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THURSDAY  
9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2025

## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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OFFICIAL REPORT

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THE  
PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF GHANA

FIRST MEETING, 2024

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

*The House met at 11.15 a.m.*

[THE SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR]

[PRAYERS]

**The Speaker:** Hon Members, we would take the item numbered 3, Messages from the President. I have received on your behalf, a message from the Office of the President dated 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 and it reads:

# COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Nomination of Ministers



PUBLIC OF GHANA

### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Jubilee House, Accra  
P.O.Box 1627, Accra  
Digital Address: GA-000-0288

Kindly quote this number and date on all correspondence

My Ref. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Your Ref. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date. \_\_\_\_\_

9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Rt. Hon. Speaker,

#### NOMINATION OF MINISTERS FOR PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL

In accordance with Article 78(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, 1992, I hereby, on behalf of H.E John Mahama, submit for consideration and approval of Parliament the following nominees for ministerial appointments:

1. Dr. Cassiel Ato Baah Forson, MP --- Minister Designate, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
2. John Abdulai Jinapor, MP --- Minister Designate, Ministry of Energy
3. Dr. Dominic Akuritinga Ayine, MP --- Minister Designate, Attorney General and Ministry of Justice

The nominees' credentials and records of service demonstrate their competences to support the government's agenda and serve the people of Ghana effectively.

Attached are their Curriculum Vitae and supporting documents for vetting. I trust that Parliament will expedite the approval process in accordance with constitutional requirements.

  
CALLISTUS MAHAMA, Ph.D.  
SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT

RT. HON. SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT  
PARLIAMENT OF GHANA  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
ACCRA

**The Speaker:** Hon Members, I will accordingly refer the said nominees to the Appointments Committee for consideration and report to the House. It is so referred.

*[Pause]*

12.01 p.m.

**The Speaker:** Yes, Hon Major—Minority Chief Whip?

**Mr Frank Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, you referred to me as Hon Majority Chief Whip. I think it is prophetic, and it would surely happen. Mr Speaker, if you would indulge me for just a second—

**The Speaker:** Actually, I thought you were going to be more ambitious than that. You want to continue to be Majority or Minority Chief Whip? You should go up—*[Laughter]*

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, that is a good counsel, but my future is in the hands of God.

Mr Speaker, if you may indulge me for just a second on account of the Communication from the outfit of His Excellency the President, I simply would like to—I see my good friend, Dr Ayine—In fact, he walked in—I do not know if it was a divine coincidence but when he walked in, that was when his name was mentioned. I would like to commend him highly. All of us are aware of his credibility and his composure in this House and maturity shown over the years. The Hon Majority Leader's name

has come up strongly. We also commend him. And Mr John Abdulai Jinapor for the Ministry of Energy. Let me remind His Excellency the President that this is three out of 60 Hon Ministers, so we have 57 outstanding—*[Laughter]*

Mr Speaker, when you said that there was a correspondence from the Presidency, suddenly, the Majority Side was dead silent, and I saw people praying. I saw Mr Ahmed, my good friend, praying, and he suddenly went into meditation—*[Laughter]*—We can only wish him well. However, the President has made it abundantly clear that he would not go beyond 60. So, at what breath—Mr Speaker, would Mr Norgbey, be among the 60?

Mr Speaker, on a more serious note, I would like to commend your good self and Leadership for being proactive when we took the decision to put together the Committee on Selection, the Appointments Committee and the Business Committee in anticipation of these nominations coming. We on the Minority Side would be ready for them at the Appointments Committee. We would like to caution the Hon Nominees to come prepared. It is not going to be business as usual so they should come prepared. I hope they would be prepared when they appear before the Appointments Committee.

Mr Speaker, on a more serious note, I would like to commend the two Hon Nominees and the names that have come up and wish them well in their next world.

**The Speaker:** Hon Members, the First Deputy Speaker to take the Chair.

Yes, Mr Sampson Ahi?

**Mr Sampson Ahi:** Mr Speaker, I just would like to commend the Hon Minority Chief Whip for already approving the Hon Nominees by His Excellency the President by commending them. I pray that he continues on this tangent so that it would fast-track the appointments process so that the President would get the needed Hon Ministers to support him. I would like to thank him for giving prior approval even before the Appointments Committee sits.

