



## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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### OFFICIAL REPORT

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THE  
PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF GHANA

FIRST MEETING, 2025

Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2025

*The House met at 10.37 a.m.*

[MR SECOND DEPUTY SPEAKER  
IN THE CHAIR]

[PRAYERS]

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, kindly indulge me to skip the items numbered 2, 3 and 4 on today's Order Paper. Now, let us turn to the item numbered 5, *Correction of Votes and Proceedings* and the *Official Report*.

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS AND  
THE  
OFFICIAL REPORT**

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, we will start with the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

Page 1...14—

Yes, Minority Chief Whip?

**Mr Frank Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, I am sorry. If you may indulge me, I would take you back to page 8; the item numbered 5(ii) reads:

“The Rt Hon Speaker indicated that the Chief Whips are collaborating to

effect corrections to the composition of Committees listed on pages 15 to 58”

Hence, corrections of those pages were stayed. I think that was a significant part of the Speaker's directive which is missing, so that needs to find expression on that page. The Speaker had directed that we should hold on as a result of the collaboration between the two Whips.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, you are perfectly right. Table, kindly take note of that. This is because those pages were on the Committees and since we were going to take the Committees today, he stayed it. So, please, take note of that.

Page 14...15—

Hon Members, the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, as corrected, is hereby adopted as a true record of proceedings.

Hon Members, I have in my hands the 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 edition of the *Official Report*.

*[No correction was made to the Official Report of Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025]*

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, before we move to the next item, which is Questions—I do not know whether the Minister is around?

Hon Members, before we move to Question time, let me bring this to your attention. Yesterday, after the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of

Government was read, it should have been referred to the appropriate Committee. I think that was overlooked. I hereby refer the Budget Statement and the estimates to the appropriate Committees. I so direct.

Yes, Minority Chief Whip?

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, I have been running around to get copies of the Budget Statement. I see my Colleague, the Hon Kwame Govers Agbodza—how we used to do it. Up to this point, we still do not have copies of the Budget Statement. Yes, I concede that soft copies have been shared among a few of us, but the tradition and the practice has been—Yesterday, I heard the Majority Leader in full flight, commending the Budget Statement and making all sorts of good expressions; however, they are failing to give us copies. We do not—*[Interruption]*—Yes, E-Parliament, I agree to that but traditionally, we need hard copies—*[Interruption]*—No, Hon Member, you are not listening to me.

Yesterday, we also picked reports—The Majority Chief Whip is not here and I do not want to say anything, so that when he comes, he will not be on good terms with me this morning. I do not want to start a fight this morning. Yesterday, I am told and reliably informed that he took delivery of over 200 copies. They can rebut it if they have any other information. Are they keeping all the 200 copies only at the Majority Side? Why? This one too, do they want to use ratios? Are they using ratios to distribute the copies? Why?

10.47 a.m.

Mr Speaker, I see the Majority Leader smiling. Is it the case that they are using ratio to distribute the copies of the Budget? If it is the case, let him confirm. Up to this time, our Side, does not have a single copy—*[Interruption]*—I do not have a copy. Majority Leader, we still do not have copies. Majority Leader, just give me a minute. This morning, my Deputy Whip said that, they gave the Front Bench five copies, but he knows we are more than five. No, our Colleagues do not have copies. Mr Speaker, I am basically saying that they should not—Yes, the Majority Leader attempted making a point that to catch your eye, we should come by a ratio, and that was shot down. I do not know if he is hatching the idea that even in the distribution of copies of the Budget Statement and Economic Policy, he will go by a ratio. Why? What does the Leader say to that?

Mr Speaker, just a minute. My Deputy Whip said that

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Agbodza, have you seen your Friend? Yes, Majority Leader.

**Mr Mahama Ayariga:** Mr Speaker, I have been in this Chamber and for years when Budget Statements and Economic Policies are presented, it takes a couple of days before everybody gets a hard copy of the Budget Statement. But I want to assure him that we are following up to ensure that everybody gets a copy. I am making all the necessary phone calls.

But I know that he in particular has a copy. This is because yesterday we were all here when the copies were brought, and on his Side, at least about 10 or 20 copies were distributed and, on our Side also, another 10 or 20 copies were distributed. But I will follow up to make sure that everybody gets a copy, hopefully by the close of Business today.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Leader. Yes, let me give the floor to Mr Patrick Boamah.

**Mr Patrick Yaw Boamah:** Mr Speaker, I respect the Majority Leader and his promise, but, not too long ago, the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Ghana Publishing Company told the whole country that he is starting 24-hour publishing, but the Majority cannot publish 276 copies of the Budget Statement and Economic Policy within 24 hours? What are they talking about? They are telling us that they are now going to bring the policy. Jesus Christ!

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Leader?

**Mr Ayariga:** Mr Speaker, for the 24-Hour Economy policy to succeed, there are different aspects that must all work together. The publishing house actually works 24 hours. The logistics chain to move from the publishing house to this Parliament is not yet in a 24-Hour Economy. When that also becomes part of the 24-Hour Economy, then he will see that when they publish, we will immediately get it. So, it is on the way.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. Yes, Hon Habib Iddrisu?

**Alhaji Habib Iddrisu:** Mr Speaker, I just want to buttress the point that the Minority Chief Whip made. In fact, we are not taking it lightly that we do not have copies. It was the same thing they did during the Message on the State of the Nation. We never had copies of the Message on the State of the Nation and now the Budget Statement and Economic Policy. They do not want to give us the opportunity so that we can punch holes into the Budget Statement and that is why they are hoarding it. They do not want us to have copies so that we can study the document well, and when we start the debate, make constructive criticisms on the Budget Statement and Economic Policy.

Mr Speaker, yesterday I raised an issue under Order 195. It was because of this same matter that I raised the matter. When Mr Speaker ruled that it was a Statement—We know rules of Statements; there must be adequate copies distributed even before the Statement is read. But I did not want to belabour the issue yesterday. Mr Speaker, yesterday we were saying this, now look at the Majority. There is nobody; they are not here. There are about 40 or 30 of them. But because yesterday was for the Budget, we saw 187 Members but today look at them, they are less than 40. The Majority Leader must know that his army has deserted him already. They are not even here to support him.

**Mr Eric Afful:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. We are in the information world so, if they actually want to have a bite, they can go online while we prepare to bring them copies of the Budget Statement and Economic Policy.

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** I am surprised by my good Friend. The Majority Leader, in fact, has conceded to the fact that, as we expected, things did not go well and he has given us his word that he will make sure we get copies. But here we are with our Colleague coming to speak to counter what the Majority Leader is saying. Is that the case?

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** So, Leader, let us take the Majority Leader's word.

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Can you imagine that he said we should go online?

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members. No, please, it is all right. We have discussed this enough. We are taking the word of the Majority Leader. I think copies will be made available to Members in due course. I hope tomorrow, by the time we start proceedings, Members would have had enough copies. Hon Professor Nyarko, is it on the same matter?

**Prof Kingsley Nyarko:** Yes, Mr Speaker. With respect, I will plead with you to use your authority that, moving forward, such important documents are made readily available for Members. I think you can make that order. This is because regarding the Budget Statement

and Economic Policy, for example, the details are in the appendices. The meat that we need to consume are in the appendices but, Mr Speaker, we do not have the document to even examine the appendices.

So, my plea to you is that there should be an order from your good self that moving forward, these documents should be made available to all of us. It should not take us a day, two days or three days to get them. If we are resetting, we must reset properly. This kind of resetting, for some of us—

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

**Prof Nyarko:** It gives—What do they say? Mr Speaker, thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Prof Nyarko.

Please, at least let us all rest assured that the Leader of the House has assured us that Members will get copies by close of day. I hope by the time we begin proceedings tomorrow; Members would have received copies. So, let us bring this to a close.

I can see Hon John Jinapor majestically walking in now. We can now start with the Question time. *[Pause]* Hon Members, let us turn to the item numbered 6 in today's Order Paper, which is an Urgent Question. Let me respectfully invite our Brother, Hon John Jinapor to take the appropriate seat. — *[Pause]*—

10.57 a.m.

Before I invite Hon John Darko, Hon Member for Suame, to ask his Urgent Question, kindly indulge me to acknowledge in the Speaker's Gallery, Hon Denis Hamson Obua, a Member of Parliament from Uganda's Parliament, who has paid a visit to Ghana's Parliament, as usual, to come to also study what we do here. He is accompanied by Ms Gracious Abura, a Policy Analyst in the Office of the Leader of Government Business.

Hon Member and your colleague, you are welcome. You know Ghana is your home. Feel free and be part of our system.

You are welcome. [*Hear! Hear!*]

Yes, Hon John Jinapor, you are seated. Hon Member for Suame, Mr John Darko, the Hon Minister is available now and you may ask your Urgent Question.

## URGENT QUESTIONS

### MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND GREEN TRANSITION

#### Power Fluctuation in the Ashanti Region

**Mr John Darko (NPP — Suame):** Mr Speaker, thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to ask the Minister for Energy and Green Transition, the causes of power fluctuation in the Ashanti Region and Suame Constituency in particular, and what the Ministry is doing to provide

stable power supply to the people of Ashanti Region and Suame in particular.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Minister?

**Minister for Energy and Green Transition (Mr John Abdulai Jinapor):** Mr Speaker, thank you very much. Mr Speaker, let me thank my brother, Hon John Darko, for this Question. Mr Speaker, the cause of the outage in Kumasi and in the Ashanti Region are in two-folds.

Mr Speaker, in December 2024, a major fault occurred on some underground cables that supplied power from Ghana Grid Company (GRIDCo) to Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) at the Ridge Bulk Supply Point (BSP) Substation in Kumasi. Unfortunately, there were no alternative routes to facilitate power evacuation and supply. What it meant is that in December 2024, when that major fault occurred, the system had not been configured to have an alternative route to allow power to be evacuated. And so from December through to January, there were several major challenges and outages in respect of supplying reliable power within that enclave. This went on and continued well into January and did not relent. And so, on assumption of office, this administration took urgent steps to replace approximately three kilometres of 40 lines on that section in order to ameliorate the challenge. Mr Speaker, I am happy to announce that since those repairs were completed, power supply to that area has improved tremendously and significantly. We would continue to

monitor the situation and to undertake emergency remedial measures when it becomes necessary.

Mr Speaker, on the Ashanti Region and the challenges thereof, the demand has increased, which means that some additional work ought to have been undertaken in order to be able to absorb the increasing demand. Mr Speaker, I am happy to announce that in mid-February of this year, GRIDCo has completed a 145 megavolt-amperes (MVA) transformer at the Anwomaso Bulk Supply Point. This has also improved the power supply situation in Kumasi and reduced the need to shed load from the Ridge Substation.

Mr Speaker, I intend to visit Kumasi within this week to see for myself the extent of work and to commission that major bulk supply point. We are also undertaking some additional works to strengthen the network, make it more resilient, and ensure that we are able to supply safe, reliable, and consistent power.

Mr Speaker, in doing so, GRIDCo is working to increase transformer capacity in the Region. The ECG is constructing a double circuit tower line from Anwomaso BSP to the Airport Substation. The ECG is also upgrading 14 capacity transformers new substations which, when completed, would interconnect various areas such as Boankra, Banka, Adansi Asokwa, and Asante Akyem Agogo. All this would ensure that it provides us with the needed flexibility to be able to supply power.

Mr Speaker, in summary, I wish to inform this House that the power situation within that enclave has improved, and we would continue to work to ensure that we bring about reliable supply of power.

Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. Hon John Darko, any supplementary question?

**Mr Darko:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much. As a follow-up, is the Hon Minister able to give the people of Ashanti Region, and especially my constituents, the timelines within which this problem would be resolved? Because I was in Kumasi over the weekend, and the problem still persists. I know that he has taken the steps to resolve the problem. Is he able to give us the timelines within which this problem would be solved completely?

**Mr John Abdulai Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, I was surprised to hear that the situation has not improved because the report I get indicates that the situation has improved. I have asked for the supply reliability reports, at least for this week. It would tell us the outages and the consistent supply of power. When we get those data, I would be willing to engage my Colleague, and together, we would address whatever challenges that occur. But like I said, I intend to visit Kumasi within the week. Mr Speaker, with your permission, Mr Darko may want to prepare to host me as a brother on my arrival.



Thank you very much.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon John Darko, thank you.

Yes, Hon Member for Tafo?

**Ms Patricia Appiagyei:** Mr Speaker, thank you. I would like to follow up and find out from the Hon Minister—From his Answer, this issue has been persisting since December. I do not know, and he assumed duty about a month ago. I am asking why the Hon Minister has not taken a critical – or identified this issue as an emergency and not visited Kumasi as of now.

Thank you.

**Mr John Abdulai Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, like I said, I identified it as an emergency issue, and that is why I commissioned ECG to install the additional bulk supply station, and also commissioned GRIDCo to hasten and complete the 145 MVA transformer. I got a report that they have completed it. And so, like I said, this week I would visit Kumasi to see for myself the extent of completion. While they were doing the work, what I thought I needed to do was to give them the logistical support and the needed support. Now that the work is complete, and they have reported to me that it is complete, and they did so last week, this week I would be visiting. Yesterday was the Budget Statement reading. Of course, I could not have gone yesterday. Today, this august House has summoned me to answer the Questions. And so tomorrow, God willing, I should be able to visit Kumasi to see for myself

the extent of completion, and I would report back to my mother when I come back.

Thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Assafuah?

**Mr Vincent Ekow Assafuah:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much. Mr Speaker, Old Tafo Constituency shares some similarities with Suame.

11.07 a.m.

In fact, before 2004, it used to be one constituency. And my question to the Minister is that, would the Minister consider providing some sort of announcements if the Ministry is not interested in a timetable? Because some of these works affect business men and women, especially people who own cold stores, so that such business men and women would be able to prepare themselves adequately when such works are being done.

Thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Minister?

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, as far as I am concerned, the ECG does periodic announcements when these challenges occur, and I recall directing them to intensify the announcements. What we intend to do is to move a notch further. We should be able to have a customer database with the telephone numbers of all these areas such that

beyond announcing in the newspapers and on the radio stations, we can send messages to affected customers so that they would be aware of the challenges.

So, I take my Hon Colleague's suggestion in very good faith. It is a laudable suggestion. We would continue to intensify education and as Minister for Energy and Green Transition —Mr Speaker, you know that it was initially the Ministry of Energy. Now I am not just the Minister for Energy, but the Minister for Energy and Green Transition.

So, we would work very hard to ensure that we transition into an era of communication technology to address these challenges.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** You see the way your Friends —[*Laughter*]

Hon Member, let me give the opportunity to the Ashanti Members before I come to you.

**Nana Asafo-Adjei Ayeh (NPP — Bosome Freho):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am grateful and also thankful to the Minister.

Hon Minister, I believe that Kumasi is not the only area in the Ashanti Region that we are looking at.

I happen to have a unique problem. My constituency falls under three distinct districts. We have the Konongo

ECG District; we have Kuntense District; and we have Edubiase District.

Mr Speaker, the major challenge we are facing is with the Edubiase District. The District captures the entire Sunso Freho zone in the Bosome Freho Constituency, and our lights can go off for about one week consistently. We share boundaries with Bodwesango in Adansi Asokwa. From that part, Abosamso, Asamama, Nsuaem, Tebeso, Fereso, all those areas, I do not know whether we are still part —the power outage is so imminent.

So, Mr Speaker, I am asking the Minister if there is a particular reason—is there *dumsɔ* in that part of the area or there is a particular reason? How is he going to deal with the power outages in the Sunso Freho zone of the Bosome Freho area?

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

Yes, Hon Minister?

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, what I do know is that when we have consistent deficit in power supply, it means that we have to shed load. Because there is a deficit and we are shedding load, it is known as *dumsɔr* in our local parlance. So, if there are localised outages like the Hon Member is saying, where the transformer is overloaded and so it keeps tripping, we cannot come out with a load shedding timetable; we cannot do that. We are not shedding load. As we speak, we are even exporting 300 megawatts of power

outside Ghana. It is true, the Hon Member is right, that we inherited a run-down energy sector, near collapse, choking from debt and with a very weakened infrastructure.

