



THE SENATE

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX
THREE-ARMS ZONE
ABUJA

SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REPORT OF THE SCREENING OF 3 CAREER
AMBASSADORIAL NOMINEES

TUESDAY, 3RD APRIL, 2019

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1.0 MEMBERSHIP

Sen. Monsurat Sunmonu	-	Chairman
Sen. Shehu Sani	-	Vice Chairman
Sen. Mohammed Ali Ndume	-	Member
Sen. Bala Ibn Na'Allah	-	Member
Sen. James Manager	-	Member
Sen. Mohammed Shaaba Lafiagi	-	Member
Sen. Olugbenga Bareehu Ashafa	-	Member
Sen. Enyinnaya H. Abaribe	-	Member
Sen. Sunny O. Ogbuoji	-	Member
Sen. Tijani Yahaya Kaura	-	Member
Sen. Clifford Ordia	-	Member
S.D. Umar, <i>Hon. Kentucky Colonel</i>	-	Clerk to the Committee

2.0 INTRODUCTION

On Wednesday 23rd January, 2019, the Senate, Federal Republic of Nigeria, at its sitting, considered the request of the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, for confirmation of the nomination and appointment of three (3) nominees, to serve as Ambassadors of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

3.0 POWER OF THE SENATE

Section 171 (4) of the 1999 Constitution states the power of the Senate, thus

—
"An appointment to the Office of an Ambassador, High Commissioner or other Principal Representatives of Nigeria abroad shall not have effect unless the appointment is confirmed by the Senate"

The Senate will recall that it referred Mr. President's request to this Committee vide a referral letter from the Clerk of Senate No.

NASS/8S/R/03/VOL.1/1335 dated 24th January, 2019 and mandated it to screen the nominees and report its recommendation within two weeks.

Unfortunately, the Committee could not report its findings within the mandated time owing to the election recess and non receipt of the relevant documents of the nominees which only came on 19th March, 2019.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The Committee sent a letter to the Special Assistant to the President on National Assembly matters on 20th March, 2019 requesting for Security clearance from the Police and DSS in line with Rules 120 (a), (b) and 125 of the Senate Standing Orders, 2015, as amended. These documents constitute parts of the Senate's requirement on the nominees that enable this Committee effectively conduct the assignment.

5.0 SCREENING

The nominees were screened on Wednesday, 3rd April, 2019 in Senate Meeting Room 117. The Chairman welcomed the nominees and congratulated them on their nomination by Mr. President. The nominees were clearly told that, the screening will be responsibly meticulous and straight forward.

All three nominees presented their 3 years Tax Clearance, Code of Conduct Acknowledgement Slip and have been duly screened by DSS. The Committee still awaits the Nigerian Police report on the three nominees.

During the screening exercise, the Committee, assessed the nominees using the following variables; appearance, composure, presentation, special skill, specific and general knowledge.

6.0 CONFIRMATION HEARING REPORT

1. Mr. Christopher Chidi Chiejina — Delta State

- a. Mr. Christopher Chidi Chiejina is 57 years old from Delta State and is married with 3 children. He is a Career nominee.
- b. He graduated in 1983 with B.Sc. Psychology from University of Ife, Nigeria, and earned a Master Degree in the same field from University of Lagos in 1986.
- c. He joined the Foreign Service in 1987 and served in various Departments in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in some Nigerian Missions abroad.
- d. During his years of service, he served in the United Nations Permanent Mission, New York as Counselor (1998-2004), Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Nigeria, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2004-2006), Director of Programmes, Directorate of Technical Aid Corps, (2017) and Director (Africa), Office of the DG, Presidency (2017-Date).
- e. He attended several professional courses and conferences, both local and international, such as United Nations General Assembly, World Summit on Social Development, World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia Related Intolerance, amongst others.
- f. He likes Movies, Table Tennis and Reading.
- g. The nominee displayed wealth of experience in the art of diplomacy and how best to conduct himself as a Foreign Service officer. He is an advocate of 'diplomacy can never be more expensive than war'. He was articulate and calm in his response to questions raised, throughout the period of the screening exercise. He exhibited prerequisite traits of an Ambassador-plenipotentiary.

Recommendation

The Committee hereby recommends **Christopher Chidi Chiejina** to the Senate for confirmation.

