

FOURTH SERIES
VOL. 128
No. 25



WEDNESDAY
26TH FEBRUARY, 2025

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

CONTENTS

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS AND THE OFFICIAL REPORT — [Col. 1]

ADJOURNMENT— [Col. 14]

Correction of errors of substance may be made only on the floor of the House with the permission of the Speaker. However, correction of typographical or grammatical errors which Members suggest for the Bound Volumes which will be compiled at the end of the Meeting may be clearly marked in the Daily Report, and the copy containing the corrections submitted at the Editor's Office, Parliament House, not later than four clear days after the publication of the Daily Report.

BOUND VOLUMES of the Official Report (each with a comprehensive Index) are published periodically during the Session. There is no fixed subscription rate, but prices will be quoted on each publication.

*Published by the Office of Chamber Reporting
Parliament House, Osu, Accra.*

*Designed and Printed by the Publishing Department
Parliament House, Osu, Accra.*

THE
PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF GHANA

FIRST MEETING, 2025

Wednesday, 26th February, 2025

The House met at 11.08 a.m.

[MR SECOND DEPUTY SPEAKER
IN THE CHAIR]

[PRAYERS]

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Hon Members, we will skip the items numbered 2, 3 and 4; 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 begin with the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 25th February, 2025.

Page 1...9—

Prof Kingsley Nyarko: Mr Speaker, at page 9, this is a very minor suggestion or observation I have made, the item numbered (iii) reads:

“The Hon Member for Asutifi North, Mr Ebenezer Kwaku Addo, made a statement on brutal attacks...”

Because it was a specific incident, I was thinking it should be “on the brutal

attacks on residents of Asutifi North”. So, we just introduce a definite article to make it specific, “on the brutal attacks”.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Table, this is just a small issue of grammar, so take note.

Page 10...11—

Hon Members, the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 25th February, 2025, as corrected is hereby adopted as the true record of proceedings.

Hon Members, now, we would take the 13th February, 2025 edition of the *Official Report*. We should have taken it yesterday, but Members drew attention to the fact that they did not have copies, so we are taking it today.

Yes, Prof Kingsley Nyarko?

Prof Nyarko: Mr Speaker, I need your direction on the last paragraph of column 22. It reads, “Hon Members, yesterday, there was a Statement made by Hon Deputy Minority Whip” and because this is a House of records, we have two Deputy Minority Whips: Mr Jerry Ahmed Shaib and Alhaji Habib Iddrisu. On that day, I remember it was the First Deputy Minority Whip who had wanted to make a Statement according to Order 93(1), and I was thinking that we could be more specific. Otherwise, it could be misconstrued.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Prof Nyarko, you are perfectly right. Let us qualify the Deputy Whip, so if—

Prof Nyarko: Aside the last paragraph of column 22, and if what Mr Speaker has said is upheld, then the next page, under “Statement”—

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Prof Nyarko, you would agree that it was the First Deputy Whip—

Prof Nyarko: Yes, please; it was Alhaji Habib Iddrisu.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Very well; Table, kindly take note.

Prof Nyarko: Mr Speaker, at column 23, there should be a consequential correction on the first paragraph under “Statement” to read:

“As you rightly indicated, yesterday, the First Deputy Minority Whip sought leave of the Speaker and the indulgence of the House...”

That is it. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. Table, effect the consequential correction on the first paragraph of column 23 as well.

Hon Members, the *Official Report* of Thursday, 13th February, 2025, as corrected, is hereby adopted as the true record of proceedings.

Hon Members, again, I have the *Official Report* of 14th February, 2025.

[No correction was made to the *Official Report* of Friday, 14th February, 2025.]

Yes, Leadership, any indication?

Second Deputy Majority Whip (Mr Richard Acheampong): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. This morning, we have about three programmes running concurrently. There is a mining workshop at Kempinski which majority of the Members are attending; vetting is also ongoing.

Mr Speaker, we also know that tomorrow is for the Message on the State of the Nation, and the Chamber will be needed for arrangement for tomorrow’s programme, so we have agreed to take adjournment in order to hand over the Chamber to the Parliamentary Service staff to prepare towards tomorrow’s programme.

Thank you very much.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Yes, Minority Leadership?

Second Deputy Minority Whip (Mr Jerry Ahmed Shaib): Mr Speaker, I concur with my Brother on the other Side, save that we are not aware of the Kempinski programme, unless it is for just the Majority, but I am not sure. Is it for the Majority alone?