Mr Speaker, because of the work we did before we left office, there is now enough power that we can even export. But it is not enough to generate the power, when we generate the power, we have to evacuate it and distribute it. The problem now is at the distribution end where ECG transformers are obsolete, outdated or overloaded, and that is why we are having some of these major challenges.

But Mr Speaker, let me assure the House that under His Excellency President John Dramani Mahama and following the Budget Statement read yesterday, once we get approval, we shall move into action mode and activate ourselves to deal with some of these challenges they are talking about.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Follow up questions?

Yes, Prof Kingsley Nyarko?

**Prof Kingsley Nyarko (NPP — Kwadaso):** Mr Speaker, my very good Friend, Hon John Jinapor in answering the Hon Member for Bosome Freho's question, partially answered my question which borders on installed capacity and the exportation of electricity to our neighbouring countries. Now, he has assured this House that we have enough

capacity. My question to him is that, is there a scheduled maintenance regime put in place by the Ministry of Energy and Green Transition or the ECG to ensure that we do not go through these periodic problems?

This is because if we have a scheduled maintenance regime in place, then I think that such occurrences should not happen. So that is my question. I want to know if we have such regimes in place to deal with these challenges we are facing in the regions. Thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

Hon Minister, I hope you got his question?

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, there are scheduled maintenance regimes and there are unscheduled outages. So, when there is a scheduled maintenance regime, it means that ECG has prepared that on this date, between this time to that time, the lights will be out to conduct some scheduled maintenance regime. In that case, they have to pre-inform the customers and to make public announcement. I have seen several of those, even as Minister, where ECG would announce that from 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., some listed areas will experience power outages for some maintenance regime. That is done.

The other one is the unscheduled ones, where, like my good Friend said, because the transformer is overloaded, occasionally, it trips. When it trips, at that material moment, it was not

announced. But ECG has to move in immediately and inform customers that there has been an unscheduled outage, and men are on site trying to resolve it, so customers or consumers should bear with them.

Admittedly, I have reviewed their work and I am not satisfied with what I inherited, so we are going to improve on that. We have already started some work. We have appointed a new Managing Director, and we have set up a team. They have come up with a roadmap, so with the support of Colleagues, I look forward to improving the sector further and ensuring that we deliver on our mandate.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Member, we have so many questions. Yes, Hon Member for Odotobri?

**Mr Anthony Mmieh (NPP — Odotobri):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would also like to thank the Hon Minister for the update.

If I heard the Minister correctly, he attributed the *dumsor* or *dumdum* or *dumsiesie* to the fact that ECG still has obsolete or outdated equipment. What is his Ministry doing to address this situation? If the Ministry is doing something to address the situation, can he give us some timelines so that we can inform our constituents? Because within the Odotobri enclave, *dumsor* is something that we live with. At Jacobu, sometimes the lights go off and it takes days for the lights to come back.

I want to believe this is as a result of the obsolete and outdated equipment that the Minister mentioned. So please give us some information.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon members, I think we are going in circles on the same matter.

Yes, Hon Minister?

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, like I said, with respect to that specific question, way back in December, they were experiencing what we call *dumsor* or *dumdum*. That is a fact. Even when we asked for a timetable, they told us that we should go and prepare our own timetable. We would not do that.

11.17 a.m.

We will be honest, we will be sincere, we will be humble and when there are challenges, we would address those challenges.

It is true that we inherited a very weakened energy system; you are right, and I am sorry that the previous Administration could not hold what we left them and, as a result, you are going through one week of load shedding. But I assure you, under this Administration, we would tackle this issue, and we would deal with them. Already the first Question that was filed to me, I have assured the other Hon Member that that has been addressed. We would deal with the other issues as we move on.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.  
[Hear! Hear!]

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Briefly, I am giving them the opportunity because the Question came from Ashant Region; that is why I am giving Ashanti—

**Mr Seth Osei-Akoto:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Minister has identified overloading as one of the challenges. However, in Atwima Mponua, where we have about 538 communities, as I am talking to you, the lights of half of the communities are not on. I want to find out from the Minister if he has a program to change the transformers that have been overloaded.

Thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Minister?

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, yes, indeed, our programme is to change all obsolete and outdated transformers, but we inherited the situation. When we took over, I visited the Tema Harbour. Mr Speaker, we have about 3,000 containers stacked at the Tema Harbour; there are 3,000 containers, most of which contains transformers. Today, as we speak, Mr Speaker, ECG has a total liability of GH¢13 billion from supplies.

Because the transformers have been sitting there, by the end of 2024, demurrage is GH¢1.5 billion. Ministry of Energy alone, 6 billion worth of contracts were awarded without commencement certificates in 2024. Their total budget was not up to GH¢2

billion, yet supplies alone is GH¢9.7 billion in 2024. These are facts, Mr Speaker, as I stand at the dispatch box, and I am obliged to provide facts, so I agree with the Hon Member. We have set up a committee to investigate these procurement anomalies and breaches.

Mr Speaker, some of the equipment ECG has procured will last them 10 years, yet some of the equipment will expire in five years. So, they have procured equipment that will last them 10 years, but in five years, some of those equipment would expire, so, Mr Speaker, we have had to take some drastic measures to deal with some of these issues. With assurance, we will get around this, and once we are able to clear those transformers, we shall undertake a massive transformer replacement exercise, and I assure you that your constituency will be top on the list.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, I think—Let me give the final one to—Yes, Alhaji Habib Iddrisu?

**Alhaji Habib Iddrisu:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, the minister in answering his Question admitted to power fluctuation in the Ashanti Region, but may I remind the Minister that he is no more on this Side of the House, and he has been appointed as Minister for Energy and Green Transition to help stabilise the energy sector, so his continuous lamentation is not the reason he is a Minister.

Mr Speaker, my question is that he admitted to power fluctuation in Ashanti Region. Is it the case he is suggesting that the good people of Ashanti Region, for that matter Suame, should do their own timetable as he has said previously or will he come out with his own timetable, so that we can regulate the *dumsor* and the *dumdum*?

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Mr John Jinapor?

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, it is true that I said that we inherited a situation of *dumsor*, and that is a fact. We inherited it. When we took over, Ashanti Region was going through massive *dumsor*; it was erratic and there was inconsistent power supply, but I am happy to announce that, by dint of hard work, we have been able to resolve that situation—[*Hear! Hear!*].—And we have commissioned a 145MVA transformer at Anwomaso Bulk Supply Point Station.

Having injected that major transformer, it means that the situation is significantly improved, so there will be no need for me to follow my predecessor's way of doing things. No, there will be no need, so they would not publish their own *dumsor* timetable; they should leave it. The supply of power would improve the system, and we would provide electricity.

I thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr Frank Annoh-Dompreh:** Earlier, my Friend—

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Leader, hold on.

Let me turn to the Member for Asante Akim North.

**Dr Ohene Kwame Frimpong:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much for acknowledging me.

Once again, I want to stand on Order 63(1) and speak the local language. Mr Speaker, I have a question.

I want to thank you for indulging me. The question I want to pose to the Minister today is I want to find out if the Hon Minister would be able to help Asante Akim North get a proper and permanent solution to the lighting problem in my constituency. Most often, people complain about the power outages, and the energy problem within my constituency. So, I want to alert the Minister to, please, come to the aid of Asante Akim North, so that the power problems we have in the constituency will be permanently resolved.

[*Translated from Twi*]

Thank you very much. I appreciate your—[*Hear! Hear!*]

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, I want to speak in Gonja.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Minister, I give you the opportunity, so let me listen to—

11.27 a.m.

**Alhaji Habib Iddrisu:** Mr Speaker, our Colleagues need to understand the rules. If we read Standing Order 63 and, Mr Speaker, if you will indulge me, I will read Standing Order 63(1). It says,

“The proceedings of Parliament shall ordinarily be conducted in English, except that a Member may exercise the option to address the House in a local language if facilities exist in the House for interpretation by the Member or for contemporaneous interpretation.”

Mr Speaker, what he has done is a clear violation of our Standing Orders. We do not have facilities existing to translate language. We could see that the Minister for Energy and Green Transitions attempted speaking Gonja; he had actually started. If we do not regulate this and continue with it, we will end up speaking different languages that we do not understand and *Hansard* might not be able to capture or interpret same.

So, Mr Speaker, you should overrule him because he is completely out of order. He should ask the Question in its proper context, so that we can be properly regulated on this. He has completely violated Order 63(1).

Thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** First Deputy Minority Whip, I did not overrule him anyway.

Hon Members, I think this issue came up the other time and this same gentleman spoke, and I believe we addressed that issue. Hon Members, Standing Order 63(1), as the First Deputy Minority Whip said, if he may speak in a language that he feels he can, and it goes on to say, if there is a facility to actually translate, but then he himself has translated it. The idea is that he said he wanted his constituents to appreciate what he was contributing in the House. So, please, whatever it is, I allowed him to speak. Let us move on.

Majority Chief Whip, I was going to ask the Minister to respond. All right, let me hear you.

**Mr Rockson-Nelson Etse Kwami Dafeamekpor:** Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity.

Mr Speaker, there is a certain deliberate propaganda out there that Members of my Side cannot speak English. And let the point be made that we have demonstrated the ability to communicate in the English language at the highest level. The Constitution of the Republic of Ghana—

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Leader, I think you are going outside the discussion.

**Mr Dafeamekpor:** Mr Speaker, please, permit me. My Brother, the First Deputy Minority Whip, did this

deliberately because this matter was settled. He is placing a twist on the interpretation of the Standing Order 63(1) that he quoted. Yes, he is placing a twist on the interpretation.

Mr Speaker, this is what the provision says: Standing Order 63(1) says,

“The proceedings of Parliament shall ordinarily...”—

—[*Interruption*—My Brother, John Darko, please.

Mr Speaker, it says,

“The proceedings of Parliament shall ordinarily be conducted in English, except that a Member may exercise the option to address the House in a local language...”

—[*Uproar*]—

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** You go on.

**Mr Dafeamekpor:** Mr Speaker, can they listen to me with some patience and please be quiet.

Mr Speaker, my Brother has elected to exercise that right to address the House in a local language. The provision proceeds further to say that:

“If facilities exist in the House for interpretation by the Member or for contemporaneous interpretation.”

[*Interruption*]—Can they listen? Can they be quiet? This is the facility, Mr Speaker.

[*Mr Dafeamekpor shook the microphone as the facility he referred to.*]

**Mr Dafeamekpor:** This microphone is the facility. The Member used this facility to interpret what he said in the local language to the hearing of everyone, and do my Brothers on the other Side say they have a problem?

Mr Speaker, this attitude of the First Deputy Minority Whip of always stampeding my Members when they exercise their right under the law is unacceptable. It has to stop.

I thank you for granting the Member the leave to ask his supplementary question, so the Hon Minister for Energy and Green Transitions can therefore respond to the question.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity. [*Hear! Hear!*]

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

Hon Members, please, I gave him the floor. He took my leave and I gave him the floor. He spoke the language and even if the facilities did not contemporaneously interpret it, he did the interpretation himself. So, for me, he satisfies Order 63(1). Let us move on.



Hon Minister, you may respond to his question.

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, I started in Gonja, but because of time, I want to assure my Hon Colleague, who has distinguished himself in the English language as well as the local language, that his Constituency will be catered for.

Thank you.

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh** — *rose* —

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** I think we have done—Minority Chief Whip, I cannot turn you down, but, please—

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, with respect, I caught your eye and you signalled that I should wait; that I will have the last bite. Mr Speaker, with the greatest respect, if I may.

*[Pause]*

**Mr Sampson Ahi** — *rose* —

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes?

**Mr Sampson Ahi:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity.

Mr Speaker, in the Minister's response, he said that some contracts were awarded without commencement certificates. He has just told us that there are about 3,000 containers at the port and demurrage alone has caused this state about GHC1.5 billion.

Will the Minister agree with me that this constitutes financial loss to the state?

And for that matter, the steps that we are taking to ensure—

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Deputy Minister-designate

**Mr Ahi:** Yes.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Your question is turned down.

**Mr Ahi:** No.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Please. I would not take your question.

**Mr Ahi:** All right, let me reframe it.

Mr Speaker, my question is that some contracts were awarded without going through the normal or due processes and now, there are 3,000 containers at the port. I want to find out from the Minister whether he will constitute a committee to go into these matters, so that the culprits will be brought to book. *[Hear! Hear!]*

Thank you.

11.37 a.m.

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, let me thank Mr Sampson Ahi for asking this very intelligent and thought-provoking question—*[Hear! Hear!]*—Let me assure him that we are already investigating it.

Thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, finally, let me come to—

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, that was a very interesting answer from the Minister, describing the question as very intelligent.

Mr Speaker, my good friend, the Minister, earlier, as part of his answer, I think if it was a question of semantics, he said that the energy sector economy that was inherited, one, he used the word “run-down”, a run-down energy sector economy as inherited. Then, at the latter part of his answer, he says a weakened energy sector of the economy as was inherited. It is curious to know that as run-down and as weakened as the energy sector was, the lights were kept on. Very interesting. And then he went ahead to say that excess power is being exported. I am curious to find out from the Minister, how are they able to export excess power when they have inherited an energy sector economy described as run-down and weakened?

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

Yes, Hon Minister?

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much. When they inherited an energy sector in 2017, with a debt of GH¢9 billion, and they collect energy sector levies, GH¢45 billion, and they leave President Mahama with an energy sector choking from a debt of GH¢80 billion, that is a run-down energy sector. That is a fact. GH¢45 billion was collected to solve a problem of GH¢9 billion and they handed over an GH¢80 billion debt energy sector, that is run-down. How do we export power?

Because when we were leaving office, we left projects like AMERI, AKSA, Ghana Power Generation Company (GPGC), and the rest. And because those plants are available, and we are unable to supply to the domestic markets because the system is run-down, we export it to countries like Burkina Faso. So that is cogent, and that is sacrosanct. That is logical.

I am here to answer the Question as to why the Kumasi area has been suffering from erratic power supply and my answer was simple; that that system had obsolete equipment, had not been managed well, and the system is weakened, that is why there is erratic power supply. But when we inherited it, based on the measures I outlined and enumerated, the sector has seen some remarkable improvement.

Mr Speaker, I thought that my good friend, the Mr Annoh-Dompreh, who is Leader, would have commended the Mahama Administration rather than try to condemn us.

Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, we are now done with the Urgent Questions. Mr Jinapor has four other Oral Answers to Questions to answer.

**Mr Dafeamekpor:** Mr Speaker, taking a cue from how the first Questions generated interest, and considering that today is a special day for our Ladies, if we could limit the supplementary question to one from each Side, because

the Questions are a lot, so that we can quickly attend to them.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** What I would do is that most of the Questions are constituency-specific, and if it is constituency-specific, we cannot give bypass to anybody to ask supplementary questions. So we will limit the supplementary questions to only the owners of the Questions. We will give opportunities for two supplementary questions to the owners of the Questions. I repeat, if it is constituency-specific question, we are not going to allow anybody to ask supplementary questions. We will only restrict ourselves to the owners of the Questions, and we will give them two supplementary questions. Please, that is how we would go about it.

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, my friend, the Majority Chief Whip, made an application, but I disagree with him. I want to agree with you on the tangent of limiting it to constituency-specific questions. The follow-ups are so important. So, because we are limiting ourselves to questions that are constituency-specific, we should allow the Members to exhaust their follow-ups, at least, so that no other Member from another constituency—

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Leader, respectfully—

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Can I please conclude? Mr Speaker, with all respect, if I may conclude? So, Hon Davis Ansah Opoku, for instance, has whispered to me that he wants to go the whole hog, three follow-ups, and that there will be no

other Members from different constituencies asking supplementary questions. So let us limit ourselves to the three, with all respect.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon Members, today is the Ladies' Day, so we should give them the opportunity to also take the Floor. So, Mr Assafuah, I would not give you the Floor. I know where you are coming from.

