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Minister of Information and  
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File photo of a voter casting her vote in an election in Ghana

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## Parliamentary Affairs

# GHANA: Ho West MP Scores Committees of the 7th Parliament Low on Performance

By Clement Akoloh

The Member of Parliament for the Ho West Constituency and Ranking Member on the Works and Housing Committee, Emmanuel Kwasi Bedzrah, has scored the Committees of the Parliament of Ghana low on performance, citing the Committee on Government Assurances as the weakest link.

According to him, the Government Assurances Committee which he once led as its Chairman in the Sixth Parliament, has performed abysmally in the current Parliament. He said the Committee's poor performance is responsible for tipping the scale of his marking scheme so low where he scored the Committees 5 out of 10 marks.

"The Chairmanship of that Committee still belongs to the party in power. So you could see that because of the interference, even till today the Government Assurances Committee has not done any work. The Government Assurances Committee of the Seventh Parliament has not done any work; practically zero, so they have dragged my scale to 5," he said.

The Ho West Legislator made the comment in an interview at the sidelines of a Day's Dialogue and Assessment of the Committees of the Parliament of Ghana organized by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the Extended Leadership of Parliament on Wednesday, July 29, 2020, at the Justice D.F. Annan Auditorium in Parliament.

He emphasized that, though the Committee on Government Assurances is one of the most powerful Committees of Parliament, it is not living up to its bidding because of government interference.

"It is the most powerful Com-

mittee. In fact, even more, powerful than the Public Accounts Committee because the Public Accounts Committee and the Finance Committee are both post mortem Committees. But the Government Assurances Committee is an institute; it trails government as it goes on because it is current.

failed to do so.

"Ministers of State have made a lot of promises and undertakings and all kinds of assurances on the Floor of the House. But the question then is, have they fulfilled them? If they have not fulfilled them, why is it that the Chairman of that Committee

the Chairmanship of that Committee in the Minority.

Mr. Kwasi Bedzrah also pointed out that the Finance Committee which is also another powerful Committee of Parliament was not performing its duty at its maximum level to safeguard the national purse from parochial political interest.

"That is not the only Committee. There is a Committee called the Finance Committee. Finance Committee actually, if you look at some of the facilities which we agree on, not only in this Parliament but also in the previous Parliament, you will notice that those facilities should not be granted.

"Let me give you a typical example, just last week we granted a tax waiver to Kasapreko under One District, One Factory. Ask yourself, is Kasapreko Company a One-District One-Factory project? Who doesn't know Kasapreko in this country?"

"So we are going to be losing millions of Ghana Cedis as a result of decisions that we made. Because the Executive can bring it but then we can throw it away that we don't subscribe to the fact that this should become one of the One-District One-Factory projects," he indicated.

**Though the Committee on Government Assurances is one of the most powerful Committees of Parliament, it is not living up to its bidding because of government interference.**

**"It is the most powerful Committee. In fact, even more, powerful than the Public Accounts Committee because the Public Accounts Committee and the Finance Committee are both post mortem Committees. But the Government Assurances Committee is an institute; it trails government as it goes on because it is current.**

"So that Committee must be holding the government to account by now. Look at all the promises of Ministers on the Floor of the House, and none of them could be called to account for the promises and assurances taken? Then there is something definitely wrong with that Committee," he said.

The Ho West MP put the blame at the doorstep of the Chairman of the Committee who has a lot of powers under the Standing Orders to haul the Ministers before the Committee for unfulfilled promises to the public but has

is not hauling them before the Committee, because the chairman wields a lot of power?"

"Why is the Chairman not calling them to order; why is the chairman not asking them questions; why is the Chairman not dragging them before the Committee to answer to the whole populace? It could only be a political thing. Nothing but politics," he observed.

He however noted that the newly drafted Standing Orders of the House which is yet to be adopted by Parliament has now vested



Member of Parliament for the Ho West Constituency, Hon. Emmanuel Kwasi Bedzrah

## Political and Presidential Affairs

# GHANA: 2020 elections is a crucial test of Ghana's democracy -Independent Governance Institutions

Gilbert Borketey Boyefio

The 2020 Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Ghana has been described by many pundits as a crucial test of the country's democratic credentials due to worrying developments leading up to the elections to be held in December 2020.

Indeed, elections have become the institutionalized attempt to actualize the essence of democracy. Elections have become critical because they promote participation and competition; confer authority on those who win; serve as avenues for ensuring accountability; determine leadership succession and act as a catalyst for political change or presentation in society. They also formalize popular participation and representation and provides significant new opportunities for citizens' involvement in public affairs.

The successful conduct of several multi-party elections in Ghana since 1992 has enhanced the democratic credentials of the country. Like most elections conducted under the Fourth Republic, stakes in the 2020 elections are very high with key stakeholders interrogating and contesting various actions and inactions of the Electoral Management Body.

In the spirit of supporting and enhancing Ghana's governance architecture by employing soft power, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) has engaged various state



Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Hon Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu, advocated for the involvement of Parliament in the selection of the Electoral Commissioner/Commissioners

and non-state actors in the quest to deepen democratic governance. One of such engagements was the engagement with Independence Governance Institutions (IGIs) in Ghana on the theme, "Independent Governance Institutions and Elections 2020 in Ghana: Some Reflections."

Participants at the engagement include the First Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Minority Leader of Parliament, the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), the Electoral Commission (EC), National Media Commission (NMC), and the Commission on Human Rights Administrative Justice (CHRA). Others included the Coalition of Domestic Elections Observers, Civil Society and the media.

MoPA subscribes to the position that popular commitment to elec-

toral rules, procedures and norms presided over by independent institutions is an affirmation of a commitment to the rule of law. The Ministry also supports the position of Arditti (2011) that democratic progress is often rooted in credible multi-party elections, strong institutions and the political culture that supports the role of the media.

In promoting a democratic developmental state, the Ministry is conscious of expanding access to the existing stock of ideas, increasing utilization of this stock of ideas and generating new ideas suitable for Ghana's peculiar circumstances hence this engagement with the Independent Governance Institutions on the 2020 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections.

Making a case for the Electoral Commission to respect and promote the rights of citizens to vote, Joseph Akanjolenur Whittal, the Commissioner of CHRAJ, emphasized that duty bearers (state institutions such as the Electoral Commission) are obligated to respect the right to vote of the citizenry.

The 1992 Constitution of Ghana in Article 12 (1) state in very clear and emphatic terms that "The fundamental human rights and freedoms enshrined in this Chapter shall be respected and upheld by the Executives, Legislature and Judiciary and all other organs of government and its agencies and, where applicable to them, by all-natural and legal persons in Ghana, and shall be enforced by the Courts as provided for in the Constitution."

Chapter 5 of the Constitution generally guarantees fundamental freedoms and rights consistent with international human rights law. Article 40 (c) and (d) of the Constitution enjoins the Government to promote respect for international laws, treaty obligations by adhering to principles enshrined in the UN Charter, Commonwealth, AU, ECOWAS, and any other international organization of which Ghana is a member.

"To ensure free, fair and transparent elections devoid of tensions and imminent conflicts, it is instructive to refer to the 2001 ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance Supplementary to the protocol relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-Keeping and Security, ratified by Ghana, which stems from the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

Article 2 (1) of the ECOWAS protocol relating to elections provides that: "No substantial modification shall be made to the electoral laws in the last 6 months before the elections, except with the consent of a majority of political actors", he disclosed.

On his part, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Hon Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu, advocated for the involvement of Parliament in the selection of the Electoral Commissioner/Commissioners. By this approach, it is envisaged that the EC would be selected through bipartisan prior approval, thus shedding ab initio, the perennial cloak of mistrust and the perception of bias.

By: Melvin Tejan Mansaray

## SIERRA LEONE: OPPOSITION PARTIES CHALLENGES THE ELIGIBILITY OF ELECTORAL COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

Having argued that the President did not hold a consultation as specified in Section No. 32 (Electoral Commission) subsection No. (3) with leaders of all political parties prior to the nomination of the Chairman of the National Electoral Commission and Chief Electoral Commissioner Mohamed Kenewe Konneh among other constitutional issues, the Deputy Leader of the main opposition All Peoples Congress (APC) Hon. Ibrahim Ben Kargbo said his party will take the matter of Konneh's eligibility as Chief Electoral Commissioner to the Supreme Court seeking an interpretation of Sections 32.1

(a) and (b), 75 (Qualifications of Members of Parliament) and 76 (Disqualification of Members of Parliament) of the country's national constitution.

Hon. Kargbo's comment came on the back of arguments over Konneh's eligibility having arguably disqualified by the provisions of Section No.32.1.4 (b) that he was a public officer not qualified to hold the said position which the government bench argues on the contrary.

Hon. Abdul Karim Kamara, APC party, Kambia District constituency 059 said that the Electoral chief did not meet the constitutional provision that he must

have resigned for a period of one year before being eligible to be a Member of Parliament but this position was however stoutly challenged by Hon. Lawyer Hindolo M. Gavao of the government bench who said that the NEC Chief was not opting to be elected to be a Member of Parliament, an argument that even the Leader of the main opposition Hon. C.R.M Bah and Deputy Speaker of Parliament Hon. S.S Thomas had varying explanations but disagreed to agree was a matter that needs Supreme Court interpretation.

