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31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY, 2025

## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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OFFICIAL REPORT

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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.

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THE  
PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF GHANA

FIRST MEETING, 2025

Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2025

*The House met at 4.40 p.m.*

[THE SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR]

[PRAYERS]

**The Speaker:** Hon Members, I would have loved to have so many more Members on the Floor. I do not know whether the Whips would not be deployed immediately to get Members to come in. I saw a number of them in the corridor having conversations; we need them inside.

In the meantime, we will take item numbered 4—Formal Communication by the Speaker.

**FORMAL COMMUNICATION  
BY THE SPEAKER**

**Happenings at the Appointments  
Committee of Parliament**

Members, in furtherance of the powers, conferred on me by the 1992 Constitution, the Parliament Act 1965 (Act 300), the Standing Orders of Parliament and the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament of Ghana, I make this Statement with a very heavy heart and “righteous anger”. I am so shocked and very scandalised at what I saw and heard through various media outlets at what happened at the sittings of the Appointments Committee yesterday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and this morning. Today, I

read the views and reports of our brothers and sisters of the media as to what took place at the said sittings of the Committee. The outrage of the public and the people we represent and serve is apt and understandable.

What should have been a solemn exercise in parliamentary scrutiny, degenerated into an appalling display of chaos and lawlessness, bringing this House into disrepute before the entire world. What transpired was not just a gross affront to the dignity of Parliament but also a blatant contempt of the House. This further aggravates the already existing low level of trust of Parliament and parliamentarians. I have the unfortunate burden of responding to the disgraceful and deeply regrettable events that unfolded during the Appointments Committee’s hearing. Such behaviour is utterly unacceptable and a direct affront to the dignity of this House. The actions of those involved have sullied the image of Parliament and also betrayed the trust of the Ghanaian people whose expectations of leadership, decorum, and responsible conduct have been callously disregarded.

The Parliament of Ghana is expected to stand as the foremost institution of democracy and trusted with the solemn duty of upholding the principles of good governance, integrity and selfless public service, yet the events that transpired during the Appointments Committee hearing yesterday have gravely undermined these ideals. These incidents represent a new low in parliamentary conduct and are particularly egregious given its timing and recurrence. It is unconscionable that Members who are supposed to be leaders elected to serve as representatives of the people would

engage in violent confrontations in a setting that demands the highest levels of maturity, emotional intelligence, and statesmanship.

In the face of our fathers, our revered traditional and spiritual leaders, kings, queen mothers, the apostles, and our own children, Members could not even exercise a scintilla of emotional intelligence. Aged people who had sat from morning just to assist and support the Committee to perform its duty were treated to these ugly scenes.

It is deeply troubling that this is the third time in as many years that such an incident has occurred within the precinct of Parliament. Each time, public outrage has been met with empty apologies and no real change in conduct. This House must acknowledge that it is rapidly eroding public confidence in Ghana's democracy and that such conduct, if not decisively addressed, will have grave consequences for the credibility of Parliament and the future of democracy in our dear nation.

Even more alarming is the involvement of some senior Members of the House and Members in leadership, individuals who ought to embody the principles of leadership and discipline. Their participation in this deplorable spectacle raises serious questions about their fitness to lead and their commitment to upholding the values of Parliament. If Members cannot engage in robust debate without resorting to physical aggression, then they are unfit to discharge the mandate bestowed upon them by the people of Ghana.

Parliamentary privilege does not and will never extend to lawlessness. The rules of Parliament exist to guide conduct, and Members are duty-bound to uphold them. Ghanaian citizens deserve a Parliament that exemplifies discipline, intelligence, and the pursuit of national progress, not one that degenerates into a battleground at the slightest disagreement. The international community is watching us.

As Speaker, I have received numerous calls from concerned citizens, both in and outside Ghana, from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), academia, and parliamentary counterparts across the world, all lamenting the disgraceful conduct of Members of this House. Today, I welcomed my Colleague from the Parliament of Morocco; a number of them are here leading delegations to a prosperity dialogue, and they all saw what happened. The Ghana that they are proud of.

This unfortunate development is a direct contradiction of the repeated admonitions I have issued to Members. Just yesterday, we had an occasion here; immediately after that, the worst happened. I have consistently reminded this House that respect is earned, not demanded. The manner in which Members conduct themselves determines the extent to which they command the respect of the Ghanaian people. Yet, despite these admonitions, some Members continue to act in a way that dishonours this House and its traditions. This must stop! Parliament cannot continue to excuse misconduct under the guise of political disagreement.

Consequently, the following emergency measures are to be taken with dispatch. One, the circumstances of the absence of a Privileges and Immunity Committee, in that circumstance, a seven-member special Committee shall be constituted under Orders 5 and 20(4) to conduct a full-scale investigation into the events of yesterday and this morning. The Committee shall identify all Members involved in the disorder and submit its report with findings and recommendations within 10 days from today.