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** With all respect, I agree with my Colleagues, our beautiful women. We agree with them. I was in the Chamber early enough. I met the Hon Acheampong and we were part of Conclave. What the Front Bench should be doing is that they should make an application to vary the order of Business. They failed to do that. The Government Side should show a bit more responsibility. They should come early. Mr Acheampong was here. The Majority Chief Whip came in a bit late but we are amenable. Because I was earlier suggesting that we should vary the order of Business, so that our women can make their Statement and when they depart, then the other Businesses can be prosecuted.

**Mr Dafeamekpor** — *rose* —

Mr Speaker, if my Colleague is taking offense in my statement, I withdraw. He should not be offended. It is too early in the day. I withdraw that part of my statement. He should sit down. He should please sit down and get us copies of the Budget Statement, that is what we need.

Mr Speaker, if he is offended by that statement, I have withdrawn. I do not mean any disrespect. I am a man of peace. I do not mean any disrespect to him. So, if they had acceded to my request, we would have varied the order of Business, dealt with the Women's Day, then we would zoom into Business. Mr Dafeamekpor should not be offended.

**Mr Dafeamekpor:** Mr Speaker, this is not a matter of being late or otherwise. We are guided by early morning protocols. The decision was that the Ministers whose Questions are up for answering today have other businesses. So, they pleaded that we should not vary the Business so they can attend to their Questions and leave, then the women will have the rest of the day. So, it is not about not being responsible or not taking—It is not right. It is also to listen to the Ministers.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you for that intervention.

**Mr Dafeamekpor:** Mr Speaker, even one Question, see how long it took.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, that was an Urgent Question.

**Mr Dafeamekpor:** So, it was rather to get the Questions out of the way, then the women can have the rest of the day.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Mr Assafuah, please, I beg of you.

**Mr Assafuah:** Mr Speaker, just to guide the House. In fact, if we check

Order 77(2), for Question time, it is supposed to be done within an hour, and we have already done 20 minutes, 40 minutes is left for us to be able to finish with the Question time, and I think you are well within time to be able to do so. So, I do not think that we should be restricted with the number of Questions while we have one hour to be able to do that.

Thank you so much.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** So—Yes?

**Ms Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe:** Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. As we agreed that they should ask the Questions, it is as if the men just want to sabotage us. Because if they ask one Question, about six or seven of them want to

11.47 a.m.

About six or seven of them would want to ask follow-up questions.

Mr Speaker, it is our Day; it is International Women's Day, and today is the day we assigned to women in this Chamber, so either we ask one question after the main Question, or we are allowed to present our Statement so that every woman will speak today.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Every woman is speaking today?

**Ms Cudjoe:** Yes, Mr Speaker. Every woman is speaking today.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Very well; we are all going to be guided. We will manage the time.

**Ms Cudjoe:** Mr Speaker, it should be only one follow-up question; we can accept that, but if there will be many follow ups, then they should hold on, when we finish with our Statements, they can continue with it.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** I will manage the House, please.

**Ms Cudjoe:** Why do they not want us to enjoy our Day? They are not taking us out for lunch yet they will not allow us to enjoy our day.

**Minister for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs (Mr Ahmed Ibrahim) (MP):** Mr Speaker, in fact, it is one of the areas that the House needs to take a critical re-look at. These Questions I am bound to answer today were supposed to be answered last week; myself and my Technical Team from the Ministry came to sit here the whole day. A similar thing happened to the Hon Minister for Education and his team; he also came to sit here the whole day but the Questions were not answered and they went back. When we got to the Ministry, I could see their mood; this did not paint a good picture of us as a House. They said, “the whole day, we did not work, we went to sit there but we did not have the opportunity to answer the Questions, so does it mean we have been rescheduled to come today?” This early morning, they came and they have been sitting here. Let us know that once Parliament says Question time, like the

Hon Vincent Assafuah has said, we should ordinarily not exceed one hour; we must operate within that one hour, and we must guide Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Question time is a serious time and if care is not taken, one Question can take the one hour. For our women too, today should have been their day, so if we had re-programmed that, we would not have been programmed for today to come and answer the Questions. Because there is a good reason Women's Day should be Women's Day, so that we prioritise our women.

But Mr Speaker, if we can take what Hon Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe is saying, when the main Question is asked, the time for the Supplementary Question can be managed. Mr Speaker, the management of the time lies within your bosom so that we can restrict ourselves within the 40 minutes.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Minister, thank you.

With all these discussions, it means we are all well-placed in terms of how the Questions are going to be managed.

So, let me now turn to normal Questions and before I do that, kindly indulge me to acknowledge our children at the Public Gallery.

The first school is Alpha Hill School and they are being led by Mrs Belinda Siabi who is the Director of the Human Resource. The school is located at New Juaben Constituency. Do we have the

Hon Member present here? [**Some Hon Members:** He is absent] Very well.

You are welcome.

*[Pupils from Alpha Hill School were acknowledged]*

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** The second school is Future Generation Preparatory School and they are being led by Mr Andrew Ayuba, who is the head teacher. The school is located at Mfantseman Constituency; do we have the Hon Member here? [**Some Hon Members:** He is absent] Very well.

*[Pupils from Future Generation Preparatory School were acknowledged]*

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** The third school is The Lord's Redeemed International School and they are being led by Mr Dodzi Nunekpeku, who is the headmaster. The school is located at Awutu Senya East Constituency and the Hon Member is present.

*[Pupils from The Lord's Redeemed International School were acknowledged]*

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Our children who have come here to visit your parents, uncles and aunts, you are welcome. I hope you are being encouraged to see your parents, aunts and uncles here performing national duties. Please, your encouragement is to go and study hard so that tomorrow, you take over from us when we all leave here. You are welcome and we are sure you

will to be encouraged with what you see here.

Thank you.

Let me now invite Hon Davis Ansah Opoku, the Hon Member for Mpraeso Constituency, to take the Floor and ask his Question. The Hon Minister is available now.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND GREEN TRANSITION

#### Extension of Electricity to Kwahu South Municipality

**Mr Davis Ansah Opoku (NPP—Mpraeso):** Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, I do not know if I could ask permission to speak in Ewe.

Mr Speaker, I beg to ask the Hon Minister for Energy and Green Transition the plans the Ministry has to provide electricity to the communities along the Volta River within the Kwahu South Municipality which is aimed at aiding farmers in irrigation and to ensure an all-year-round production.

Thank you very much.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Minister?

**Minister for Energy and Green Transition (Mr John Abdulai Jinapor) (MP):** Mr Speaker, while the Ministry is working with the Hon Member for the Mpraeso Constituency for the extension of electricity to about eight communities

in his Municipality, for which some electrical materials have been released, there is currently no such projects along the Volta River in the Kwahu South Municipality. The Ministry would, however, wish to establish contacts with the Hon Member so that together we can do a mapping of the areas.

Mr Speaker, I say so because some of the communities are hard to reach. We call them off-grid communities and His Excellency the President has already announced that we will be operationalising the Renewable Energy Investment and Green Transition Fund, which aims to extend electricity to such communities.

And so, Hon Member, once we identify those communities and we do the mapping, we would either extend the national grid directly to them or we would go through what we call off-grid solar electricity provision to these communities.

So, Mr Speaker, this is what I have to say in respect of that. It is my hope that when the Budget is approved, we shall secure the relevant funding to be able to undertake these projects.

Thank you very much, Hon Speaker.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon Minister.

Yes, Hon Davis?

**Mr D. A. Opoku:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I appreciate the response from the Minister for Energy and Green

Transition. Just to say that on the 22nd of November 2024, I wrote a letter to his Ministry with respect to this very project. I can understand there may be no programme, but I pray that he initiates these steps to get – These are not communities without electricity; they already have electricity. All they require are transformers, step down or whatever, to be able to generate electricity along the river. These are commercial onion farmers and it is going to aid them in irrigation.

In the response of the Minister, he indicated the fact that his Ministry and my office are working to provide electricity to some eight communities. I appreciate the efforts from the Ministry but we do not have all the equipment yet. And I have all these gentlemen living within my communities, and per the agreement, I am supposed to take care of them. And in the last one year or so, I have been doing that, and it is really draining my coffers. I will pray to the Minister that he ensures the smooth facilitation of these materials to my community, so that at least they can finish their work on time and leave. They are enjoying in my communities and enjoying very well.

Thank you very much.

11.57 a.m.

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, the Question suggested an extension of electricity to the communities. But what I am getting is that, it looks like some areas have electricity, but need transformers. In order not to belabor the

point, I would seek your permission to engage my Brother after the Question time, so that I can get the details. I promise him that I will attend to that.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon Minister.

Hon Members, we turn to Question—

**Mr D. A. Opoku:** Mr Speaker, I am not done.

The Minister refused to answer my Question on the outstanding materials that are needed in eight of my communities. I still have some items that are yet to be supplied to the eight communities that he mentioned in his response. Per the agreement, I am supposed to take care of the contractual fees for the engineers, and it is really draining me. So, I need that assurance from him to facilitate that for me.

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, my point is still that I will engage him after this; I would not leave. Right after this, I will sit with him and then we can deal with this issue.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

Let us now turn to Question 25; the Question stands in the name of the Hon Member for Walewale, Dr Abdul Kabiru Tiah Mahama. I thought I saw him here.

Yes, Minority Chief Whip?

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, may I come under Order 88(3) and with

the authority of the Member, seek your leave to ask Question 25 for and on his behalf?

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** But he was here, was he not?

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, he is not presently—Yes, he was, but he has given me the authority to seek your leave to ask the Question for him.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** All right, let us hear you.

### **Steps Taken by The Ministry to Extend Electricity to New Areas**

**Mr Frank Annoh-Dompreh on behalf of Dr Abdul Kabiru Tiah Mahama (NPP —Walewale):** Mr Speaker, I beg to ask the Minister for Energy and Green Transition, the steps the Ministry is taking to extend electricity to new areas in the following communities in the Walewale Constituency: i. Walewale Kperiga ii. Walewale Tampulin iii. Walewale Kukuazugu iv. Nasia v. Kparigu vi. Janga vii. Yama viii. Wungu ix. Wulugu and Kpansekpe.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** I hope you were able to mention the names of the towns well.

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, I tried.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Anyway, the owner of the Question is here, so he would take the supplementary questions.

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, thank you.



Mr Speaker, The Walewale Kperiga, Walewale Tampulingo, Walewale Kukuazugu, Nasia, Kparigu, Janga, Wungu, Wulugu and Kpansekpe and Yama communities have already been connected to the national grid. In line with the Ministry's policy, extension of electricity to adjoining communities and newly developed areas of such communities is undertaken by the respective distribution utility of the area, in this regard, it is usually the work of the distributor, which is Northern Electricity Distribution Company (NEDCo).

However, following a request from the former Member of Parliament for the Walewale Constituency, the Ministry, based on the availability of materials, recently released materials to NEDCo for the expansion works to be carried out in the aforementioned communities, as the Ministry's support for the expansion works in the new areas, with the exception of Yama, which was connected to the grid in 2019.

Mr Speaker, following the receipt of this Question, I have directed NEDCo to give me an update on the status of the project. Let me assure my Colleague that upon receipt of updates, we would ensure that whatever materials that are outstanding would be released and the communities connected thereof.

Thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Dr Mahama?

**Dr Mahama:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much, and thank you very much, my Senior, for the response.

Mr Speaker, I have to ask the Hon Minister responsible for Energy and Green Transition whether or not there are plans—aside these communities I have mentioned, there are other adjoining communities in respect of them. We have Walewale-Kperiga, Walewale-Tampulingo, Walewale-Kukuazugu, Nasia, Kparigu, Janga, Yama, Wulugu, Wungu and Kpansekpe. These communities have settlers from the Fulani communities and sometimes the fisher communities. We have 100 per cent electricity coverage, but when one takes into consideration these other adjoining settler communities, our story of 100 per cent electricity coverage is different.

I was wondering whether the Minister has plans to have these adjoining communities connected to the national grid.

Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Minister.

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, we have a standard way of talking about access. Once electricity gets to the town, we assume that it is available so one can access it. The access rate is not necessarily all the homes that can switch on the electricity, but that one has access to it. This means that if one takes steps to access it, it would be accessible.

As I said, normally, it is the distribution company because once under the national electrification we drop the lines, it is the duty of the distribution company to then hook on individual customers, because that is where they also make their revenue. But in some circumstances, because of logistical challenges, the Ministry has to intervene. We would consider his communities and provide the needed support for NEDCo so that they can intensify. We call that intensification, which means that there is access, but like you said, some adjoining areas do not have the electricity. So, through intensification, we then spread the electricity to such communities.

Thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, the last question?

**Dr Mahama:** Mr Speaker, I would want to find out from my respected Senior, if he has timelines in respect to the update from NEDCo. I would like to know when they are expected to bring their report and around which time I can follow up for information on same.

Thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Very well. He wants to know the time lines.

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, I have given him a deadline to submit it next week, so that is the timeline.

Thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, let us turn to Question 43 and the Question stands in the name of the Member for Old Tafo, Hon Vincent Ekow Assafuah. Hon, you may ask your question now.

### **Measures Taken by Government to Address Rising Cost of Energy and Its Impact on Businesses and Households**

**Mr Vincent Ekow Assafuah (NPP — Old Tafo):** Mr Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity.

I beg to ask the Minister for Energy and Green Transition the measures being taken by Government to address the rising cost of energy and its impact on businesses and households.

Mr Speaker, thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Minister.

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, in response to the question regarding what the Government is doing to address the rising cost of energy for businesses and households, I wish to clarify that Government is pursuing a combination of policy interventions, energy efficiency measures, and investment in alternative energy sources aimed at reducing the rising cost of energy and its impact on businesses and households.

Key among them include but not limited to:

1. Diversifying the Country's Energy Sources: Investment in renewable energy like solar, wind, and hydro to reduce reliance on expensive fossil fuels.

2. Providing Subsidies and Incentives for Renewable Energy Investments: Offering subsidies for energy-efficient appliances and tax incentives for businesses adopting renewable energy. Investments in solar panels, energy storage systems, and other renewable energy technologies are being encouraged.
3. Energy Sector Reforms: Strengthening regulatory frameworks to ensure fair pricing and preventing inefficiencies in energy distribution.
4. Local Refining and Production: Reduction in import dependency by investing in local oil and gas refining capacity.
5. Encourage Public-Private Partnerships: Partnering with private companies to invest in alternative energy projects and grid expansion.
6. Promote Energy Conservation Awareness: Promoting and encouraging campaigns to educate citizens on energy-saving practices.

By implementing these measures, energy costs can be reduced, benefiting businesses and households while promoting sustainability.

That said, the Government remains committed to ensuring that energy costs remain stable and, where possible, are reduced to alleviate the financial burden on businesses and households. In pursuit of this objective, the Government is implementing several measures in the short to long term to optimise the cost of

power generation and enhance efficiency across the energy value chain. These measures include;

i. Increasing Domestic Gas Supply:

A committee has been established to explore viable and safe options for increasing the supply of domestic gas from the Jubilee Oil Field and Tweneboa Enyenra Ntomme (TEN) Oil Field to the Atuabo Gas Plant. Given the relatively lower cost of domestic gas from these fields, this initiative is expected to lower the Weighted Average Cost of Gas (WACOG) for power generation, thus reducing energy costs for both businesses and households. The committee includes representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Green Transition, Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), Tullow Ghana Limited (TGL), and the Petroleum Commission.

ii. Competitive Procurement of Liquid Fuel:

The Ministry has developed guidelines to ensure the competitive procurement of liquid fuel for power generation. Emergency procurement of liquid fuels has, in the past, led to higher thermal generation costs.

iii. Installation of a New Conventional Buoy Mooring (CBM) Facility:

The Ministry is actively considering the installation of a new Conventional Buoy Mooring (CBM) facility at the port to complement and boost the capacity of existing mooring systems to serve the

increased flux of oil vessels for the discharge of imported petroleum products. This is expected to enhance petroleum products discharge, reduce throughput tariff, and impact positively on the cost of operations, which trickles down to the ex-pump prices of petroleum products.