"Looking at the issue from a party's position, my party was not well consulted – such a seri-

ous issue of national interest cannot be consulted on by telephone calls," Hon. Kamara said advancing that the House cannot confirm people that the constitution frowns at. Hon. Kamara added that issues that are contrary to what the constitution says should not be approved by a majority vote of parliament concurring that the Supreme Court should interpret the legal ambiguity.

Hon. Kamara said: "In as much as we are not interpreters of laws – we are in the politics of aye and nay; such a situation should have been sent to the Supreme Court for further in-

terpretation before even parliament could seat on and decide such a matter."

The APC has in several position statements inside and outside of the walls of Parliament questioned the faithfulness of the judiciary, outrightly saying that they lack faith in the judiciary and Hon. Kamara citing the proverb, "not every child that is sent to school is an assurance to the parents of having a university degree."

"We are taking the matter to court is not an assurance that

*Continued On Page 12*

## Public Accounts

# GHANA: MPs COURT SUPPORT FOR CONDUCT OF PUBLIC OFFICER'S BILL

By: Emmanuella Dadugblor

Scores of Members of Parliament from both sides of the political divide have rallied behind the passage of the Conduct of Public Officers Bill 2018 stating its relevance to the country's fight against corruption. This comes after the second reading of the bill on the floor of the house on Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

The Bill when passed into law will fill the existing gap in the country's anti-corruption fight, while curbing the menace of public officials under-declaring their assets in anticipation of wealth from their outfits. It will also provide a code of conduct for public officials in their line of duty.

Moving the motion for the second reading of the bill, Attorney General Miss Gloria Akuffo, said the passage of the bill will give effect to chapter 24 of the 1992 constitution, domesticate the United Nations Convention Against Corruption as well as the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption which were ratified by parliament in December 2005. These conventions she said provide an international template for anti-corruption.

She also noted that article 284 of chapter 24 of the constitution clearly states the code of conduct for public officials hence the bill is just a reiteration of the chapter and article 287, which mandates the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) to investigate allegations of contraventions or non-compliance with the code of conduct of public officials.



Attorney General Miss Gloria Akuffo Moved the motion for the second reading of the bill

**The Bill when passed into law will fill the existing gap in the country's anti-corruption fight, while curbing the menace of public officials under-declaring their assets in anticipation of wealth from their outfits. It will also provide a code of conduct for public officials in their line of duty.**

She however stated that the constitution failed to define in detail what constitutes a conflict of interest and has not provided a legal framework on which the commission can rely on to determine the misconduct of public officials. The bill is therefore an improvement in the country's anti-corruption laws. "Mr. Speaker, legislation on corruption in this country is scattered in a number of laws. Criminal offenses act 1960 contains provisions on corruption but these are inadequate to deal with public office accountability. The present state of the law does not provide the necessary deterrence for corruption in public office".

CHRAJ in 2006 launched the Code of Conduct for Public Officers of Ghana and Guidelines on Conflict of Interest-based on Chapter 24 of the 1992 Constitution. Article 284 of Chapter 24 states that "A public officer shall not put himself in a position where his personal interest conflicts or is likely to conflict with the performance of the functions of his office."

Within the code of conduct and guidelines on conflict of interest are provisions on issues such as the standards in service, political

neutrality in the course of carrying out functions and guidelines on conflict of interest. The guidelines on conflict of interest have provisions relating to gifts.

Supporting the motion, Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Hon. Ben Abdallah Banda, said the Bill was scrutinized within the context of Chapter 24 of the 1992 Constitution, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption. He said its passage would fill the existing gap in the country's anti-corruption legal framework.

Ranking member on the committee, and Member of Parliament for Tamale Central Hon. Inusah Fuseini, suggested that the nation should introduce measures to hold public officers accountable for assets acquired while in office. He said the non-conformity to that should attract heavy sanctions, especially the asset declaration regime. He called for punitive sanctions against public officers who flout the mandatory provisions of the law adding that the laws must be punitive enough to deter people from flouting it.

"Mr. Speaker, why does that practice persist? It persists because the sentencing regime, the sanctions under the laws mandating the declaration of assets are not punitive and so when an officer appointed into public office fails, refuses to abide by the express provisions of the constitution, nothing is done. Mr. Speaker, something must be done if we intend to keep to our commitment under the UN Convention against Corruption and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and ensure that the resources of state go into areas for which it was intended to go," he added.

Member of Parliament for Ablekuma West, Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful noted that the bill will bring clarity to the terms and terminologies used in the public domain which has engendered almost every political appointee with a corruption tag and will enjoin all public officials to act in accordance with the law. "The catchphrase corruption has been used to tag almost every activity that a public

officer undertakes in this country. So all of us can heave a sigh of relief knowing that you can engage professionally in any activity knowing the parameters to undertake your activity and knowing that nobody can just willing throw mud at you and get away with it" she noted.

Minority Leader and MP for Tamale South, Hon Haruna Iddrisu also said the bill will be an addition to several anti-corruption laws considered by the house. He however noted that the bill failed to define the minimum qualification of public officials "even the very clause one, qualification for holding public office does not define members of parliament, neither does it define ministers of state. But in your contemplation, we are at the center of this accusation, most of the time in the public eye. Beyond the president, the vice president, the speaker, the chief justice, the next floor will be MPs and ministers. I am not able to reconcile, and I find that a flawed aspect of this bill. If you come to the provisions of article 94, it provides minimum qualification to the Member of Parliament. What is lost in your bill in clause one, which is significant; it does not define the minimum requirement for public office"

The Conduct of Public Officers' Bill 2018 is to strengthen the current legal framework governing the conduct of public officers and to repeal the Public Officers Act, 1962 (Act 114), and the Public Office Holders (Declaration of Assets and Disqualification) Act, 1998 (Act 550).

It also seeks to repeal the Public Officers Act, 1962 (Act 114), and the Public Office Holders (Declaration of Assets and Disqualification) Act, 1998 (Act 550).

In pursuance of a legal framework to govern the conduct of public officers, pieces of legislation have been enacted by the Parliament of Ghana.

These include the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29), the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921), Public Procurement Act 2003 (Act 663), Internal Audit Agency Act, 2003 (Act 658) and the Audit Service Act, 2000 (Act 584).

The Bill contains 68 clauses and various provisions, which relate to qualification for holding public office, the asset declaration regime, and code of conduct for public officers, conflict of interest, and the enforcement arrangement.

## Finance

# GHANA: Parliament Approves 11.8 Billion Supplementary Budget after Heated Debate

By Clement Akoloh

The Parliament of Ghana has approved the Mid-Year Review of the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana and has given permission to the Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta, to spend the sum of GH¢ 11,896,477,566.00 as Supplementary Estimate for the 2020 Financial Year. The aim of this Supplementary Estimate is to commit additional resources as outlined in this Mid-Year Review to fund additional expenditures resulting from the revisions made to the 2020 Budget due to COVID-19, to bring the revised Total Appropriation for 2020 to GH¢ 109,933,169,924. 445.

The Minister for Finance in his presentation of the Mid-Year budget last Thursday said in order to deal with



Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta

the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure that the economy is stabilized, revitalized and transformed to protect lives and livelihoods, the Government has to make some specific expenditure items.

These expenditure items include the COVID-19 Preparedness plan; construction of 111 district and regional health infrastructure; payment of allowance of 50% of basic salary for frontline health workers; sanitation; fumigation of markets schools as well as the procurement of PPEs and support for households such as food packages and hot meals for the vulnerable among others.

“Mr. Speaker, the revisions made to the 2020 fiscal framework have resulted in an increase in the 2020 Appropriation of GH¢98,036,692,358 that was approved by this august House in December 2019. Mr. Speaker, the aim of this Supplementary Estimate is to seek parliamentary approval to commit additional resources, amounting to GH¢11,896,477,566 as outlined in this Mid-Year Review to fund additional expenditures resulting from the revisions made to the 2020 Budget, consistent with Article 179 (8) of the 1992 Constitution.

“This will bring the revised 2020 Total Appropriation for 2020 to GH¢109,933,169,924. 445. Mr. Speaker, with our commitment to deal with this pandemic to ensure that the economy is stabilized, revitalized and transformed to protect lives and livelihoods,” he said.

The motion for the request which was moved in Parliament by the Finance Minister, Ken Ofori Atta on behalf of the President on Thursday, July 23, 2020, was seconded on Monday, July 27, 2020, by the Member of Parliament for New Juaben South and Chairman of the Finance Committee, Dr. Mark Assibey-Yeboah to herald the debate

on the motion.

The debate was characterized by heated arguments for and against the motion by the Minority National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the Majority New Patriotic Party Members of Parliament who were at each other’s throat with each touting its political party as superior managers of the country’s economy based on their track record in the helm of affairs.

Specific to the amount approved, the Minority was of the view that, though Parliament has approved different sums of money for the Government to undertake certain expenditures in the economy, including COVID-19 related expenditures, there is very little to show for it.

The Minority was also concerned about the ballooning of the country’s debt ratio under the current government which has earned the country an unenviable place in the top 8 African countries in debt distress.

However, the Majority side on the other hand vehemently defended any allegation of mismanagement of the economy and justified the need for the requested amount by the Government to mitigate the effects of the Novel CoronaVirus on the socio-economic life of the nation.

At the conclusion of the debate on the budget on Wednesday, July 29, 2020, Parliament gave its blessing to the request by the Government after the Minority and Majority Leaders had taken their turns to add their voices to the debate to drive home the position of their caucuses on the budget review and the estimates.

The Minority leader, Haruna Iddrisu, for instance, served notice that the Minority will not participate in the suspension of any law at the convenience of Government, but will ensure that the Minister for Finance is in full compliance with the laws of the country. He cited the Minister for violating the Constitution and other Acts when under his watch the Government borrowed more than 5% of the previous year’s revenue from the Central Bank.

“Subject yourself to Article 181, because it says that the Minister shall determine the limit but the limit shall not exceed 5% of previous year’s revenue. Previous year’s revenue was 58 Billion. Is 10 Billion 5% of 58 Billion?”

“So Minister, you have questions to answer for violation of the Public Financial Management Act (PFMA); for violation of Article 181 of the Constitution; and for violation of your own Fiscal Responsibilities Act. This makes

you a potential candidate for sanctions for some sections of the Fiscal Responsibility Act. So we are not going to suspend it,” he indicated.

The Minority Leader in his conclusion, took potshots at the Government when he suggested that the economy under the current Finance Minister, was exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

“So Mr. Speaker, this year’s Mid-Year Review Budget only comes to me as a manifesto pledge and promise and reflects the same COVID problems that the Minister stated. The economy is having temperature because debt is rising from 120 Billion to 256 Billion; Importers and exporters are coughing, because the exchange regime has gone very high; and the Ghanaian private sector and individuals are sneezing with hardship,” he teased.

His counterpart the Majority Leader, Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu, on the other hand, admitted that expenditures under the current Government have indeed shot up the public debt stock to 258.372 Billion Cedis, representing 67% of GDP. He however debunked the assertion that the current Government has borrowed more money than any other government.

“While I agree with Minority Leader that Parliament must watch the radar of expenditure to ensure that as a country, we have value for money, it is unfortunate and simplistic, however, to suggest that this Government has borrowed more money than any government. Mr. Speaker that cannot be true...

“In 2016, the debt stock climbed up to 122 Billion. That meant that the debt had increased by 86 Billion. That was between 2012 and 2016. That year’s exchange rate was 1 Dollar to 4.18 Cedis. That meant that the increase in Dollar terms was 21 Billion Dollars. That meant that the Mills-Mahama Government added at least 35 Billion US Dollars to our debt stock.

According to the Majority Leader, what was more important was for the accumulated debt to be measured against the GDP and not in isolation.

“Mr. Speaker, in 2020 as at yet, the debt has increased to 258 Billion as I said. The increase is 136 Billion and the rate of exchange is 5.67, which will give the equivalent of 24 Billion Dollars. What is more important, Mr. Speaker, is for us to measure the debt against the GDP. Between 2008 and 2016, the increase in debt accumulation is 75%. Mr. Speaker, between 2016 and June this year, it is 18%. Who are better managers of this economy?” He quizzed.

**“Mr. Speaker, the revisions made to the 2020 fiscal framework have resulted in an increase in the 2020 Appropriation of GH¢98,036,692,358 that was approved by this august House in December 2019. Mr. Speaker, the aim of this Supplementary Estimate is to seek parliamentary approval to commit additional resources, amounting to GH¢11,896,477,566 as outlined in this Mid-Year Review to fund additional expenditures resulting from the revisions made to the 2020 Budget, consistent with Article 179 (8) of the 1992 Constitution**

## Legal and Human Rights

# SIERRA LEONE: Parliament Repeals Libel Law and Amends IMC Act

By: Melvin Tejan Mansaray,  
SIERRA LEONE

Lawmakers in the Fifth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone on Thursday 23rd July 2020 made history by repealing Part No. 5 of the 1965 Public Order Act which criminalized libel and sedition for the last fifty – five years and also amended the IMC Act, 2000 (Act No.12 of 2000).

In what was described as a watershed moment for the media landscape and the fledgling democracy of Sierra Leone, lawmaker after the other reminisced on how this law stifled free speech, human rights and a free press, calling it draconian, obnoxious and what have you.

The repeal process was however not a smooth one with several back and forth having to do with safeguards for public interest.

Interestingly, this law was repealed against the backdrop of another enactment that sharpened the teeth of the Independent Media Commission (IMC) with a new act.

After the enactment of the Public Order (Amendment) Act, 2020 and the IMC Act, 2020, this press sound-

ed the views of some key players that had pioneered the campaign for the last five decades.

Mohamed Rahman Swaray Minister of Information and Communications was the pilot of the two government bills.

He said the repeal means a lot for democracy, the rule of law, politics, and good governance, adding that the repeal was not just a political promise but a political commitment by President Julius Maada Bio and it means everything for democracy.

Minister Swaray said: "The repeal is going to ensure that we are able to deepen democracy, push the boundaries for free speech and ensure that journalism gets a new lease of life. For the very first time in many years, it is now mandatory on the part of media owners to pay people they call their employees," adding that it has now gone beyond media owners issuing identification cards and letting journalists go into the world and fend for themselves which is at the very heart of the attack, collect and defend or yellow journalism. "We think we are at the threshold of a new beginning which the President did say and has now been seen manifested," He said. He noted that many people doubted the repeal notion linking the fact to the President being the most libeled, viciously attacked, and character assassinated by reckless and unprofessional sections of the press but irrespective of that he still believes in the importance of the role of the media in democracy and good governance. "President Bio charged me with the responsibility to let this



Mohamed Rahman Swaray, Minister of Information and Communications

repeal happen and I feel very accomplished that I presided over it today."

Asked about how soon will the regulations be tabled Parliament to seal the whole repeal exercise, Minister Rahman said, "I am a very consultative leader. I am not going to seat at an air-conditioned office at Youyi Building and churn out rules. We are already consulting with SLAJ, when the consultations are done, the validations open, we will bring it here again."

The Information Minister however called on the press to be professional but, "to the others who thrive by the attack, defend and collect by libeling people, I would like to say today is a watershed moment in that kind of arrangement. This is a call to responsible and professional journalism, this is a new day let us take it in our stride and be the best that we could possibly be to justify the trust and confidence that His Excellency President Bio has reposed in us and for which Parliament has resoundingly vote in support of."

House Leader Honorable Mathew Sarh Nyuma was vilified when he first withdrew the repeal bill citing procedural reasons. He said the repeal is a very big achievement as he was given the opportunity to serve as Leader and within five months of taking up office as the Leader of Government Business he has been able to do the repeal which almost everyone doubted as an impossibility.

"I have restored trust and confidence in our leadership, people now know that the Leadership of Parliament is one that can be trusted, one that believes in the general good of Sierra Leoneans. We will re-echo their voices and make sure that their tears are wiped out; we have today ensure that journalists have a free media landscape to operate within the context of the law," Hon. Nyuma said, adding that they do not want to use obnoxious laws to muzzle journalism.

In 2018, the governing SLPP then main opposition party had it as a manifesto promise to repeal the said law but many people thought it was just a political stunt without political willingness and commitment but Hon. Nyuma said the repeal shows the President to be a sincere and a true leader who talks and do.

"We have changed the rhetoric into reality. We said IT, he said it, the people said it and we have done it. May the Lord bless our President for doing what he said he would do to repeal the obnoxious part of the public order Act. This is the take-home, we should all believe in his leadership, let us all campaign for a leader who is trustworthy, a leader who can say something about the interest of his people and do it, that is why people should have trust in him," Hon. Nyuma said and sounded a word of caution to journalists that they should be responsible.

"Do not misuse this particular facility that has been giving to you, do not misuse your profession, ensure that you work within the ambit of the law, ensure that you do the right thing, behave like professionals not like any monkey journalists, jumping here are there unprofessionally; that is why we have looked at the IMC Act and done the repeal in the interest of journalists and the public; even in terms of training facilities we have done for journalists, all that they brought in as their challenges we have looked into in the IMC amended Act and put them into law. To the public be confident that the law is there to guard people, the difference between animals and humans is the rule of law, let us be law-abiding because we know we are protected by law, nobody can infringe on your rights. One man's freedom is another man's freedom and we have to guide it, take your time on what you do, tread cautiously."

George S. Khoyama Chairman IMC said he feels personally gratified about the repeal.

"I am so excited that this repeal happened under my watch as IMC Chairman. I am so happy. This means a lot for journalism and the media landscape. It is a great boost for journalists. It is a new day for journalism in this country. What they have been worried about for over for so many years has now been lifted. Now it only remains for journalists to be professional. It behooves journalists now to do the real work; sensationalism, character assassination should stop. By now we should be professional and practice responsible journalism. We will enjoy, but remember in life nothing goes for nothing we have

**"The repeal is going to ensure that we are able to deepen democracy, push the boundaries for free speech and ensure that journalism gets a new lease of life. For the very first time in many years, it is now mandatory on the part of media owners to pay people they call their employees,"**

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## Employment and Labour Relations

# GHANA: Parliament Approves US\$200 Million For Ghana Jobs And Skills Project

By Emmanuella Dadugblor

Some of twenty-five thousand individuals will in the next six years benefit from an apprenticeship training instituted by the government as Parliament has approved a US\$200 million financial agreement between the Government of Ghana and the International Development Association (IDA) to finance the Ghana Jobs and Skills Project (GJSP).

The project is expected to facilitate the socio-economic development of the country through improved support for skills development and job creation across the country.

The terms and conditions of the credit facility include the loan amount of US\$200 million, Re-

payment period of 25 years, a grace period of five years, the maturity period of 30 years and an interest charge of 1.35 per cent per annum. There is a commitment charge of 0.5 per cent per annum, a Service charge of 1.29 per cent per annum and a concessional rate of 26.22 per cent.

Chairman of the Finance Committee, Dr Mark Assibey-Yeboah, presenting the committee's report said the five-component project will see to the provision of apprenticeship training for jobs, provision of entrepreneurship and micro and small enterprise support for jobs, youth employment and skills development programmes, project management support for enhanced skills and jobs impact and contingent emergency and response.

Dr Assibey-Yeboah also observed that more descent jobs expected

to create through firm growth and the establishment of new businesses through the apprenticeship and entrepreneurship skills development, coupled with grants to individuals, micro and small enterprises envisaged under the project. He disclosed that an estimated number would receive apprenticeship training under a standardized, quality-assured system under component one out of which about 70 per cent are expected to have jobs six months after the completion of training, amounting to a minimum of 17,500 jobs. At least 50,000 individuals are expected to receive entrepreneurship training under subcomponent two of the programme.

Dr. Assibey-Yeboah said in line with projections from the National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) which indicate that for every direct job, two or three indirect jobs are created

within the income-generating activities of that apprentice and entrepreneur, the jobs under the component one and subcomponent two were expected to yield 105,000 to 157,500 indirect jobs. He said in total, expected minimum direct jobs were 94,500 and expected minimum indirect jobs are 105,000 and expected total minimum jobs are 199,500.

Taking his turn to comment on the motion Member of Parliament for Bia East Hon. Richard Acheampong urged the government to ensure the execution of the US\$40 million provisions for Entrepreneurship Training and Competitive Business start-up grants to individuals without recourse to their party affiliations.

He expressed misgivings about component four of the project which relates to capacity devel-

opment and technical assistance costing the nation US\$40million, which is 25 per cent of the loan facility, an arrangement he said is outrageous and should be reduced by half so as to and channel the rest of the funds to train the apprentices and also provide them with the start-up capital.

Hon Acheampong also called on the government to set up a central system where people can easily check the figures on the country's labour force, which he said was very hard to ascertain. He said the various ministries continue to churn-out numbers, which are very difficult to verify since there was no central point to validate these figures. "There should be a central point so that at the click of a button, one can easily get this information. Right now, if you want to know the unemployment levels in the country you cannot find it," he added

By: Melvin Tejan Mansaray

The Sierra Leone Parliament on Thursday 30th July 2020 committed the bill title Consumer Protection Act, 2020 to the Legislative Committee for further scrutiny.

This comes after it was introduced and read for the first and second time by the Minister of Trade and Industry Hon. Dr. Edward Hinga Sandy.

In an exclusive interview with this Press just after the first pre-legislative engagement on the bill among the Ministry of Trade the piloting Ministry of the bill, stakeholders and lawmakers, Reverend Abraham Sesay Jones Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry highlighted some major issues in the proposed legislation.

"The bill is to protect consumers from unscrupulous business people who may want to sell expired products or provide services that do not benefit us," Jones said, furthering that during the first pre-legislative hearing, Members of Parliament (MPs) brought our grey areas which he described as matters

## SIERRA LEONE: CONSUMER PROTECTION BILL COMMITTED TO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

of technicalities. He said the bill aims at setting up a Consumer Protection Commission and a lawmaker was concerned about the testing facility or laboratory.

"It was not specified whether the commission is going to set up its own laboratory or we are going to use the existing laboratory and if it has the competence to do that, so we need to clarify that clearly in the document. Another grey area has to do with reference to goods and it was raised that we should be talking about goods and services. We have noted that and several other concerns which I cannot remember off head but we have noted as raised by the parliamentarians," Jones said.

He assured all that the bill if passed into an act will certainly be the people's document and the concerns of MPs will be incorporated into the final document.

The Deputy Trade Minister praised the contributions of MPs saying that they were up to the task adding that: "I felt the Committee has been very generous to us the Ministry of

Trade and Industry and as well as to the bill."

Jones said: "We accept the inputs of MPs and the document is going to be a representation of the wishes of the general consumer public," noting that as Deputy Minister, he has been duped severally by business people and therefore the bill will provide protection for everyone.

"All of us should look forward to the enactment of the bill as citizens, in fact, we should be proud of ourselves as a nation. This bill has been sitting trying to make its way to the Well of Parliament for the past twenty years or so," Jones.

Jones said that the delay in the consideration of the piloting of these bills could be linked to the level of commitment on previous leaders but for them, upon assuming office they have looked at and single out the Consumer bill among twenty other legislations.

"I felt the Consumer bill is one that we should handle as a Ministry and as a government.

This is a legacy bill. I remember in one of those meetings, I said to the Consumer Protection Agency that I will personally pilot this bill. I am ready to put my own money into it, my time and my effort. We are almost at the end of the exercise and I am excited," Jones said.

Quizzed on how much of his personal money and time has been invested into the Consumer bill, Jones said: "I should not say, it was my own personal commitment but I have certainly committed a lot of time and millions of Leones."

He said that he thinks the MPs are willing to see the bill go through adding that, "I can see a lot of willingness on the side of MPs to get this bill enacted. Their only concern is to ensure that this bill stands the test of time. Their inputs will help the bill to become more substantial."

The Deputy Trade and Industry Minister Jones however assured the public that the Consumer bill is a people-centered bill urging that the public should look at the bill which he said is here

to protect the people, the unsuspecting consumers.

"With this bill, the Consumer Protection Commission will be there for members of the public to lodge reports on substandard and expired goods and services," Abraham Sesay Jones said, adding that the passing of this bill will incorporate all consumer protection agencies in the country, a dream come through for many consumer rights activists some of whom have died longing to see the fruition of this bill.

The Consumer Protection Act, 2020 (Being an Act to provide for the protection and promotion of the interests of consumers and related to that purpose provide for the establishment of the National Consumer Commission and for other related matters.) The bill contained 89 pages, 6 parts and 137 sections and numerous other subsections.

The bill is however expected to be tabled for its third reading and subsequent ratification in the upcoming sitting of Parliament.

## Special Report



## Improving cashew value chain productivity through cashew policies in Africa

The ways in which governments manage the cashew sector are as diverse as the numerous cashew-producing countries themselves on the African continent. The sector is characterised by a very high degree of heterogeneity and numerous, often not very well organised, actors. Cashew has been grown in numerous countries in West and East Africa for several decades and the value chain is playing an increasingly important role in African economies.

Because production involves millions of farmers, local processing is a job engine, especially for women and young people. As an export crop, cashew brings important foreign exchange to the countries and links them to the international market, especially with Asian countries, thus promoting South-South economic relations. In addition, cashew is particularly adaptable to climate change and can thus make a green contribution to the resilience of the countries.

All these factors explain why cashew also plays an important political role and has thus landed on the political agenda of many governments. How they promote the sector varies from country to country. The degree of regulation and political

support is the result of a combination of different factors: national preferences, institutional history and established systems in the regulation of agricultural sectors, private sector interests, degree of organisation of the actors and last but not least the influence of technical and financial partners.

First of all, the cashew sectors

are organised differently in various countries. In some countries, there are independent, politically mandated cashew regulatory authorities. This is for example the case in the Côte d'Ivoire with the Cotton and Cashew Council CCA. In other countries, the sector is organised in departments of the Ministries of Agriculture or Trade or is part of a multi-crop authority, such as in Ghana with the newly

created Ghana Tree Crop Development Authority.

As the cashew sector plays an important role economically, ecologically, and socially, African governments are trying to strengthen it through various policies in trade promotion, organisation of farmers and processors, investment in local processing, sustainable and climate-resilient cultivation, among others.

For example, states are increasingly using the instrument of taxation to reinvest in the sector and make it sustainable. This is done, for example, by levying export taxes on RCN, most of which are then reinvested in the sector by the respective regulatory institutions or ministries to support extension services, research, infrastructure, quality assurance and many other services. In West Africa, countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, and Burkina Faso levy such a tax, which is then reinvested according to different keys.

However, such an instrument is not without criticism and challenges. On the one hand, such a tax increases the costs for exporters, which is not always welcome by private sector actors, especially in the currently challenging market, and on the other hand, the



# Special Report



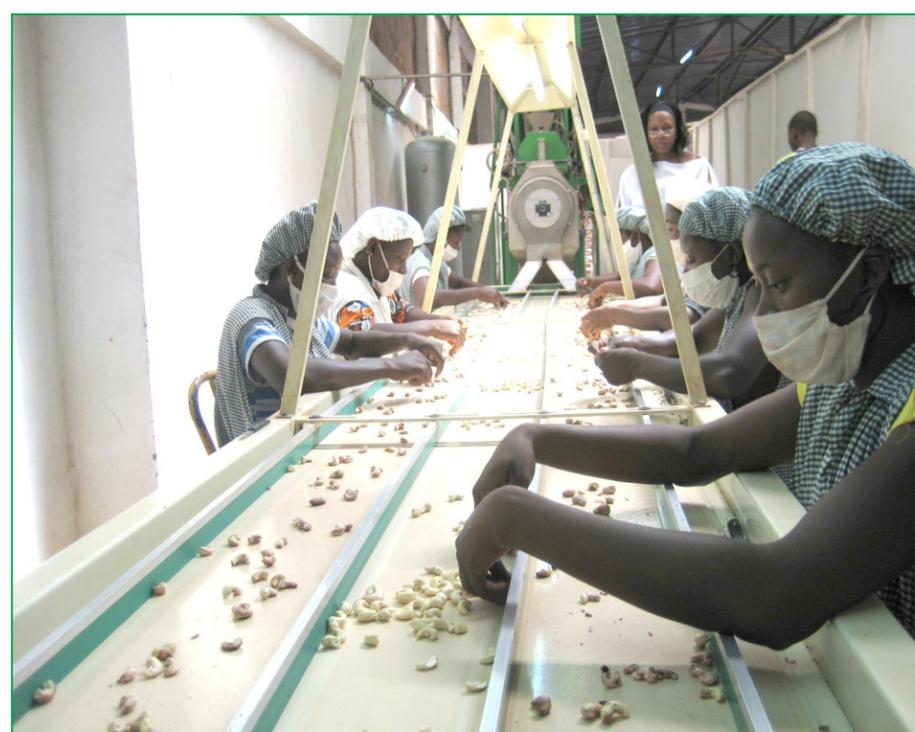
questions of efficient reinvestment arise. There is a risk that such revenues could sink into the general state budget, and unfortunately, this is partly the case. A good, strong organisation of producers, processors and other actors is needed to accompany this and also to demand and implement it if necessary. Therefore, good governance is essential to speak about the success of such a policy. This governance must be transparent and accountable.

It is the common goal of most African cashew producing countries to strengthen local value creation. More than 90% of the cashew nuts produced in Africa are still exported raw and processed in Asia. To promote local processing and thus job creation, different countries have different policy packages in place. Among other things, policy instruments that can be mentioned here include Subsidies per locally processed kernel, tax exemption on kernel exports, tax exemption and facilitation of imports of processing machinery and technology, access to government guarantees and financing programmes, support for quality control, preferential conditions in tax-free zones, programmes to link farmers and local processors. These and many more are aimed at strengthening local processing. In Côte d'Ivoire, the largest cashew producer in the world, the political will to promote local processing is very strong and most of the policy instruments described here can be found there.

Another area that is strongly supported by governments is that of research. Targeted research on planting material, cultivation techniques, climate change mitigation, processing techniques and by-product use can greatly improve the value chain in the countries concerned. Some countries have therefore founded their own cashew research institutes or have placed cashew in existing research hubs. The Cocoa Research Institute, Ghana (CRIG) for example, plays a pioneering role in cashew research in the sub region and contributes greatly to the

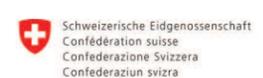
transfer of knowledge.

The strong operationalization of the Consultative International Cashew Council (CICC) and active participation of cashew-producing countries will help to cushion the sector against the effect of crisis like the COVID-19 outbreak and associated trade restrictions. It would also enable countries to compare notes on benefits and challenges with their existing policies, to ensure that more robust policies are formulated and implemented for the growth of the sector.



**As the cashew sector plays an important role economically, ecologically, and socially, African governments are trying to strengthen it through various policies in trade promotion, organisation of farmers and processors, investment in local processing, sustainable and climate-resilient cultivation, among others**

**This Special Report is part of a visibility and advocacy project for agricultural value-chains implemented by Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica) with funding from**



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Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA  
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO



## Roads and Highways

# GHANA: Parliament Approves £48.3m Loan For Bridges

By: Emmanuella Dadugblor

Parliament has approved a loan agreement of £48.3 million to finance the design and delivery of 89 prefabricated bridges for some selected locations across the country. The facility, which is made up of £41.2 million and £6.5 million is an agreement between the government of Ghana and Standard Chartered Bank, London, the agent, arranger, and structuring bank, with the UK Export Finance as the guarantor.

The agreement was presented to



A prefabricated bridge over the Kpeshie Lagoon at La in Accra

Parliament on June 23, this year by the Deputy Minister of Finance, Mrs. Abena Osei-Asare, on behalf of the Minister of Finance which was referred to the Finance Committee for consideration and report.

Presenting the report, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Dr. Mark Assibey-Yeboah, said the bridges are prefabricated modular steel Mabey Bridges as bridge superstructures for the Ministry of Roads and Highways and will have a depot at Akyem Kukurantumi.

The committee, Dr. Assibey-Yeboah said the project will enable the Ministry of Roads and Highways to improve upon the road network of the country for easy access to social facilities such as schools, hospitals, and markets. “The Ministry of Roads and Highways is currently implementing a rigorous programme to improve the condition of the country’s road network and related facilities. Under this programme, the road agencies, particularly the Department of Feeder Roads is rehabilitating and upgrading weak or broken log bridges with

steel composite bridges and the construction of major box hovers and bridges over water crosses to reduce the bottleneck on the feeder road network”

He explained that “the Department of Feeder Roads has identified about 5,000 water crossing points in a very poor state, thereby hampering the improvement of some of the roads for rural dwellers and communities”. Besides, there were about 10,000 km of tracks that could not be improved without the installation of critical bridges or culverts, he added.

The chairman also bemoaned the poor state of existing roads which poses threats and inconveniences to commuters in several ways “The poor state of the roads has led to the loss of valuable productive work due to long travel time, increase in transport cost, disruption of international vehicular traffic to landlocked countries, fatigue, stress and frustration of the traveling public for the long travel times through alternative routes,” he pointed out.

Dr. Assibey-Yeboah noted that the committee was also informed that some areas had been tagged as “overseas areas” in some regions as they were inaccessible due to the

lack of bridges.

He noted that the benefits to be derived from the project were increased access to hospitals, schools, and other social facilities as well as improve the movement of goods and people within the identified areas. It will also promote socio-economic impacts and improve the living conditions in the beneficiary areas.

Dr. Assibey-Yeboah said due to the urgent demand of the bridges in the selected areas, they will be immediately installed to ease access for rural dwellers and commuters and that the steel superstructures are only being stored at the ministry’s depot only as a holding area for onward deployment.

Seconding the motion, deputy ranking member of the Finance committee, Hon. Alex Adomako-Mensah noted that feeder road networks are the keys to unlocking development and prosperity in the country as it connects villages to towns and small cities.

The 89 prefabricated bridged are part of some 5000 bridges identified by the Ministry of Feeder Roads and Highways to be worked on across the country.

Continued From Page 6

removed one law but another one is surely coming in the form of the regulations and civil law. We have to be careful in how to go about it.”

Ahmed Sahid Nassralla President Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) said the repeal of the libel law means a new dawn for the media landscape in Sierra Leone.

He said: “This means a new dawn and a brighter future of the media in Sierra Leone. It means we now have enough freedom but with this freedom is power and with this power comes great responsibility. While we celebrate now, we are looking beyond the repeal.”

He said stakeholders will have to seat again, consult with the IMC, go around the country, and obtain inputs before the regulations and code of practice will also be tabled in parliament. He, however, called on journalists to celebrate for the repeal has been a long journey 1971 to date and paid tribute to all those who deserve it while cautioning, “let us all be responsible because this is a priceless gift that they have given to us, a freedom that is guaranteed by the constitution.

## SIERRA LEONE: Parliament Repeals Libel Law and Amends IMC Act

Today the Parliament has fulfilled a local and international obligation by repealing the law and strengthening the IMC. The overall goal is to see an independent, thriving media that will oil our democracy to be among the best in West and Africa as a whole.”

most young people today do have sophisticated cell phones and can now network among themselves very easier and quicker with the advent of facebook and Whatsapp in particular, Hon. Latiff said, young people should harness more of the power of technology today.

“There are different ways to this, the Government has the biggest leverage, and they do have structures everywhere. The Government must ensure that it uses existing structures in an internet age, via phones young people can access any portal or can access information that the Government is designing for them at any giving them. They only need to be shown the site or be instructed as to how to do the necessary filling of

forms. As I said, the Government does have a big task and role to play,” Hon. Latiff said.

In Sierra Leone like many other African countries, politicians are blamed for manipulating and orchestrating events and incidents that always cast a slur on the reputation of young people. During electioneering periods, it is a common practice for politicians to galvanize young people who are given drugs and money to perpetuate acts of violence and other forms of lawlessness.

Hon. Latiff agrees that from across all sides of the political divide this is a reality that must be changed if the youth are to be a force to reckon with.

Hon. Latiff said: “Sure, politicians are to be blame for the current state of affairs among youth. During elections campaign, we are mostly using the youth to help us to canvass the electorate to vote for us, so that is why whenever there is a mismatch or when the youth are aban-

doned, the blame is levied on us the politicians.”

Quizzed on his opinion that the current Government is not serious about its interventions towards the youth, Hon. Latiff said: “to be honest it is my candid and not a political view. Why I said the Government is not serious about youth is the fact that we were having mining companies basically before SLPP came into governance and all of a sudden they shut down those companies and now we are having huge amount of youth unemployment and yet, the President told us that they have created car wash centers, etc, for the youth. To be honest with you, it is a relegation of our young people down to that level. Those youth that were working in mining companies must have acquired skills that are still needed in that very industry. I think it is the onus of the Government to try to act right not just to use the youth for political games, no. They should ensure that they empower the youth so that they themselves can deliver in the future.”

## Parliamentary Affairs

# GHANA: Parliamentary Committees provides the sharpest tool for oversight of the Executives

By Gilbert Borketey Boyefio

**"T**he sharpest tool for oversight of the Executive is by Parliamentary Committees. The sheer volume of business in Parliament makes it impossible to transact every business in plenary and, hence, the Committee System. The committees track the work of Ministries, Departments, Agencies and bodies and conduct special investigations and inquiries into particular salient aspects of their policy and administration," Hon Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA).

The committee system offers parliament one good remedy to the defects in the democratic process. It offers a way to meet public demands for parliament to be less adversarial and more constructive in developing solutions for societal problems. The cooperative approach to policies (at the committee level) enhances public confidence in the ability of parliament to resolve common problems. If members quibble and take partisan and entrenched positions at committees, that represents a disservice to democracy and inflicts a severe wound on Parliament's oversight strength.

It is against this background that the MoPA interacted with the Expanded Leadership of Parliament with the view to undertaking a diagnostic analysis of the committee system of Parliament and identifying innovative ways of enhancing their capacity to deliver on the core mandate and subsequently contribute to the development of Ghana's Parliament.

The interactions featured the leadership of Standing and Select Committees of Parliament, Minority and Majority Leadership, some selected Parliamentarians and the Management of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

*Find below excerpts of the Minister's Speech:*

### EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMITTEES

Certain conditions precedent must exist to render Parliamentary committees and indeed parliaments effective, relevant and responsible.

Committees must operate independently from party discipline, functioning as autonomous specialized investigators. MPs in committees should be freed from the clutches of party lines so that points of agreement can be identified and legitimate points of

opinion can be expressed in less point-scoring or provocative terms. By working together, individual members could examine issues and alternatives, more rationally if both government and opposition parties were not whipping their party members towards preconceived positions.

The non-partisan nature of committee work could be re-enforced by spreading chairship among the various parties represented in parliament rather than allowing only government party members to dominate these crucial positions, much less in situations where ministers are picked from parliament and the ruling party is thus weakened in terms of quality material. The chairpersons of committees help to set the agenda for committee business and preside over and determine the course of proceedings and hence, significantly influence outcomes. If such members are potentially incompetent or lazy or lethargic, parliament is significantly weakened.

Committees provide an ideal vehicle for public participation in policymaking. Instead of excluding the electorate after voting, continuing public involvement in the parliamentary process could be directed through the less formal and less forbidden atmosphere of committee hearings.

The general public, are mere spectators in the public gallery when parliament is in plenary. The people are, paradoxically, strangers in the peoples' or National Assembly as parliament is otherwise called. The committees provide for them a window of opportunity.

Public Hearings at Committees- As much as possible, committee hearings must be done in public unless otherwise decided by the Chair. Parliament sits in public in plenary. Ironically, parliamentary committees in Ghana's Parliament sit in camera. It is only the Appointments Committee and, lately, by an evolving practice, the Public Accounts Committee which conducts their proceedings in public. The process of naming and shaming at public hearings provide some deterrence for wrong-doing.

Committees must be Resourced- Committees must be armed with facilities and services to conduct their enquiries. Support staff must be competent, neutral and impartial in their own right.

The right to summon witnesses and the funds to hire advisers and experts are vital for effectiveness. Most MPs on Committees are not experts. Committees must be significantly resourced

to engage experts and professionals to conduct due diligence on various matters to enable MPs to probe for relevant answers from MDAs in pursuit of transparency and accountability. If committees cannot be resourced to do this that is a veritable deficit.

Public and Media Opinion- Public and Media opinion must be mobilized behind a committee and parliamentary business could be disrupted until a proper response emanates from a reluctant executive.

Purer Legislation from Scrutiny- Greater scrutiny and analysis in committees lead to purer legislation, to less debate on the floor, to a more rational perspective of the scope of an issue and meaning and a broader basis for acceptance and legislation.

The Committee System in Ghana's Parliament is multi-faceted. The system has undergirded our democracy thus far. But like all human endeavours, it is imperative to take a critical look periodically and reform where necessary. As a result, I consider an appraisal of our committee system at this point in our history opportune. This is especially so because for some time now, in my capacity as Majority Leader, together with the Standing Orders Committee, and with the collaboration of Mr. Speaker, we have been working tirelessly to upgrade our Standing Orders and review our committee system.

We are confronted with issues of high turnover, large committee numbers, quality of human resources in respect of both the MPs and staff, as well as insufficiency of fiscal resources. In addition, a general lack of motivation and commitment, insufficient office and conference spaces, disproportionate gender representation, formula for composition, internal procedures and processes and the over domineering attitude of Speakers and, shall I say, some leaders in the House and of course the rather unacceptable constrictions and restrictions imposed by the Standing Orders to mention just a few.

Disproportionate Gender Representation: We can tell by a cursory look at the participants this morning that women who constitute 51% of our population do not have a seat at the highest decision-making tables. It is a reflection of the paucity of women in the Legislature.

Membership of Committees: A universal human experience is that large groups are unwieldy. Based on research, therefore, optimal size for effective committee work is between 9-13 per-



Hon Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu,  
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

sons. Many of our committees number over 25 persons and at least one of them comprises 30 members. The quality of work and even the opportunity to contribute is hampered.

High Turnover and lack of Specialization: A key characteristic of committees is that they can serve as arenas where legislators become specialists in a particular area. Specialization matters because legislators become knowledgeable and develop expertise useful for the drafting, deliberation, and consensus-building around bills.

It also provides a continuity that helps in the oversight responsibilities of the committee. However, a necessary condition for specialization is the tenure length of committee members: the longer the tenure of a committee member in Parliament and on a committee the greater the specialization in the area.

In instances where rules impose limits on the number of years someone can be chair or member of a committee, then the incentives to invest time and resources in specialization decrease. A legislator who knows that he or she will soon have to change committee lacks incentives to invest in becoming a specialist in a particular area. Committee chairs tend to be specialized in the issues of the committees they chair.

It is in theory at least, possible that specialization happens at the level of the chair even in a non-favourable environment, with high turnover rates. But as I bemoaned earlier, in our case we do not even have the luxury of ensuring the longevity of our chairpersons least of all the ordinary members. One risk being nicknamed "Mugabe" which is pregnant with humongous derogatory connotation. Why not a McCain or Kennedy or John Lewis?

## Water Resources, Works and Housing

# GHANA: Parliament approves €101.76 million for Nima drain project

By Emmanuella Dadugblor

Residents of Nima and its environs can now heave a sigh of relief regarding flooding following Parliament's approval of a €101.76 million loan agreement to finance the design and construction of drainage and ancillary sewage system in the area. This will cover the Nima drain from Kaokudi to the Odaw River Basin and is an agreement between the Government of Ghana and Standard Chartered Bank, London. It will span for the next 24 months.

Presenting the report of the Finance Committee on the project, chairman of the committee, Dr. Mark Assibey-Yeboah, said the object of the project is to mitigate the perennial flooding and improve the environmental and sanitary conditions. The project according to him will alleviate the serious damage to property and health risk in the Nima community with a subterranean drainage system rather than the self-defeating open drains.

Dr. Assibey-Yeboah also noted that the scope of the project covers works to be undertaken on the already existing Nima drain in the Accra Metropolitan area, which includes; the rehabilitation and enhancement of the Nima drain

which is from Nima road to Odaw River.

"This is a major intervention, which would be integrated with the city of Accra through a holistic resolution of pressure and problem zones together with the generation of city space elements". He noted

The chairman also disclosed that phase one of the project will see the backfilling of the side banks which stretches between Obasanjo Highway and Mamooobi Highway and the construction of a rectangular closed section between Obasanjo Highway and Mamooobi Highway. This phase will also see the construction of a rectangular closed section on the stretch between the Mamooobi Highway and Kojo Thompson Avenue, which comprises the necessary works for the foundation of the enhancement area over the new closed drain.

He said the modification of the existing output of the Nima drain into Odaw River would rotate it to a 45-degree angle output.

The project according to the chairman is in line with the government's efforts to mitigate the impact of flooding on residents of Nima and its areas and also prevent the yearly occurrence of flooding in the project areas during the rainy season. "The committee ob-

served that Mamooobi a suburb of Accra has been experiencing perennial flooding which usually leads to loss of human lives, damage to property, and loss of livestock. It was explained to the committee that the main cause of the flooding were the Nima drain and poor waste management. The Nima drain is poorly maintained and poor waste management habits have adversely affected the surrounding communities" Dr. Assibey-Yeboah told parliament.

He also bemoaned the health risks the people of Nima and its surrounding areas are exposed to as a result of the unavailability of a proper drainage system.

Seconding to the motion, Member of Parliament for Wa West, Joseph Yieleh, Chireh, said the project would save the country a lot of problems as it will help to manage the sewage system in the Nima area.

He said flooding in the area had become ritualistic, which results in the yearly destruction of lives and property. "Every year, you have cases of water washing through, taking away property. And I believe that if the contractors do this work diligently within the 24 months that has been indicated, it will save lives and property"

The facility comprises of the Term



Chairman of the Finance committee, Dr. Mark Assibey-Yeboah

Loan Facility of €91.4 million as well as the Commercial Facility of €10.38 million between the Government of Ghana, represented by the Ministry of Finance and Standard Chartered Bank, London. The terms and conditions of the Loan facility include; the facility amount of €91.4 million, repayment amount in 10years, grace period of 3years, tenor 13years, an interest rate of EURIBOR + 0.95 percent per annum, a commercial fee of 0.30 percent per annum, upfront fee of 1.25 percent flat and All-in-cost of 3.09 percent per annum. The terms and conditions of the Commercial facility include; facility amount of €10.38 million, repayment amount in 4years, a grace period of one year, the tenor of 5years, an interest rate of EURIBOR plus 4.50 percent per annum, a commercial fee of 0.50 percent, upfront fee of 1.25 percent per annum and All-in-cost of 5.14 percent per annum.

Continued From Page 3

we have confidence in the judiciary. It is just for precedence sake that we are going to the court. We do not hope to get what we desire from the court but we are going with the hope of the court will do something right this time around," Hon. Kamara said, stating that they will be praying to the Supreme Court to have an interpretation of the eligibility of the Chief Electoral Commissioner in tandem with the eligibility of being a member of parliament.

He said that this section is not just ambiguous but needs further clarification adding that the APC has a similar matter of such nature in the court with regards to the removal of ten of its elected MPs from Parliament but it is yet to be heard by the Court of Appeal stressing that they will still be going to the Supreme Court to interpret the matter.

The governing SLPP has accused the APC of double standards and political stunting having done the same in the fourth parliament

## SIERRA LEONE: OPPOSITION PARTIES CHALLENGES THE ELIGIBILITY OF ELECTORAL COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

with regards to the appointment and confirmation of two sitting electoral commissioners (Miatta French and Matthia) but back then they never objected to their eligibility although they never resigned but the APC said there is a difference between Commissioners and the Chairman of the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

Hon. Kamara said the argument of APC double standards is unnecessary because the SLPP campaigned on the platform of change which is dubbed 'The New Direction,' arguing that the to officials were not public officials then and they are not contradicting themselves.

"We don't trust in the judiciary but anyhow we have to go to the judiciary," Hon. Kamara said without stating any specific timeline for the filing of their case to the Supreme Court.

He accused the Police force of harassing them and noted that

no matter what is the circumstance they are going to court adding that although the SLPP won the vote on the confirmation, the APC won the hearts of the electorate by educating them on the issues. He said that they were not expecting a winning of the votes because it is always the case that Paramount Chief Members of Parliament will always be in support of the ruling party not because of their consciences but compulsion.

Hon. Kamara said with the bickering over the eligibility of the new Electoral Chairman, a dark cloud hangs over upcoming elections because Konneh will be the man that will be doing the dirty job of the SLPP in the 2023 general election.

"Let me tell you one thing, you can win an election against a political party but not against the people. I am telling you the people of Sierra Leone are resolute and are more than willing to boot out the SLPP even if they

appoint seven electoral commissioners, change all the players in NEC, the truth is that the people are ready to put them out of office," Hon. Abdul Karim Kamara said.

Hon. Sarh Francis Bhendu Deputy Leader Coalition for Change (C4C) party said that he voted against the confirmation of the electoral chief based on his party position that asked for proof of the NEC Chairman's name is included in the general voter register but this question was not answered.

"I agree that the voter register that we requested for is a public document that can be accessed using the Right to Access Information but this document is only displayed periodically. Our request is simple that NEC provides us with the database where the identification card of the NEC Chairman is sourced from. They should have answered our question but nobody seems to respond to that question. It is our insin-

uation that the new NEC Chairperson is not eligible to hold the post and he has to prove it. We saw him with a voter card that needs to be challenged. We said present us with the source where it is coming from. I agree that a voter card was presented to the Speaker and displayed in the Well but same is also on social media. We need to know the authenticity from the source of the voter card," Hon. Bhendu said. He concluded that with the brouhaha over the eligibility of the NEC Chairperson under question, it means more is to be desired of transparency in the electoral process from the initial stage.

"If you fail to provide the appropriate answer needed at this initial stage then I foresee issues in future elections. If you cannot give us a simple information we are asking for at this initial stage and then we are talking about transparency in electoral process then we have problem at the end of the day, that is our concern," Hon. Bhendu said.

## Political and Presidential Affairs

# Ghana Needs New Theories to Support its Current Political System and Democracy - Expanded Leadership of Parliament

By Clement Akoloh

The expanded Leadership of Ghana's Parliament has expressed concern about the current political system in the country and its attendant effect on the development of a sustainable democratic culture to support the country's democratic process.

According to the leadership, the theories of politics and democracy imbibed from the connoisseurs of democracy from elsewhere where Ghana has borrowed a leaf from their book, are in complete dissonance with the political culture of the people and the practice of democracy in the country.

For example, the evidence adduced to indicate that the Ghanaian electorate cares very little about the traditional roles of Members of Par-

liament as legislators, an import function in the democratic space. But rather, the people put more weight on the representative functions of the MP and the material things they can directly benefit from the Member of Parliament.

These concerns of the expanded leadership made up of the leadership of the various committees of Parliament including the Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons, as well as the Ranking Members and Deputy Ranking Members, are concerns shared by the entire leadership of the House including the Speaker-ship.

Therefore, the expanded Leadership is advocating for a paradigm shift in the political system and the democratic culture in the country. This came up during their deliberation on issues concerning the Committee system in Ghana's Parliament at a day's dialogue organized by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on Wednesday, July 30, 2020, within the precincts of Parliament.

Outlining the objectives of the dialogue held under the theme: The Committee System in Ghana's Parliament: An Assessment, the Chief Director of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Evans Aggrey-Darkoh, indicated among others that the Ministry sought to examine the institutional framework and its effect on the committees of Parlia-

ment; discuss the nature of the relationship between the committees and the Parent House.

It was also aimed at evaluating the performance of the Committees; identify and discuss the institutional and operational challenges of the Committees of Parliament; interrogate the relationship between political parties and their Parliamentarians on various Committees, and offer recommendations to rejuvenate the performance of committees of Parliament.

In his address at the programme, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of Government Business, Osei Kyeyi-Mensah-Bonsu, bemoaned the fact that Parliament was going to lose out on the rich experiences of some very competent Members of Parliament in the next Parliament because the democratic system has failed to recognize the value they bring to the table and has also failed to reward their dedicated service to God and country.

The Minister who also doubles as the Majority Leader, recognized the Chairman of the Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, Ben Abdala Banda and the Ranking Member on that same Committee, Alhaji Inusah Fuseini, and pointed them out for special mention for their exceptional dedication and performance in their respective roles. Both of whom will not be returning to Parliament because the system failed to protect them from political contests.

"It is rather sad to relate that the 8th Parliament will not enjoy the privilege of the latter two fine gentlemen aforementioned, and in addition, many others on both sides of the House, who have acquitted themselves and have been a joy to work with since they entered Parliament," he indicated.

He, therefore, averred that democracy everywhere in the world was guarded and protected and therefore Ghana's democracy cannot be any different where it is open to all to contest sitting Members of Parliament.

"This phenomenon of excessively high attrition must be of grave concern to all who have our Parliamentary democracy at heart. The phenomenon, where after every term, some of our finest Legislators are peeled off, should be troubling to all who believe in good democratic governance," he said.

The First Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Joseph Osei Owusu who graced the occasion with his presence, suggested that the entire political system was working against the progress of Parliamentary democracy in the country.

"Have we really prepared Parliament in terms of resourcing and populating the House with the kind of persons who can do the kind of things we envisage that Parliament should do? In my view, the answers to these questions are beyond Parliament itself.

"Who comes into the Parliament is out of the control of anybody. Indeed, even the political parties have deliberately or by default ceded the power to determine the people who come into Parliament to the general population of their party. No matter how good the material is, no party takes steps to protect the material to be in the House," he observed.

According to the Deputy Speaker who is also the MP for Bekwai in the Ashanti Region, the country should focus on building the political culture which would support the ideals valued by the people in the community.

"We must understand that we operate within a certain political environment; political culture. Maybe what we should be focusing on as a country is the kind of culture that would support the ideals we preach.

"As at now, our system and our values are different and in my view, they do not support the theories we have braced ourselves with. Probably, the Chief Director and your group would start looking at new theories which will support the kind of political system we have," he said.

**Therefore, the expanded Leadership is advocating for a paradigm shift in the political system and the democratic culture in the country. This came up during their deliberation on issues concerning the Committee system in Ghana's Parliament at a day's dialogue organized by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on Wednesday, July 30, 2020, within the precincts of Parliament**



First Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Joseph Osei Owusu who graced the occasion with his presence

## Parliamentary Affairs

# SIERRA LEONE: House Speaker Hints on Ultimate Goal of Having Budget Autonomy



Rt Hon Dr Abass Chernor Bundu, Speaker of Parliament, Sierra Leone

By Melvin Tejan-Mansaray

The Speaker of the Sierra Leone Parliament Hon. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu has spoken about the House's intention to attain its ultimate goal to have an autonomous financial budget as in the case of Ghana, Kenya and elsewhere.

The Speaker of Parliament made this disclosure in an exclusive interview with this press, following the commencement of a five day (3rd to 7th August 2020) Government of Sierra Leone in partnership with the European Union 'Training for Staff of Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) on Sierra Leone Budget Process and Public Financial Management Strategy,' at Committee Room No. 1, House of Parliament, OAU Drive, Tower Hill Freetown.

Highlighting the issues and essence of the training, House Speaker

Hon. Dr. Bundu said: "The main aim of this exercise is to strengthen the capacity of our Parliamentary Budget Office to be able to analyze the budget prior to its delivery, to be able to also analyze the budget after its delivery by the Minister of Finance, sector by sector and this will enable the debate to be more or better informed and more effective by Members of Parliament because they will understand it better."

He added that ultimately, the training gears towards in an incremental way achieving the mandate that is encapsulated in Section No. 74 (Members of Parliament) subsection No. 4 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone which gives Parliament the power to establish its own budget.

Section No. 74.4 states: "Members of Parliament shall be entitled to such salaries, allowances, gratuities, pensions and such other benefits as may be prescribed by parliament."

The Speaker of the Sierra Leone Parliament said: "Establishing our own budget will not happen this year nor do I see it happening next year but gradually as we capacitate the PBO, we see and envisage the possibility of achieving that objective of being in a position to following the examples of Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, etc, of actually formulating, developing and passing our own budget as a parliament."

Parliaments the world over are said to have the 'power of the purse,' an expression meaning that it approves or disapproves the budgetary allocation of ministries, departments and agencies but in Sierra Leone, this is an irony when it comes to the parliament which is more often than not cash-trapped to even undertake its oversight among other fundamental functions.

"Well this is the problem, we are part of the budget of the national budget of the executive arm, sometimes it is not everything that parliament needs for its effective functioning, efficiency and effec-

tiveness that we get; but we are not oblivious of that but, of course, as we develop towards achieving the ultimate goal we will get there sooner or later," Hon. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu said.

Mats Liljefelt a representative of the EU pledged support towards the House's strive for an independent and autonomous budget among other things adding that they expect parliament to prioritize transparency, accountability and robust oversight.

"It is our understanding that the PBO will be an agency whose purpose is to inform the Parliament by providing independent non-partisan analysis of the budget cycle, fiscal policy and financial implications of the proposals brought before Parliament," He said.

Ibrahim Jimissa Deputy Director PBO however said the training was timely adding that "some of our staff are academically qualified, but have limited experience tailored in the work and mandate of the PBO."

**"Establishing our own budget will not happen this year nor do I see it happening next year but gradually as we capacitate the PBO, we see and envisage the possibility of achieving that objective of being in a position to following the examples of Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, etc, of actually formulating, developing and passing our own budget as a parliament."**

## Parliamentary Practice & Procedures

# Last Week in Ghana's Parliament

By: Benjamin Opoku Aryeh

Parliament prepares to go on recess after this Second Meeting in a time of pandemic. During the tenth week (on Thursday, 23rd July 2020), the Hon. Minister for Finance moved a Motion for the adoption of the Mid-Year Review of the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2020 Financial Year. MPs took turns to debate the budget statement during the eleventh week and concluded during the same week.

### Bills

In the House, the following bills were taken through the different stages in the law-making process.

The University of Skills Training and Entrepreneurial Development Bill, 2020, and the Minerals Income Investment Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2020 were taken through second reading. The Aircraft Accident Investigation and Prevention Bureau Bill, 2020 was taking through a second reading and the consideration stages.

The Conduct of Public Officers Bill, 2018, a long standing piece of legislation in parliament was given a second reading giving a sigh of relief to followers of the bill.

Finally, the Land Bill, 2019, after going through a first and second consideration was read the third time and passed.

### Papers laid

Quite a number of financial agreements were scrutinized and adopted throughout the week.

Among the numerous committee reports presented in Chamber included a report of the Finance Committee on the request for waiver of Import Duty, Import NHIL, Import GETFund Levy, Import VAT, EXIM Levy amounting to the Ghana Cedi equivalent of Twenty-Eight Million, Two Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty-Eight United States Dollars (US\$28,251,258.00) on Machinery, Equipment and raw materials to be procured by Kasapreko Company Limited under the One District One Factory (1D1F) programme; and reports on the Develop-

ment Finance Institutions Bill, 2020 and Minerals Income Investment Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

The Hon. Deputy Minister for Local Government & Rural Development, Mr. Kwasi Boateng Adjei on behalf of the Minister responsible for Local Government & Rural Development, presented the Annual Statement by the Audit Committee of the Ga East and Bolgatanga Municipal Assemblies respectively for the year 2019.

Hon. Majority Leader, Mr. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu laid a report of the Auditor-General on the Consolidated Statements of Foreign Exchange Receipts and Payments of the Bank of Ghana (BoG) for the Year Ended 31st December 2019, while the Hon. Member for Okaikwei Central, Mr. Patrick Yaw Boamah on behalf of the Chairman laid the Foreign Affairs Committee's report on the Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Ghana and the African Union for the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat.

Reports of the Committee on Local Government and Rural Development on the Registration of Births and Deaths Bill, 2020 was laid on the floor.

The Hon. Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture, Dr. Sagre Bambi on behalf of the Minister responsible for Food and Agriculture laid the Budget Performance Report in respect of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for the period January to December, 2019, which was referred by Hon. First Deputy Speaker Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs Hon. Samuel Ayeah-Paye, Chairman of the Committee on Roads and Transport laid these reports:

(i). Report on the Design-Build Contract Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Ghana (represented by the Ministry of Roads and Highways [represented by the Ghana Highways Authority]) and Messrs Gabriel Couto-Rango Consortium for an amount of Fifty Million Euros (€50,000,000.00) for implementation of the reconstruction of the Bechem – Techimantia – Akumadan (40.4km) Road Project;

(ii). Report on the Design-Build Contract Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Ghana (represented by the Ministry of Roads and Highways [represented by the Ghana Highway Authority]) and Messrs Gabriel Couto-Rango Consortium for an amount of Ninety-Five Million Euros (€95,000,000.00) for implementation of the reconstruction of the Tarkwa – Agona Nkwanta (66.0km) Road Project; and

(iii). Report on the Contract Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Ghana (represented by the Ministry of Roads and Highways) and Mabey Bridge (registered as Acrow Global Ltd. of the United Kingdom) for an amount of Forty-Three Million Great Britain Pounds (GBP£43,000,000.00) for the Design and Delivery of Prefabricated Bridges for deployment throughout Ghana.

Chairman of the Finance Committee, Dr. Mark Assibey-Yeboah, laid the report of his Committee on the Financing Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Ghana (represented by the Ministry of Finance) and the International Development Association (IDA) for an amount of Two Hundred Million United States Dollars (US\$200,000,000.00) to fi-

nance the Ghana Jobs and Skills Project (GJSP), and a report of the Finance Committee on the Financing Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Ghana (represented by the Ministry of Finance) and the International Development Association (IDA) for an amount of One Hundred and Fifteen Million United States Dollars (US\$115,000,000.00) as additional financing for the e-Transform Ghana Project.

### Questions

Mr. Samuel Nartey George (Ningo-Prampram), on behalf of Mr. Eric Afful (Amenfi West) asked of the Minister for Lands and Natural Resource the status of the youth in afforestation programmes. The Minister mentioned that the programme was suspended due to coronavirus, however it has resumed implementation since May.

Also, Mr. Kwame Gbonds Adaklu on behalf of Dr. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo (Wa Central) sought to find out when the Wa Airport would be cleared of all obstacles to enable regular flights to and from Wa. The Minister answered saying that the halt in flights in the area is mainly due to covid-19 and the difficulties therein, and assured the House of working to remove any obstacles to allow for flights.

### Statement

The demise of Congressman, John Robert Lewis attracted a couple of statements on the floor of the House led by the leader of the Majority Caucus, Hon. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu and supported by the leader of the Minority Caucus, Hon. Haruna Idrissu.

### Committee

Even amidst covid-19 committees have been meeting while maintaining social distancing protocols. Some of the committees that met included the Committee on Education to continue consideration on the Complementary Education Agency Bill, 2019. The Committee on Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprises also met and considered the 2018 Financial Statement of the Ghana National Gas Company Limited, and also net to consider the Registration of Births and Deaths Bill, 2020. The Committee on local government and Rural Development met and considered the African Union Charter on the

Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development. The Committee on Works and Housing Committee met on Tuesday, 21st July, 2020 at twelve noon and considered the Real Estate Agency Bill, 2020.

The Finance Committee which had the most business to consider. The committee met and considered a number of the financial agreements which included the Term Loan Facility Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Ghana (represented by the Ministry of Finance) and Deutsche Bank AG, Frankfurt Branch (as Arranger and Original Lender) and TMF Global Services (UK) Limited (as Facility Agent) for an amount of One Hundred and Forty-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Four Euros (€147,505,734.00) for the reconstruction of the Bechem – Techimantia – Akumadan (40.4km) and the Tarkwa – Agona Nkwanta Road Projects;

ii. Facility Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Ghana (represented by the Ministry of Finance) and Standard Chartered Bank, London (as Agent Arranger and Structuring Bank) [with UK Export Finance as Guarantor] for an amount of Forty-One Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Three Great Britain Pounds and Seventy-Seven Pence (GBP£41,828,793.77) to finance the Design and Delivery of Prefabricated Bridges for deployment throughout Ghana; and

iii. Facility Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Ghana (represented by the Ministry of Finance) and Standard Chartered Bank, London (as Agent, Arranger and Structuring Bank) for an amount of Six Million, Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Great Britain Pounds (GBP£6,450,000.00) to finance the Design and Delivery of Prefabricated Bridges for deployment throughout Ghana;

### The week ahead

The House has quite a number of bills to consider and possibly pass before going on recess on Monday 10 August 2020 as expected. A lot of questions (12) have been slated to be asked of Ministers of State on various sectors of the economy.



Ghana Parliament House



2020  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF THE NURSE AND  
THE MIDWIFE

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