Any Member found culpable shall face the appropriate disciplinary actions as prescribed by the 1992 Constitution; the Parliament Act, 1965 (Act 300), and the Standing Orders of Parliament. This does not absorb the Chairman of the Appointments Committee from performing his duty under Order 268(3) which says, and I quote:

(3) The Chairperson of a Committee shall maintain order at a meeting of the Committee and decide on each question of order and

(a) where a Member persists in disorderly conduct, the Chairperson may refer the conduct of the Member to the House for determination;

And so, I expect the Chairman of the Committee to also submit a report to this House.

The following Members shall constitute the membership of the Special Committee; I have not consulted any Member, and this is a duty no Member

can fail or decline to perform. The following Members shall constitute the membership of the Committee:

- i. Mr Emmanuel Bedzrah – Chairman [*Hear! Hear!*]
- ii. Mr Kwame Anyimadu-Antwi
- iii. Mrs Gizella Akushika Tetteh-Agbotui
- iv. Mrs Abena Osei-Asare
- v. Dr Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings
- vi. Mr Vincent Oppong Asamoah, and
- vii. Mr Bede Anwataazumo Ziedeng.

That is a seven-member Committee. You are to present your Report with recommendations within 10 days from today.

In pursuance of section 10 of the Parliamentary Service Act, 1993 (Act 460), I direct the Clerk to Parliament to cause to be undertaken a full assessment of all damage caused within the committee room and parliamentary precincts as a result of the misconduct of the Members. Not a single pesewa of public funds shall be used to repair or replace any damaged property. Instead, Members found responsible shall be surcharged for the full cost of repairs and replacement, with deductions made from their emoluments including the salaries of Members, if necessary.

Three, in pursuance of the provisions of the 1992 Constitution and the Standing Orders of Parliament, I further

direct the Clerk to Parliament to formally lodge a complaint with the Ghana Police Service to conduct a full criminal investigation into the matter for appropriate action.

Four, I call for an immediate meeting of the Committee of Selection today, to reconstitute the Appointments Committee as a matter of urgency and to set up the Standing Orders Committee to reconsider a revision of the rules for the assessment of Nominees for the consideration and approval by the House. If there is any defect of our Rules, we would rectify them. The scene that we have all witnessed is unpalatable.

Five, I draw the attention of Members to the sanctions provided for in the Parliament Act and the Standing Orders of Parliament in the event of a breach of privilege or contempt of Parliament under Orders 34(2) and 36. Members may also look at Article 123 of the 1992 Constitution. Let there be no doubt, Parliament's credibility has been seriously undermined and urgent punitive action has to be taken, since this was done *contemptus Parlamenti in facie parlamenti*. Consequently, the following Members are suspended from the Sittings of Parliament for two weeks from today. Do you want me to repeat it? You want the Latin part? Their actions—The Hon Member is so keen in listening to the Latin phrase, I am not sure he is studying law. But it is not even known to Dr Stephen Amoah. What I said is this, let there be no doubt, Parliament's credibility has been seriously undermined, and urgent punitive action has to be taken, since this

was done *contemptus Parlamenti in facie parlamenti*.

Consequently, the following Members are suspended from the Sittings of Parliament for two weeks from today. They are one and two, the two Chief Whips in the persons of:

1. Mr Rockson-Nelson Etse Kwami Dafeamekpor
2. Mr Frank Annoh-Dompreh, and
3. Mr Alhassan Tampuli Sulemana
4. Mr Jerry Ahmed Shaib.

Leaders from the various Caucuses should take consequential actions to continue with their leadership. But the Marshal is hereby directed to ensure the full enforcement of this suspension in accordance with the Rules of the House.

As Speaker, I reaffirm my commitment to restoring the dignity of this House. The people of Ghana deserve a Parliament that exemplifies leadership, integrity, and discipline. Members must reflect deeply on their conduct and be reminded that they hold their seats in trust for the people. The events of 30th January, 2025 and this morning must not be repeated. If not, the full rigors of the law would be applied. This is just the beginning and Members must know that you can be expelled as a Member of Parliament by Parliament.

In Conclusion, I am deeply disappointed by the conduct of Members involved in this shameful episode. Their

*Formal Communication by the Speaker*

actions have brought disrepute to Parliament and undermined the democratic values we have sworn to uphold. I wish to extend my sincere apologies to the Ghanaian people for this national embarrassment and assure them that this House will not allow such an incident to recur.