**The Speaker:** Hon Members, we now move to item numbered 5, Correction of *Votes and Proceedings* and the *Official Report*.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS AND THE OFFICIAL REPORT

**The Speaker:** We would start with the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2025. Page 1—

Yes, please?

**Mr Kofi Iddie Adams:** Mr Speaker, based on the information and the counsel you gave yesterday after Mr Ibrahim Murtala Muhammed, the Hon Member of Parliament (MP) for Tamale Central, made his contribution that we were having our first Sitting of the Ninth Parliament yesterday, and today's *Votes and Proceedings* indicates "Minutes of the Second Sitting of the First Meeting of

Parliament." You indicated that what happened yesterday was the first Sitting, and what happened on Tuesday was actually the First Meeting. So, we could correct the caption on the *Votes and Proceedings* to read "Minutes of the First Sitting of the First Meeting of Parliament."

**The Speaker:** Yes, Hon Member, we have taken note of that. I simply used the language of the Constitution and our Standing Orders. The language used is "when Parliament first meets," and this one is referred to as the "first Sitting". That is the language I referred to. Table Office, kindly take note of that.

12.09 p.m. — [MR FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR]

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, Order!

*Hear! Hear!*

Hon Members, we can now continue with the Correction of *Votes and Proceedings*. Any more corrections on Page 1?

Page 2—Hon Member, you have the Floor.

Yes, Mr Tweneboa Kodua Fokuo?

12.11 p.m.

**Mr Tweneboa Kodua Fokuo:** Mr Speaker, I am trying to understand the way we write "Hon", "Rt Hon" and all the abbreviations that we use in our minutes. It may be a convention that we

do not put full stops or dots after the abbreviations so for “Hon”, we do not put any full stop or dot, “Rt” we do not put any full stop or dot. If that is the convention, it should run across but then you get to other places where there are these dots or full stops so we need to understand which is which. Thank you Mr Speaker.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, these are time tested procedures so if you notice some inconsistencies, you can approach the Table and point it out.

Yes, Mr Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah?

**Mr Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah:** Mr Speaker, congratulations once again. I am to communicate to you from your friends that you sat with for all these years that they assure you of their support. And to let you know that because you have been with them for a long time, they would be catching your eye anytime they are up. So, remember them where you are now.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon Deputy Majority Leader. Yes, Hon Minority Leader?

**Mr Alexander Kwamena Afenyo-Markin:** Mr Speaker, I also rise on this occasion to congratulate you. We on this Side did not get the opportunity to congratulate you on your elevation. Clearly, patience and industry has taken you where you are. Being well placed in the east of this Chamber did not come by chance and I say so for the young ones

who may think their destinies have delayed, sometimes we do not get it when we expect it. You are my tribesman from the same village and it makes me proud that my own brother who has patiently walked the journey of politics has been elevated by his colleagues to be our *primus* on matters of parliamentary practice.

Mr Speaker, having said that, let me add my voice to my respected Colleague, Mr Frank Annoh-Dompreh, MP, Nsawam Adoagyiri who is also the Chief Whip for our Side in commending our friends. I congratulate Dr Cassiel Ato Baah Forson on this nomination to that enviable position as Minister for Finance. Dr Dominic Akuritinga Ayine of the academia stock has also been elevated, having previously served as a Deputy Minister for that enclave he is going back into, and my own respected Colleague, Mr John Abdulai Jinapor, who performed creditably while in Minority. He held our feet to the fire and he gave us heavy punches so it is quite obvious that he has earned it.

Mr Speaker, I just would also add to Dr Forson’s credentials. This is to the young ones; on Tuesday while we were on the dais, Dr Forson made a comment and I would want to without his leave put it out, that some 16 years ago, he was a back bencher and today he is the Leader on his Side. To the young ones, again and again, from this Side and behind me, your day would come. He was a young man who could not be recognised and he was just behind me. Patience, industry and loyalty to a cause has put him there and new Hon Members should emulate

his hard work so if they do not get nominated, they should not be disappointed. On a very serious note, new Hon Members should do the best they can wherever they are placed and one day, it would get to their turn.

Mr Speaker, having made those important points, let me also express some few observations.