Mr Speaker, it is true that as we move from solar to thermal energy, because of the fuel mix, it makes the cost of electricity much higher.

Also, the period which we used to get the foundation gas from Jubilee Oil Field for free has elapsed. So, we must pay for that gas. Incremental gas is also quite expensive. The depreciation of the cedi also makes it quite expensive.

Mr Speaker, we need to pursue a multiplicity of measures in order to address them. One of it is the announcement by the Government to construct a second gas processing plant. This year alone, we require about US\$800 million to procure liquid fuels. If we had established a gas processing plant, we could save US\$400 million of that amount annually. So, if we are able to construct a gas processing plant and process domestic gas, it would strengthen the currency, make fuel readily available and give us cheaper alternative sources of fuel, which can be passed on to consumers.

Also, we are diversifying our energy mix and bringing in renewable energies, which, though has a higher initial cost component, would be much cheaper over the years when we amortise it and scale it out.

Also, there is the need for good education for consumers so that we can adopt efficient ways of consuming electricity. Efficiency is about achieving the same results, but using less input. So those are some of the things we are looking at.

Also, we have to look at our refinery capacity, so that we can refine our own products and make it much easier and accessible to the people of Ghana. These are some of the few measures, in addition to other interventions that we intend to roll out, so that eventually, we can have a cheaper source of supply of power.

Lastly, we are seeking to export more power. When we export more power, we can earn foreign exchange and use that to subsidise domestic consumption.

12.07 p.m.

Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

Yes, Hon Assafuah?

**Mr Assafuah:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I think the Hon Minister is on record to have mentioned somewhere that we should expect a 58 per cent increment in tariffs. As far as I am aware, such adjustments are supposed to be done by the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC). Is this something that we

should look forward to? Yes, I think there is a publication.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Member, can you repeat the Question?

**Mr Assafuah:** I was saying that he is on record to have indicated that we should expect a 58 per cent increment in tariffs, and I am asking how soon are Ghanaians going to see that increment in tariffs, and if the PURC also consulted with that figure that was stated out there.

Thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Minister.

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, I am not on record to have stated that we should expect a 58 per cent tariff adjustment. If any media house reported that, that is a misrepresentation because I have not said so. What I said is that, as part of our meetings with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), they indicated that, as a condition to the IMF programme that Ghana entered into, the Administration agreed that there should be quarterly adjustments and a major tariff adjustment in September.

The Administration also agreed to provide them with a tariff-setting methodology. And based on their own assessment with the tariff-setting methodology, taking into account the cost of rising fuel, the depreciation of the currency and inflation, they proposed that we increase electricity tariffs by 48 per cent. That is a proposition from the IMF.

The PURC will do the needed work and all the assessments, and the PURC will take their work from there.

Thank you very much.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Now, please, let us turn to Question 44 and the Question stands in the name of our Deputy Minority Leader, Member for Asokwa, Hon Patricia Appiagyei.

### **State of Rural Electrification Interventions since 2017**

**Ms Patricia Appiagyei (NPP — Asokwa):** I rise to ask the Minister for Energy and Green Transition the state of the rural electrification interventions made by the Government since 2017.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Minister?

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, from 2017 to date, when we were leaving office in 2017, I recall the Budget quoted 86 per cent, but I am told that some additional work has been done, and it puts it at 84 per cent from 2017. Currently, we are at 89 per cent. From 2009 to 2017, we took it from 54 to 84 per cent. So, a 30-percentage-point increment from 2009 to 2016.

Mr Speaker, from 2017 to 2024, it has now gone to 89, meaning that it has increased by a 5-percentage-point. These are the records and the statistics. But to just cap it up, we aim to achieve universal access to electricity, which means that we have to do 90 per cent, and we are putting in place the needed

programmes, subject to budgetary provision to achieve that.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

Yes, Hon Deputy Minority Leader?

**Ms Appiagyei:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

As a follow-up, I thank the Hon Minister very much for giving us an update of 84 per cent achievement. I am not going to bother the Minister too much with the details, but I would like to find out from the Minister if it would be possible to provide the House with the remaining 16 or so per cent that is left to be done?

This is because if I follow the Questions on the Floor, there are so many rural areas that are asking for that intervention. So, is it possible if he can give us the assurance to come and apprise the House of the remaining over 15 per cent and his strategic plan towards achieving that one?

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, under your guidance and permission, we would be more than willing to do that. Indeed, we have the data. It is mostly, like the Hon Member said, off-grid communities like island communities, communities that are very far and difficult to reach. So, we will provide that, as well as the strategies we intend pursuing to achieve universal access, some of which, like I said, has to do with off-grid solar solutions.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

**Ms Appiagyei:** I would like to add that I am prompting the Committee on Assurances to take note of that because I will require the answer immediately.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Boamah?

**Mr Patrick Yaw Boamah:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to ask a supplementary question.

I want to find out from the Minister the model in using to arrive at the determination of access—*[Interruption]*—I am asking this question with regards to the answer the Minister gave that, between 2009 and January 2017, there was an exponential increase in access by 30 per cent, and between 2021 to date, five-percentage-points. I want to understand the formula that is used in arriving at that and whether there are different models in arriving at it.

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** There are no different models; there is one standard, and the standard is using the Population and Housing Census (PHC). We know all the communities, so assuming we have 10,000 communities and, maybe, in 5,000 of the communities, we have dropped electricity; then we assume that we have 50 per cent access. So, if electricity is dropped in more communities, it increases the access rates. The access rates are based on the Population and Housing Census, taking into account the number of communities.

But as we move ahead, it becomes more difficult because then we are dealing with difficult-to-reach communities. It is like that in Economics; when one gets to a level, he needs more work to—It is more or less like diminishing returns. That is why, normally when we start from a lower level, it is much easier to move up, but when we get to a higher level, we would need to put in more in order to bring more communities.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, we would turn to Question 49. This Question stands in the name of the Member for Atiwa West, Hon Ms Laurette Korkor Asante.

**Mr Addy:** Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** I hope you will be able to mention all the names well.

**Mr Addy:** I will try.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Is that the caveat, that you will try?

**Mr Addy:** Yes, I will try.

### **Electrification Extension to Communities in Atiwa West**

**Mr Frederick Addy on behalf of Ms Laurette Korkor Asante (NPP — Atiwa West):** I beg to ask the Minister for Energy and Green Transition when the electrification extension which was to be undertaken as an emergency turnkey project in 2024 in the following

communities will begin: i. Kwabeng ii. Abomосу iii. Tumfa iv. Muoso v. Sankubenase vi. Asunafo vii. Asamama viii. Akwabuasо ix. Ekorso x. Gyamase xi. Pameng xii. Awenare xiii. Akropong xiv. Bansо xv. Bomaa xvii. Abisim xviii. Safarikrom xix. Yamama xx. Akukuso.

12.17 p.m.

Mr Speaker, thank you.

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, these are 20 communities that have been listed. In August 2024, the Ministry entered into a turnkey contract; that is to say, to procure, supply, install, and handover with MS Eco International Limited. My checks indicate that due to funding constraints, right from August, the project has stalled.

Mr Speaker, as you are aware, we are still in the transition period and until a budget is approved, as Minister, I simply cannot execute any financial commitments. Also, in terms of a commencement, I would need financial clearance from the Ministry of Finance before we can commence. So, this is top on our agenda. Once the Budget is approved and the funding is made available, we shall reactivate this contract and ensure that these 20 underlisted communities are electrified.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Minister, I think electricity extension to existing communities without electricity is becoming an issue in so many communities. Even in my Constituency,

there are so many communities that need electricity extension. So, please, look at it.

**Mr J. A. Jinapor:** Mr Speaker, that is very true, and it is all because the distribution company is financially weakened. For instance, if we take the Cash Waterfall Mechanism (CWM), ECG was to get GH¢49 million. Their salaries, assuming they do not do anything, is GH¢110 million; yet, based on the collections, ECG was to get GH¢49 million. So, they are unable to pay salaries, let alone extend electricity to communities, and if they do not extend the electricity, they would not get the revenue in order to even pay their workers. So, it is something we are looking at and working very hard to deal with.

Thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon Minister for Energy and Green Transition. On behalf of the House, let me thank you exceedingly for attending upon the House to respond to your own Colleagues. Hon Minister, we are grateful to you, and you are hereby discharged.

Leadership, are we summoning the Minister for Local Government, Chieftaincy, and Religious Affairs?

**Mr Dafeamekpor:** Mr Speaker, yes, we have to take him. He is a senior Member of the House, so we have to take him today.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:**  
*M'ensuro koraa.*

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, that is the directive or the signal the Government Side has given, that after the Minister for Energy and Green Transitions, we should proceed to take the Minister for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs. I have no objection, except to put on record that I am not the one delaying the celebration of the Women's Day. I am not the one.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

Hon Members, again, we would like to manage the House, so help me. I may not entertain a lot of supplementary questions, and you should understand the reason. Hon Members, our own senior Brother is in the chair, and he is coming to respond to his own Colleagues.

Let us turn to the Question numbered 26 which stands in the name of the Hon Member for Offinso North, Dr Fred Kyei Asamoah.

Hon Member, the Hon Minister is available now; you may ask your Question.

#### MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

#### **Relaying of the University of Local Governance and Development Bill**

**Dr Fred Kyei Asamoah (NPP — Offinso North):** Mr Speaker, I beg to ask the Minister for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs when the University of Local Governance and Development Bill will be re-laid to allow



the operationalisation of a university in Akomadan in the Offinso North Constituency.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Minister?

**Minister for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs (Mr Ahmed Ibrahim) (MP):** Mr Speaker, the Bill for the establishment of the University of Local Governance and Development (ULGD) was submitted to this House last year to the Eighth Parliament. Unfortunately, the Eighth Parliament was unable to pass it. Cabinet has just been formed, and the Budget Statement was presented yesterday.

Mr Speaker, in view of this, I wish to indicate that the Ministry would take steps to resubmit the Bill to this House after a request has been made and an Executive Approval achieved jointly by myself and my Brother, the Minister for Education. Mr Speaker, once that is done, the Bill would be re-laid to this House for approval.

Mr Speaker, it is envisaged that once the necessary approvals have been sought and the Bill has been passed, the University would promote academic and professional excellence in local governance in this country.

Thank you.

**Dr Asamoah:** Mr Speaker, I thank the Minister for the response.

Mr Speaker, I want to follow-up. The Institute of Local Government Studies

which was established in 2003 by Act 647 is to help build capacity for local governance under the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs.

Mr Speaker, now that it is going to be a university, will the Minister be willing to move its supervision to the Ministry of Education and for it to be properly regulated by the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC) Act 1023. This is because I am reliably informed that the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission does not have any documentation as to the process in establishing this university of higher education.

**Mr Ibrahim:** Mr Speaker, the Bill in question, which is being asked to be re-laid, is a joint Bill by my good self and the Hon Minister for Education. I know GTEC works closely with him, so clearly, that would not be a problem. As to whether they are aware or not, myself and my good Brother, the Minister for Education, would do this together, so the Hon Member should not entertain any fears at all.

12.27 p.m.

**Dr Asamoah:** Mr Speaker, I would like to follow-up. Since this institute is affiliated to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, and it has been around for more than 10 years, and per Act 1023, there are some consequences. This institute is issuing some tertiary-level certificates. How early does the Minister envisage to relay

this Bill, and to make sure that we can get it passed, in order not to affect the students that may obtain some certificates from this institute or the university that we intend bringing?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Minister, how early can we —

**Mr Ibrahim:** Mr Speaker, the university has been programmed for in the Budget Statement that was presented yesterday, so even if the Bill is relayed in this House after its approval, the budget will have to be approved.

Secondly, since it is a joint Bill between myself and the Minister for Education, I unilaterally cannot say today or tomorrow, but the two of us have prioritised this one, and we are taking urgent steps to make sure that it is relayed before this House. Mr Speaker, you agreed that the Bill was laid. It was the Eighth Parliament that was unable to pass it — *[Interruption]* — I said Parliament, I was not Parliament — *[Laughter]* —

Parliament collectively, was unable to pass it in the Eighth Parliament. Mr Speaker, this is what I think that both Sides agree, that it is a matter of urgent national importance and must be prioritised. So, I want to assure my respected Colleague that his fears will be done away with. Do not entertain any fear. Once you have the zeal and the will, we would collectively work together, and the university will be established. We are not talking of only the Akomadan

as you have stated. The university may even have campuses in Akomadan, Accra, and Tamale. So, it is something that we are all prioritising, and it will be done.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. No, that is enough. You have asked two supplementary questions. Let me give the opportunity to —

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, the Minister gave an —

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Leader, let me give the opportunity to Hon Assafuah, then I come back to you.

**Mr Vincent Ekow Assafuah:** Thank you so much, Mr Speaker —

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, with this particular one, I am just allowing one or two questions because it is not constituency specific. This goes beyond the constituency. That is why I am allowing it.

**Mr Vincent Ekow Assafuah (NPP — Old Tafo):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Let me congratulate the Minister for reassuring the House that the Bill is going to be re-introduced into Parliament. But is it going to be amended? Would there be some new components reintroduced or would the Bill be brought to the floor of the House in that state and form that it was before the Eighth Parliament was dissolved?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Minister?

**Mr Ibrahim:** Mr Speaker, law should be dynamic. And looking at the stages that we went through in the Eighth Parliament, you would strongly believe with me that we wanted to even pass it under a certificate of urgency and much work was done on it. The Committees of Parliament have just been formed, so, we can have what we call pre-laying before the actual Bill would be laid so that we can have expeditious passage of the Bill to have our university running.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Minority Whip?

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, the Minister spoke to the truth, reliving the fact that the first attempt was to pass it under a certificate of urgency, and the fact that we attempted passing this into law in the Eighth Parliament. The fact is, it was then shepherded by the Minister for Local Government, Decentralisation, and Rural Development and I recall Hon Dafeamekpor and Colleagues strongly contended that it had to be shepherded by the Ministry of Education.

Now, I hear the Minister saying it is going to be jointly sponsored. Is he saying this on authority or he is yet to do the consultation with his Colleague, the Minister for Education?

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Minister?

**Mr Ibrahim:** Mr Speaker, it is going to be a university for Ghana, not a university for a ministry. When there are matters of education, it would have to involve the Minister for Education. That is why I am willing that the Minister for Education and I must have something to do. Because education generally will have something to do with the Ministry of Education. So, I am not trying to say that I will wholly take it without the input and the — For the expeditious passage, I do not see the respected Minister for Education inputting any stumbling block. Even though in administration, once there are many clearance points, decision-making becomes difficult. But he is one of the fastest Leaders that I know in terms of taking quick decisions.

So, the two ministries shepherding it would rather iron things out to get the best for the country and not put a stumbling block on it. But I am saying it on authority that I am in discussions with him. We are discussing; we have not yet concluded.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Very well, Hon Members, Leader, I thank you, respectfully.

So, now we turn to Question 27 which stands in the name of the Hon Member for Kwabre East, Mr Akwasi Gyamfi Onyina-Acheampong.

Hon Member, you have the Floor now.

### **Resumption of Work on the Mampong Market**

**Mr Akwasi Gyamfi Onyina-Acheampong (NPP — Kwabre East):** Mr Speaker, I beg to ask the Minister for

Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs when work will resume on the Mampong market which has been abandoned since 2008 in the Kwabre East Constituency.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Minister?

