oil and gas legislation for the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) in 2012; and conducting a comprehensive analysis and preparing a report on agricultural credit regulation in Ghana for the Peasant

Farmers Association of Ghana under the DANIDA Business Sector Advocacy initiative in 2006. The nominee also served as the Deputy Attorney-General and Deputy Minister for Justice, responsible for litigation before the superior courts of Justice from April 2013 to January 2017, during which time he handled a number of critical international arbitrations involving the Republic of Ghana.

Hon Dr Ayine has been the Member of Parliament for the Bolgatanga East Constituency since January 2013. In terms of leadership, he has served as the Deputy Ranking Member for the Constitutional, Legal, and Parliamentary Affairs Committee. He was also the Chairman of the Committee on Subsidiary Legislation from October 2018 to December 2024. He also co-chaired the Ad Hoc Committee on Vote of Censure.

QUESTIONS ASKED OF THE NOMINEE AND HIS RESPONSES

6.2 Nomenclature of the Designation

The nominee was asked to clarify what his designation ought to be. He affirmed what was stated in his nomination letter as "Attorney General and Minister for Justice."

6.3 Reintroduction of Regional and District Tribunals

In responding to why the NDC intends to pass a law to re-introduce the community and circuit courts, which were abolished and criticised by the Africa Watch Report on Human Rights as having disregard for human rights, he

responded that it is to align fully with Article 125(1) of the Constitution which posits that justice emanates from the people and to encourage the participation of the ordinary citizen in the administration of justice. He also explained that the empirical evidence the Africa Watch Report on Human Rights used for their publication was from the pre-Constitutional era when revolutionary justice was being administered. He assured the Committee that the reintroduction of the tribunals would be done in accordance with the 1992 Constitution and inhumane and degrading treatment of the citizens would not be permitted. He added that a public tribunals act would be enacted to regulate their operations to prevent the recurrence of human rights violations.

On why the NDC Government previously accepted the recommendation of the Constitution Review Commission to abolish tribunals but has made a U-turn and now wants to re-introduce them, the nominee said that the re-establishment of the tribunals is because experience has taught them that the participation of ordinary citizens in the justice system is a good thing.

The nominee clarified that the tribunals are established under Article 142(1) of the Constitution. However, he noted that subsequent amendments to the Courts Act removed provisions related to their operation. He stated his intention to introduce a Bill aimed at comprehensively addressing the implementation of the letter and spirit of Article 142 of the Constitution.

6.4 Constitutionality of the Operation-Recover-All-Loot (Oral) Committee

The nominee, in answering whether or not the ORAL committee is a constitutional body, explained that ORAL is not listed in the Criminal and Other Offences Procedure Act because the Act does not create bodies but merely lays out the procedures relating to criminal trials, including summary trials, trials on indictment, and the treatment of evidence in criminal matters. He further clarified that the fact that ORAL is not a legal body established under the Act does not render it illegal. ORAL operates within the constitutional value of accountability as highlighted in the preamble of the Constitution, which emphasises the need to exact accountability from individuals, particularly those in public office, who misuse their positions to loot public resources.

6.5 Conflict of Interest

When asked whether the nominee, given his prior role as legal counsel for Cassius Mining and his belief in the company's claims against the Government of Ghana, would ensure that the Republic is not burdened with the US\$441 million arbitration claim filed by the company, he stated that he was previously instructed by Cassius Mining to file pleadings in the High Court of Bolgatanga but clarified that he is no longer the company's lawyer. He emphasised that the Constitution prohibits public officers from allowing their private interests to conflict with their public duties. He assured the Committee that, as Attorney General, he would act solely in the best interest of the Republic of Ghana, adhering to the highest traditions and ethics of the legal profession. He further

referenced his prior experience as Deputy Attorney General, highlighting the commendable reputation of the Attorney General's office during his tenure.

6.6 Asset Declaration

The nominee was asked whether he has complied with the Public Office Holders (Declaration of Assets and Disqualification) Act, 1998 (Act 550) by declaring his assets. He affirmed that he has consistently complied with asset declaration requirements and confirmed that he has filed his asset declaration for the year 2024.

6.7 Agreement Between GPGC Ltd V. Government of the Republic of Ghana

When questioned about his involvement in the agreement between GPGC and the Government of Ghana, which resulted in a \$134 million judgment debt against the state, the nominee clarified that his law firm, Ayine & Felli Chambers, was listed as GPGC's registered address because Dr. Abdul Baasit Aziz Bamba, a former member of the firm, independently handled the company's registration before leaving the firm with GPGC as his client. He further emphasised that he had no private dealings with GPGC and only provided a legal opinion as part of his official duties as Deputy Attorney General.

6.8 Establishment of Regional Tribunals

The nominee dismissed the notion that the creation of regional tribunals signifies an era of terror prior to the coming into effect of the 1992 Constitution, and

intended to abuse the rights and privileges of the citizenry. Dr Ayine informed the Committee that, per **Article 125 of the 1992 Constitution**, justice emanates from the people and is administered by the Republic through the Judiciary. He further stated that the logic of establishing the tribunals is to ensure the participation of the ordinary Ghanaian.

The Attorney General and Minister for Justice designate prompted the Committee that the Judiciary is defined to include the Public and Regional tribunals as espoused in Article 142 of the 1992 Constitution and as Parliament by law would establish. He stated that if approved, he would introduce a Bill to govern the conduct of Public Tribunals to adapt to Article 132 of the Constitution; Dr Ayine expressed that the tribunals would be regulated to conform to the dictates of Chapter five of the Constitution and not breach the rights and privileges of Ghanaians.