2. Zanna Umaru Bukar-Kolo - Yobe State

- a. Mr. Zanna Umaru Bukar-Kolo is 54 years old from Yobe State. He is a Career nominee.
- b. He graduated in 1986 with B. Sc. Political Science and Administration from University of Maiduguri.
- c. The nominee joined the Foreign Service in 1987 after his National Youth Service and attended the Foreign Service Academy from 1987-1988. He served in various Departments in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in some Missions abroad.
- d. He served as Principal Protocol Officer in the office of the President, State House, Abuja from 1989 -1991. From 1992 -1997, he served in Nigeria High Commission, London as Minister Counsellor.
- e. From 2002 - 2006, he served as an Assistant Director, Head of First Committee, First United Nation Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also served in the Embassy of Nigeria, Tripoli, Libya as Minister from 2007 – 2010.
- f. From 2012 – 2013, he served as Deputy Director, East and Central African Division, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and he also served in Embassy of Nigeria, Washington D. C. as Minister/Chief Protocol. Presently, he is the Director of Protocol, office of the State Chief of Protocol, State House, Abuja from March 2017 to date.

- g. In the cause of his career, he attended several international conferences and meetings such as Chemical Weapons Convention, New York, United Nations General Assembly, African Union Assembly, Community of Sahel and Saharan States. He also attended several professional courses.
- h. He likes Reading, Squash and Walking.
- i. He is a charismatic nominee with vast knowledge of Diplomacy and International Relations. He advocates for a multi-lateral approach to Trans-Saharan immigration crisis and related matters. He was composed and very confident while responding to issues raised to him. His responses were accurate and comprehensive. He has displayed convincing traits of an envoy who will make Nigeria proud in the diplomatic arena.

Recommendation

The Committee hereby recommends **Zanna Umaru Bukar-Kolo** to the Senate for confirmation.

3. Mohammed Abdullahi Mabdul — Benue State

- a. Mohammed Abdullahi Mabdul is 58 years old from Benue State and is married with children. He is a Career nominee.
- b. He graduated in 1985 with Bachelor of Arts Degree (Arabic & Political Science) from Bayero University, Kano.
- c. He joined the Foreign Service in 1987 after his National Youth Service and has served in various capacities both in the Ministry and some Nigerian Missions abroad.
- d. In the cause of his career, he served as the Consellor in Charge of Consular/Visa at the Embassy in Algiers from 1995-1998, and Chief

Protocol Officer, office of the Vice President of Nigeria between 1999-2005.

- e. Also, he served as Deputy Director and Acting Director of Protocol, office of the Vice President (2005 – 2006 and 2006 – 2007, respectively). He was Director of Research in the Ministry from 2011 – 2014. He also served as the Consul in Nigerian Consulate, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from 2015 – 2018.
- f. He attended courses in Arabic, Portuguese and Management, both local and international.
- g. In addition to English, he speaks Arabic, French, Portuguese, Hausa and Idoma languages.
- h. He likes Reading, Travelling and Sports where he received several medals
- i. Apart from other special diplomatic skills, the nominee is a linguist with not less than four international languages, a veritable and effective tool in relation with other nations in the diplomatic circle. He has a vast knowledge of international politics and diplomacy and responded very adequately to all issues raised during the screening exercise. He advocated adequate sensitization of Nigerian on laws of other countries and their consequences to void re-occurring execution of Nigerians in foreign land.

The nominee is evidently ready and capable to serve as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Recommendation

The Committee hereby recommends **Mohammed Abdullahi Mabdul** to the Senate for confirmation.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee having carefully and thoroughly conducted the screening exercise was satisfied with the qualifications, exposure, conduct, character, experience and general performance of the three career nominees who rose through the ranks to the level of Directors, Level 17, in the Foreign Service.

Accordingly, the Committee hereby recommends them for confirmation by the Senate.

7.1 PRAYER : -

That the Senate do confirm the nomination of the following three (3) Ambassadorial Nominees, for confirmation of their appointments as Ambassadors of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

1. Mr. Christopher C. Cheijina (Delta State)
2. Mr. Bukar Kolo (Yobe State)
3. Mr. M. A. Mabdul (Benue State)

8.0 CONCLUSION

The Senate, Federal Republic of Nigeria, referred the screening of three (3) Ambassadorial nominees to this Committee for detailed legislative screening. All the nominees appeared before the Committee and were duly screened in line with perimeters sets down for the exercise. In so doing, the Committee ensured that it conducted the screening fairly and thoroughly with a view to making far reaching recommendations to the Senate.

The Committee so submits: -

Sen. Monsurat Sunmonu

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Sen. Shehu Sani

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Sen. Mohammed Ali Ndume

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Sen. Bala Ibn Na'Allah

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Sen. James Manager

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Sen. Mohammed Shaaba Lafiagi

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Sen. Olugbenga Bareehu Ashafa

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Sen. Enyinnaya H. Abaribe

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Sen. Sunny O. Ogbuoji

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Sen. Tijjani Yahaya Kaura

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Sen. Clifford Ordia

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S.D. Umar, *Hon. Kentucky Col.*

Clerk