

Parliamentary Prayer

Almighty God, we humbly beseech Thee to look with favour upon this Parliament of the Republic of Ghana. Grant that it may perform its high duty as in Thy sight. Give Divine guidance to the President of the Republic; endow Members of Parliament and Ministers of State with discernment and vision, integrity and courage that through the labours of government this land and people may be well and truly served, and Thy good purposes for the common human life be realised in our midst.

O God, grant us a vision of our country, fair as it might be, a country of righteousness, where none shall wrong his neighbour; a country of plenty, where evil and poverty shall be done away with; a country of brotherhood, where all success shall be founded on service, and honour shall be given to the deserving; a country of peace, where government shall rest on the will of the people and the love for the common good.

Bless the efforts of those who struggle to make this vision a living reality. Inspire and strengthen our people that they may give time, thought and sacrifice to speed the day of the coming beauty of Ghana and Africa.

AMEN

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Rt. Hon. Aaron Michael Oquae, Speaker of Parliament

New 400-seater parliamentary chamber to cost \$200 million

- Speaker

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Russian parliament orders probe of US media in Moscow



Russian President Vladimir Putin and RT's Editor-in-chief Margarita Simonyan in Moscow, Russia.

Washington: Russia's parliament has called for an investigation into American media operating in its country in response to what it says are attacks on Russian media in the US, particularly state-funded broadcaster RT News.

The state Duma, or lower house of parliament, called on its committee on information policy, information technology and communications to conduct an "audit" of Radio Liberty, the Voice of America, CNN and other US media "for compliance of their activities with Russian legislation," according to the legislative body's website.

VOA is a federal entity, while Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty is a private, non-profit organisation funded by a grant from the US Congress. Konstantin Zatulin, a member of parliament from the pro-Kremlin United Russia party, requested the probe on Friday to combat what he called a "repressive" move by the US against RT.

Brexit could force UK Parliament to be ineffective on everything else: Report

Brexit will be a "huge burden" to both the U.K. Government and Parliament, which could render these bodies ineffective at addressing other issues, warned a report by the U.K.-based think tank the Institute for Government (IfG).

The IfG suggests that up to 15 new bills, in addition to the Great Repeal (Brexit) Bill, could be required to secure the U.K.'s future beyond its exit from the European Union. These will be announced at the annual Queen's Speech in May, and could address topics such as agriculture and trade.

The Queen's Speech forms part of the ceremonial start to the parliamentary year and outlines proposed legislation. The IfG's report argues that as roughly 20 bills are outlined in the speech, the predicted high proportion of those to be related to Brexit leaves little room to address other, perhaps domestic, issues.

The IfG also suggests that the legislative



A Union Jack balloon outside the Houses of Parliament in London.

upheaval that Brexit is likely to catalyze could lead to the Government using different routes to make changes to U.K. law, which could mean that such legal amendments are not subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

"The legislation required for Brexit will

leave little parliamentary time for anything else ... it will be a challenge for both the Government and Parliament to do all this while still ensuring full scrutiny and leaving room for the Government's domestic policy agenda," Hannah White, IfG director of research, said in a statement.

But Andrew Hood, a lawyer at Dechert specializing in EU law and former legal adviser to previous U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron, told CNBC via telephone that the potential 15 additional bills, "minimizes the cliff-edge fear that people have."

Hood added that U.K. Parliament only has a "certain bandwidth," meaning that domestic issues could be "put on the backburner," but the significance of Brexit meant that it ought to take priority.

He suggested that new U.K. immigration law could be an area to be foregrounded.

In response to the report, a U.K. Government spokesperson said in a statement sent to CNBC that: "We've been clear that where there could be significant change, for example in areas such as customs or immigration, there will be primary legislation." It detailed that: "Parliament will have every opportunity to debate and scrutinise the Great Repeal Bill during its passage."

PCs say government hydro ads are in contempt of parliament

TORONTO -- Taxpayer-funded ads about planned hydro bill reductions put the Liberal government in contempt of parliament, the Opposition charged Monday.

Both the Progressive Conservatives and NDP say the radio and social media ads are only meant to boost the popularity of a party sagging in the polls. Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said the government has so far spent less than \$1 million -- how much less, he wouldn't say -- on the ads, but that adding print and TV to the campaign later is likely. "It's important for us to make

sure that we let everyone know about the 25-per-cent reduction that's coming," he said.

The ads say people will receive an average of 25 per cent off their hydro bills this summer and rate increases are being held to inflation for four years. It doesn't mention that the 25 per cent includes an eight-per-cent reduction that already took effect Jan. 1.

Thibeault noted that not a lot of people know about the Ontario Electricity Support Program for low-income ratepayers, so it's important to inform people of hydro relief programs.

But, Progressive Conservative

Leader Patrick Brown noted, the OESP requires people to sign up to qualify. The planned additional 17-per-cent reduction is going on bills automatically.

"This is all about Liberals trying to help themselves," he said. "They're going to waste hundreds of thousands of dollars, maybe millions, of taxpayer dollars not towards reducing hydro bills, but to promote themselves."

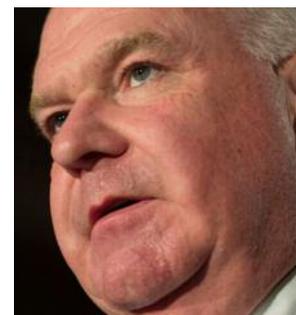
NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said public money is being used for partisan purposes.

"The Liberals have been in bad shape politically for some time now," she said. "This phantom

plan that they threw out the door was a way to save their own political skin -- it had nothing to do with the people of Ontario."

The Progressive Conservatives believe the ads are a case of contempt of parliament because no legislation has been passed or even tabled, and promoting the policy as definite presumes the will of the house.

But government house leader Yasir Naqvi said the ads don't interfere with the proceedings of the house because there is nothing to interfere with, since no legislation has yet been introduced. The Speaker will rule at a later time.



Ontario PC Interim Leader Jim Wilson

Auditor general Bonnie Lysyk has said the ads likely wouldn't have been approved under old government advertising rules that gave her more discretion to deny ads she felt were partisan.



Editorial

Unified Ghana for development beyond 60 years of Independence

6 0 years ago today, Ghana gained independence from its colonial masters to become a sovereign nation among the league of Nations.

On the midnight of 6th March, 1957, Dr Kwame Nkrumah made a prophetic speech to the people of Ghana which set the tone for a journey into the destiny of a free Nation with hopes and aspirations.

We want to capture the salient portions of this speech for us to ponder upon them again to remind ourselves of where we have come from and perhaps refocus us about where we are going as a nation.

"At long last, the battle has ended! And thus Ghana, your beloved country is free forever...I made it quite clear that from now on-today - we must change our attitudes, our minds, we are no more a colonial but free and independent people.

But also as I pointed out, that also entails hard work. I am depending upon the millions of the country, and the chiefs and people, to help me to reshape the destiny of this country...We have awakened, we shall no more go back to sleep anymore.

Today, from now on, there is a new African in the world! That new African is ready to fight his own battles and show that after all, the black man is capable of managing his own affairs. We are going to demonstrate to the world, to the other nations, young as we are that we are prepared to lay our own foundation."

There is no doubt that the above independent speech was a call to action for all Ghanaians to participate in the building of the Nation and not to become Spectators. It is at this point that we call on one and all to join their shoulders to the wheel to push Ghana to where it belongs.

Happy 60th anniversary and long live Ghana!

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New 400-seater capacity parliamentary chamber to cost \$200 million - Speaker

Clement Akoloh & Gily Sparks

The newly proposed 400-seater capacity parliamentary chamber for Ghana is to see the light of day as the Indian construction firm which constructed the Flagstaff House, the building that is hosting Ghana's current seat of Government, Shapoorji Pallonji, has put up a team of architects to do feasibility studies for the construction.

The facility, to be constructed at a cost of \$200 million will be situated behind the Speaker's block, and will have side wings to accommodate other visitors, underground car parks, offices, cafeteria for MPs and a museum of Parliament.

Speaker of Parliament, Professor

Mike Aaron Oquaye, revealed this in an interview with the Parliamentary Newspapers in Parliament on Monday.

The studies, he said, would allow the company to present a proposal and drawings of the new facility to the leadership of Parliament to be studied for a possible approval.

The team, Prof. Oquaye said, had already submitted a preliminary report to Parliament for study, while work on the full proposal and drawing were being worked on.

The number of seats in parliament has been increasing along with the creation of new constituencies over the years. The current parliamentary building has proven not to be adequate for the rising number of MPs and not adequate to cater for their security needs as the world gets more insecure with the upsurge of terrorist attacks.

A recent rainstorm almost rendered the current parliament building almost roofless as the strong winds blew off the roofs from the building. It became a national security issue where the national Security Minister and the Vice President stormed Parliament to ascertain for themselves the extent of damage to the building.

The Vice President, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, pledged government's commitment to ensure the construction of a new Parliamentary Chamber befitting the status of Ghana as a beacon of Parliamentary democracy that would also support modern legislative duties.

Prof. Oquaye suggested that the new facility would make way for the old chamber to be converted into a museum or archive to hold everything that has got to do with Ghana's history and a parliamentary library which could serve academic institutions and people wishing to go into politics.

The museum, he added, would contain speeches of various Presidents who had ruled Ghana since independence, the books they used, among other relics.

"India today is poised towards helping with Ghana's railway re-development which will accelerate our economic transformation," the Speaker suggested.

"It is in this spirit of co-operation that we decided to solicit their assistance in the rebuilding of the Parliamentary Chamber which is monumental and will forever stand in appreciation of the good relationship between the two countries, and we have no doubt Ghana will forever be indebted to India if the project comes to fruition," he said.

He encouraged Ghanaian businesses to enter into joint ventures with Indian companies for the benefit of the two countries.

India has been supporting Ghana's development by providing assistance in setting up projects through the provision of lines of credit and grants.

The Indian government has over the years supported the building of the India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence for ICT, the Flag Staff House and the Komenda Sugar Factory.



Rt. Hon. Aaron Michael Oquaye, Speaker of Parliament

Parliament calls for de-politicization of School feeding program

By Christian Kpese

Members of Parliament have called for the urgent need to depoliticize the School Feeding Program in order to engender the desired impact on the lives of school pupils.

The management of the social intervention program along NDC/NPP partisan lines over the years has variously affected its smooth running especially anytime there is change in government where caterers sympathetic to a winning political party forcefully takes over the program.

This has resulted in the suspension

of the School Feeding Program early this year by Officials of the Ejura Sekyeredumase Municipal Assembly with its attendant negative impact on the education of some 14,728 pupils.

Honorable Member of Parliament for the area, Braimah Moammed Bawah who disclosed this in a statement on the floor of parliament urged the house to intervene for the resumption of the program since classrooms have been deserted by the pupils.

In their contributions, Members from both sides of the house agreed to depoliticize the program to safeguard the future of all pupils.

The Speaker of Parliament, Rt.Hon Prof Aaron Mike Oquaye referred the matter to the Education and

Gender and Children Committees to investigate and made recommendations to the Ministry of Gender, Social Protection Ministries for action in order to restore the program.

Shortly after the NPP won the 2016 elections, supporters of the party across the country went on rampage sacking women employed by the school feeding program to feed school children.

In some cases, the women were attacked, their foods items destroyed and warned not to continue preparing the food.

The NPP supporters claim their colleagues in the NDC had taken over the management of the program when the NPP lost power in 2009 and its time for them to takeover since they are back in



Pupils enjoying their foods under the school feeding program

power.

The Ejura Sekyeredumase Assembly therefore decided to suspend the program entirely at least until the political interference is resolved.

The School Feeding program started in 2005 with full funding by the Dutch government. The government of Ghana assumed 100 percent funding of the program in 2009 when there was a change over in government.

call to GLORY

Nikoi Olai Amashie II (Asere Mantse), Dan Ashie Kotei (Head of Family, Nikoi Olai Stool Family), Nii Kotey Amon III (Asere - Djaasetse, Niikoi Olai Stool), Naa Kuokor Agyeman II (Asere Manye), Alfred Ashaley Neequaye (Agbafoiatse), Asafoatse Ashie, Asafoatse Aflamiakwadjan, Nii Dodoo Nsaki II, Otublohum Mantse & Acting President of the Ga Traditional Council, Nii Amoo III, Otublohum Dzaasetse, Nii Kpakpo Oti IV, Otublohum Adontehene, Nii Oto Blaflo III, Otublohum Seintse, Nii Ahene Nunoo III (Abola Mantse), Nii Adjeshie Akrong IV (Abola Jaasetse), Nii Nuako Nunoo (Head of Family, Abola Royal House), Nii Jonathan Kotey Nikoi (Head of Nii Kotey Amli We of La Klanaa), Nii Amugi Tsuru (Head of Inusah Cobblah, Codjoe, Botchway and Masleno Families of Adabraka Amusudai, Wilhemina Codjoe (Mami Osofo), Nora Codjoe, Joseph Botchway, Elias Neequaye Kotey, Sophia Aku Solomon, Facosh Aidoo (Okyeame Amusudai) Nana Kwaku Debrah (Abusuapayin) Head of Amoyaw Family of Akwamu-Gyekiti, Opanyin Michael Agyarko Amoyaw, Obaapanyin Adelaide Osaebia Amoyaw and Mr. Emmanuel Okyere Amoyaw of Akwamu Gyekiti, Numo Nukpesi Dziertror (Head of Dziertror Family, Dziertror Korpe, Big Ada), Madam Victoria Lani Dziertror, Madam Korkor Dziertror, Madam Mansah Dziertror, Dr. Akrofi Dziertror, Dr. Ernestina Mansah Dziertror, Madam Grace Dokuyoe Dziertror, Mr. Godwin Dziertror, Mr. Samuel Nii Bonney Mankata (Gbawe), Nii Oshipi Akai Nettey (Gbawe), Gbawe Methodist Church, MacCarthy Hill Circuit and the Redeemed Church of the Lord, Ghana, announce with deep sorrow the call to glory of their beloved;

HELENA NAA DEI NEEQUAYE

(A.K.A. KARTEY MAMI)

WHICH SAD EVENT OCCURRED ON THE 4TH OF JANUARY, 2017 AT THE KORLE-BU TEACHING HOSPITAL

AGED
80
YEARS

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NO WAKE-KEEPING

LAYING IN STATE: Saturday 1st April, 2017 from 5:00am to 8:00am for viewing at her Residence Gbawe, Fair Lady. The body will be conveyed to the Gbawe Methodist Church (McCarthy Hill Circuit)

BURIAL SERVICE: Saturday 1st April at 9:00am, Gbawe Methodist Church.

INTERMENT: Osu Cemetery.

FINAL FUNERAL RITES: Barclays Bank Club House on the Independence Avenue, Ridge.

MEMORIAL AND THANKSGIVING SERVICE: Sunday, 2nd April, 2017 at Gbawe Methodist Church.

CHILDREN: Madam Linda L. Amoyaw (Retired Teacher); Mr. Emmanuel Kartey Dziertror (Student, Accra Technical University); Peter Kabu-Dziertror (Student); Hannah Dziertror (Student, Achimota Senior High School); Abigail Asie Ahumah Dziertror (Student, Achimota Senior High School); Audrey Asikuor Ahumah Dziertror (Pupil, Dison International School); John Jeremy Dziertror (Pupil); John Jeremy Ayiku Dziertror (Pupil).

SIBLING: Madam Alberta Kuorkor Neequaye.

GRANDCHILDREN: Mrs. Mary Anane Boakye (Nurse/Business Woman), Adventist Hospital MD, U.S.A.; Mrs. Kaki Koudeka (Togo); Mrs. Rebecca Atubrah (Pharmacist) Formally of Pharmatrust Pharmacy; Peter Kabu-Dziertror (Student); Hannah Dziertror (Student, Accra Technical University); Andy Akrofi Ahumah Dziertror (Student, Achimota Senior High School); Abigail Asie Ahumah Dziertror (Student, Achimota Senior High School); Audrey Asikuor Ahumah Dziertror (Pupil, Dison International School); John Jeremy Dziertror (Pupil); John Jeremy Ayiku Dziertror (Pupil).

GREAT GRAND CHILDREN: No. 8.

IN-LAWS: Mr. Joseph K. Segbefia, Instructor, Ghana Civil Aviation Training Academy, Mrs. Ruth Ahumah Dziertror (Head Mistress, Ring Way Estate Basic School, Osu), Mr. Paul Anane Boakye (Chartered Accountant, Robert Half, Inc. M.D. USA), Mr. Assou Kaudeka (Togo), Mr. Michael Atubrah, Accountant (Procredit, Accra).

COUSINS: Fatuma Botchway, Tamale; Irene Solomon and Edward Kpakpo Solomon.

NEPHEWS AND NIECES: Mr. Emmanuel Armah & Brother and Sisters, Madam Rebecca Adei Kotey & Brothers and Sisters; Shamsudeen Neequaye Kotey & Brothers and Sisters; Mrs. Comfort Adei Kotei Coffie & Brothers and Sisters; Madam Millicent Dedei Quaye and Brothers.

CHIEF MOURNERS

Nikoi Olai Amashie II (Asere Mantse), Dan Ashie Kotei (Head of Family, Nikoi Olai Stool Family), Nii Kotey Amon III (Asere - Djaasetse, Niikoi Olai Stool), Naa Kuokor Agyeman II (Asere Manye), Alfred Ashaley Neequaye (Agbafoiatse), Asafoatse Ashie, Asafoatse Aflamiakwadjan, Nii Dodoo Nsaki II Otublohum Mantse & Acting President of the Ga Traditional Council, Nii Amoo III, Otublohum Dzaasetse, Nii Kpakpo Oti IV, Otublohum Adontehene, Nii Oto Blaflo III, Otublohum Seintse, Nii Ahene Nunoo III (Abola Mantse), Nii Adjeshie Akrong IV (Abola Jaasetse), Nii Nuako Nunoo (Head of Family, Abola Royal House), Nii Jonathan Kotey Nikoi (Head of Nii Kotey Amli We of La Klanaa), Nii Amugi Tsuru (Head of Inusah Cobblah, Codjoe, Botchway and Masleno Families of Adabraka Amusudai, Wilhemina Codjoe (Mami Osofo), Nora Codjoe, Joseph Botchway, Elias Neequaye Kotey, Nii Nikoi Ashaley (Kaneshie Mantse) Nii Amon Kotei II (Koteman Mantse) Nii Ashie Kumowuo II (Kpatsa-Korle Mantse) Nii Afutu Kotei II (Sowutuom Mantse) Nii Kotey Amon I (Omandjor Mantse) Naa Kotei Tsoo Aflasomanso (Koteman Manye) Naa Dei Oseble I (Kaneshie Manye), Naa Dei Oseble (Kotoku Manye, Nikoi Tsuruman) Naa Dei Okponman I (Nnanoman Manye), Asafoatse Abashie, Asafoatse Kpen, Asafoatse Tetteh, Asafoatse Nikoi, Asafoatse Ojator, Asafoatse Kotey Ga, Asafoatse Nikoi Blikan, Asafoatse Ojanor, Facosh Aidoo (Okyeame Amusudai), Naa Kwaku Debrah (Abusuapayin) of Amoyaw Family of Akwamu Gyekiti, Opanyin Michael Agyarko Amoyaw and Mr. Emmanuel Okyere Amoyaw (all of Kronti Oyoko Family, Akwamu Gyekiti, Numo Nukpesi Dziertror (Head of Dziertror Family of Dziertror Korpe Ada), Madam Victoria Lani Dziertror, Madam Korkor Dziertror, Madam Mansah Dziertror, Dr. Akrofi Dziertror and Dr. Ernestina Dziertror.

ALL FRIENDS AND SYMPATHIZERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED



Okoe Advocates A Six Year Single Term Presidential Mandate

By Gily Sparks

Ablekuma South MP, Alfred Okoe Vanderpuije is proposing a six years non-renewable term of office for Ghanaian Presidents to promote greater development and accountability.

According to him, the four year term, has serious disadvantages as programs and policies are not properly executed.

The extension of the Presidential term has been proposed by several governance experts including former President John Agyekum Kufuor.

Mr. Vanderpuije who made the proposal in a statement on the floor of Parliament Tuesday argued that " the first four years are occupied with preliminary activities ushering the government into active governance."

He explained that the second year of administration of every government is the active period within

the government's term of office adding that the third and fourth terms are characterized by gathering financial resources and marshaling political strategies.

"Mr. Speaker even though Ghana is currently practicing multi-party system which allows the electorates to vote for their preferred President, the tenure of office of the President is insufficient for the planning and maximum development of the country under a presidency," he said .

He called a vote for a constitutional amendment to extend the mandate and was hopeful this will help improve the country's political advancement especially in the area of national development and transitional matter .

"Mr. Speaker there is the need to vote for a constitutional amendment to increase the tenure of office of the President to 'a six (6) year one term of office.' That is, a critical consideration must be given to the Article 66(1) and (2) which seeks to limit the term of office of government in Ghana to a term of four years unless reelected for a second term," he

said

"The term of four years has its obvious consequences. It is a well-known fact that, since the promulgation of the 1992 Constitution, anytime a President is elected, time and resources are spent to defend a one term four years incumbency. This comes with its associated financial burden on the state. Going by this precedent, it is submitted that the term of office as it exists under the current Constitution is woefully insufficient for any government to seriously consider improving the economy," he added.

The former Mayor also cited the current transitional periods which marred with serious discrepancies as a strong and described the situation as worrying .

"Mr. Speaker, this House must also consider the transitional provisions of the law as it currently exist with the view to ensuring that effective transitional steps are put in place to allow effective governance without any lapses and issues of Presidential benefits are well laid out. In a one term presidential situation, transitional matters could be resolved from



Hon. Alfred Okoe Vanderpuije, MP for Ablekuma South

six month prior to the end of the Presidential term of office, he said .

Other members of the House including Alexander Kwamina Afenyo-Markin , Member of the

Parliament for the Effutu constituency, in the Central Region as well as Member of Parliament for Adansi Asokwa constituency, K.T Hammond who contributed to the statement supported the call for the extension .

Who becomes the next Deputy Majority Leader? ...Afenyo – Markin, Akua Owusu Afriyie names pop up

Nana Agyeman Birikorang

The appointment of the honourable Member for Dome/Kwabena, Sarah Adwoa Safo, the current Deputy Majority Leader as the Minister of



MP for Effutu, Hon. Alexander Kwamena Afenyo-Markin

State at the Office of the President in-charge of Public Procurement by President Nana Akufo-Addo has created a deep vacuum at the front bench of the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) Majority in Parliament.

Sources within the Majority Caucus have hinted that the MP for Effutu in the Central Region, Hon. Alexander Kwamena Afenyo-Markin and Hon. Nana Akua Owusu Afriyie the MP for Ablekuma North are the potential members being considered by leadership of the party to replace Hon. Adwoa Safo.

The sources indicates that most of the members are seriously rooting for Hon. Afenyo-Markin to become the next Majority Leader because they believe in his capabilities, experience and the manner he is able to make cogent arguments quoting relevant provisions of the Standing Orders and the Constitution.

However some of the MPs from

the Majority side are arguing that Hon. Akua Owusu-Afriyie who is a first time MP for the Ablekuma North constituency is likely to be named as the Second Deputy Whip. They were of the view that it has always been the precedent to have at least one female among the leaders at the front and since she represents a constituency in the Greater Accra Region, just like Hon. Adwoa Safo, she is the most likely person to be added to the leaders.

If the argument is anything to go by, then the current Majority Chief Whip Hon. Ameyaw Chereh, MP for Sunyani East will moved up the ladder to become Deputy Majority Leader, the current First Deputy Whip Hon. Matthew Nyindam, MP for Kpandai will then become the Chief Whip whiles the current Second Deputy Whip, Hon. Moses the MP for Trobu becomes the First Deputy Whip and Hon. Akua Owusu Afriyie becomes the new Second Deputy Whip.

A different twist of the vacuum created by Hon. Adwoa Safo new

appointment also is that despite her new portfolio she will be asked to maintain her position and double as a Minister of State.

The argument is that during the last days of former President Kufuor he appointed Hon. Osei Kyie Mensah-Bonsu as the Deputy Minister in-charge of Parliamentary Affairs when he was still the Deputy Majority Leader.

According to the MPs, Hon. Osei Kyie Mensah-Bonsu who was then Deputy Majority Leader was not replaced when he was appointed as the Deputy Minister in charge of Parliamentary Affairs, he held the two positions till the NPP was voted out of power therefore Hon. Adwoa Safo can also be allowed to do same.

But that argument has been flawed by some section of the MPs saying Hon. Osei Kyie Mensah-Bonsu was already Deputy Majority Leader and there was no need of changing him when he was appointed as Deputy Minister in-charge of Par-

liamentary Affairs because it was a related parliamentary duties and he (Hon. Kyie Mensah-Bonsu) admitted that during his vetting. But in the case of Hon. Adwoa Safo her new Ministerial position does not relate to her duties as the Deputy Majority Leader, stressing that since it's a new Ministry she needs to devote more time and make the Ministry have positive impact on the government of President Nana Akufo-Addo.

To them Hon. Adwoa Safo specialised in procurement as a lawyer and she must be allowed to do her work as a Minister and leave the Deputy Majority Leader to somebody like Hon. Afenyo-Markin to help the Majority Leader Hon. Osei Kyie Mensah-Bonsu in the best interest of the Majority of the members and the ruling party.

It is expected that a new person would be appointed to join the front bench of the NPP Majority side once Hon. Adwoa Safo is confirmed as a Minister of State in few weeks.

General News



Tax cut of 327 M could construct 21,000 boreholes – Former Minister

By Christian Kpesese

Member of Parliament for the Asutifi South Constituency, Alhaji Collins Dauda has noted that a total amount of GH¢321 million to be lost through two tax cuts could have been used to construct 21,200 mechanized boreholes for deprived communities in the country.

The implementation of two amendment Bills, the Special Petroleum Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2017 and the Special Import Levy (Amendment) Bill, 2017 by New Patriotic Party (NPP) government would cost the nation GH¢ 321 million through tax cuts.

According to Hon Collins Dauda that amount could construct a total of 21, 200 mechanized boreholes and provide portable drinking water for deprived communities in the country at the cost of Ghc15, 000 each.

He made the observation when he took his turn to contribute to the debate on the 2017 Budget statement presented to Parliament by the Minister of Finance, Mr.

Ken Ofori Atta.

But Government has assured through the Minister of Monitoring and Evaluation, Hon Anthony Akoto Osei that the nation would not be short changed by ensuring that efficient and prudent measures are instituted to bring in more revenues than what it would lost as a result of the tax cuts.

A total of GH¢398million worth of tax reliefs was granted by parliament to help reduce the burden on Ghanaian individuals and companies captured under the tax net.

The tax cuts were made possible through the passage of the following Bills by parliament; Special Petroleum Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2017, the Customs and Excise (Petroleum Taxes and Petroleum Related Levies) (Repeal) Bill, 2017, Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2017 and Special Import Levy (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

The Special Petroleum Tax Act, 2014 (Act 879) was passed in 2014 to help shore up government revenue from taxation.

It imposed a tax rate 17.5% on some petroleum products. The object of the Bill was to reduce the 17.5% tax rate to 15%. The reduction is therefore expected to affect the country's revenue generation by

GH¢243million.

Chairman of the Finance Committee, Hon. Dr. Mark Assibey-Yeboah noted the Bill will reduce the tax burden on petroleum consumers and give impetus to Government's policy of directing petroleum prices in the downward direction. Government



Member of Parliament for Asutifi South Constituency, Alhaji Collins Dauda

he said would make up for the loss through enhanced method of revenue generation.

The Customs and Excise (Petroleum Taxes and Petroleum Related Levies) (Repeal) Bill, 2017, its objective was to remove the rates of excise duty on petroleum products by repealing the Act 684 to reduce the tax overlays in the petroleum industry.

Government is expected to lose Ghc 84 million as a result.

That of the Special Import Levy (Amendment) Bill, 2017, was to remove the 1% levy payable on specific imported goods. This move is also expected to cost the nation GH¢71million with the government hoping to recover the amount through better management of other revenue sources.

The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2017, on the other hand, sought to amend the Income Tax Act, 2015 (Act 896) to exempt the gain on realization of securities of companies listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange (GSE) from income tax for the period 2017 to 2021. On the other hand, sought to amend the Income Tax Act, 2015 (Act 896) to exempt the gain on realization of securities of companies listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange (GSE) from income tax for the period 2017 to 2021.

CDH-PHOENIX 1ST GHANA HR STAR AWARDS SLATED FOR SATURDAY, 25TH MARCH, 2017

As part of efforts to enhance recognition of Human Resource Management in Ghana, and to reward outstanding and best HR Practice, the Institute of Human Resource Management (IHRMP), Ghana, presents the CDH-Phoenix 1st Ghana HR STAR Awards under the Theme: "Human Capital and National Development".

The Awards Ceremony will be held at the La Palm Royal Beach Hotel on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 6:30 pm, with sponsorship support from CDH-Phoenix as Headline sponsor, GCB Bank, Ghana Water Co. Ltd, Tullow Ghana, Guinness Ghana Breweries Limited, Fidelity Bank, Lube Oil, La Palm Hotel, Raincoat Roofing System, Unilever Ghana and South Akim Rural Bank. Other media partners are: Graphic Communication Group Limited, Multimedia Group, Daily Guide, New Times Corporation, Today Newspaper and Parliamentary News.

According to the Chairman of the Awards Committee, Dr. Edward Kwapong who

doubles as Vice-President of the Institute, nominations have been received for the following categories for the award:

1. Best Organization in Learning & Development Practice - (Private/Public Sectors)
2. Best Organization in Employee Relations Practice - (Private/Public Sectors)
3. Best Organization in Rewards Management Practice - (Private/Public Sectors)
4. Best Organization in Performance Management - (Private/Public Sectors)
5. Best Organization in Recruitment and Selection - (Private/Public Sectors)
6. HR Practitioner of the Year - (Private/Public Sectors)
7. Best Talent Management Strategy - (Private/Public Sectors)
8. Most Successful Change Management Programme - (Private/Public Sectors)
9. Best Use of CSR in HR - (Private/Public Sectors)
10. Most Innovative Use of Technology - (Private/Public Sectors)
11. Best Workplace Diversity Strategy - (Private/Public Sectors)



(Right to left) Dr. Edward Kwapong (right), Mr. Ebenezer Agbetor (middle) and Mr. John Wilson-President of IHRMP (far left)



MP calls for schooling of traditional rulers

By: Madugu Ebenezer

The Member of Parliament (MP) for South Tongu, Hon. Woyome Kobena Mensah has called on Parliament to help strengthen the inclusion of traditional rulers in active developmental politics devoid of partisanship by providing a well-organized leadership training for local chiefs.

Contributing to a statement made on the floor of Parliament on Friday by MP for Trobu, Hon. Moses Anim, concerning the "Participation of chiefs in active partisan politics", the South Tongu Law maker said gone were the days, chiefs were given at least 40 days training by elders but "these days we are all aware that this noble institute of ours which is really a masterpiece of our culture is not benefiting from this training and some of us want to believe that lack of this training may be the case of this



MP for South Tongu, Hon. Woyome Kobena Mensah

deviation that the chieftaincy institution is undergoing" -he stated.

Hon. Woyome outlined that Parliament should help Come out with a policy which will operate like it's done under the ministry of Local government where they

have the institute of Local government school where chiefs will be trained in some significant areas geared towards national development.

"If we can have something in the nature of local government where we have the institute local government school where we can have training for our chiefs and in this training, issue about politics, issues about land, issues about all other aspects and how chiefs can mastermind development. This will be an opportune movement for chiefs to have different kind of training so that all these challenges that we are going through will be minimized." He added.

The Member of Parliament for Jama North constituency, Hon. Siaka Stevens who made the statement on the Floor "Against Traditional Rulers Involvement in Partisan Politics", was worried that some chiefs may be tarnishing the image of the rich culture and tradition of the country by their involvement in partisan politics.

"Sadly, many of reverted chiefs and traditional rulers appear to be veering away from the sacredness of their stools and skins by engaging in partisan politics.

It was for a sacrosanct reason that the framers of the 1992 constitution, anticipating the sorry state into which chieftaincy could be plunged, enshrined into Clause One of Article 276 the barring of chiefs from partisan politics. Mr. Speaker, with your permission I quote the said article. 'A chief shall not take part in active politics; and any chief wishing to do so and seeking election to parliament shall abdicate his stool or skin.'"

He pointed out the acts of some chiefs that went against the spirit and letter of the constitution which was very characteristics of the just ended elections in 2016.

"Mr. Speaker, in the lead up to the 2016 general elections, the conduct and utterances of many traditional rulers in our country left much to be desired. There were occasions

when chiefs rather strangely went to the extent of swearing by their seats and endorsing their preferred candidates."

Hon. Siaka Stevens noted the difficulty that may arise after the facts of an election as the result of traditional ruler's meddling in partisan politics.

"Mr. Speaker, apart from the constitutional injunctions placed on our chiefs regarding partisan politicking, it is morally unacceptable for a chief who publicly endorses a political party or candidate who loses an election to seek trust from opponents who may eventually win."

Mr. Speaker, as a way of consolidating our democratic gains for which we have become an icon in the comity of nations, it behooves on every citizen to honor the demands of the constitution on our chiefs. In this regard, one wishes to call on all who hold chieftaincy offices to live by the dictates of their offices." He observed.

The church must partner government for change - 2nd Deputy Minority Chief Whip

By Priscilla Anum-Noi

The 2nd Deputy Minority Chief Whip of Ghana's Parliament, Hon Ibrahim Ahmed has called for a partnership between the church and government to bring about the needed change the country has been yearning for all these years.

The Second Deputy Whip who doubles as the Member of Parliament for the Banda constituency in the Brong Ahafo region, has observed that since there has been a political change in the country owing to the outcome of the last elections, there is a need for a spiritual change also so that the change will manifest in the lives of Ghanaians.

Hon Ibrahim Ahmed made these observations at the Founder's Day memorial lectures by the Anglican Young People's Association.

"The whole world is crying out for change, the political change has come. However we now need the spiritual change which is by the church" he said.

Adding that, to every leader, there is a spiritual partner. "When Moses was called he said to God 'you know I know not how to talk like a politician, God said one of your brothers will partner you'".

This change, according to him, should be led by the youth, they should be agents of change in the country but regrets that they have given off themselves to passion for worldly things.

"I need just an individual to bring that change. Should it be old men no, old women no, it must be the youth and it will forever be the youth. Today we see our youth in soccer Betting centers and all that. How old was Jesus Christ when he started performing miracles? It was between 18 and 35. Meaning Jesus Christ is the savior for the youth" he added.

He however challenged the claims that the youth are the leaders for tomorrow. He contended that the youth are the leaders of today instead of tomorrow.

"Mr. Chairman People say the youth are leaders of tomorrow but Mr. Chairman I challenge you, the youth are the leaders of today" he said.

"Jesus challenged Christians that we should carry our cross. Nobody is to carry your cross for you. The future depends on you. What you will do with it today will determine your future" he added.

Hon Ibrahim Ahmed said the youth of today do not take pastors as their role models and do not adopt some good characters in the bible for emulation but rather copy negative

habits from the people of the world.

"The role models of our sisters are not the Deborah and Esther in the Bible. The role models of our brothers are not the Moses and Joshua in the bible. They tend to copy and follow the people of the world" he added.

He however said that the country cannot be governed by no other great leader than Jesus Christ. "There can be no better leader than Jesus Christ. There can be no better president than Jesus. If Jesus can't do it then who else" he said.

The 2nd Deputy Minority Chief Whip cautioned the youth to renew their minds in order to experience that change. He said the youth need Christ in all they do and that change will be seen around them.

"Brothers and sisters, the reality is that you don't need anything, all that you need is Christ. When Jesus says yes, nobody can say no." He said.

He urged the youth in the church to take a cue from his life experience where he shared how he started his working life by taking up teaching as a foundation tool and rising through the ranks to where he is now.

"We completed university. Instead of going to teach, we were in the house but my friend called me and said that what Prof Ben told us was supposed to be the founda-

tion tool. So I listened to my friend and we started teaching. Through that I am a Chief Executive Officer of Flamingo Publishing Company. I write the Flamingo books. Listen to issues, analyze issues, and look for opportunities. Don't look at the bad side. You are you" he added.



Second Deputy Minority Chief Whip of Ghana's Parliament, Hon Ibrahim Ahmed



THE INDEPENDENCE BILL DEBATE, DEC. 1956 – Part (2)

In commemoration of the 60th independence anniversary of Ghana, the editorial team of the Parliamentary Newspaper is serializing the Independence Bill debate to bring back to life the sentiments and reasons that underpinned the nation's quest for independence from the clutches of the colonial masters.

Bellow is an extraction from the Hansard of 1956 during the second reading of the Independence Bill on the Floor of the National Assembly.

HANSARD 1803–2005 ▶ 1950s ▶ 1956 ▶ December 1956 ▶ 11 December 1956 ▶ Commons Sitting ▶ ORDERS OF THE DAY

GHANA INDEPENDENCE BILL

HC Deb 11 December 1956 vol 562 cc229-326 229

Order for Second Reading read. — [Queen's Consent, on behalf of the Crown, signified.]

3.39 p.m.

The Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations (Lord John Hope) I beg to move, that the Bill be now read a Second time.

I think that the House will like to know, also, that the Commonwealth Development Finance Corporation is already in contact with the authorities in Ghana. This Corporation has, as well as funds at its disposal, an advisory service which is most highly thought of. Further, it is safe to say that the Corporation's decisions have a very definite influence on the market here.

I should draw the attention of the House to Clause 5 of the Bill, which provides for the Gold Coast to become independent within the Commonwealth on 6th March, 1957, unless, before 6th March, special steps are taken by Order in Council to appoint some other day as the date of independence. The date 6th March has been selected in accordance with local wishes. It is a date of local historical significance, being the anniversary of the signing of the Bond of 1844 from which British jurisdiction generally derives.

We cannot, however, ignore the possibility that last-minute unforeseen circumstances—for example, the illness of one of the principal participants—might make it necessary to alter a date fixed several months ahead. If this 239 should happen it would be very inconvenient, and perhaps impossible in the

time, to go through the whole process of passing an amending Act of Parliament just to change the date. For this reason, powers are taken in the Bill to enable Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to name an alternative date without resorting to further legislation.

For constitutional reasons, Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom must retain the final responsibility for advising Her Majesty on the terms of any Order in Council varying the appointed day. I wish, however, to place it on record that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government that the date of 6th March, 1957, will only be varied if unforeseen and compelling circumstances should arise which necessitate such a change and then only after consultation with the Government of the Gold Coast.

I must say a word, as I draw to an end what I have to say, on the question of Ghana becoming a member of the Commonwealth.

§Mr. George Wigg (Dudley) the Minister has made no reference at all to Clause 4. I have a particular interest in the position of British forces which will serve in Ghana. I should have thought that he could have paid some attention to that very important question.

§Lord John Hope I am sorry to disappoint the hon. Gentleman, but perhaps he will make up for it as best he can by catching Mr. Speaker's eye during the debate. I know that my right hon. Friend will be anxious to hear the hon. Member if he has any point which he wishes to raise. I now come to the question of Ghana becoming a member of the Commonwealth. There is, of course, a clear distinction between the grant of responsible self-government within the Commonwealth and full membership of the Commonwealth. The first is a matter for the United Kingdom and the country concerned, and for them alone, and the second is a matter for all members of the Commonwealth. We are looking forward to Ghana becoming a full member of the Commonwealth and at the request of

the present Gold Coast Government we intend to approach the other members on 240 the subject in the very near future. We have every hope that Ghana will become a full member on the same day as she becomes independent, namely, 6th March.

When that day comes, yet another stage will have been achieved in the journey of this great Commonwealth of Nations towards its destiny. Meanwhile, we are confident that the leaders and people of the Gold Coast will rise to the opportunities which lie before them, in full awareness of the responsibilities which they are now to shoulder. We pledge to them our friendship and our support. We wish them well.

§ 4.11 p.m.

§Mr. James Griffiths (Llanely) As the Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations has said, we in the House of Commons are privileged to take part this afternoon in making history, for the Gold Coast is the first of our African Colonies to achieve democratic independence within the Commonwealth. I join with the Under-Secretary in expressing the hope that the House will not only give a unanimous Second Reading to the Bill, but that that unanimous Second Reading will carry with it the best wishes of all of us for the future of Ghana.

I have recently read one of the latest books on the African scene, of which there are so many, one of John Gunther's books, "Inside Africa". In his first chapter he describes how he found everywhere in Africa the sense that the African people were on the march, rapidly marching towards Western standards, although often uncertain about where it would take them.

Among other things, we are indicating today that our colonial policy leads towards democratic independence. We are giving a direction to this march of the Africans and proving to them that this is the best road by which to attain their independence.

For all those reasons, I welcome the Bill on behalf of my right hon. and hon. Friends. Subject to the time which we shall require to consider it in detail in Committee, we shall do all we can to expedite the Bill and get it on the Statute Book as quickly as possible. Before dealing in detail with one or two of the provisions of the Bill, I want to say that none of us can escape the fact that at present there is in the Gold Coast controversy about what the Constitution should be after Independence Day.

241 It is my fervent hope that the people in the Gold Coast will rise to the historic opportunity which presents itself to them. I was very glad indeed to find that the Prime Minister of the Gold Coast, whom many of us in the House are privileged to count as a personal friend, in his speech presenting the constitutional proposals to the Gold Coast Assembly recently, was fully conscious of the fact that in future the Gold Coast will have responsibility not only for itself, but in a way for all the African people. I should like to quote his words which deserve quoting and deserve enshrining in the HANSARD of our own Parliament.

Speaking to his Parliament and, through his Parliament, to his people, the Prime Minister of the Gold Coast said: History has entrusted us with a duty and upon how we carry out that duty will depend not only the fate of this country but the fate of many other peoples throughout the whole of Africa. We must show that it is possible for Africans to rule themselves, to establish a progressive State and to preserve their national unity. I hope that all the people of the Gold Coast will show that national unity which is required to make a success of this venture. It is inevitable that there should be strains and stresses when a country reaches that important stage in its constitutional advancement which the Gold Coast has now reached. After all, we ourselves did not attain our present constitutional stage without many strains and stresses and conflicts. We hope that the people of the Gold Coast will be able to avoid

conflicts and that they will bend themselves to that and learn from our experience.

I want to say a few words to the Government and Opposition in the Gold Coast. I want the Government there to realise that it is our desire that they should do all they can to allay the fears in the Gold Coast and I want the Opposition to realise that they will carry a grave responsibility if, by their action, they prevent this very great venture from coming into operation and being a success.

It would not be wise for the House to enter into detailed controversial discussion of the detailed points about which there is not complete agreement, but there are some things which the Government can do and one or two in particular 242 which I want to indicate. I was very interested to note that in the speech to which I have referred the Prime Minister spoke of the steps which the Gold Coast Government would take to ensure that in the new Parliament the Opposition would have their full rights guaranteed within that Parliament. He was right to do that, because, rightly or wrongly, justified or unjustified, there have been fears that after independence day the Opposition would not have those rights which are a part of our democratic process.

I was glad to note that, speaking for his Government, he proposed to ensure that there will be guaranteed opportunities for the Opposition to raise matters in the House, to challenge the Government and to initiate debates. He proposed to enshrine that in the Constitution in one form or another.

He also proposed to ensure that the Opposition will have a guaranteed proportion of membership of Standing Committees and Select Committees. I was interested to note further, that he said that he hoped also to establish a tradition in the Gold Coast—this is interesting in the light of recent events—by which the Prime Minister of the country will have consultations with the Leader of the Opposition



Down Memory Lane

THE INDEPENDENCE BILL DEBATE, DEC. 1956 - Part (2)

on matters of grave national importance to secure, if possible, a concerted national policy. Other Prime Ministers please note!

I should like to make some suggestions to the Government and the Secretary of State to indicate in what way he thinks that we can help in this direction. The Government of the Gold Coast have said that when they frame their Constitution after independence day they propose to enshrine in it those provisions about fundamental rights which are incorporated in the Constitution of India. I have a copy of the Indian Constitution in my hand, Part III of which is related to human rights. Of course, there will have to be obvious changes and adaptations to meet the peculiar circumstances of Ghana, but if those provisions for fundamental rights which are embodied in the Indian Constitution are enshrined in the Gold Coast's Constitution, that should go a very long way towards removing many of the fears now expressed by the Opposition in Ghana.

243 Can any steps be taken by the Gold Coast Government in advance of independence day? I take the point at once that any legislation now passed by the Gold Coast Government in the present form, as a colonial Government, may not be valid after independence day and may have to be re-enacted. In present circumstances, I would put this suggestion to the Government of the Gold Coast, and I hope that the Secretary of State will give it some consideration. Cannot these provisions for fundamental rights, which the Government have already said they will accept, be embodied either in a Bill, or, if that is constitutionally impossible, in a White Paper and be debated in the Legislative Assembly and carried by a resolution which would indicate that they proposed to enshrine them in the Constitution after independence day? If that were done, it would go a very long way. I believe, towards meeting the fears which are being expressed.

The second problem to which I want to refer concerns the discussion in the Gold Coast about regional devolution. Speaking for myself and, I believe, for all my right hon. and hon. Friends, may I say that we are in full agreement with, and give our fullest support to, the decision of the Government—which I think they have bed wise to make plain today—that secession is not on the agenda. I beg all our friends in the Gold Coast to realise that if they now start partitioning their country they will be rendering a grave disservice to their people. The Gold Coast is only a small country of 5 million people. As the Under-Secretary of State has said, each part is supplementary and complementary to the other because of access to the sea and to communications.

To divide this small country would be a grave disservice to their own people and they would carry a very grave responsibility if, by an action of this kind, they made it impossible for the Gold Coast to survive and to become a viable State; and a grave disservice to the people in Africa and all over the world.

I join with the Government in saying that we share their view and support their decision, which they have officially conveyed in the note read to us by the Under-Secretary of State, that they do not propose to accept 244 the proposal put forward for the partitioning of the Gold Coast and the acceptance or recognition of Ashanti or any other part of it as an independent State.

That leaves the problem of regional devolution. As I understand, the argument has been as to what power shall be vested in the regional authorities that are to be created. The Government have suggested that the regional authorities shall have the same kind of authority as is now vested in the London County Council and other county councils in this country—in other words, that there shall be a form of local government—whereas, if I understand it aright, their Opposition were thinking of powers in terms of Northern Ireland. I have myself come to the view that the Government are right. There is, I think, the strongest possible argument for regional devolution. There is no argument for the creation of separate Parliaments within this small territory. All the energies of the Government and of the Opposition should be directed to discovering ways and means by which these regional authorities can be made really effective bodies.

First, what powers are to be given to the regional authorities and, secondly, what powers should be given particularly for the raising of finance. I do not think that any of us ought to pronounce finally about that. I see that there is a strong case for considering ways by which these regional bodies, if they are to be effective, shall have some finances of their own. We all know that in our own local authorities part of their prestige and influence is that they have available some funds which they can spend themselves, although they have to spend them on objects decided and determined by the central Government.

Surely the same method could be adopted if only—and I make this as a suggestion—there could be included in the provisions that will be made by the legislature for the setting up of regional authorities means by which there will be guaranteed grants to them from the central Government and consideration given as to whether they can in some form or another raise some of their own funds. If we do that and provide for regional devolution by giving them some funds of their own and an effective part to play in the life of the country, I think that the Government, if they accept that 245 view and make provisions of that kind, will have gone as far as they are entitled to be asked to go by any Opposition. I hope, therefore, that full consideration will be given to these two suggestions.

A third suggestion has been made to me which I should like to convey to the Secretary of State. Some fears have been expressed—and I think that we had better face them—about the courts. It appears that it is intended that the present judges should continue in

office. The fear has been expressed that after independence day the judges will be dismissed and that there will be political appointments. I hope that something can be done by the Government between now and 6th March, either by announcing in advance that the present judges are to continue until the time of their retirement or that if there are to be any changes—and it is not for us to decide whether changes are desirable or not—the names of the judges will be announced before independence day, thereby going some way, I hope, towards allaying those fears.

We are all very glad to note that they are to retain the provision by which there is the right of appeal to the Privy Council, and it has been suggested to me by one of my legal friends that it would be an appropriate occasion on which to appoint an African judge to the Privy Council. That would not only be a gesture; I am told that it would be of very great value and perhaps essential to the Privy Council in future, when considering appeals from the Gold Coast, that there should be an African judge on the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. I hope that it will be possible for the Government to consider those suggestions.

I think it is vitally important that the Government should adopt some such measures as I have suggested, or some other way by which it can be shown beyond peradventure that it is their firm intention to incorporate in the Constitution a provision for fundamental rights and stand by it.

I propose to deal with only one Clause of the Bill itself this afternoon. I have no comment at this stage—I may have in Committee—to make on some of the other provisions in the Bill. We welcome the decision of the United Nations on Togoland, and we join in 246 welcoming Togoland, in which we have responsibility as trustees, as a member of Ghana.

I come now to Clause 3. During the debate on the Address, I asked the Secretary of State whether he would consider telling the House, before we had this Bill before us, what provisions the Government intended to make for the territories after independence day which would be excluded, as I understand, from the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts and, indeed, from the possible operations of the Colonial Development Corporation. I was anxious that that should be done because we have to realise, as I am sure we do, that within the next few years we shall see a succession of Colonies becoming independent. Now it is the Gold Coast; next year it will be Malaya; and in 1958 there will be the Caribbean Federation.

We are now at a very important turning point, and I think that it is essential that the House should consider what provisions we are to make so that our skill, knowledge and resources shall be available to them. Let us begin by saying that after independence day it is for them to decide what kind of help

they require and determine in what way they want that help. We shall be making a grave mistake if we do not now begin to give serious thought to this problem. We should begin by making it clear that when Ghana becomes independent it is not our desire that we shall wash our hands of it thereafter. We cannot; it is we who are responsible for conferring this independent status upon the Gold Coast.

This is a tremendous venture. A democratic form of government is not the easiest form to establish or to sustain. In these days democratic government has become synonymous with a welfare State. I say that with some pride, because that is one of the contributions made by the Government of which I had the honour to be a member. We know that in setting up a democratic form of government the Gold Coast and many other similar States will have to face very great difficulties.

We have a special responsibility. In the main, the economies of all these Colonies have been shaped and patterned by us. I have no desire to raise old 247 controversies, but I must say that they have been shaped and patterned to meet not their needs, but our interests. When I became Secretary of State for the Colonies I went out to the Colonies and I found myself considering the same economic problem as that which used to face South Wales. The economy of my part of the world was designed not to meet the needs of South Wales, but to meet the country's need for coal. Its economy was on too narrow a base, and, when that went, down came the whole structure.

In the main, the economies of our Colonies are based upon primary products, and upon very narrow foundations. That of the Gold Coast is based particularly upon cocoa and gold. In recent months, with the price of cocoa falling, we have seen the really serious consequences to the people of the Gold Coast. One of the greatest contributions that we can make towards ensuring the economic viability and success of these territories is to establish a system by which we can guarantee the price at which we buy their primary products. Stability of prices of primary products is one of the essentials for their success for many years to come. It will take many years to develop a diversified economy.

§Mr. Harold Davies (Leek) I was glad to hear my right hon. Friend make this point about the stability of prices, because he has on his side the authority of McMahon Ball, who says of South-East Asia that the stability of prices would be worth many Colombo Plans if we could find a formula for it.

§Mr. John Tilney (Liverpool, Wavertree) Does the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Llanely (Mr. J. Griffiths) agree that what we really want is stability of agricultural income throughout the farming community rather than stability of prices?

Profile



An up close with the 1st female MP for Shai Osudoku, **Linda Obenewaa Akweley Ocloo**

By Gily Sparks

Mrs. Linda Akweley Ocloo, was born to Mr. Charles Nkrumah and Mary Nkrumah in 1979 in the Greater Accra Region.

Being the fifth born to her parents, she had her elementary and secondary education in Forster international school and Ghana Senior High School respectively.

As a loving and loyal wife

Linda was married to William Ocloo, a very determine politician who has achieved eminence by triumphing over the incumbent MP (David Tetteh Assuming) and two other contenders in the NDC primaries.

Having no personal political ambition, Linda was just playing the role of a supportive wife until the news about the death of her husband hit her.

Even though the death of her husband was an unbearable shock to her, Hon. Linda left no stone unturned. With inspiration by her eldest child she decided to take up the baton, a race she indeed run well.

The accident was said to have been caused by an articulated truck which was overtaking two cars in a curve around Twedie near



Hon Linda Akweley Ocloo, MP for Shai Osudoku

Juaso and lost control, causing the two cars to run into each other while trying to avoid the truck.

As determined as she was to pursue the dreams and aspirations of her husband, she defied all odds to win the primaries and went ahead to win the general election with an overwhelming margin.

Hon. Linda Akweley Ocloo achieved prowess by being the

first ever female Member of Parliament in the Shai Osudoku Constituency.

She polled 20,114 votes to beat three other contenders namely, Mr Stephen Nene Oyorotey of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), who garnered 6,518 votes, Mr Emmanuel Maatey Tetteh of the Progressive People's Party (PPP), who polled 3,203 votes and Mr Solomon Dorh, who stood on the ticket of the Convention People's Party (CPP) and got 154 votes.

As a mother and gender activist

In the few months that she has been the Member of Parliament for the Shai Osudoku constituency, she has demonstrated her commitment and plans to deal with challenges facing women in the area. She has pledged to encourage and support female students who in one way or the other become pregnant while still in school.



Hon Linda Akweley Ocloo donating computers to a school in her constituency

for farmers since there are a number of them in her constituency who earn a leaving from their trade to take care of their families. She has promised to lobby for heavily subsidized farm inputs and implement for farmers in Shai

Osudoku area which is largely noted for cash crops farming.

She maintained that famers, who formerly struggled to get tractors to work with, will have it at their disposal as well as fertilizers so that Shai Osudoku will become food hub to produce to feed our people and the country as a whole.

As a lover of sports

My husband has started works on two sports complex and I will complete them to accomplish his vision for the youths of the area, she said.



Hon Linda Akweley Ocloo in a group picture with teachers of a beneficiary school

"They must be supported to continue their education to the highest level and it is only in that way that we can eradicate joblessness and also inspire them to pursue their ambitions in life," she also added that, "getting pregnant is not something I will personally encourage, but that should not be the end to their educational ladder, they must be supported even financially and I am ready to do that, it is not difficult.

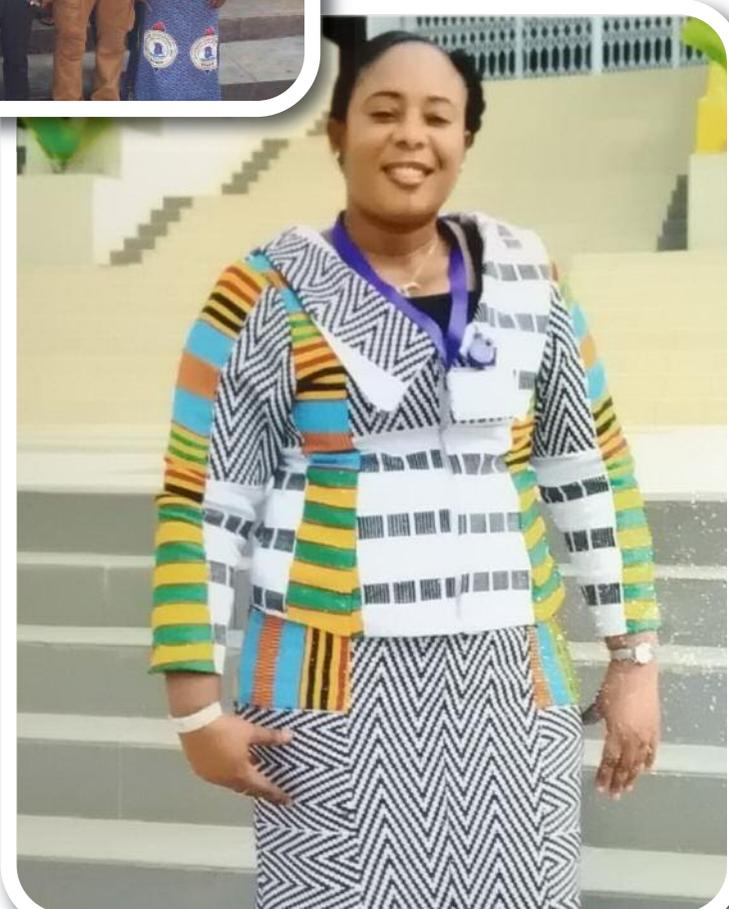
With her background in finance, Madam Linda Ocloo has promised make available soft loans to market women to sustain their businesses.

Plans for farmers

Hon. Linda Ocloo has a soft spot



Hon Linda Akweley Ocloo interacts with some traditional queen mothers





Profile

The Hon Angela Alorwu Tay, MP for Afadjato South



Angela Ofroiwa Alorwu-Tay, Afadzato South MP

By Christian Kpesese

The Hon Angela Alorwu-Tay, the current Member of Parliament for the Afadjato South Constituency hails from Nyagbo-Sroe in the Afadzato South District of the Volta region.

She was born on 16th April 1971 and had her primary school education at Likpe - Nkwanta and Juapong Methodist School respectively from where she gained admission into the Nkonya Secondary School to pursue her GCE O' Level and completed in 1990.

The 46 year old law marker attended the West Africa Computer Science Institute at Kokomlemle, Accra where she graduated with a Diploma in Computer Science. After graduation, she entered the world of work as a secretary with an international company, Adolf Lupp GmbH and subsequently joined Unique Insurance Company Limited as a secretary and rose through the ranks to the position of an administrative assistant.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in History and Sociology from the University of Ghana and currently pursuing her MA at the University of Cape Coast.

After her stint with Unique Insurance Company, she became the managing Director at Tahnaf Services Company in Accra from 2010 until she was appointed the District Chief Executive of the newly created Afadjato South District.

During her tenure

as DCE for area, she secured a \$700, 000 worth mechanized borehole project for the District which was expected to provide sixteen communities with portable drinking water. Some of the beneficiary communities includes; Nyagbo Sroe, Nyagbo Gagbefe, Nyagbo Konda, Nyagbo Fiafe, Tafi Abuife, Tafi Atome, Leklebi Duga, Leklebi Fiafe, Liate Wote and Liate Dzogbega.

The rest are, Liate Datem New Town, Liate Peter Kofe, Goviefe Dudome, Ando Kofe, Golokuati and Ve Kledzo.

She also ensured that many deprived communities were connected to the national grid through the Rural Electrification project in the district.

Her tenure also witnessed significant growth in health, road network and

educational infrastructure of the District among others.

Hon Angela Alorwu-Tay had been an active participant in party activities and held branch executive positions including membership of the Accra City campus Tertiary Education and Institutions and Network (TEIN).

Mrs Alorwu-Tay contested and won the NDC primary ticket against five other contestants made up of two women and three men including the then incumbent MP, the Hon Joseph Amenorwode in the run-up to the 2016 elections.

The Afadjato South legislator hopes to use her current position and influence to garner the needed resource to bring about transformational development to her constituents.

She is a member of the Special Budgets Committee and Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprises Committee.





A Statement Against Traditional Rulers' Involvement in Partisan Politics

By Hon. Siaka Stevens, MP for Jaman North

Mr Speaker, I am most grateful for the privilege to make this statement.

Mr Speaker, as part of Ghana's enviable heritage, Ghanaians are blessed to have the age-old chieftaincy institution which is a pivot for social cohesion and advancement. In the words of the late

Prof. K. A. Busia, Ghana's Prime Minister of the Second Republic, "It is in the institution of chieftaincy we have enshrined our most notable cultural and historical achievements. It is an institution, which gives us a special identity as a people and we must cherish it".

Mr Speaker, I am of the conviction everyone will bear me out that

these golden words of the late distinguished former Prime Minister are as relevant today as they were when he uttered them on November 8, 1969 at a durbar of chiefs and people of the Greater Accra Region.

Sadly, many of our revered chiefs and traditional rulers appear to be veering away from the sacredness of their stools or skins by engaging in partisan politics. It was for a sacrosanct reason that the framers of the 1992 Constitution, anticipating the sorry stage into which chieftaincy could be plunged, enshrined into Clause One of Article 276 the barring of chiefs from partisan politics. Mr Speaker, with your permission I quote the said article:

"A chief shall not take part in active politics, and any chief wishing to do so and seeking election to parliament shall abdicate his stool or skin".

Also Article 94(3)(c) Mr. Speaker, but for this far-sighted Clauses in our Constitution, the chieftaincy as an institution would have long lost its critical place in our society.

Mr Speaker, a chief dabbles in partisan politics is like an elderly person who engage with an imp in the game of drought. Per the conventions of that game, there are always mischievous and disrespectful participants, who rain insults on the elderly, noble though they may be. However, any chief whose actions and inaction debases the nobility of the institution is not worthy of sacred aura it originally represents.

Mr Speaker, on the lead up to the 2016 general elections, the conduct and utterances of many traditional rulers in our country left much to be desired. There were occasions when chiefs rather strangely went to the extent of swearing by their seats and endorsing their preferred candidates.

Mr Speaker, apart from the Constitutional injunctions placed on our chiefs regarding partisan politicking, it is morally unacceptable for a chief who publicly endorses a political party or candidate who loses an election to seek trust from opponents who may eventually win.

Mr Speaker, as a way of consolidating our democratic gains for

which we have become an icon in the comity of nations, it behoves every citizen to honour the demands of the Constitution on our chiefs. In this regard, one wishes to call on all who hold chieftaincy offices to live by the dictates of their offices.

Mr Speaker, as earlier stated, our chiefs are supposed to be the receptacles that hold us together as one people irrespective of our political affiliation in service to our Motherland. Our chiefs should bear in mind that they can play significant roles in the life and development of our nation.

Mr Speaker, it's important for us politicians to help our traditional rulers play their roles in nation building projects in accordance with the constitution. We ought to refrain from goading our chiefs and queens into trudging the unholy path of divisive politics that could dilute their powers and whittle their dignity.

Mr Speaker, if Ghana were a public servant, she would soon be going on retirement where her knowledge and expertise would be available for guidance and support. It's about time we all exhibited actions and conducts that demonstrate our status as a mature state. Our chiefs and queens are supposed to be trailblazers whose paths we shall all walk to realise the aspirations of the founding fathers of our dear nation.

Mr Speaker, notwithstanding the unacceptable behavior of some chiefs, there is a good number of traditional rulers who have always maintained the dignity and sanctity of the institution by remaining neutral even in the midst of heightened political activity. Evidently, these are the chiefs whose judgements and words are solid and reliable as the sun rises from the east and sets in the west.

Mr Speaker, the office of the chief by nature, is a driver of development. Any chief worth their salaries therefore obliged to complement the efforts of the government of the day to implement its noble policies and programmes for national development. A chief who supports the government in this manner is certainly different from a partisan chief who endorses a political party or candidate during an election.

Mr Speaker, with this distinction, it is worth nothing that the National House of Chiefs, led by His Royal Highness Togbe Afede XVI, also the Agbogbomefia of the Asogli state, has pledged his commitment to the vision and goal of His Excellency Nana Addo



Mr Speaker, a chief who dabbles in partisan politics is like an elderly person who engage with an imp in the game of drought. Per the conventions of that game, there are always mischievous and disrespectful participants, who rain insults on the elderly, noble though they may be. However, any chief whose actions and inaction debases the nobility of the institution is not worthy of sacred aura it originally represents.