6.9 The Legality or Otherwise of Operation Recover All Loot (ORAL)

In response to whether "Operation Recover All Loot" (ORAL) is legal or illegal, the Hon nominee affirmed that the Committee operates within its mandate. He explained that the Committee's role is to gather information for onward transmission to the appropriate authorities for investigation and prosecution if material evidence is established. He emphasised that accountability is a fundamental principle of the Constitution, which enjoins all citizens to protect the State of Ghana and its democratic framework. He reiterated that accountability is essential for the sustainability and progress of the nation, and

the "Operation Recover All Loot" (ORAL) initiative is a mechanism to uphold this principle. According to **Article 41(f) of the 1992 Constitution**, it is the duty of all Ghanaians to combat the misuse and wastage of public funds and property. Ensuring accountability is a civic responsibility, which aligns with the objectives of "Operation Recover All Loot" (ORAL). The nominee affirmed that the ORAL Committee operates within the legal framework and is fully aligned with the constitutional mandate to uphold accountability and protect public resources.

6.10 Cassius Mining and Conflict of Interest

The learned nominee assured the Committee that even though he has represented the company in his capacity as its legal counsel, he no longer represents the company, nor is he on a retainer. Dr Ayine assured the Committee of his commitment to discharge his role as Attorney General and Minister for Justice, with zeal devoid of conflict of interest. According to the hon nominee, as Attorney General and Minister for Justice, he only has one client, the Republic of Ghana, and he would not compromise the interest of the Republic.

6.11 Representation of Fidelity Bank as External Solicitor

Dr Ayine confirmed to the Committee that he once represented the Electricity of Ghana, but is currently not representing the Company. He narrated that he represented Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) against the erstwhile PDS company. The case was subsequently settled, but the hon nominee informed the Committee that, in the referenced suit, he was on the side of the Republic.

6.12 Ministry for National Security

The Committee sought the opinion of the hon nominee on the omission of a ministry responsible for National Security from the list of advertised Ministries established by His Excellency the President. The Attorney General and Minister for Justice designate surmised that, per Section 12 of the National Security Act, 2020 Act 1030, any ministry that assumes National Security's responsibility is deemed the Ministry responsible for National Security.

On whether or not he would proffer a suggestion on the issue, the learned nominee further stated that his candid opinion would accordingly be shared if the President of the Republic seeks same.

6.13 Reintroduction of the Amendment of the Criminal Procedure Act

The learned nominee uttered to the Committee that the current scope and substantive nature of the Bill would not find expression in the amendment of the criminal procedure Act if Government decides to reintroduce it. He referenced the portions of the Bill that seek to scrap interlocutory appeals and stated that if a decision is made for its reintroduction, the new version would be substantively different from the Bill intended for amendment in the 8th Parliament.

6.14 Jurisdiction and Size of the Supreme Court of Ghana

In response to questions on the size and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, the nominee acknowledged that its jurisdiction is indeed extensive. He suggested that this could be managed through various mechanisms. One option is to reduce the scope of the Court's jurisdiction. Alternatively, the number of Justices on the bench could be increased. If the Court's current jurisdiction is maintained, it must adopt effective mechanisms to manage its caseload.

The nominee emphasised the need to educate the public and court officers on the limitations of the Supreme Court's jurisdiction, underscoring that not all cases qualify for consideration at that level. He proposed the introduction of procedural mechanisms to filter cases, distinguishing those with legitimate grounds from frivolous ones. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of increasing the number of Justices and fostering specialised expertise within the bench to improve efficiency and case management.

6.15 Nominee's Relationship with the Judiciary

The learned nominee humbly urged the Committee to consider everything in context. According to the hon nominee, he does not run public commentary on cases he handles unless it borders on politics. Even in those scenarios, he hardly makes public commentary on cases. Dr Ayine assured the Committee of his intention to have a respectful relationship with the Judiciary.

The Attorney General and Minister for Justice designate opined that he has confidence in the Judiciary, but there is certainly room for improvement.

6.16 Use of In-House Attorneys in International Arbitration

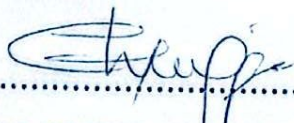
The nominee indicated that the use of State Attorneys in international arbitration is not a new practice, and he intends to uphold this tradition. However, he highlighted scenarios where the arbitration forum is located outside Ghana's jurisdiction. In such cases, he advised caution against excluding lawyers familiar with the laws and practices of that jurisdiction. He explained that it is both prudent and conventional to engage counsel from the relevant jurisdiction to assist with the arbitration process. Outside these specific circumstances, the nominee committed to fully utilising the services of State Attorneys in international arbitration cases.

7.0 CONCLUSION AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

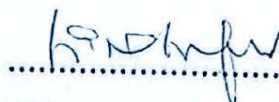
The Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Article 78(1) of the 1992 Constitution and Standing Order 217, deliberated on the three ministerial nominations made by H.E. the President. The nominees exhibited competence, extensive knowledge, and exceptional skill in addressing matters relevant to their respective ministries. The Committee, therefore recommends to the House by **CONCENSUS** the adoption of its report and approval of the following nominees:

- i. Hon Dr Cassiel Ato Baah Forson - Minister for Finance
- ii. Hon John Abdulai Jinapor - Minister for Energy
- iii. Hon Dr Dominic Akuritinga Ayine - Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Respectfully submitted.



.....
MRS GIFTY JIAGGE GOBAH
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE



.....
HON BERNARD AHIAFOR
FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE