

INTRODUCTION

This report covers the period from Tuesday, 15th March to Tuesday, 5th April 2022, thus, fourteen (14) Sittings for the Eighth to Eleventh Week of the First Meeting of the Second Session of the Eighth Parliament. Parliament has gone on recess for the First Meeting of this Session. They are expected to reconvene in May to continue with parliamentary business for the Second Meeting of the Second Session.

HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY OBSERVATIONS

Below are some highlights of what happened in Parliament within the past four (4) Sittings.

Bills and Papers

##	Title	Date presented	Stage of Bill/Paper	Committee Responsible
1	The Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2021	16/03/2022	2nd Reading	Finance
2	Criminal and other Offences (Procedure) (Amendment) Bill, 2021	9/03/2022	Consideration	Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs
3	The Ghana Hydrological Authority Bill, 2021	23/03/ 2022	Consideration	Works and Housing
4	Electronic Transaction Levy Bill, 2022	29/03/2022	Passed	

Papers

- The Budget Performance Report of the Legal Aid Commission in 2021 was presented and referred to the Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for consideration and report.
- The Report of the Finance Committee on Ghana's subscription to 11,996 shares allocated by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group was presented.
- The Energy Commission (Energy Efficiency Standards and Labelling) (Refrigerating Appliances) Regulations, 2022; the Proposed Formula for the Distribution of the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund) for the Year 2022; and the Budget Performance Report of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for the Period January to December 2021 were presented.

MPs Statements

- The Hon. Member for Asante Akim North, Mr. Andy Kwame Appiah- Kubi, made a statement on **the adverse effect of agrochemicals in agriculture** and called on Government to initiate the process towards the enacting of appropriate legislation to promote the use of organic agro-culture in food production in the country.
- The Hon. Member for Damongo and Minister responsible for Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Samuel Abu Jinapor, made a statement on **the historical and contemporary contribution of the Savannah Region** to the country's political and socio-economic development on the occasion of the Sixty-Fifth Independence Anniversary of Ghana.

- The Hon. Member for Gomoa East, Mr. Desmond De-Graft Paitoo, made a statement on the theme “**Forests and sustainable production and consumption**” in commemoration of the International Day of Forests” which falls on the 21st day of March each year.
- The Hon. Member for Bortianor-Ngleshie-Amanfro, Mr. Sylvester Tetteh made a statement in which he drew the attention of the House to **the plight of Persons with Disabilities with emphasis on the Deaf** and urged the Government to put in place adequate measures to address the situation.
- The Hon. Member for Klottey-Korley, Dr. Zanetor Agyeman Rawlings made a statement on **the evolution and challenges of women within the context of peace and security** and urged the authorities concerned to put in place measures to curb the problem.
- The Hon. Member for North Tongu and Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa made a statement on **the urgent need for Ghanaian Universities to create special academic transfer dispensation for Ghanaian students evacuated from Ukraine.**

The Hon. Second Deputy Speaker directed the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Education to consider the Statement and comments of Hon. Members thereon and report to the House.

- The Hon. Member for Tema Central, Mr. Yves Hanson-Nortey made a statement on the theme “**Be Proud of Your Mouth**” in commemoration of World Oral Health Day which falls on the 20th day of March each year.
- The Hon. Member for Sissala East and Deputy Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources, Mr. Amidu Issahaku Chinnia made a statement on the theme “Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible” in commemoration of World Water Day which falls on the 22nd day of March each year.
- The Hon. Member for Agona East, Mrs. Queenstar Pokua Sawyerr made a statement on **the decision to centralise property rates in the country and its likely impact on revenues generated by MMDAs** and urged Government to take appropriate measures in this regard. The Hon. First Deputy Speaker referred the