**Minister for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs (Mr Ahmed Ibrahim) (MP):** Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Works and Housing through the Ashanti Regional Coordinating Council in the year 2012, contracted High Brain Limited to construct the Mampong Jubilee Market Project at Mampong at an amount of Three Million, Four Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand, Six Hundred and Eighty-Five Ghana Cedis and Forty-Seven Pesewas (GH¢3,475,685.47). Works at the Market commenced on 1st August 2012 and was supervised by ABP Consult Limited, Kumasi. The scope of the project covers the following:

- i. Construction of 3-storey Administration Block
- ii. Construction of 2-Storey lockable shops
- iii. Banks
- iv. Supermarket with Warehouse
- v. Market Stall
- vi. Day care centre

vii. Clinic and Ancillary Structures – Butchers Shops, Sanitary Facilities, Drainage, etc.

viii. External works and services: water, electrical and mechanical installations

Mr Speaker, the project however stalled by 31st December 2012, and by 31st August 2013, the contractors suspended operations and left site. No construction activity has been carried out at the site for the past thirteen (13) years, leading to deterioration of the uncompleted structure. The current completion rate of the Project is 55 per cent since 2008.

Mr Speaker, the Ministry will collaborate with the Ministries of Finance; Works, Housing and Water Resources; Ashanti Regional Coordinating Council and the Kwabre East Municipal Assembly to explore available funding options to ensure the completion of the Project.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. Hon Onyina-Acheampong, any supplementary questions?

**Mr Onyina-Acheampong:** Yes, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, during yesterday's Budget Statement, the Hon Minister for Finance told us that the Ministers responsible for the respective Ministries will come in and give us a detailed analysis of their own budget. I would like

to ask the Minister for Local Government, Chieftaincy, and Religious Affairs that, is this project captured in his budget for 2025? If it is not, I would like to plead with him earnestly to consider capturing it since it has been stalled for quite a while, and that is 12 years now.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. Yes, Hon Minister?

**Mr Ibrahim:** Mr Speaker, we have stock of all the projects initiated by agencies and authorities under our Ministry, and this project is one of such. The directive the Minister for Finance gave was that we must prioritise.

12.37p.m.

Mr Speaker, once this has been brought to my attention, the needful thing to be done is that after answering the Question, my Hon Colleague should see me so that we see how best we can bring this matter to a rest because this is one of the oldest projects in the Ministry. Awarded in 2012, for the past 13 years, and at 55 per cent completion rate. I think we have to put the matter to rest. We will complete it.

Thank you very much.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. Hon Patrick Yaw Boamah, did you hear your friend? He said the Member should see him.

**Mr Patrick Yaw Boamah:** Mr Speaker, to see him for what?

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** You may resume your seat.

**Mr Boamah:** You are inviting the Member into trouble. I know my brother, Ahmed.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** You may resume your seat.

Majority Chief Whip, I have not come to you. I am not inviting anybody.

**Mr Rockson-Nelson Etse Kwami Dafeamekpor:** They are Colleague Members of Parliament; they can engage on a topical matter such as this.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Patrick Boamah, I am happy that the Minister is even inviting him to see him for engagement.

Hon Member, let me hear you for your supplementary question.

**Mr Onyina-Acheampong:** Mr Speaker, thank you and I would also like to thank the Minister for inviting me to see him. I am very grateful, Minister.

My next supplementary question is, Mr Speaker, in the interim, the market women are sitting under a high tension. Yes, and they have been under the high tension for quite a while. I would like to ask, is there any provision that can be made for them so that we will get them off this hazardous place? And also, is there any provision that probably we can link with the Ministry of Health? Even probably to just have some tests and look into what issues these sitting under high tensions have caused, health-wise,

because it is very important that our mothers receive this treatment, otherwise, in the next 10, 15 years, they might start suffering the consequences of sitting under this high tension for quite a while.

Thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Minister?

**Mr Ibrahim:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. You know generally, these are matters of governance. Something that was started in 2012. For the past 13 years, we have not completed it. I think the priority now should be how best we can address that one, to get that one done because if you look at the completion rate, it is about 55 per cent. We only need the 45 per cent to complete it. If we are able to prioritise this, they will move in because they have been at where they are for a very long period, so, they will have to wait for us to complete it and bring them in a few months or days, they may have that patience. So, I want my Colleague to bear with me. I have a burning desire to get this one fixed and we are in it together.

Thank you very much.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. Hon Members, we turn to Question 28 and it stands in the name of the same Hon Member for Kwabre East, Hon Akwasi Gyamfi Onyina-Acheampong.

### **Resumption of work on the abandoned DACF Astroturf at Aboaso**

**Mr Akwasi Gyamfi Onyina-Acheampong (NPP — Kwabre East):** Mr Speaker, I beg to ask the Minister for

Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs when work will resume on the abandoned Astroturf project at Aboaso funded by the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) in the Kwabre East Constituency.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Minister?

**Mr Ibrahim:** Mr Speaker, the Ashanti Regional Coordinating Council (ARCC) with funding from the District Assemblies' Common Fund (DACF) commissioned procurement for 20No. Astroturfs. The Kwabre East Municipal Assembly intended to site the Project in Mamponteng. However, the site was changed to Aboaso in the same Municipality because a similar Project was being executed at the original site.

Mr Speaker, the Kwabre East Municipality Project was part of a package including Asante Akim South and Offinso North Municipal Assembly, which was awarded to Apistic Construction Solutions Limited totalling an amount of fourteen million, nine hundred and forty thousand, nine hundred and sixty-two Cedis (GHS14,940,962.85). The Projects were expected to be completed in 6 months. The Consultancy Firm responsible for supervision of the Project is Fedems Limited.

Mr Speaker, the Astroturf Projects commenced in June 2024 after payment of 15 per cent mobilisation to the contractor. Work on the project has stalled since September 2024 due to delays in honouring the interim payment

certificates (IPCs) by the Administrator of DACF. The Contractor has since left site due to non-payment of IPCs.

Mr Speaker, currently, the project is about 15 per cent complete. The Ashanti Regional Coordinating Council is taking appropriate steps to review the contracts and process the pending certificates to enable the contractor return to site to complete the projects.

Thank you for the opportunity.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. We turn to Question 20. Hon Member, do you have a supplementary question?

**Mr Onyina-Acheampong:** Just one.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Very well, let us hear you.

**Mr Onyina-Acheampong:** Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister mentioned that the projects will be reviewed, I would like to first of all ask if there were any contractual issues with the projects? Secondly, what are the timelines that he will propose for the payment of the IPCs that have already been submitted? Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** All right, Hon Minister?

**Mr Ibrahim:** Mr Speaker, the funding source for payment is the District Assembly Common Fund, even though the project was awarded at the Ashanti Regional Coordinating Council and, you know, similar projects were

awarded across the whole country. I am not saying that we have reviewed, but what I am saying is that I do not know why, just for not honouring the interim payment certificates, after the contractor has been given 15 per cent mobilisation to leave site. That is why I said that the Ashanti Regional Coordinating Council is taking steps to review the process, why the delay, and how best we could complete it on time. That is what I mean.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. Hon Members, let us turn to question 29. Hon Member for Offinso North again. Hon Dr Fred Kyei Asamoah.

Hon, you may ask your Question.

### **Completion of work under the Integrated Rural Development Project II at Akomadan and Nkenkaasu**

**Dr Fred Kyei Asamoah (NPP — Offinso North):** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I beg to ask the Minister for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs when the ongoing construction of six (6) unit classroom blocks in Akomadan and Nkenkaasu and the teachers' quarters in Brehoma rural clinic at Akrofua will be completed under the Integrated Rural Development Project II?

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Minister?

**Mr Ibrahim:** Mr Speaker, The Ministry through the Social Investment Fund (SIF) signed a contract dated, 4<sup>th</sup>

September 2024, with BASK Star Ghana Limited under the Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP) II for the construction of the following infrastructure sub-projects in the Offinso North Municipal Assembly to be completed by 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2025. The contract covers the following:

- i. 6-Unit Classroom Block and 8-Seater WC Toilet Block with Mechanised Borehole at the Islamic Basic School, Akumadan; 35 per cent completed.
- ii. 6-Unit Classroom Block and 8-Seater WC Toilet Block with Mechanised Borehole at the RC Basic School, Nkenkenso; 40 per cent completed.
- iii. 1No. 4-Unit Teachers' Quarters with Mechanised Borehole at Brehoma; 52 per cent completed.
- iv. 1No. 2-Bed Nurses' Quarters with Mechanised borehole and 1No. Rural Clinic with mechanised borehole at Akrofua; 15 per cent and 25 per cent completed respectively.
- v. 1No. Mass Insitu Concrete Culvert at Akumadan – Sarnano; 98 per cent completed.

Mr Speaker, on the average, the projects are at about 37 per cent completion rate and expected to be completed as scheduled amidst some previous delays in implementation.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

12.47 p.m.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Member, I will give you the last slot to ask a supplementary question.

**Dr Asamoah:** Mr Speaker, I have two supplementary questions, so if I would like to put the two together. The first one, Mr Speaker, the completion date was originally 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, and with the completion rate as given by the Hon Minister, are we on schedule and how fast would the Minister assure us that this project, which is dear to the people of my Constituency will be completed?

And two, Mr Speaker, I know there are some pending IPCs for this project, and I would like to ask the Hon Minister, how he will assure us that these IPCs will be honoured timely?

And last question, Mr Speaker, Brehoma is in my Constituency; I know there very well. In fact, on the Kumasi-Tamale stretch, one would get to Kobreso, branch off and get to Pokukrom, go to Mentukwa, then get to Brehoma.

Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister stated 52 per cent completion for the teachers' quarters. I am not really sure because I have just got an update of the project. Maybe it might be a typographical error. Can the Hon Minister, who I am very grateful to—In fact, he is on and he is willing to help us complete—Confirm whether it is 0.5 to 5.2 or 52 per cent? Because there is a huge difference between 5.2 and 52 per cent. It is almost 46.8 percentage points.

So, if the Hon Minister could double-check his figure, since this is a House of records, thank you.



**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Minister.

**Mr Ibrahim:** Mr Speaker, this is the rate of completion or the situational status that has been given, and my technical team says that it is 52 per cent completed. My Colleague should let us see how best we can complete it. He agrees with me that the completion date should have been the end of this month. Clearly, we are in a transition period and we know what transition periods are. So maybe from here, after the transition, we must see how best we can progress to be able to bring these things to completion because the classrooms are small projects that the Social Investment Fund (SIF) can see to completion.

And I believe that even the officer in charge visited this site before the answer was given to me. So, Mr Speaker, the statistics I have given are accurate and we will see to the completion of it. And that is why holistically, we said the entirety of the project is 37 per cent complete; we are not up to 50 per cent yet. So, it will be completed.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

Hon Members, we will take the last Question which stands in the name of the Hon Member for Abuakwa South, Dr Kingsley Agyeman. Is the Hon Member around?

I may permit any Member to take the Question for and on behalf of the Hon Member.

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** The Member has mentioned to me that he wants to step down the Question.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** He wants to step down the Question?

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Yes, temporarily step it down.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Very well. So on that note, on behalf of the House, let me express our profound gratitude to the Minister, one of our own, of course, for attending upon the House to answer Questions from his Colleagues. Hon Minister, we are grateful to you; you are hereby discharged.

Hon Members, it is time for Statements, and I believe today is a day for the ladies. But before we take the Statement from Hon Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe, Hon Members, I would like to inform the House that we have a guest here. The Government Statistician is here. We more or less summoned him to apprise us on some statistical issues. So, after the ladies' presentation—I have been asked to give every lady in this Chamber the opportunity to speak. That is their request and it has been heeded to. So immediately after the ladies, we will give the Government Statistician the opportunity to engage Members of Parliament. So, Professor, kindly hold on for us. We will give you an opportunity today.

Hon Members, let me now invite Hon Comfort Doyoe to read the Statement. I believe the Statement is for and on behalf of the entire ladies here.

Hon Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe, you have the floor now.

## STATEMENT

### International Women's Day

**First Deputy Majority Whip (Ms Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity.

Mr Speaker, today, the Women's Caucus in Parliament is celebrating International Women's Day. International Women's Day is a global occasion to celebrate women's achievement in socio-economic, cultural and political spheres while acknowledging the ongoing challenges to gender equality. Recognised by the United Nations to serve as both a celebration and a call to action to address barriers that hinder women's full participation in society. This year's theme is Accelerating Action for Affirmative Action.

Mr Speaker, as we commemorate this day, we must also recognise and celebrate the phenomenal women in our modern era who have shattered ceilings and made significant contributions. I extend special recognition to our Vice President, Her Excellency Professor Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang and other distinguished women in leadership and His Excellency John Dramani Mahama for the honour done to women.

Mr Speaker, today we dedicate this celebration to all activists in Ghana and around the world who continue to fight for women's rights. *Ayekoo* to all women who wake up daily, working through the rain, dust and scorching sun to sell in the

market, farm and engage in small businesses to support their families. We honour the struggle of women who walk long distances for water, fight against discrimination and persevere through hardship to educate their children. Mr Speaker, you have risen beyond the West and created an enabling environment for women by passing the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Bill. We say thank you.

Mr Speaker, the President, John Dramani Mahama has also paved way for women by giving us a female Vice President, Her Excellency Professor Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang. Women in Ghana say *ayekoo* and thank you.

Mr Speaker, the men should not forget that God created men because He wanted them, and created women because He needed them.

12.57 p.m.

Every man needs a woman; Mr President needs woman to complete his task. The Ghana Police Service needs women; the Ghana National Fire Service needs women; the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority needs women, and corporate organisations need women.

Mr Speaker, we are ready to occupy various positions. We are ready to deliver; they should give us the chance, and we will deliver. Enough of the

rhetoric and enough of the sweet words; we should be action now.

Mr Speaker, in conclusion, I call on all stakeholders, government agencies, international organisations, civil society, and every Ghanaian to join forces in accelerating the gender equity agenda. Together, we can create a nation where every woman and girl have an equal chance to strive and contribute meaningfully to our collective progress. Let us rise beyond words and commit to concrete actions to achieve true gender equality.

Mr Speaker, together, let us Accelerate Action!

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. [*Hear! Hear!*]

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much, and my instruction is to allow every woman. So, let me start with the Hon Member for Atiwa East, Mrs Abena Osei-Asare.

**Mrs Abena Osei-Asare (NPP — Atiwa East):** Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, I rise to support my Colleague who made a Statement on International Women's Day. I think for our nation, Ghana, we have done a lot, but there is more to be done. Thankfully, we have been able to pass the Affirmative Action (Gender Equality) Act, 2024 (Act 1121), and this was done under the New Patriotic Party (NPP) Government. It had been on the shelves for about 20 good years, but I am happy

that, during the time of President Akufo-Addo, we passed it and then he also assented to it. We have done a lot for our women, as I said. For now, we have the first woman Vice President. We have also had Chief Justices who are women. I think what is missing is a Minister for Finance who is a woman, and I know that, very soon, Ghana will be having a Minister for Finance who is a woman.

Mr Speaker, women do a lot. We hold the economy in the home; we do a lot for our nation. All we are asking for is recognition because we do a lot. We are not asking for handouts; we are not asking for special privileges, but we are asking that you recognise the role we play. If we look at the population of the world, women occupy more than 50 per cent, yet when it comes to issues concerning women, we have more of the men being those who, for one reason or the other, are being asked to speak on issues concerning women.

Mr Speaker, all we are asking for is not about being at par with men, but it is about recognising our role, and we complementing ourselves and making sure that, at the end of the day, this world is a better place for all of us to live. We are the peacemakers, and we can make the difference as well. In every home, it is the woman who brings about peace in every role, be it at work, be it in the home, or wherever we may find ourselves.

Mr Speaker, so, on this special day, we are asking not for any handouts, but we are asking that you recognise the important role we as women play in the

home, society, at the workplace, and the world at large.