First, in the Eighth Parliament, under former President Akufo-Addo, Rt Hon Speaker made a very profound observation that matters—Rt Hon Speaker observed that communications to the House must first be known to the House before getting to the media. This House should not be a secondary recipient of that which is its *bona fide*. I do not appreciate the fact that a Statement would be issued when Parliament has not already received the communication. Parliament should be the first to receive the communication before it gets out into the media and that was the position taken by Rt Hon Speaker. So, I would want to draw the attention of the Executive to this matter especially knowing the acting spokesperson of the Executive is one of our own, my own respected Colleague, Mr Felix Ofosu Kwakye. A very resilient man who does not fall easily and knows what he is about when he is doing his politics. I respect him for that.

Mr Speaker, the second observation is the fact that when the names were read out by the Speaker, he read out only three names; the Minister for Finance designate, the Minister for Energy

designate and the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice designate.

Mr Speaker, these appointments in bits and pieces are unacceptable. This is a government that promised a 24- hour economy while in opposition. They told us that they were ready for Government —

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Minority Leader.

**Mr Afenyo-Markin:** Yes Mr Speaker, indulge me, they promised—

12:21p.m.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Minority Leader, I am just indulging you because you are the Leader. This is the time slotted for corrections of *Votes and Proceedings*.

**Mr Afenyo-Markin:** I took your leave. Mr Haruna Iddrisu used to slot this in and I am doing that.

Mr Speaker, this Government — I am talking for you. Mr Speaker, this Government promised a 24-hour Economy. We expect them to be ready from day one. Mr Speaker, they cannot start with only Ministers designate for Energy, Finance and Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Where are the rest of the Ministers? They must be ready. We want to hear Mr Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah, we want to hear Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Mr Eric Opoku, we want to hear Ministry of Roads and Highways; we want to hear Ministry of Lands and Natural



Resources; we want to hear Ministry of Education.

**Mr Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah**

—*rose*—

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Minority Leader, I recognise the Deputy Majority Leader on his feet. Deputy Majority Leader, are you on *point of order*?

**Mr Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah:**

Thank you Mr Speaker. My Brother and my respected Minority Leader, the former Majority Leader who has led our friends to that Side has been talking a lot lately. We have been indulging him because we understand this difficult transition and we believe that we should allow him to basically bring out all the pains of losing, but we want to remind him that his responsibility is to ensure that the Business of this House flows.

We are working on *Votes and Proceedings* and he is expected to make brief comments if he has to. We are not debating, and we are not imperials of statements and so my respected Colleague, please, help us in an orderly manner to do the Business of Government because frankly, we are going to ensure that the Business of Government is executed without constant interruptions. We expect the Hon Minority Leader to be productive, and we expect him to cooperate as we did to ensure that Government Business is done. For now, we are indulging him because we know the painful transition he is going through.

Thank you.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, let us continue with the Business at hand, corrections of *Votes and Proceedings*. Page 3?

**Mr Rockson-Nelson Etse Kwami Dafeamekpor** —*rose*—

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Are you on page 3? Do you want to speak on page 3 or the *Votes and Proceedings*?

**Mr Rockson-Nelson Etse Kwami Dafeamekpor:** Mr Speaker, I rise to — the Leader has misinformed the House — *[Interruption]*—

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, Order! We are proceeding with page 3 of *Votes and Proceedings* — *[Hear! Hear!]*—

Page 3...9

**Mr Kofi Iddie Adams:** Mr Speaker, page 7, item numbered 6 should equally be corrected to read corrections of *Votes and Proceedings* of the First Meeting held on Tuesday instead of First Sitting. So, per what Mr Speaker indicated.

But Mr Speaker, the item numbered 4 deals with — Mr Speaker, based on the statement made by the Hon Minority Leader yesterday about 61 of our Hon Members being absent, there is a publication today to that effect. Meanwhile, the records here shows that only 15 Hon Members were absent and out of this 15, 10 are from the Minority Side. So the information the Minority Leader put out yesterday that 61 were absent from this Side is false. It has no basis. The evidence here shows that 15

were absent, five only from our Side and 10 from the Minority Side. That is what I just want to say.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Member, thank you very much for the corrections, the point is well noted. Table Office, it is a consequential correction.

Any more on page 7? Yes, Hon Minority Chief Whip.