Dankwa Akuffo-Addo to enhance the development of Ghana. We hope that every Chief would take a cue from the position of the national chieftaincy body and do their best to help His Excellency the President materialise his vision for our beloved country.

I thank you Mr Speaker for your gracious indulgence.



Hon. Siaka Stevens, MP for Jaman North



Statement For The Floor Of Parliament

Ghana @60: The Political Lessons And The Way Forward For Our Country

By: Honourable Alfred Okoe Vanderpuije,
Member Of Parliament For Ablekuma South

Mr. Speaker, as Ghana celebrates her sixtieth (60) independence anniversary this year, every citizen is enjoined under Article 41 of the 1992 Constitution to perform a duty or an obligation to promote the prestige and good name of Ghana, foster national unity, uphold and defend the Constitution and many others. It is in the light of this civic burden that I put forth this statement for the consideration by this Honourable House; the nature of the Ghanaian political dispensation since the promulgation of the 1992 Constitution.

A look to the past, the current situation on governance system in Ghana and the way forward shall be the main headings for the statement. In it, areas such as how government in Ghana is formed, the constitutional term of office guaranteed for a President, appointments, the costs of running elections to defend incumbency, transitional challenges and recommendations for the future shall be discussed in this statement. The purpose is to reflect into the progress, contributions and challenges made in the past years and suggest some proposals to strengthen our democracy and deepen governance in Ghana.

Mr. Speaker since independence Ghana has been governed by five Constitutions, namely the 1957, 1960, 1969, 1979 and the current 1992 Constitution. The political governance under 1957 and the 1960 Constitution granted so much executive powers to the President. The 1969, and 1979 Constitution followed a similar fashion.

The experiences under these past constitutions impliedly promoted incumbency, 'winner takes all' and short term of office for an elected government.

Mr. Speaker the 1992 Constitution provides under Article 1(1) that 'the Sovereignty of Ghana resides in the people of Ghana in whose name and for whose welfare the

powers of government are to be exercised in the manner and within the limits laid down in the Constitution.'

This means, it is a trite law in Ghana that the fundamental principle regarding all powers of government must spring from the Sovereign will of the people. To wit, it is provided under Article 55(1) that the right to form political parties is guaranteed. It is also equally provided that every citizen of Ghana of voting age has the right to join a political party and participate actively in its activities.

Mr. Speaker, another challenge to the current political dispensation is the constitutional term of office of the President. Article 66 reads:

(1) A person elected as President shall, subject to clause (3) of this article, hold office for a term of four years beginning from the date on which he is sworn in as President.

(2) A person shall not be elected to hold office as President of Ghana for more than two terms.

The effects of the above provisions are that, every elected government in Ghana has four years in which to serve and achieve all manifesto promises made to the electorate. Within this four year term, activities such as transition from the outgoing government to the new government elect under the Presidential (Transition) Act, 2012 (Act 843) appointments of Ministers of State under Article 78, appointments of Deputy Ministers under Article 79, appointments Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives under Article 243(1), budgeting and many others take place. In effect, the first year of the four years are occupied with preliminary activities ushering the government into active governance.

Mr. Speaker, the second year of administration of every government is the active period within the government's term of office. The third year is characterized by gathering financial resources and

marshaling political strategies towards general elections.

This statement calls such activities as 'the defence of incumbency'. The fourth year is an electioneering period. The strategies in the third year are implemented in the fourth year. The amount of resources, time, and money that goes into the defence of incumbency is worth re-stating.

Another challenge, Mr. Speaker to the governance system is the tran-

sitional periods marred with serious discrepancies such as seizure of some public offices, burning of state properties, disengagement of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives from office until new ones are appointed. This situation is worrying. Regarding the disengagement of the District Chief Executives, it is admitted that even though the Constitution warrants their appointment and removal by the President under Article 243(3), (b), it is submitted that considering the structures in place under the local government system, the MMDAs become non-functional in the absence of these Chief Executives. Thus, more often than not some regime issues letters of removal of District Chief Executives to go home right after change of government.

This action of the executive arm of government leaves a vacuum in the various MMDAs in their day-to-day administration. The problem encountered by the various MMDAs just to make mention is the lack of effective supervision of day-to-day administration of the various districts.

Mr. Speaker, In the light of these challenges, it is proposed for the consideration of this House the following:

There is the need to vote for a constitutional amendment to increase the tenure of office of the President to 'a six (6) year one term of office.' That is, a critical consideration must be given to the Article 66(1) and (2) which seeks to limit the term of office of government in Ghana to a term of four years unless reelected for a second term.

The term of four years has its obvious consequences. It is a well-known fact that, since the promulgation of the 1992 Constitution, anytime a President is elected, time and resources are spent to defend a one term four years incumbency. This comes with its associated financial burden on the state. Going by this precedent, it is submitted that the term of office as it exists under the current Constitution is woefully insufficient for any government to seriously consider improving the economy. Organizing elections in every four years is a financial pest and a drain on the limited state resources.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, even though Ghana is currently practicing multi-party system which allows the electorates to vote for their preferred President, the tenure of office of the President is insufficient for effective planning and maximum development of the country under a Presidency. To quote Osagyefo Dr. Kwame

Nkrumah, Ghana 'face neither East nor West: we face forward and that, the best way of learning to be an independent sovereign state is to be an independent sovereign state'. This statement proposes for the consideration of this House 'a six (6) year one term of Presidency without any opportunity for re-election.' This will in the long run promote greater development, save the nation from huge financial burdens in organizing elections and promote proper accountability to the electorates.

In addition Mr. Speaker, it is submitted that, this House must also consider the transitional provisions of the law as it currently exist with the view to ensuring that effective transitional steps are put in place to allow effective governance without any lapses and issues of Presidential benefits are well laid out. Mr. Speaker, in a one term presidential situation, transitional matters could be resolved from six month prior to the end of the Presidential term of office.

Mr. Speaker, it is my personal belief and that of many other Ghanaians that this statement will provide the basis for the necessary constitutional reforms needed to improve our country's political advancement, especially in the areas of national development and transitional matters.

I thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity.





UEW- K Students Parliament visits Ghana's Parliament



The Speaker of UEW-K Parliament, Rt Hon Emmanuel Larbi Ofori Jnr (middle) flanked by two other leaders



Some of the Student Parliament Leaders in a pose at the forecourt of Parliament House, Accra

By Christian Kpese

The Students House of Parliament, Kumasi Chapter of the University of Education, Winneba (UEW-K) has paid a day's educational trip to the National House of Legislature to acquaint themselves to the workings of the house as future law makers.

The visit forms part of activities marking the tenth anniversary of the students Parliament of the UEW, Kumasi Campus on the theme: "The Role of Student Parliamentarian in the building of Democracy and Good Governance at COLTEK".

The over 200 student parliamentarians were led by the Speaker, Rt Hon Emmanuel Larbi Ofori Jnr, 1st Deputy Speaker Felix Enam Wotordzor, 2nd Deputy Speaker, Prince Danquah, the Marshal, Dominic Okyere and the Chief Clerk, Gideon Opoku Dankwa.

Others include Deputy Clerk, Richard Oppong, Director of Finance, Shiki Cephas, Majority Leader, Hon Abdulai Seidu, Mi-

nority leader, Hon Seyram Amekudzi, deputy Majority and Minority leaders, Adingo A David and Boakye Banahene Philip.

The rest of the leadership of the UEW-K Parliament are; Majority Chief Whip, Derby

Raphael, Minority Chief Whip, Amoposah Rockson and Director of Public Affairs, Daniel Awuni.

The Honorable Member of Parliament for the Ningo Prampram constituency, Sam Nartey George encouraged the student

parliamentarians to be studious, take up voluntary services and identify role models to mentor them to enable them attain their life goals.

The 32 year old law-maker also challenged the students to aim high and work towards the re-

alization of their set goals and objectives.

The UEW-K Parliament was established in 2007 to protect, preserve and defend the fundamental human rights of all students.

According to the Speaker of the UEW Kumasi campus, Emmanuel Larbi Ofori, the students Parliament has since its establishment been a citadel of hope for the hopeless student and positively impacted on the lives of students.

Mr Labi enumerated the following as some of the achievements of the students' parliament; advocated on students behalf for the building of a bridge to link the Autonomy Hall to campus, advocated for the purchase of chairs to lecture halls and nurtured students to take up leadership roles on campus and outside especially at the National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) front.

The UEW- K student Parliamentarians also took a tour of the Labadi beach resort, Accra to entertain themselves after almost a whole day's observation of proceedings in Parliament.



The UEW-K Parliament in a group photograph with Hon. Sam Nartey George, MP for Ningo Prampram



Photo Report: Parliament Opens its doors to the General Public



MAPS Academy, Afienya-Mataheko, Gt. Accra Region



Assin Homaho D/A Basic School, Assin Homaho, Central Region



Ghana National Academy, Nima, Gt. Accra Region



Agona Kwanyako Senior High School, Agona East District, Central Region



Khrist le Roi, Teshie, Gt Accra Region



Startrite Montessori, Mile 11, Gt Accra Region



Hon. Vincent Sowah Odotei, MP for La Dadekotopon with teachers and pupils of The Coming King Nursery, Preparatory and Junior High School (JHS), La-Accra



Crown Of Gold Academy, Kwesimintsim-Takoradi, Western Region

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