So, on this note, I would like to wish all women a happy International Women's Day, especially the hardworking women in Atiwa East Constituency. I am sure that they are all praying very hard for me that being the first woman in the role of the Chairperson of Public Accounts Committee, I will deliver and make sure I make the women proud as well as make the nation proud.

Mr Speaker, thank you very much, for this opportunity.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

Hon Ladies, by counting, we have about 30 women, and my instruction is to allow each one of you speak. So, please, I would ensure that you do not speak for more than five minutes. Hajia Laadi Ayamba will obviously speak. Today is your day. If we add five minutes, it is going to take a lot of time. Please, bear with me.

**Mr Dafeamekpor:** Mr Speaker, I am aware that the Government Statistician is here to brief us. So, we need to agree on the number of contributors—*[Interruption]*—Mr Speaker, is it going to be at large?

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Majority Chief Whip, I have taken it on board that I would allow every Lady to speak. So, that is why—

**Mr Dafeamekpor:** Mr Speaker, I am guided.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** I have given a word to the Government Statistician to, at least, enjoy our Ladies' comments a bit before we invite him. So, he is aware that today is Women's Day.

So, Hon Member, you have five minutes; please, indulge me—I know, but I want us to understand this. Because of the numbers, please, indulge me; there will be five minutes for each Lady. I think it will be enough, so I can also have time for the Government Statistician. Other than that, some of the Ladies will not get the opportunity to speak, and that will also not be fine. So, five minutes; that is the way I am going.

Yes, Minister for Fisheries?

**Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture (Mrs Emelia Arthur) (MP):** Mr Speaker, thank you very much for this opportunity.

I stand here also supporting the message that our Leader, Ms Comfort Doyoe, just gave on this day that we are marking women across the world. As the theme goes, we are talking about equity when it comes to issues relating to both men and women.

I am happy that I was made a woman. I do not ever wish that I were a man because of the responsibilities that our society places on men that sometimes are very difficult for them to bear, but they stoically go along with those responsibilities.

Mr Speaker, women hold the world together; women in Ghana hold our economies together; women in Ghana hold our societies together. When we take agriculture, 80 per cent of food crop farmers are women. They make us eat; they make us move, and they make us be able to serve our country.

Mr Speaker, when it comes to the sector that I work in, the fisheries sector, most of the people who make us able to eat fish are women: the fish processors. On this occasion, I doff my hat to all women of this country: my forebears, the women who fought ahead of us, my colleagues who are still in the jungles fighting, and the young ones that are looking up to us. I wish and pray that we will all rise together, and together, we will make our motherland great and strong. God bless us all women in this country.

Mr Speaker, I thank you very much.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon Minister. Let me—Yes, Ms Asiedu?

**Ms Ida Adjoa Asiedu (NPP — Ayensuano):** Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Statement made by Madam Comfort Doyoe, our Leader from the Majority Side.

1.07 p.m.

Mr Speaker, as we commemorate International Women's Day, let us recognise the invaluable contributions of women in Ghana and beyond. Progress

has been achieved and challenges such as gender-based violence, unequal economic opportunities, and limited leadership representation persist. We must accelerate efforts to ensure equal access to education, healthcare, economic empowerment for all women and girls, strengthening policies to promote female leadership, and fostering inclusivity to drive sustainable development. Let us commit to making gender equality a reality, not an aspiration.

Thank you, Mr Speaker. [*Hear! Hear!*]

**Alhaji Haruna Iddrisu —rose—**

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

Hon Minister for Education, are you a lady? [*Laughter*]

Yes, Hon Member for Klottey Korle?

**Dr Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings (NDC — Klottey Korle):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to contribute to the Statement made by Hon Doyoe and to commend her for such a Statement. Also, to remind us that we did come out with a gender equity law, which was the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024 (Act 1121) last year. This is supposed to make sure that we have 50 per cent women representation in various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

But in addition to that, on the continental level, the African Union (AU) has just adopted the Convention on Combating Violence Against Women and Girls. Mr Speaker, this provides for a comprehensive legal framework that seeks to prevent, eliminate, and effectively address all forms of violence against women and girls in Africa. It also seeks to address the persistent barriers to women's participation in peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations.

Mr Speaker, I believe that as a show of Ghana's commitment towards realising the equality and equity of women in our society, we must, as a matter of urgency, ratify this Convention and domesticate it in order to make sure that we are not just paying lip service to the idea of women having a fair share of leadership and decision-making in this country. And to make sure that when women do present themselves in positions of authority and to serve in public offices, they are not subjected to undue abuse, whether it is online, verbal or physical.

Mr Speaker, if we truly aim to ensure that we have a better representation in this House, it must start outside of this House, and the only way to do that is to ensure that we ratify and domesticate this Convention and to ensure that we implement the Affirmative Action Act.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**Ms Damata Ama Appianimaa Salam (NPP — Afigya Kwabre South):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to also

contribute to the Statement made by our Leadership. Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Leaders of the Women's Caucus for making us look beautiful this morning. One can see from our outfits that the ladies here are looking beautiful.

Mr Speaker, on this special day of International Women's Day, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the millions of women out there, especially those in Afigya Kwabre South, who with the numerous challenges, break all odds to meet the needs of their families and communities.

Mr Speaker, on this occasion, we need to reflect on the realities faced by women in Ghana, and to me, these concerns need urgent action and need to be represented. Let me use this opportunity to pose some concerns that I think will also benefit the women out there.

Mr Speaker, what has become of the Affirmative Action Act? Is the Ghanaian woman aware of the outcome of this Affirmative Action Act? Currently, what is the ratio of women to men in terms of key positions in Government? It is high time some considerations are made to make sure that women are more inclusive in the governance of this country. I will implore the Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection to make some considerations with regards to that.

Mr Speaker, let me conclude by saying that women matter, and we plead with our men here to make the cases of women their matter.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. [*Hear! Hear!*]

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

Yes, let me go to the Hon Member Kintampo South.

**Ms Felicia Adjei (NDC — Kintampo South):** Thank you for the opportunity, Mr Speaker, to contribute to the Statement made by my Leader, Hon Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe.

Mr Speaker, any time we celebrate International Women's Day, I become very sad. This is because we leave the women to sell out there, like the *kaya yei* who get raped every day. Also, we have some girls who live with relatives and they get raped or are sexually harassed. They cannot say anything because the perpetrators are either their fathers or uncles. Mr Speaker, we live in this country where we keep talking about women, yet, we are the ones who suffer most of the time when anything happens in this country.

Today, as we celebrate International Women's Day, I want to encourage young women out there who live with their relatives, whether they are house helps or store keepers or they sell for somebody. I am a bit sad today because I got some information this morning that there is this young lady who lives with a relative whose husband wants to rape her every day— [**Some Hon Members:** Eeii!] —Yes, and when she wants to talk about it—

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** The husband wants to do what?

**Ms Adjei:** The husband wants to rape the house help, and any time the lady wants to talk about it or tries to tell her sister, then another relative comes to say, she is spoiling their marriage because of the way she behaves or the kind of clothes she wears is the reason the husband had interest in her.

Mr Speaker, I want to tell the men that when they see any young woman dressed anyhow, that is how they feel like dressing; it is not their fault. So, if you are a man here and you see a young lady wearing a dress that you think is transparent or you think their *bum bum* is shaking, please, zip up.

Thank you for the opportunity, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Let me give the Hon Minister for Education the opportunity.

**Minister for Education (Alhaji Haruna Iddrisu) (MP):** Mr Speaker, let me thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Statement ably made by Ms Doyoe on observing the International Women's Day in Ghana, themed, "Accelerate Action for Affirmative Action".

In commending her, I would like to recognise that as a country, we should appreciate the strides and the progress we have made. At least, as at today, Ghana has passed an Affirmative Action legislation. That is the best legal

framework that will guide every institution, including governance institutions, the President, Parliament, the Speaker, and the Judiciary to ensure increased and equitable representation of women at the national level.

1.17 p.m.

Mr Speaker, my second observation is for us to be sincere sometimes to some of the requests or demands we make even in this Chamber. Let us work with the 1992 Constitution in this Chamber. The Constitution says there shall be elections of Members of Parliament. It does not provide for how many women can be represented or would be represented. It provides for women, if they are desirous to go through the rigorous competitive elections.

Mr Speaker, I have heard people make reference to other countries, particularly in East Africa. Yes, it is true, that they have made tremendous progress in terms of women representation, because their constitutions provide for the appointment of women into those positions unlike in Ghana. In their Parliament, a certain representation is dedicated for women and the youth.

Maybe we should provide for it in Ghana's Parliament. But that will require an amendment to the 1992 Constitution to say that even after we have gone through an election—maybe today we have 275 Members of Parliament, we can decide that the President appoints additional 25 women to Parliament. But that can only be done if we review the 1992 Constitution as it is today. Without doing that, they must go through elections.

Mr Speaker, we have heard comments on whether the President has appointed enough women or not. For instance, if one takes the current representation of Parliament, maybe there are 31 National Democratic Congress (NDC) Members of Parliament who are women and 10 on the other Side making it about 40 women—then, we say 50 plus one. I should recognise Mrs Abena Osei-Asare as the first woman to Chair the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). I am sure she would learn from the stride of the Rt Hon Alban Bagbin, Hon Albert Kan-Dapaah, Hon Kwaku Agyemang-Manu and more importantly, Hon James Klutse Avedzi, the immediate past Chairman of the PAC.

But in Ghana, what we are interested in is not post-mortem, flawless examination of dead bodies—PAC waits until the mess is done and say they are correcting it, no. If they did their work well, nobody would go to a mortuary asking for a dead body. We should strengthen our internal systems so that the abuses of embezzlement, misappropriation and others are dealt with in a manner which is preventive. Every year—but I am digressing from Hon Doyoe's Statement so let me come back to it.

We have had Chief Justice Sophia Akuffo, Chief Justice Georgina Wood and now we have a woman as the current Chief Justice and undoubtedly, the first-ever woman Vice President of the Republic—

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Minister for Education, hold on. Let me listen to the Chairman for PAC. She wants to—



**Mrs Osei-Asare:** Mr Speaker, I am surprised my respected Colleague is rather denigrating a Committee of Parliament. What the PAC does is also very important and is stipulated by law. So, for him to refer to it as—I do not want to repeat it. I would beg of him to retract and apologise because it is a Committee of the House.

Mr Speaker, thank you.

**Alhaji Haruna Iddrisu:** Mr Speaker, it is withdrawn.

Mr Speaker, in fact, she reminds me that a woman's strength is not measured by her ability to endure, but by her courage to rise every time she falls; a quote I just found somewhere. Strong women do not wait for doors, they open their own. Some opportunities have been given to women in Parliament. We know the effort you and the Rt Hon Speaker are making to ensure that even in the Parliamentary Service, there are more women. I know what happens when you want to increase representation.

Mr Speaker, generally, we should be particular about how we strengthen and ensure more women representation in public service. The first is education; are we providing equal educational opportunities for them? Are we providing technical or vocational education? Are we providing adequately for their health needs? So, even in this Parliament, all the women here demand gender-sensitive budget allocations. In every Budget, we should pay particular attention to how much has been allocated to advance the cause of women. Then we know we are making meaningful contributions.

Mr Speaker, I commend her. I conclude by saying that, yes, Ghana should not lose sight of the fact that we have made tremendous progress since 1993. If you look at the quality of women who have served in our national public life, including even international organisations, whether the United Nations (UN) or World Health Organisation (WHO), many women have distinguished themselves.

Mr Speaker, with this, I thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

Yes, let me go to the Hon Member for Atiwa West.

**Mrs Korkor Laurette Asante (NPP—Atiwa West):** Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity given me to contribute to the Statement made by Hon Doyoe, the Joint Women's Caucus leader.

Mr Speaker, in recognising International Women's Day, it is not only about women's achievements, which we know we have done quite considerably well in Ghana and across the world. But it is also a reminder for us, as to the work to be done, which includes accelerating action to break the barriers that hinder the progression of women, women's empowerment and participation in all aspects of society.

The World Economic Forum, the Global Gender Gap Report 2024, estimates that it will take 134 years to reach full gender parity. A hundred and

thirty-four years, if we still maintain the rate of progress that we are doing today. That is roughly five generations. That is beyond the United Nations, 2030 Sustainable Development Goal. It is unacceptable to wait for five generations to achieve gender parity.

Mr Speaker, despite the extraordinary contributions that women have made in politics, education, business, economics, and what we have in between, women in especially marginalised communities continue to fight for equal rights and opportunities. However, here in Ghana, we have made quite a bold step.

One of our most significant steps towards closing the gender gap is when we established the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024, which mandates progressive gender representation in governance, public service, judiciary, security services, and politics. The Act provides a legal framework against which we will ensure that women are included in decision-making at all levels and it will include gender balance.

Mr Speaker, we must also, while implementing the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024, hold our leaders accountable for their commitments to gender equality. It was a welcomed development when President John Mahama, at the launch of the NDC's manifesto, promised to have at least 30 per cent of his Cabinet as women. However, Ghanaians were disappointed when he failed to meet that promised target. I believe the Speaker, Rt Hon Alban Bagbin mentioned this a

couple of days ago when they had an event here at Parliament House to celebrate International Women's Day. This is because, President Mahama has about only 10 per cent of females in his 19-Member Cabinet. That really needs to be looked at, because we were expecting more females. If we are going to talk the talk, we must walk as well. We established the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024, and so we must get it implemented.

Another point that I would like to raise is also on something that is in the NDC's manifesto, which is establishing the Women's Bank. Yesterday, the Minister for Finance was here. He mentioned that they would establish the Women's Development Bank, with an allocation of about GH¢51.3 million. Now, the Bank of Ghana (BoG) in 2017, also established that the minimum capital for any bank to operate is GH¢400 million. So, this raises serious concerns about the feasibility and effectiveness of the initiative of this Women's Development Bank that President Mahama and the Minister for Finance came here to speak to.

1.27 p.m.

Women would be very disappointed. If we are going to have a Women's Bank, then we need to put the money where our mouth is and actually ensure that it is funded properly and it is guided by the guidelines of the Bank of Ghana so that women can actually take advantage of that.

Mr Speaker, this all serves as a reminder that words alone are not enough. Instead, we need concrete actions and real political strides to bridge the gender gap. If we are truly to accelerate action, which is the theme for this year's International Women's Day, then Ghana must not settle for token numbers: one woman here, two women as CEOs there, a couple of women in leadership; that is not good enough and that is not acceptable.

We must commit to exceeding these benchmarks and ensure that our Parliament also reflects the full diversity and potential of our nation. Here in Parliament, we must make sure that in our Committees and other groups that we have women in there in leadership positions as Chairpersons or Ranking Members or Deputy Ranking Members and not just have a token.

Mr Speaker, as we stand together today, let us reaffirm our commitment to removing the barriers that prevent women from achieving their potential. Let us ensure that every girl has access to education, every woman is also free from violence and has the opportunity to participate fully in the economy of our society.

Mr Speaker, as we mark this significant occasion, I would like to extend my greetings and heartfelt appreciation to the hard-working women of Atiwa West in all the towns, the hard-working traders, farmers, nursing teachers who actually support our community, hold them together and

contribute to building our nation. Their dedication and resilience are empowering and truly encouraging.

In conclusion, I call upon my fellow lawmakers here, citizens and institutions in Ghana to take decisive steps to accelerate action in achieving true gender parity. Together, we can actually create a more just and equitable society where every woman and girl, regardless of their stand in society, has equal access to opportunity.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

**Ms Asante:** I am ready, Mr Speaker, to take this up. Are my Hon Colleagues in the House ready?

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. Hon Laadi Ayamba, I will come to you but let me listen to the ladies first. Yes, Hon Member for Dome-Kwabanya?

**Mrs Faustina Elikplim Akurugu (NDC — Dome-Kwabanya):** Mr Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the Statement delivered by Hon Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe.