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, with respect, just to draw your attention after you gave the consequential directives based on what Mr Kofi Iddie Adams said, at the time Mr Afenyo-Markin raised the matter, that was the situation. Sixty-one of them were not present —*[Interruption]*— Mr Speaker, that is the reality. Table Office can bear us out. The reality is that, at the time the matter was raised, 61 of them were not present so it cannot be the case. Please, check the records and before the Hon Leader raised it, we did all the checks. Mr Speaker, I contest that; that cannot be right. We probably should defer this matter to the Table Office to supply the needed information, but as at the time the Leader raised it, 61 of them were hovering around, lobbying for positions.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Minority Chief Whip, this is a House governed by rules. As a matter of fact, the rules and the Constitution in Article 102 is very clear on quorum to commence Business. Article 104 and our rules are very clear as to quorum to take decision. At the material moment that the

issue was being raised, the issue was, did we have a quorum to commence Business? Did we have a quorum to take a decision? So, Hon Members, this is not a point we should belabour today.

May we continue with the correction of *Votes and Proceedings* — *[Hear! Hear!]*.

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, with respect to you, it is important we do not mix up the matter. You know that I respect you, and I would continue to respect you. We are not talking about quorum and Mr Speaker, with greatest respect to you, we do not have to mix up the matter. He said that as at the time, what the Deputy Minority Leader said was not correct, and I am saying, no. It is his word against mine. Let Table Office prove that. As at the time the matter was raised, 61 of them were absent and that is a statement of fact.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Minority Chief Whip, you will agree with me that this is not a matter that we should belabour today. That is the point that I am making. If it were to be a substantive issue you are raising based on quorum, I would have agreed with you.

**Mr Haruna Iddrisu** —*rose*—

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** I recognise the former Minority Leader, Mr Haruna Iddrisu.

**Mr Haruna Iddrisu:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

Yesterday I had the opportunity to raise the issue of the delegation of former President Joe Biden of the United States of America to the investiture of H.E. John Dramani Mahama.

Mr Speaker, I have gone through the corrections of *Votes and Proceedings*. Mr Speaker, yesterday during *Votes and Proceedings*, I drew the House's attention to former President Joe Biden's delegation to attend the inauguration of H.E. John Dramani Mahama which delegation included Hon Karen Bass, H. E. Virginia Evelyn Palmer and others. I know that the *Hansard* will capture that, but Mr Speaker, the United States of America cannot be treated as ordinary and therefore, I expected that the full delegation would have been corrected accordingly as I indicated yesterday.

12.31 p.m.

I heard the Speaker say that he acted based on information that was available to him. I am doing this so that we appreciate that the *Votes and Proceedings* — per our rules, I raised it here as *Correction of Votes and Proceedings* and it necessarily must reflect as *Correction of Votes and Proceedings*. So Mr Speaker, yes, we can rely on *Hansard* but for the United States of America and on the strength of our diplomatic relationship and on the strength of their democracy, I want the full list of the US delegation captured as corrected yesterday. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, former Leader. Yesterday, the

Speaker based on your submission, directed the Table to do the needful. I will also ask the Table to do the needful and ensure that what is supposed to be captured is well captured. Thank you.

Any more corrections on page 7?

**Dr Murtala Muhammed Ibrahim:** Mr Speaker, this is a House of record and everything that is said here will be captured by the *Hansard*. The micro Minority Chief Whip [*Uproar*] —

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Dr Murtala Muhammed Ibrahim, you are out of order.

**Mr Muhammed:** All right, Mr Speaker, the Minority Chief Whip —

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** You are out of order, resume your seat. [*Hear! Hear!*] page 8 —

**Mr Nelson Kofi Djabab:** Mr Speaker, still on page 7, item numbered 7. I was present and took part in the roll call but my name is found among the absentees' list.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Table, take note.

**Mr Kennedy Nyarko Osei:** Mr Speaker, on page 7, item numbered 12, paragraph 12. Yesterday, I was just right behind you and we even exchanged some pleasantries but I have been listed among those who were not in the House. I think the Table should take note and — yes, a whole me.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Table, he was present, take note. I interacted with him yesterday, so take note and do the necessary corrections. Any more on page 7?

Rev Ntim Fordjour?

**Rev John Ntim Fordjour:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. On page 7, the item numbered 4, paragraph 13, Mr Owiredu Charles Asuako was present but has been marked absent. I bring this to the attention of the Table.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. Table, take note but Hon Members should do well to sign the register. After signing the register, I believe strongly that you cannot be marked absent. All those with similar corrections should please see the Table.

Page 8...10 —

**Mr Francis Owusu-Nyarko:** Mr Speaker, may I bring your attention to page 9, paragraph 7, item numbered 17 in the table. We have Hon Mustapha Ussif but at the designation column, we do not see anything attached to his name. I want to bring to your attention for correction. Thank you.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** You want an indication whether he is a Member or not?

