



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR A MORE OPEN PARLIAMENT

In this edition of our newsletter, we delve into the importance of open parliaments and the impact of PNAfrica's work in promoting parliamentary openness across Africa. We also highlight our partnerships and initiatives aimed at advancing this cause.

Thank you for joining us on this journey towards a more open and accountable parliamentary system in Africa.

Join Us in the Journey

Since December 2017, Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica) has been at the forefront of promoting the concept of Open Parliament across the African continent. As a Parliamentary Monitoring Organization (PMO), PNAfrica collaborates with parliaments and civil society organizations to enhance parliamentary openness, inclusiveness, transparency, and accountability.

Why Open Parliaments?

An open parliament is essential for promoting transparency, participation, and accountability throughout the legislative process. It plays a crucial role in fostering an open government by ensuring access to legislative information and creating avenues for public engagement. By adopting open government principles within their processes and practices, parliaments can lead by example and strengthen legislative openness reforms.

INCONSISTENCY IN PRESIDENT AKUFFO ADDO'S DECISION NOT TO SIGN TWO RECENT PMB BILLS



Mr. Sammy Obeng - Executive Director, Parliamentary Network Africa

President Akuffo-Addo's recent decision not to sign two Private Members Bills has raised concerns about consistency in governance. Despite the bills going through all required legislative processes, the reasons given by the President for not signing them do not seem supported by the facts. Sammy Obeng, our Executive Director, has addressed this issue, pointing out what he sees as a weak justification from the Presidency.

In a social media post, Mr. Obeng expressed concern about how the President's decision could impact the progress made in previous Parliaments, especially regarding laws initiated directly by the people's representatives. This inconsistency raises questions about the President's commitment to transparency and accountability in governance.

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PNAFRICA DEMANDS SWIFT ACTION ON UNADDRESSED PETITION REGARDING DISTURBANCES DURING ELECTION OF SPEAKER



Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica) is actively involved in monitoring parliaments in Africa, including the Parliament of Ghana. PNAfrica aims to promote best practices that enhance transparency and accountability in these institutions while discouraging counterproductive traditions.

In Ghana, PNAfrica has renewed its call for action on a petition regarding disturbances during the election of the current Speaker, Rt. Hon. Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin, in January 2021. Despite previous appeals, the petition remains unaddressed. PNAfrica has issued a press release urging the Parliament of Ghana to investigate and

resolve the matter before the end of its term to prevent similar incidents in the future.



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PNAFRICA AND FRENCH EMBASSY IN GHANA FORGE STRONGER TIES FOR FUTURE COLLABORATIONS



The Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica) and the French Embassy in Ghana joined forces once again at a recent meeting, reigniting their commitment to mutual goals and positive impact. Led by Sammy Obeng, PNAfrica's Executive Director, and Joana Oppong, Ghana Program Officer, the PNAfrica team engaged in fruitful discussions with their counterparts from the French Embassy, including Christine Battesti, Political Counsellor, Julien Lecas, Head of Cooperation and Cultural Action, and Alberta A. AMEZIAH, Projects Manager, Cooperation Department.



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APMON ENGAGES THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNCIL OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (SAF-CNGO) TO ADVANCE OPEN PARLIAMENT IN THE SADC REGION



In a bid to advance the cause of open parliament in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, the Africa Parliamentary Monitoring Organisations Network (APMON) recently engaged with the Southern African Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (SAF-CNGO) at a high-level stakeholders meeting. The meeting, which took place in South Africa, was attended by representatives from the SADC Secretariat and the SADC Parliamentary Forum, highlighting the importance of the discussions in progressing and developing the sub-region.

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NDI AND HDP DELEGATION VISITS GHANAIAN PARLIAMENT FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION



The National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the House Democracy Partnership (HDP) delegation recently visited the Parliament of Ghana on a working visit, exploring possibilities for future collaboration.

Facilitated by Sammy Obeng, the Executive Director of the Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica) and local representative of NDI in Ghana, the delegation engaged with key stakeholders, including the Rt. Hon. Alban Sumana Bagbin, Speaker of Ghana's Parliament, parliamentary leadership, key staff, and Civil Society Organizations.

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PNAFRICA'S SAMMY OBENG ATTENDS EAST AFRICA REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY MONITORING ORGANIZATIONS CONFERENCE ON DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND PARLIAMENTARY MONITORING

Sammy Obeng, the Executive Director of the Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica), recently participated in the 2nd East African Regional Conference for Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations (PMOs) held under the theme "Digital Technology and Parliamentary Monitoring: (Re)imagining Futures and Possibilities." The conference, organized by the Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA) in Kampala, aimed to explore the role of digital technologies in enhancing transparency, accountability, and good governance across the East African region and Africa as a whole.



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BOOSTING RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENT IN AFRICA



Matthew Azure Awune



Hon. Yves Hanson-Nortey

Energy security is crucial for driving economic growth and sustaining it in the long term. The demand escalates as countries grow and population and the demand for industrialization grows. Many countries, including Ghana, face a growing gap between energy demands and the capacity to support these demands. These countries are at a crossroads of this energy revolution, facing the challenge of meeting their energy needs while also addressing global environmental concerns.

This article Co-authored by the Head of our Climate desk, Matthew Azure Awune, and a Member of Parliament on the Environment, Science, and Technology Committee of the Parliament of Ghana, Yves Nortey, attempts to highlight these concerns that were made even louder at the just-ended Conference of Parties (COP28) in Dubai, culminating in a landmark deal to phase out fossil fuels and triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030.

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PNAFRICA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PARTICIPATES IN FRANCE'S PIPA 2024



Mr. Sammy Obeng - Executive Director, Parliamentary Network Africa

The Executive Director of the Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica), Mr. Sammy Obeng, was recently selected to participate in the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France's prestigious Future Leaders Invitation Programme (PIPA) 2024. Mr. Obeng's selection marks a significant achievement, as he becomes the 13th Ghanaian personality to be chosen in the 35-year history of the programme.

The PIPA programme, hosted by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, brings together approximately 75 young leaders aged 25 to 45 from around the world each year. These individuals, deemed likely to hold influential positions in their countries, are allowed to learn more about France and establish meaningful connections with the country.

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