

## INTRODUCTION

The current Eighth Parliament of Ghana is most likened to a “Hung Parliament” in the Westminster parliamentary system. The nature and the current composition of the House call for the need for a new political engagement and parliamentary relations among Members of Parliament. The need to build consensus between the Majority and Minority Caucuses to enhance the work of Parliament is more crucial now than ever.

This report covers the period from Tuesday, 25 January to Friday, 25 February 2022, thus, sixteen (16) Sittings since the commencement of the First Meeting of the Second Session of the Eighth Parliament.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY OBSERVATIONS

Below are some highlights of what happened in Parliament within the past sixteen (16) Sittings.

### Bills and Papers

##	Title	Date presented	Stage of Bill	Committee Responsible
1	Exemptions Bill, 2022	10/02/2022	Committee	Finance
2	Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2021	1/02/2022	Committee report presented	Finance
3	Student Loan Trust Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2021	25/01/2022	Committee report presented	Education

### MPs Statements

- The Majority Chief Whip, Mr. Frank Annoh-Dompreh, made a statement in which he highlighted the future of Renewable Energy in the country and the African Region.
- The Hon. Member for Kwadaso, Dr. Kingsley Nyarko, made a statement on the election of Ghana onto the United Nations Security Council and its prospects in promoting peace and security in Africa.
- The Hon. Member for South Dayi, Mr. Rockson-Nelson Etse Kwami Dafeamekpor, made a statement on the need for Ghana to be exempted from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) list for immigration and studies in the United Kingdom.

## KEY OBSERVATIONS

1. The Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs met Thursday, 17th February 2022 and considered the Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill, 2021. This is the third Public Hearing of the committee on the Bill.
2. The Committee on Environment, Science and Technology met Thursday, 27th January and held discussions with officials of the E-Margin Project under the University of Cape Coast on Electronic Waste Management in the country. The Committee also met on Friday, 4th February and discussed the petition from EcoConscious Citizens on Noise Pollution in Ghana.

3. A joint Committee on Environment, Science and Technology and the Local Government and Rural Development met Tuesday, 25th January and held discussions with officials of the Climate Communications and Local Governance – Africa.
4. The Speaker of Parliament has reiterated his commitment to remain impartial to the work of Parliament to ensure that the national interest is upheld in all matters of governance and development.
5. The Speaker has not granted an interview in which he said he had granted permission to the Member of Parliament for Dome-Kwabenya, Hon. Sarah Adwoa Safo, who doubles as the Minister for Gender and Social Protection, to absent herself from the House. There are calls for her removal from Parliament due to her continuous absence, however, that can only be done according to the rules of the House – when the matter has been referred to the Privileges Committee for hearing and determination.
6. The Speaker’s Office received some dignitaries and diplomats, including the British High Commissioner, who paid a courtesy call on him to discuss matters related to the Parliament and how they can partner to strengthen the institution’s work and Ghana as a country.
7. Parliament inaugurated the Parliamentary Press Center to enhance the work of parliamentary reporters while ensuring that they disseminate accurate and objective information from Parliament to the public.
8. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)-UK Africa Regional Trade & Security workshop held a 3-day workshop in Accra to help develop a greater understanding of the operations of Parliamentary Trade, Security and Gender Committees in the Commonwealth.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Hung nature of the Eight Parliament presents an opportunity to **strengthen parliament’s role of ensuring effective oversight over the Executive, making laws and representing their constituents**. The uniqueness of this Parliament can only be explored when Members of Parliament (from both the Majority and Minority Caucuses) are willing to compromise and engage in the work they do in the House.
- PNAfrica is **monitoring the Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs’** engagement with individuals and groups/organisations on the Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill, 2021.
- The French Embassy could **engage with select committees of Parliament** on matters of interest. PNAfrica is willing to facilitate these engagements and discussions.
- The **Affirmative Action Bill has been scheduled as part of Parliament’s Agenda for the Session**, to present it to the House. There is a need for civil society organisations (CSOs) to increase their engagement with Parliament to ensure that the bill receives attention from MPs.

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