KEY OBSERVATIONS

- The Committee on Local Government and Rural Development met on Wednesday, 16th March 2022 and held discussions with Officials of the Africa Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) on the Data for Accountability Project II.
- The Committee on Lands and Forestry met on Wednesday, 16th March 2022 and considered the Wildlife Resources Management Bill, 2022.
- The Committee on Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprises met on Tuesday, 15th March 2022 and continued discussions with officials of the District Assemblies Common Fund on **the alleged payment of GH¢180.00 a month to the beneficiaries of the Sanitation Module of the Youth Employment Agency.**
- The Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs met on Thursday, 10th March 2022 and held discussions with Members of the Atwima Nwabiagya Pig Farmers Co-operative Society Limited on a petition relating to the payment of compensation to farmers affected by the outbreak of the African Swine Fever (ASF).
- The Committee on Health met on Thursday, 17th March 2022 at noon and held discussions with officials of the Accra Psychiatric Hospital on the workings and challenges of the Hospital.
- The Public Accounts Committee met on Tuesday, 15th March 2022 at 9:40 am and considered the Report of the Auditor-General on the Public Accounts of Ghana - Public Boards, Corporations and Other Statutory Institutions for the Period Ended 31st December 2018.

- The Public Accounts Committee met on Thursday, 17th March 2022 and considered the Report of the Auditor-General on the Public Accounts of Ghana - Public Boards, Corporations and Other Statutory Institutions for the Period Ended 31st December 2018.
- The Committee on Mines and Energy met on Monday, 21st March 2022 and held discussions with officials of the Chamber of Bulk Oil Distributors on recent developments in the petroleum downstream sector.
- The Committee on Health met on Tuesday 22nd March 2022 to receive a briefing by officials of the Ministry of Health on COVID-19.
- The Committee on Roads and Transport met on Tuesday 22nd March, 2022 and held discussions with the Board of Airlines Representatives Ghana (BARGH).
- The Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, 23rd March, 2022 and held discussions on the Capital Punishment and Custodial Sentencing with the Australian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Leann Johnston.
- The Committee on Works and Housing met Wednesday, 23rd March, 2022 and considered the Ghana Hydrological Authority Bill, 2021.
- The Committee on Members Holding Office of Profit met on Thursday, 31st March, 2022 and considered the applications of Hon. Members seeking permission to hold offices of profit.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The controversial **Electronic Transaction Levy Bill, 2022** was passed after the minority Caucus in Parliament walked out.
- The Supreme Court of Ghana ruled that **a Deputy Speaker who is presiding over a Sitting retains his right to vote during decision making** in the plenary. The ruling attracted reactions from the Minority as they played to the issue of a quorum for parliamentary sitting. This has the tendency of stifling government business going into the future.
- The issue of **tax exemptions attracted reactions from MPs and experts** concerning the revenue the country is losing and the need to pass the Exemptions Bill to curb the menace. The bill is before the Finance Committee and is **likely to gain momentum for its passage in the next Meeting**.
- The Speaker of Parliament on the 5th of April, having received a petition by some civil society organisations **ruled on the attendance of three (3) Members, and referred them to the Privileges Committee** through a motion of urgency to report to the House in two weeks after Parliament reconvenes in May.
- The Speaker, Alban S.K Bagbin in a statement during the plenary on 5th April, 2022, noted that the work of Parliament is being monitored by CSOs across Africa. He, therefore, admonished Members to be as honourable as possible in their attendance and work as legislators. This follows a **meeting the Africa Parliamentary Monitoring Organisations Network (APMONs) Working Group, led by Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica)**, held with the Speaker on the 31st of March, 2022 at Parliament. The Speaker in addressing the Network expressed his willingness to work together in making parliament more transparent, accountable and open to citizens for meaningful participation.
- The nature and composition of the current Parliament calls for civil society support to work with parliamentarians to effectively conduct parliamentary business. So far, the 'Hung Parliament' has not produced expected results which calls for CSOs to help strengthen the work of Parliament.
- The House went on recess on Tuesday 5th April, 2022 and is expected to reconvene in May 2022 for the Second Meeting of the Second Session of the Eighth Parliament.

- PNAfrica will monitor and bring up-to-date information on what is happening in Parliament. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [twitter](#).