Mr Acheampong: Mr Speaker, yes, to my knowledge, I thought it was an open programme for all Members, but my attention has been drawn by my Hon

Colleague that she is not aware. Equally, he is not aware, so, maybe those who heard it attended, but it is an open programme and even it is shown live. I do not think it is anything secretive. It is about *galamsey* activities; how to come up with a solution to deal with it. So, maybe next time, I will draw the attention to inform, especially Leadership, so that you will be aware of what is going on. Sorry about that.

Mr Shaib: Mr Speaker, we take a cue, and subject to your further directions, we are minded to support the call for an adjournment. Save that I have also seen that we have some pupils up there and they may not enjoy the benefit of — I am not too sure yet, but I see some pupils up at the gallery. I am sure maybe the Clerk will give you further information on them.

Yes?

Mr Sebastian Fred Deh: Mr Speaker, for the fact that it is always indicated that this is a House of record, I just want to support my Leader by way of a reminder that even yesterday, at the Closed Sitting, Members on both Sides were reminded about today's programme at Kempinski, just for the record.

Thank you.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Prof Nyarko?

Prof Nyarko: Mr Speaker, inasmuch as I support the adjournment of Sitting, I think that moving forward, the right things be done. Because there are some

of our Members who are on their way here, and if we adjourn right now, they will be marked absent, and I think it is a cause of worry. My thinking is that probably, because tomorrow we would have the SONA, in future, if we can agree that because of the SONA or any other special event, we can, maybe, start at a particular time or end at a particular time. In that wise, we make room for proper preparation and organisation than for Members to be on their way and Sitting is adjourned.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon Amankwa-Manu?

Mr Kofi Amankwa-Manu: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I believe this is a House of record and that, it is important that Members pay attention to the attendance to the House. I mean, it is obviously very bad to see the Chamber empty; it cannot be said that because we have a programme, so most of our Members are out there attending the programme. That, I believe, cannot be the truth; that obviously is not the truth. Members are absent from the Chamber, that is what it is and I think it is something we have to work on. It cannot be. It is bad.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Hon Member, I thank you very much for your comment because for me, the Chamber is first and foremost, before you consider anything. Fine, we have the Appointments Committee Sitting, but I do not think that should explain this emptiness.

Yes?

Mr Acheampong: Mr Speaker, I do agree with your position but for my Colleague to say that what I am saying is not true, respectfully, it is unparliamentary to say that, because that is impugning on my integrity. I know what I am talking about.

Even as I speak, the Women Caucus are also having their meeting but like you said, everything must be done first here, before all other Committees will start their work. I do agree with you, Mr Speaker.

I am giving an information. You may disagree with the information but to say that what I am saying is not true, is he not aware that there is a programme going on at Kempinski? Is he not aware that people are at the Appointments Committee Meeting? Women Caucus is meeting, so what is the point that he is saying it is not true? So please, the Hon Member may disagree with my position — I am giving him information. We do encourage Members to attend upon Parliament so that at least we can start Business for the day because like Prof Nyarko said, Members are on their way to the Chamber. They will come, the House is adjourned, but this is what we have now. This is the situation and we need to also leave this place, get the place prepared for tomorrow's programme.

Tomorrow is the Message on the State of the Nation. The security agencies are around. They need to do one or two things here. So, let us bear with each other. It is just for today. Friday, we

will come and continue before we go for the workshop. So, hold your horses and let us adjourn the House so that we can make progress.

Hon Kwame Anyimadu-Antwi came in late. We have already resolved to adjourn the House. So, he should second the Motion so that we take adjournment.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Yes, let me give it to my Senior.

Mr Kwame Anyimadu-Antwi: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I do not agree with the Majority Deputy Whip. This notice should have come earlier. You do not get Members to get prepared to come to the Chamber to work only to be told to go back and relax in their rooms, that is not fair. You could have given us this information a day before or even when we started, when we read the Business Statement, we could have been given this information that we would not be sitting on Wednesday because there is a programme on Thursday. If you look at the Majority side, he should look behind him I can count three people. They are now coming up. So, if Majority wanted us not to come, they should have given us this information earlier.

Mr Speaker, at any rate, he is in charge of Government Business. I have not seen any Business ever since this Parliament started anyway. I have not seen any Business and we are ready to do Business. So, any time they are ready, we would assist them. I am grateful.