**Mr Owusu-Nyarko:** Yes, Mr Speaker.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Table, take note. Page 10 — Yes, Minority Leader?

**Mr Afenyo-Markin:** Mr Speaker, I am grateful. If you go back and I apologise for doing that — page 8, Item numbered vi, the spelling of the Former President's name, his "Dankwa" has no "h" so if that may be corrected.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Well noted. Page 10...12 —

**Dr Gideon Boako:** Mr Speaker, page 12. With respect, I reference table B under paragraph 10, item numbered 14. I realise that the name of the Hon Member for Afigya Sekyere East, Ms Mavis Nkansa Boadu, the form of the name spelt there is inconsistent with what is captured on page 5, which is Ms Nkansa-Boadu Mavis, Nkansah Boadu is hyphenated. I am inclined to believe that what is captured on page 5 is the correct spelling.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Table, take note and do the reconciliation. Thank you very much, Hon Member. Anymore on page 12?

**Dr Thomas Winsum Anabah:** Mr Speaker, on paragraph 10, table B, item numbered 7, my name Anaba is not properly spelt. There is an "h" at the end which differentiates it from other ones.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** I consequentially direct that any Member who has a problem with the correction of the name should see the Table.

**Dr Anabah:** All right, thank you.

12.41 p.m.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Page 13 —

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Table Office, take note and do the necessary corrections.

**Mr Mumuni Muhammed Nurideen:** Mr Speaker, if you look at page 13, table C, you realise that item numbered 17, Hon Mustapha Ussif's membership is missing once again.

Page 15—

Yes, Hon Member?

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, I further direct that any issue relating to correction of names, kindly see the Table.

**Prof Titus Kofi Beyuo:** Mr Speaker, I seek your guidance on the use of the word, “composed” and “re-composed” on page 14. It states, “and composed the Business and Appointments Committees as well as re-composed the Committee of Selection”. I thought all Committees were composed yesterday so I do not know whether the word “re-composed” would be appropriate so I just want guidance.

Page 13, 14 — Minority Chief Whip?

**Mr Annoh-Dompreh:** Mr Speaker, if you may indulge me, let me take us back to page 11, I tried to catch your attention. I think yesterday at length, we spoke about titles and some directives were given by the Speaker. I recall the Minority Leader saying that his title “Osahen” is dear to him. On page 11, that error has been caused again and so if you flip through — I want to draw the Table's attention that the correction should be effected and consequentially, it should run through.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Member, the Leadership has brought the membership of the Committee on Selection but when they went for the meeting, there were changes. That is how come the word “composed” and “re-composed” came in; so, it is correct.

Yes, Hon Member?

Mr Speaker, proceeding further to page 13, the table displayed there, item numbered 18, I know ordinarily this should not be the approach but the Clerk will bear me out that at conclave, we engaged the Speaker and some agreement was reached. Mr Kwaku Asante-Boateng is being replaced with Ms Abena Osei Asare, if the Table can take notice. Thank you.

**Mr Abdul Kabiru Tiah Mahama:** Mr Speaker, there are two important observations and they have to do with some omissions when it comes to page 7 item numbered 8 when we were doing the corrections—

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Member, you are taking us back to page 7.

**Mr Mahama:** Mr Speaker, it is a general observation that runs through the whole document. I would want the Table Office to take notice of that because it is in reference to the point raised by Mr Haruna Iddrisu and Mr Annoh-Dompreh. I feel strongly that we need to correct it now because yesterday, some two important issues came up. The first one had to do with titles of Members of Parliament and it was agreed that we should have, at least, one title recognised and the Member should make provision for it. I think that that solves a matter on the Floor and the *Hansard* or the *Votes and Proceedings* should have captured that.

The second issue has to do with a point and intervention raised by Mr Annoh-Dompreh to the effect that there was difference between dignitaries who were invited to congratulate the President and those who were at the event. The difference was that the Speaker invited some people to congratulate the President; it was not everyone who was at the event that was supposed to be captured in our records and I just think that these two interventions are important that we include them in the *Votes and Proceedings* for the purposes of records.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Member, in respect of some matters that you have raised, it is settled. The Speaker directed that the Table Office should fish out the correct issues and place them there so I assure you that it would be done.