Mr Speaker, today we join the global community in celebrating International Women's Day. Today is a special day for all women so, we say *ayekoo* to them.

This year's theme is "Accelerate Action". It is a call to action to accelerate gender parity, challenge stereotypes, and uplift the voices of women everywhere. Mr Speaker, in Ghana, we have made

significant strides in promoting gender equality but we are still behind. We still have a lot to do.

I want to thank His Excellency President John Dramani Mahama for giving us a Vice President who represents us in Ghana. Mr Speaker, Her Excellency, Prof Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang is the Vice President of Ghana and, we say thank you to His Excellency for giving women this opportunity.

Mr Speaker, I was very glad when the Minister for Finance, yesterday, in reading the Budget Statement, allocated GH¢292.4 million to provide free sanitary pads for girls and women in Ghana and also allocated GH¢5.3 million as seed money to establish the Women's Bank. This will provide empowerment and not just benefit women globally, but families and communities.

However, we still have work to do when it comes to women in Ghana. The girl-child education is important, and I pray and hope that the Minister for Education would be able to help us promote a lot of girls, especially in the rural areas, where we still have children who are not attending school, especially girls. Mr Speaker, as we commemorate this day, let us celebrate the achievements we have made together as women.

I want to thank you for this opportunity. *Ma ye ti ye ti ye to ma to ma* to all the women, *ye ma wo ya, ayekoo, mo ne yɔ, miawe le dzi. Mawu neyram mia kata.*

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, let me come to the Hon Member for Amenfi Central.

**Mrs Joana Gyan Cudjoe (NDC — Amenfi Central):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I know it is not easy when it comes to leadership of women. Most of the time in business and in politics, people believe that the role of a woman should always be less. It is about time we looked at women in certain positions when it comes to leadership in politics and also in business. Leadership is not about gender, it is about vision, courage, service, love and women have all these qualities.

To the young girls out there, I say, dream big. They can be doctors, teachers or scientists and that is why H. E. Mr Mahama and our Vice President, H. E Prof Opoku-Agyemang said they are there to support women and to make sure that the women count a lot in Parliament.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. Yes, let me come to you. The constituency is Agona West. Let me hear you. Hon Members, every lady will speak, so you should all prepare. So, Hon Member for Agona West?

**Mrs Ernestina Ofori Dangbey (NDC — Agona West):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to also contribute to this august House on the Statement made by our Hon Leader, Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe.

Mr Speaker, I must say, women are beautifully and wonderfully created, and so women are so special to this country.

Mr Speaker, Dr Kwegyir Aggrey once said, “if you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a nation”. As women, when we are given leadership role, one can see that women perform wonderfully well as compared to our able men. I must say, women take good care of all management in terms of home management and the offices too.

Mr Speaker, women were created to also multiply so, when we put into consideration, when there is intercourse, a woman would take the seed and then nurture it, then, at the end of it all, produce a human being to the nation. I would say that a woman should never look down upon herself and believe in herself. If others are doing it, she must believe in herself that she can also do it.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity.

1.37 p.m.

Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. I am going to — which constituency?

**Ms Emelia Ankomah:** Mr Speaker, Upper Denkyira East.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Upper Denkyira East, yes. Is that Dunkwa?

**Ms Ankomah:** Yes, please.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Very well, let us hear you.

**Ms Emelia Ankomah (NDC — Upper Denkyira East):** Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity you have given me to contribute to the Statement made by our Leader, Hon Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe. I would dwell my statement on the fact that women are ever ready to contribute and carry out whatever position they find themselves in effectively. Most of the time, the attacks on women make a lot of women withdraw.

Let us consider how men lambast women on our radio and television landscapes whenever women want to enter into politics. When some of these things happen, women have no choice than to withdraw. Then, they lose the confidence they had which enabled them to talk boldly.

I want to seize this opportunity to advise every woman out there that in Ghana, we have a lot of women who have performed and have done excellently, so they should not be cowed, and they should not withdraw. They should all come boldly, learn from those who have performed excellently, and together, we would make it as women.

Mr Speaker, thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

What is the name of the constituency?

**Mrs Phillis Naa Koryoo Okunor:**  
Awutu Senya East.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Awutu Senya East—Let us hear you.

**Mrs Phillis Naa Koryoo Okunor (NDC — Awutu Senya East):** Mr Speaker, thank you very much for this opportunity to contribute to the Statement made by our Leader, Hon Doyoe Cudjoe. Today is International Women's Day, and I applaud every woman on the globe for this day.

Mr Speaker, it is not enough for us to always celebrate this day. I think as women, we should be able to champion certain policies that would help us achieve our purpose. Mr Speaker, we may be happy today, we may be good, but the ordinary woman on the street out there is not happy, and if that ordinary woman on the street is not happy, then as women, we have no right to be happy. This is because as women, we are representatives of all the women out there, and we need to be there for one another. It is difficult to know that a fellow woman on the street is going through a very difficult time, and we cannot help. It is not enough celebrating International Women's Day, but it is for us to hold each other's hands. Let us go up together. Let us pull each other together. Let us make the women succeed. For women, I do not think that it is enough for us to think that the world would be at our feet. No, it is for us to be in the world and make the world work for us.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

Let me now move to Dormaa East.

**Ms Rachel Amma Owusuah (NDC — Dormaa East):** Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this year's International Women's Day with the theme, "Accelerate Action". Let me also take the opportunity to thank our Leader, Hon Doyoe Cudjoe, for the Statement given. I therefore, take this opportunity to also thank all women, especially when it comes to caring for the sick and the aged. That reminds me of our old and first nurse named Florence Nightingale, who was also named the Lady with the Lamp. Back to the history of Shiphrah and Puah, they were also midwives. Upon that, we have got many midwives in the country caring for our pregnant women, and when it comes to their delivery, these midwives assist them to have safe deliveries.

Let me take this opportunity to remind our women who are farmers, especially at Dormaa East, that they have been doing a lot to serve the country and the community when it comes to feeding.

Again, I want to express my sincere thanks to mothers who are single parents for caring for their children and making them better through education.

I, therefore, congratulate all women for assisting husbands and families when it comes to the care of our children—*[Hear! Hear!]*—Let me take this opportunity as well to congratulate all women, especially the old ladies who have been taking care of the aged and the sick people. More power to our elbows as women. Congratulations! I say *ayekoo* to all women. Not forgetting, before a woman can do something better or good, we still need the support of the Government, our husbands and our brothers. With their support, women can do better.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the people of Dormaa East. I say *bravo* to everybody.

Mr Speaker, thank you. *[Hear! Hear!]*

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. Let me now go to Aburi. Is it Aburi East?

**Ms Lawrencia Dziwornu:** Mr Speaker, it is Akuapem South.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** What is the name of the constituency?

**Ms Dziwornu:** Mr Speaker, Akuapem South Constituency.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Very well

**Ms Lawrencia Dziwornu (NDC — Akuapem South):** Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to clear my throat on this Floor. And also, I want to thank our Leader, Hon Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe, for the Statement ably

made to commemorate the International Women's Day.

Mr Speaker, we have made significant strides in our space for women to be able to make it to this point, but the pace at which we are going or moving is really a tortoise's pace. And if we are looking to achieve gender parity, then, we need to accelerate action now.

Mr Speaker, I want to use this opportunity to thank the people of Akuapem South for entrusting me with their mandate as the second woman from the Constituency to hold this position, which was a legacy held by the late Vida Amaadi Yeboah, whose initiative, through the Forum of African Women Educationalists (FAWE), empowered a lot of girls to be able to be where we are today. So, Mr Speaker, I also want to appeal to this august House that we should increase the rate of women representation that we have in this Parliament. We should increase it to at least 30 per cent, just as Rwanda has been able to do. This will ensure that there are certain seats that are reserved for women, so that we can achieve this gender parity at the rate that it ought to be. Just as our Hon Member, the Minister for Education, elicited in his earlier comments, so that we can have more women to represent us.

Mr Speaker, on this note, I would also plead with this august House that we should be able to accelerate action so that we can be part of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) by 2028, so that we would not be observers. Because based on their recommendation, we need

about 30 per cent representation of women in each Parliament, so that we can be taken very seriously at that Union.

1.47 p.m.

So, Mr Speaker, with these few words, I want to congratulate all women in this country and globally for the great strides we have made in the political space and in other leadership roles.

Mr Speaker, I also want to use this opportunity to congratulate the women and the good people in Akuapem South for the very great contributions that they have made in the farming and market sectors. As a woman and a daughter of a market woman, I want to commend their efforts and the contributions that they are making to bring Ghana to the point we are today.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for this great opportunity. [*Hear! Hear!*]

**Mr Tsekpo** — *rose*—

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

Hon Worlanyo, please, sit down; I have not called you.

Hon Members, let me now turn to—Nana Hema, every lady is speaking, so you would say something to us, so let us hear you. Nana, just get up and congratulate women.

Yes, Hon Member for Nsuta/Kwaman Beposo?

**Ms Adelaide Ntim (NPP — Nsuta/Kwaman Beposo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this great opportunity.

Mr Speaker, women are so special in the world, especially women who are working and also nursing as well. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate women all over the world, especially in this Parliament. This is because we exercise a lot of patience when we go to our constituency, and we have a lot of schedules when we come to work as well. So, we have so many things to do.

Mr Speaker, as I stand here, I am very tired because I went to the constituency this weekend, but because we are caring—The constituents also like the women a lot. So, I would say thank you and *ayekoo* to all women in the world.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this great opportunity. [*Hear! Hear!*]

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

I do not want a situation where I will leave any woman behind that is why I forced her to speak.

Let me go to the Hon Member for Sunyani West.

**Ms Millicent Yeboah Amankwah (NDC — Sunyani West):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the International Women's Day.

Mr Speaker, I am humbly honoured to be in this Chamber as we celebrate the International Women's Day in the year 2025. All because I will be part of the



decision-making to contribute and support young women. There is a saying that many are called but few are chosen. Where do we start this from?

There is a need for us to encourage ourselves and by encouraging ourselves, we need to find the root cause and solution to this. There have been years that women have been deprived the opportunity by hating ourselves; why? It is because there is a saying that women are their own enemies, which I do not believe in because it was a society that has discussed this. It was a conversation someone started, and we can end that by pulling each other with love, care, compassion and support. Now, we need to start from the home; we need to conscientise the mind of the little girl with self-esteem, confidence and self-actualisation.

Then we move to the youth, women in leadership, women that need mentorship; let us get closer to our young ones. Again, as leaders, getting the opportunity to lead in so many aspects and sectors of life—Women in politics, business and in ministry, let us start this course. I am super happy because this year is to accelerate action. We are moving quickly, and I pledge to be part, start and join the army to rise and to accelerate this action of women in equity and equality. I will pledge and encourage the House to start—Within our own communities, we have a lot of women there. Let us start from our doorsteps, and I believe, with togetherness, we would be able to achieve whatever we envisage.

Mr Speaker, lastly, as a Member of Parliament for Sunyani West, I would make sure that we reform any policies needed to ensure that we execute this. I say bravo to every woman from the house, markets, farm, Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and even leaders globally, that we appreciate their fight, and we would continue to hold ourselves in high esteem.

Congratulations to every woman once again!

Thank you, Mr Speaker. [*Hear! Hear!*].

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Yes, let me go to Hon Ayamba.

**Hajia Laadi Ayii Ayamba (NDC — Pusiga):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to contribute to the Statement ably made by our Leader, Hon Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe. Let me also congratulate all the women in this House for making sure that, at least, if for nothing at all, we presented ourselves, worked hard, won the elections, and we are here competing with the men. Congratulations to us!

Mr Speaker, it is very interesting to note that it is quite difficult. It has been not less than 30 years down the line. Ever since the declaration of the Beijing Conference was made, it has been 30 years down the line, and I can give thanks and praises to Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings who led this particular activity and made sure that when she came back to Ghana, some of

us were deeply involved in the 31<sup>st</sup> December Women's Movement.

That has moved us to this level, and we thank her very much. We are very grateful, and we appreciate it.

Mr Speaker, I would move on to thank our President for ensuring that we have the first female Vice President, Professor Naana Jane Opoku- Agyemang.

Mr Speaker, she is competent; she is determined; she has knowledge and she is of substance. I am saying these things because many a time, these are some of the things that the men use to pull us down. I want to tell every woman in Ghana and every woman in Pusiga that we are competent, and what the men can do, the women can do it even better.

Mr Speaker, let me thank some of the past and present women who have, at least, kept the flame on.

1.57p.m.

I wish to thank and congratulate Hon Cecilia Johnson, who was the first female Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, and I will go on to thank my own Sister, Hajia Alima Mahama, who was also a Minister for Local Government and Rural Development. My late Sister, Hon Hawa Yakubu, was a very big inspiration to me. She did her best. She is from Pusiga. I would also congratulate Hajia Fati Seidu who was also a Member of Parliament. Mr Speaker, these are women who were produced by Pusiga, so I say a very big thank you to the

people of Pusiga for ensuring and seeing to it that, yes, we women can, and we are actually doing our best.

Mr Speaker, I am not playing politics; I am saying it as it is, and I want any Government, whichever Government, even any government that is not yet born or has never come to being, to continue to give support to women. Each and every one of us, whether a man or a woman, was born by a woman. If you have no wife, you have a sister. If you have no sister, you have an aunt. If you have no aunt, you have a mother. None of us here can run away from a woman. Why do we think that women have that weakness? When a woman carried you in her womb for nine months, gave birth to you, took care of you, and yet, today, you can think that the woman cannot do anything better. I believe that we need to wake up from the call.

Mr Speaker, I wish to state the President's support in ensuring that an amount of GHC293 million has been made available for the purchase of sanitary pads to be distributed to girls in schools. Whichever girl it is that will benefit from this will say a very big thank you **[Speaks in a local language]** to the President. This is because there are some who have to stop school to sell before they are able to buy sanitary pads, and we all know that menstruation is not just that we want it. It is a need and so we need that support, and we are not equal, so that support is very important.

The President also made available a seed amount of GHC5.3 million for the Women's Bank and this is not going to

those of us maybe who are at this level. It is going to help the woman at the grassroots, who needs maybe only GH¢200.00 to buy some salt and pepper or groundnut to sell. We thank you, Mr President, and we pray that all other successive Governments would emulate this and continue to support women.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** And I also thank you.

**Ms Ayamba:** Mr Speaker, let me thank you and our substantive Speaker for enabling us to pass the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024, (ACT 1121). Mr Speaker, we are very grateful.

Last but not least, let us enforce it. We should not just sit and say we have a Bill or an Act that has been passed. If the Act has been passed and we do not make good use of it, it will be of no use. We should not let it lie on the shelves while we say we have an Act. That 30 per cent, let us make sure that it works for all of us.

I thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the five minutes—*[Laughter]*—

**Some Hon Gentlemen** —*rose*—

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

Hon Members, looking at it, I will only restrict myself; let me give the opportunity to the final person because all the men are up.

Hon Members, please, listen to me. That will have been the best arrangement that the men will also complement our ladies, but like I said, we have an important personality here. The Government Statistician is here at our own instance to have some discussion with us. He has been seated here all this while.

Anyway, I have been asked to give an opportunity to one from each Side, so let me go to the former Minister for Defence.

Ms Patricia Appiagyei, you are going to be the last person to talk.

**Mr Dominic Bingab Aduna Nitiwul (NPP — Bimbilla):** Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, first of all, let me thank the maker of the Statement, our First Deputy Majority Whip, who is a long-time Member of Parliament here, for bringing this Statement to commemorate the International Women's Day.

Mr Speaker, it is important for us, as men, to eulogise the women. It is important for us to let the world know, especially in Ghana here, the importance of women in our lives, our society, and the role that women play. It is not for nothing that God himself or God herself, I do not want to be so manly to say himself only, but God decided that a man needed a companion—we, those who are Christians—and created a woman to become a companion. It only shows that without a woman, it is very difficult for the men alone to inhabit this world. We have to accept that fact.