Parliament must and will do better. I call on all Members to reflect on their actions, uphold the dignity of this institution, and recommit themselves to the principles of democracy and responsible leadership. With this, I thank all of you for your attention. [*Hear! Hear!*]

Hon Members, other measures would be taken after the Committee of Selection has held its meeting. As I indicated, the meeting of the Committee of Selection is today, it is being chaired by my good self and I am expecting Hon Members in my conference room to hold the meeting immediately I recline from this seat.

May we move to the item numbered 6, Business Statement for the fourth week. Chairman of the Business Committee.

## **BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Chairman of the Business Committee/ Majority Leader (Mr Mahama Ayariga):** Mr Speaker, the Committee met on Thursday, 30th January, 2025 and arranged Business of the House ending Friday, 7th February, 2025, that is the fourth week.

Mr Speaker, I wish to submit the report of the Committee and I request that the *Hansard* capture the Report as presented and read. I will just focus on the highlights.

## **Arrangement of Business**

### **Formal Communications by the Speaker**

Mr Speaker, you may read any available communication to the House.

### **Statements**

Mr Speaker, pursuant to Order 91(2), Ministers of State may be permitted to make Statements on Government policy. You may also admit Statements by Hon Members in accordance with Order 93.

Mr Speaker, the Business Committee entreats the Committee of Selection to work expeditiously on the composition of the Standing and Select Committees and submit its Report for the consideration of the House. The Members of the Committee are therefore implored to avail themselves for this important assignment.

### **Papers and Reports**

Mr Speaker, pursuant to Order 97, Papers may be laid during the week and reports from Committees may also be presented to the House for consideration.

### **Motions and Resolutions**

Mr Speaker, Motions may be debated and their consequential Resolutions, if any, taken during the Week

**Joint Caucus Meeting**

Mr Speaker, the Committee has programmed a Joint Caucus meeting on Wednesday, 5th February, 2025 to discuss pertinent issues of concern to Hon Members.

**Conclusion**

Mr Speaker, in accordance with Order 216 (2) and subject to Order 67 of the Standing Orders, the Committee submits to the House the order in which the Business of the House shall be taken during the week.

**Tuesday, 4th February, 2025**

Roll Call

National Pledge

Statements

Presentation of Papers –

- (a) Report of the Appointments Committee on His Excellency, the President's Nominations for Appointment as Ministers of State.

Motions –

- (a) That this honourable House adopts the Report of the Appointments Committee on His Excellency, the President's Nominations for Appointment as Ministers of State.

Committee sittings

**Wednesday, 5th February, 2025**

Roll Call

Statements

**Presentation of Papers**

- (a) Report of the Appointments Committee on His Excellency, the President's Nominations for Appointment as Ministers of State.

**Motions**

- (a) That this honourable House adopts the Report of the Appointments Committee on His Excellency, the President's Nominations for Appointment as Ministers of State.

Committee sittings

**Thursday, 6th February, 2025**

Roll Call

Statements

Presentation of Papers

- (a) Report of the Appointments Committee on His Excellency, the President's Nominations for Appointment as Ministers of State.
- (b) Report of Leadership on the constitution of the membership of the Pan- African Parliament.
- (c) Report of Leadership on the constitution of the membership of the ECOWAS Parliament.



## Motions –

- (a) That this honourable House adopts the Report of the Appointments Committee on His Excellency, the President's Nominations for Appointment as Ministers of State.
- (b) That this honourable House adopts the Report of Leadership on the constitution of the membership of the Pan-African Parliament.

## Consequential Resolution

- (c) That this Honourable House adopts the Report of Leadership on the constitution of the membership of the ECOWAS Parliament.

## Consequential Resolution

## Committee Sittings

**Friday, 7th February, 2025**

## Roll Call

## Statements

## Presentation of Papers –

Report of the Appointments Committee on His Excellency, the President's Nominations for Appointment as Ministers of State.

## Motions –

That this honourable House adopts the Report of the Appointments Committee on His Excellency, the President's

Nominations for Appointment as Ministers of State.

## Committee sittings

**The Speaker:** Hon Members, any comments? Hon Members, the Business Committee's Report is adopted by the House.

We agreed at Conclave to adjourn after the presentation of the Report. We will correct the *Votes and Proceedings* next week. I have to rush somewhere and I am behind schedule already. So, please – Yes, Alhaji Habib Iddrisu?

**Alhaji Habib Iddrisu:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Even though the Business Statement has been adopted, I do not know whether we would be given an opportunity to say one or two words on the Statement that you have read, the committees that you have set up and some directives.

**The Speaker:** It is a formal communication; you do not have a role to play there.

The House is adjourned.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The House was adjourned at 5.15 p.m. till Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, at 12.00 noon.*

### **Editor's Note**

This *Official Report* was corrected by the House on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, as follows:

Column 1, after 'First Meeting' '2024' was deleted and '2025' inserted.