

INTRODUCTION

This report covers the period from Tuesday, 8th to Friday, 11th November 2022, thus, four (4) Sittings of the Third 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 four (4) Sittings before recess.

Bills and Papers

##	Title	Date presented	Stage of Bill/Paper	Committee Responsible
1.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Papers

- Financing agreement between Government of Ghana (represented by Ministry of Finance) and the International Development Association (World Bank Group) for an amount of \$150m to finance the public financial management for service delivery programmed.
- Financing agreement between Government of Ghana (rep by Ministry of Finance) and International Development Association (World Bank Group) for an amount of \$200m to finance Ghana digital acceleration project.
- Financing agreement between Government of Ghana (rep by Ministry of Finance) and International Development Association (World Bank Group) for an amount of \$150m to finance primary healthcare investment project.
- Audit committee reports on agencies under Attorney-General's Department, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information and Local Government Ministry for the year 2021 was presented and referred:
 - ❖ Council for law reporting, Registrar General Department, Economic Organized Crime Office, Office of Attorney General and Ministry of Justice: Wesley College of Education-Kumasi, Ministry of Information, Asene/Akroso/Manso District Assembly, Nanumba South District Assembly, Okere District. Assembly, Upper West Akim District. Assembly, Ejisu Municipal Assembly and Berekum East Municipal Assembly.

MPs Statements

- The Hon. Tina Gifty Naa Ayeley Mensah (MP, Weija/Gbawe) made a statement on recent spillage of the Weija dam which caused flooding in the municipality. Ms Mensah bemoaned the erection of structures in water ways.
 - ❖ The Greater Accra Regional Minister, Hon. Henry Quartey commenting on the statement, says about 18k plots of land have been encroached at the Sakumo Ramsar site. He added that the demolition exercise has not stopped but suspended because they want to be on the right side of law.
- The Hon. Dr. Godfred Seidu Jasaw (MP, Wa East) made a statement on the floor of the House eulogizing a former MP, Alhaji Issahaku Salia, who passed away following a short illness. He noted that Alhaji was a legend whose contributions towards the development of his constituency and the nation will remain in history.
 - ❖ Hon. Cletus Avoka (MP, Zebilla) commenting on the statement, he called him a gentleman and an astute politician who had a calm demeanor.

Gender Highlights

- Hon. Zanetor Rawlings on the tenth of November was nominated as one of the seven-member ad hoc committee set up by the Rt. Hon. Speaker Bagbin to consider the Minority's motion of censure on the Finance Minister.
- Hon. Tina Gifty Naa Ayeley Mensah (MP, Weija/Gbawe) made a statement on recent spillage of the Weija dam which caused flooding in the municipality.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

1. A delegation from the Parliament of Uganda visited Parliament for knowledge exchange and to learn from their counterparts in Ghana.
2. The Oti Regional Minister, Joseph Makubu, during question time in parliament said that he never asked anybody to unroot any tree seedlings planted by NDC officials in Nkwanta SHS. The question was asked by Iddie Kofi Adams (MP, Buem).
3. The Minister for Youth and Sports Mustapha Ussif, on the floor of Parliament indicated that a total of 42,680 e-tickets were sold at the FIFA World Cup 2022 qualifier between Ghana and Nigeria on March 25 this year and tickets sold did not exceed stadium capacity.
4. The Minister for Food and Agriculture, Dr. Owusu Afriyie-Akoto attended the House to answer MPs' questions. He tells Parliament that a total of 1.65 million farmers have so far benefitted from the government's planting for food and jobs programme since it launched in 2017; growth in food crops grew from 2.2% in 2017 to 8.9% in 2021.
5. Dr. Afriyie-Akoto in answering a question from Robert Wisdom Cudjoe (MP, Prestea-Huni-Valley), Dr. Afriyie-Akoto tells Parliament the actual cocoa production for 2021/2022 crop year stood at 1,047,385 tonnes and a cumulative drawn amount of \$350m as at August 2021.

6. The Minister for Interior, Ambrose Dery attended the House to answer MPs' questions. In a response to a question by John Kobina Aboah Sante (MP, Mpohor), he tells Parliament that recent school campus disturbances occurred in few isolated places, however they were professionally handled by Ghana Police Service.
 - ❖ He added that the Police has put in place some pragmatic measures including; vigorous patrols on public university campuses, increased police presence in public space, and deployment of more plain clothed officers.
 - ❖ He stated that 3 suicide cases of Police personnel have been recorded in Sekondi, Accra and Tema from 2020 till date.
7. The Hon. Minority Leader, Haruna Iddrisu moved a motion for Parliament to pass a vote of censure on Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta on the grounds of;
 - ❖ Despicable conflict of interest ensuring that he directly benefits from Ghana's economic woes as his companies receive commissions and other unethical contractual advantage, particularly from Ghana's debt overhang.
 - ❖ Unconstitutional withdrawals from the Consolidated Fund in blatant contravention of Article 178 of the 1992 Constitution supposedly for the construction of the President's Cathedral.
 - ❖ Illegal payments of oil revenues into offshore accounts in flagrant violation of Article 176 of the 1992 Constitution.
 - ❖ Deliberate and dishonest misreporting of economic data to Parliament.
 - ❖ Fiscal recklessness leading to the crash of the Ghana Cedi which is currently the worst performing currency in the world.
 - ❖ Alarming incompetence and frightening ineptitude resulting the collapse of the Ghanaian economy and an excruciating cost of living crisis.
 - ❖ Gross mismanagement of the Ghanaian economy which has occasioned untold and unprecedented hardship.
8. The Deputy Majority Leader Alex Afenyo-Markin (MP, Effutu) raised a preliminary objection under the provisions of Article 3(4)(a) on grounds that;
 - ❖ The motion encroaches the remit of the Judiciary and against principles of natural justice.
 - ❖ It amounts to Parliament attacking the constitutional requirement of a fair hearing.
9. The Hon. Mahama Ayariga (MP, Bawku Central) in a response to the preliminary objection on behalf of the minority indicates that the Constitution has clearly provided on what to do in a motion for a vote on censure with processes that no one can depart from.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- A total of 37 questions; 3 urgent and 34 oral have been programmed by the Business Committee for the ensuing week (Tuesday 15th November to Friday 18th).
- The 2023 Budget is expected to be read on Thursday, November 24. Budget debate starts on November 29.
- The Rt. Hon Speaker constituted an 8-member Ad Hoc committee co-chaired by Dr. Dominic Ayine and K.T. Hammond in consultation with leadership with the following members; Samuel Okudjatu Ablakwa, Zanator Rawlings, Bernard Ahiafor, Patrick Yaw Boamah, Kwame Anyimadu-Antwi, and Andrew Mercer.
 - ❖ The Committee has 7 days to present its report. Clerk to the Ad Hoc Committee is Mr. Camillo Pwamang.