Mr Speaker, it is important for us first to congratulate the women who have made it to this House, 40 of them. It is very difficult to win an election. It is very difficult to stand, campaign, and win an election and a lot of these women actually defeated men to be here. So, let us congratulate them first, and say that other women should take inspiration from what they have done, so that in the next Parliament, instead of 40, we can have 80 to 100 women. Then that is where we are going to start from because if we keep the numbers at 40 and we do not project to at least, half of the Members here, then we are not doing ourselves any good. I do not have a problem giving my seat to a woman, but she has to beat me; she has to compete. It is as simple as that.

Mr Speaker, I want to say that let every man, whether married or unmarried, because they came from the womb of a woman and they know what has happened in their homes, and especially every husband, experience the absence of his wife for just one week, seven days, with children; then they would understand. No, I do not want to have a situation where we have servants, so the man should just take care of that household for just two days without his wife, then they can understand the importance of women.

When one child is kicking against his stomach, another is running, he has to clean the children up, dress them, and take them to school, then he would understand that without the woman, there is no home. He would understand that without the woman, he will never call something a home. He will need a

woman, and so people who say, what does a woman bring to the table? Why? What is she doing? I can tell them that the women work. If we were to apportion time by percentages, the women work 60 to 70 per cent of what happens in the house, and that is a fact.

Even in most of our traditional homes, the men just provide the food and then go and relax. The women are those who look for the water. The women are those who will cook. The women are those who will clean. The women are those who will clean up the place. They take care of virtually everything and we just enjoy ourselves. We call ourselves “alpha men”. If we go to the animal kingdom, the lion’s kingdom, and if we know the behavior of an alpha male, then we would understand what it is.

2.07 p.m.

If one goes to the animal kingdom, the lion’s kingdom—If we know the behaviour of an alpha man, then we would understand what it is. So, women are more important.

Mr Speaker, we must eulogise women and celebrate them today. In fact, it was on Saturday. I do not know how many of us, Mr Speaker, bought a gift for our wives and our, well, I would say our girlfriends, those who are not married. But one must have a girlfriend before he marries. So, some people obviously have girlfriends. Some people have wives, and some people are cohabiting. I do not know why they are cohabiting, but some people are cohabiting. But whatever the case, how many of us remembered that

Saturday was women's day, and bought something for our wives? I think we are virtually moving away from that day and celebrating Valentine's Day; they call it Love Day.

But I think that we should look at the International Women's Day and make it a big issue for us because, Mr Speaker, Ghanaian women are very hard working. About 60 per cent of the small businesses in Ghana are owned by women. And without the women contributing to that, our economy will suffer. If the women stop working today, we are going to have a crash economy. Because a lot of the small businesses, from Makola to Tamale Market, to Elubo Market and Zamrama Market, the women are the ones doing the petty trading.

We may not see it, but I can tell you, Mr Speaker, that what they do—And if one goes to the communities or villages and sees what the women do, sometimes it is frightening. I think that the women should look at it. One goes to a community, where a man is coming from the farm with his wife who is pregnant. She would be carrying another child at the back and holding another one, but the man is holding the cutlass and following, and she would be carrying something on her head. It is happening every day. Or the man just rides his motorbike or bicycle and goes home. The women will go home, and if they do not have a helper, they will then have to go to the stream or the borehole to fetch water.

I am telling you what happens in the villages because I am from one. She

fetches water, goes to give the man. The man will bathe, and come and sit down again. Now she has to then start cooking. She finishes the cooking, cleans the pots, sweeps and mops up the place. The next day, by 5 o'clock, she is up again to do a similar thing.

So, Mr Speaker, I can say—Which one?—Mr Speaker, the Hon Member says I have forgotten what happens between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. where he would have to wake her up and be disturbing her. When she says she is tired, then she is beaten. But it is not their fault. The truth is that without the women doing what they do, the men will have difficulty. Yes, it is true that some men, including myself, still do not understand the role of women in our lives and the society and so, think that they are either disturbing or giving us headache. But I can say that women are so important in society.

But let us come to leadership. Are we giving women enough and providing them enough to give them leadership in Ghana? Are we? Today, women are doing very well in school, even beating men in schools. So, it is not the issue of women not knowing or women not being clever enough; they are as clever as the men. But are we giving them enough advantages to be able to excel in leadership? Sometimes, they say women are their own enemy. If women were to decide today that they are going to vote for only woman, I do not think we will have any man sitting in this Chamber. And that is a fact, because they are more than us.

But maybe because of lack of trust, they will vote for the man and leave that woman. The truth of the matter is that men must make conscious effort to make sure that the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024 is implemented one by one. And as Chairman of the Committee on Assurances, I am going to checkmate the President to see step by step—*[Hear! Hear!]*—Yes, step by step, how he is implementing it. From the 30 per cent promise that he has given, I will checkmate it step by step. Because it is important, Mr Speaker, that we do that.

In some countries, they use proportional representation to cure the aspect of giving women—So if they have 200-Member parliament, they can make proportional representation to ensure that at least half of the people are women. Rwanda is doing it, Uganda is doing it, and a few other places are doing it. Ghana, unfortunately, have the situation whereby everybody goes for an election. So the only thing we can use to cure is appointments. How many of the women here have been appointed? Are we meeting the quota? It may not be all Ministers, but there are other places such as boards that the President has to use to be able to do that. There are several places that the President has to use, and he has to do it.

It does not matter which Government wins, but any Government that wins, that Government must ensure that women are represented and represented well. Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. Hon Members, I think—I said one each.

All right, let me give it to Hon Worlanyo Tsekpo. I will be unfair if I deny him because he, right from the onset, had wanted to speak. So, Hon Worlanyo Tsekpo, I will give you the floor, but within five minutes.

**Mr Thomas Worlanyo Tsekpo (NDC — Hohoe):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. It is good to appreciate our mothers and women in Ghana, especially Ghana's Parliament. I say *ayekoo* to them. Let me say another *ayekoo* to the women in Hohoe Constituency—It is not about campaign, just to appreciate them.

I know it has not been easy for women to compete in our society, the Ghanaian society, at the same level with men. Whatever they do, it is about competition with us, the men, and looking at what they go through daily to be in that competition and still win, every day in the morning, we have to salute our women before even taking our bath.

Remembering my mother and what she went through after our father left us, sometimes, it is something else. We just have to appreciate them. I want to appreciate three people, that is three women. Mr Speaker, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings. Growing up, there was this song that we heard in our homes by the 31<sup>st</sup> December Women's Movement.

*[Hon Member sings]*

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Tsekpo, please hold on.

Hon Members, please, I do not expect you to leave. We need Members to listen to the government's statistician. So, please, do not check out from the Chamber.

**Mr Tsekpo:** The 31<sup>st</sup> December Women's Movement, formed by Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, this is a song that we grew up singing in our various homes without understanding until recently.

*[Hon Member continues to sing]*

What it simply means is that the men in Ghana should stay home so that our women can also go out and learn how to "shoot". And this is a message that we did not understand then, but it is a message that resonated with the women. They stood up and fought for what they thought they could fight for. And today, all of us here are very proud of that woman.

Our current First Lady did a lot. In fact, she spoke to me about it, that mother-child death is something that has to be zero. That is why even in opposition, Mr Speaker, she goes around building maternity wards and hospitals, which I benefited before I became a Member of Parliament. We need to appreciate her for holding women in high esteem.

Our current Vice President, this is to show the world that NDC, we do not just appreciate women by mouth. We appointed, in fact, the first female Vice President. NPP has never done that before, but we have done it—

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Hon Member—

**Mr Tsekpo:** The people of Ghana have supported us to present the first female Vice President to the Republic of Ghana. It is something that we should all be appreciative of. We want to thank our women. We want to thank our mothers for sacrificing all they have for us to be who we are today. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you so much.

Hon Members, we have had enough. We would listen to the Deputy Minority Leader, who is a woman. She is closing the chapter on this. Hon Davis Ansah Opoku, please. We have had enough.

**Mr Davis Ansah Opoku:** Mr Speaker, I just wanted to salute our wonderful women in this House, especially hearing from Hon Doyoe Cudjoe.

2.17 p.m.

Hon Doyoe, what we are saying is that we love you. Your Statement was nice—  
*[Blew kisses]*

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** He has finished, so Ms Patricia Appiagyei.

**Ms Patricia Appiagyei (NPP — Asokwa):** Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to contribute towards the Statement ably made by my Hon Chairperson of the Women Caucus, and I must commend her highly for initiating this Statement, because it is something that is very dear to my heart. But before I go on to make my side of the contribution, I would like to acknowledge the roles that have been played by our numerous First Ladies in this country.

Mr Speaker, in celebrating the women, I would like to commend them, for which our own Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings was the first to participate in the Beijing Conference and then to undertake the pursuit of the women's agenda. There is something that she said which I always want us to remind ourselves. One statement that she made, and we have never forgotten about, is that, "We must be bold. Be bold." We also commend our former heads of states' wives, and First Ladies, those who have passed on and those who are living at this point in time. It is a role that is very difficult, and I must tell you that if we celebrate a day where we are eulogising women, we should never forget our First Ladies. Because even given a role as a leader anywhere, we can attest to the fact, especially the men, the roles that are played by their spouses. It is something that we cannot ignore. So I take this opportunity to commend them highly, and in doing so, I also take this opportunity to commend our four main women Parliamentarians who have served for their fourth term in Parliament. It is not easy, first, to ensure that you de-sit a man and secondly, to be

able to withstand all the pressures, including what we even face domestically.

Mr Speaker, a number of Statements have been made to underscore the point of the importance of women in our society, and it goes without saying that if we are celebrating a day like this, and the theme is "Accelerate Action", it is important that we look at most of the factors that can help us accelerate the action of achieving the equality that we want. What are we talking about? I like the contribution made by the Hon Minister for Education, Alhaji Haruna Iddrisu, emphasising the need for us to look at our Constitution and the need to review the Constitution. Much as I agree with him on this point, I would like to also emphasise that all of us here have a role to play.

We are the representatives of the people out there. Luckily, we have passed a Legislative Instrument in the name of Affirmative Action (Gender Equality) Act, 2024 (Act 1121). What is going to be our role to ensure that we educate, as was his bid? We need to educate people to accept the very existence of women, not as a superior being or a lesser being, but as partners with our male counterparts. So if we are in this Parliament and we have the Affirmative Action Act, it behoves on each and every individual here to do the education.

Mr Speaker, I am happy that we invited the Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection here to know



exactly what steps or the strategies she is adopting to ensure the implementation of the Affirmative Action Act. I think she has given a number of steps, and we have to pay particular attention to that and ensure that the implementation will go on smoothly without any hitches.

Mr Speaker, I would like to state that on the day that H. E. the President came to give the Message on the State of the Nation, he made a specific statement, which personally I felt was an excuse to exonerate himself from not being able to achieve the required percentage for the inclusion of women in the appointments he offered. He then mentioned specifically that in the case of even the local governance, he is finding it difficult to find the right women to occupy those positions, and I would like to plead with our President to make a deliberate effort for people to search each district, and he will be able to identify a capable woman who can occupy that seat, and that 30 per cent will be achieved. I do not think we have put our minds to ways of ensuring that we identify the right people to occupy the spaces. We are only giving excuses for what we feel might be a difficult task to undertake.

Mr Speaker, I feel that we have a number of barriers that we need to break. It is important that as Parliament—not only for the sake of the women, or the responsibility does not lie only with the women, but men as well—we are sure of what is happening and ensure the implementation of the Affirmative Action Act. We need to engage Members of Parliament, to understand and then carry this one through to our various

constituencies and create awareness. That awareness-creation is very important, and then we can educate and let people know some of the things that we do that would not help us identify the right people, because the theme is “Accelerate Action”, and it is each and every one over here playing his or her role. And we can even identify one woman to do something.

If we look at the multiplier’s effect, it would definitely help with the process.

Mr Speaker, I want to congratulate everybody who appreciates the role that women have played. Everybody who does not think that pursuing gender or women affairs is only being a feminist, but thinking through what the future of our female children, our female grandchildren, and ensuring that they become part of the leadership of the country.

2.27 p.m.

Mr Speaker, I realise that you are in a rush, so what I would say is that with these few words, I am adding my voice to congratulate all women and the achievements they have made so far, especially our new female Members of Parliament who have unseated the men to be here to contribute their quota towards the achievement of gender equality.

Thank you very much.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

I think the Hon Leader would like to conclude within two minutes.

**Deputy Majority Leader (Mr George Kweku Ricketts-Hagan):** Mr Speaker, I know you are pressed for time, but I want to take this opportunity to say a few words to the Statement ably made by Hon Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe. I would take the opportunity to also congratulate all women for today.

Women play a very important role in this nation and around the world. A statement was made by one famous Ghanaian, Dr Kwegyir Aggrey that, “if you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a nation.” Mr Speaker, this statement was made about 125 years ago. It is ironic that we have a Government statistician here, but I wonder how much research Dr Aggrey had done to come to that conclusion that if one educates a woman, they have actually educated a nation. If that statement were to be made today, we would say that if we educate a woman, we have probably educated a continent.

Mr Speaker, women play a very important role; a lot of decisions that are made by men are actually made by women. When they say women control the world, women actually control the world. When we hear people say that a certain man was making a decision that they think was not right, they would say that they are sure it was his wife who advised him to make that decision. So, a lot of decisions are being made by women, so we should celebrate our women.

Affirmative Action is not an event; it is something that we should do progressively. I thank His Excellency the President for choosing a female as his partner to become the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, and he is appointing women to occupy positions. In the future, we should be looking at having women not only in political circles, but also in boardrooms and executive positions. It is not just appointing them to those positions, but actually supporting them to keep them there.

Mr Speaker, I congratulate all women today, and I wish them a very fruitful and a very good day. Thank you.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Let me thank all the ladies here.

I am happy that I have been able to allow every woman in this Chamber, at least, those who were present, the opportunity to speak. So, on that note, we congratulate the women all over the world, as well as those in Fomena Constituency, and my wife and family. Now, incidentally, all my children are ladies.

Hon Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe, thank you very much.

Hon Members, we are bringing Statement to a close.

We will constitute the House into the Committee of the Whole to enable the Government's Statistician to have a discussion with us. So, I will suspend Sitting so that we constitute the House into—

Yes, Hon Deputy Majority Leader?

Leadership, is there any indication?

**Mr Ricketts-Hagan:** Mr Speaker, I thought we would want to adjourn the House before we constitute the House into the Committee of the Whole.

**Deputy Minority Leader (Ms Patricia Appiagyei):** Mr Speaker, I think we have done more than five hours.

**Ms Appiagyei:** Mr Speaker, I was of the view that once you adjourn, you allow Hon Members to go away, but we are not adjourning now. We are just breaking Sitting by suspending it.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** You are right.

**Ms Appiagyei:** I propose that we adjourn Sitting.

**Mr Ricketts-Hagan:** Very well.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** I think it is almost the same, but I will go with what Hon Appiagyei is saying. Let us suspend, engage our guests, and afterwards, we adjourn the House.

**Deputy Majority Leader (Mr George Kweku Ricketts-Hagan):** Mr Speaker, thank you.

Hon Members, indulge me to suspend the House for just two minutes so that we constitute the House into the Committee of the Whole.

I think we should adjourn Sitting to tomorrow, at 10 o'clock.

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

2.25 p.m. – *Sitting suspended.*

2.25 p.m. — [*The House constituted into a Committee of the Whole.*]

4.02 p.m.

Hon Members, let me also thank you for your cooperation. We have done well today; Sitting has been peaceful and very cooperative. On that note, I would proceed to adjourn the House to tomorrow, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

4.02 p.m. – *Sitting resumed.*

The House stands adjourned.

[MR SECOND DEPUTY SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR]

## ADJOURNMENT

**Mr Second Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

*The House was adjourned at 4.04 p.m. till Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, at 10.00 a.m.*