Thank you.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Last, I will take — Hon Amankwa-Manu have you spoken already?

Mr Amankwa-Manu: Mr Speaker, I just wanted to say to the Deputy Majority Whip, that I did not intend to impugn on his integrity.

That really was not my intention at all, and if it came out like that, I would want to say sorry to him, but that was not my intention at all.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much.

Hon Member?

Mr Sampson Ahi: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I think that we all know there is an official programme which Members are expected to participate. The Speaker himself is at that programme, and most of the Leadership are at that programme, and we all know that tomorrow is the Message on State of the Nation, and conventionally, anytime we are going to have a Message on the State of the Nation, we close by 11.30 a.m.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: 11.30 a.m.?

Mr Ahi: Yes, conventionally, so that the security officers can take over the Chamber and do the necessary things to allow the President to come tomorrow. I am sure my Colleagues are happy that we are adjourning now, but they are—Sit down; *tenase na wo pɛ ayi dodo*.

So, Mr Speaker—[*Interruption*]—They are not happy; I have withdrawn—So, let us adjourn to allow the security people to come and do the needful in the Chamber to allow a successful Message on the State of the Nation tomorrow. This is not the first time we are closing early when we have a Message on the State of the Nation—[*Interruption*]—I am only telling you. But, conventionally, that is what we have been doing anytime there is a Message on the State of the Nation, and tomorrow, there would be a Message on the State of the Nation.

Mr Speaker, I want to urge you that they have spoken enough, so do not call them again. Let us adjourn and go.

Thank you. [*Laughter*]

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: He says that you have spoken enough. But Hon Second Deputy Minority Whip, did you second the Motion?

Mr Shaib: Mr Speaker, yes.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: He has already seconded it, so Hon First Deputy Minority Whip—

Mr Shaib: Mr Speaker, we were in the process of seconding the Motion, and the issues started coming up—

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: No, you seconded it.

Mr Shaib: Mr Speaker, it included the fact that we are unaware of the Kempinski meeting, and we insist. So, we need that correction done; safe to say

that, Mr Speaker, we second the Motion – the motion that the Majority decided not to come.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Leadership, I think that next time, if there is any national event, please, let it be known to Members. I heard of it, but I do not think it was officially announced to Members. So, next time, let us address that particular issue.

Mr Acheampong: Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

I have taken a cue. I think that, three days ago, the Majority Leader said it in passing, but officially, we should have informed all Members. I apologised to my Colleagues, so those who came in late, we are sorry. Let us take adjournment, so that we can continue tomorrow.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Hon Collins Adomako-Mensah?

Mr Collins Adomako-Mensah: Mr Speaker, I just want to put it on record that we are not happy with what is happening. They do not have the numbers. They would have to bring Business for us to do; they are in Government.

I second the Motion for adjournment.

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Hon Members, the Motion has already been moved and seconded.

But before I put the question, let me acknowledge our children who have

come all the way to witness their Members of Parliament—Order!

So, the first school is Ajumako Gesdi D/A Basic “B” School. They are being led by Mr Gideon Arhin, a teacher, and Mrs Christine Ansong, a headmistress, and the school is located at Ajumako-Enyan Denkyira. They are about 150 in number, and unfortunately, they did not see much today.

[Pupils of Ajumako Gesdi D/A Basic “B” School were acknowledged]

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: The second school is Deo Gratias Institute Limited. They are being led by Mr Joseph Acquah, who is a teacher. The school is located at Awutu-Senya East Constituency. I guess we do not have the Member of Parliament here.

[Pupils of Deo Gratias Institute Limited were acknowledged]

Mr Second Deputy Speaker: Hon Members, these are our children who have come all the way from Ajumako-Enyan Denkyira and Awutu-Senya East to witness what goes on here and also see their Members of Parliament. Unfortunately, today, we are adjourning early to make room for the Chamber in preparation for tomorrow’s programme.

It is unfortunate that, today, you did not see your Members of Parliament debating and processing Bills to become laws. I hope you make time again. That notwithstanding, please, take your studies seriously, so that tomorrow, you will also take our place when we are no longer here. You are welcome.

Hon Members, the Motion for adjournment has been moved and seconded.

Question put and Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The House was accordingly adjourned at 11.36 a.m. till Thursday, 27th February, 2025, at 9.00 a.m.