Page 15—

Yes, Hon Member?

**Dr Abed-Nego Lamanin Bandim:** Mr Speaker, I have made an observation and I would like to draw your attention to it. In this House, we have rules that we all follow. I have observed that Members, particularly the new Members from the Minority Side would rise and without you recognising them would start to speak. I think that they should be cautioned. They should learn slowly but not in a hurry. The Speaker must recognise you before you speak; you do not just get up, put your microphone on and start talking.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Member, thank you very much for your observation but at this stage, I urge on the House to indulge them. After the orientation, the rules would be fully applied. So, your point is well noted.

Hon Member, you were on your feet.

**Mr Isaac Boamah-Nyarko:** Mr Speaker, this is just a short comment on what the Hon Member on the other Side raised. —[Interruptions]— We expect Mr Speaker, of course to be looking at both Sides for us to catch his eyes. So, it is just not the fault of Members on the Minority Side to just get up and speak. We are trying to, as much as possible, catch the eye of the Speaker. So, it is just a plea to the Mr Speaker that when you look at the Side of the Majority, remember that there is also a Minority Side that is looking for your attention. —[Hear! Hear!!]—

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Deputy Leader?

**Mr Buah:** Mr Speaker, I am very impressed with the enthusiasm and the confidence of our new Members who are very eager to speak. That is very impressive; we really want you to do that and in this very beginning, we are encouraging you to do that. That is why we are all encouraging Members to allow you to speak even if you are out of Order but I think that the point that was made was very important. Every time that you rise to speak, it must have basis; all the basis are in the Standing Orders. You must quote the right Standing Order as the basis to speak and we would want you to understand that it is very critical and so you would have the opportunity to learn all that during the orientation but the point that was made by the Hon Member is very important. I do not think it was meant to discourage you or demean anybody but in the coming weeks you would realise that when you rise to speak, you would be expected to quote the right Standing Order as the basis to speak and this is very important. So, I encourage you to speak but I want you to make sure that as we go forward, you would be grounded in the rules of this House.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, as a matter of fact, this House is guided by rules. I indicated clearly that the rules would be applied after orientation of the new Members. For instance, if you look at what constitutes *Votes and Proceedings*, for the avoidance of doubts, let me read Order 6 on page 10 of our rules:

“*Votes and Proceedings*” means the daily publication of the minutes of a sitting of Parliament comprising the record of the attendance of Members and any decisions of Parliament for each sitting day.”

Hon Members, you can all attest to the fact that in applying the Order, there are a lot of things that we allowed today which ought not to be part of the issues that we should deliberate upon but as I indicated, we are yet to do orientation so Parliament is a master of its own rules, therefore, we are allowing Members to come in in a way that by strict application of the rules, it would not have happened.

**Mr Afenyo-Markin:** Mr Speaker in guiding—

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Do you have a Point of Order on the Speaker?

**Mr Afenyo-Markin:** No, I seek your guidance. Mr Speaker, in guiding the House, you referred us to page 10 of our rules book and also referred to the *Votes and Proceedings*. May I humbly know from you under what Order we are further directed to?

12. 51 p.m.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Minority Leader, I think you know you are out of order. Resume your seat —  
[Uproar]

Hon Members, the *Votes and Proceedings* of the First Sitting date Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, as

corrected, is adopted as the true records of proceedings—[*Hear! Hear!*]

**Mr Dafeamekpor** – *rose* –

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members—

Yes, Hon Member for South Dayi?

**Mr Dafeamekpor:** Mr Speaker, may I seek your leave to respond to some matter that the Hon Minority Leader in his submission related to on this Floor.

Mr Speaker, we are guided by our rules, and we do not say this *cliché* whimsically. They carry some import. The Hon Minority Leader, in trying to say that the President engaged in an illegality by releasing his announcement to the media before forwarding same to this honourable House—

Mr Speaker, with your leave, let me read Order 65 of our Standing Orders:

- “1. Communication from the President to the House shall be made to the Speaker in writing signed by the President, or in the absence of the President, by the Vice-President or by a Minister authorised by the President.
2. Communication from the President shall relate to matters including...

(b) a Ministerial or Deputy Ministerial nomination;”

Mr Speaker, the President has done exactly that, yet the Hon Minority Leader sought to create that the President has no right to make a public announcement of this information prior to making the communication available to Parliament. I think that this record ought to be set straight that there is no guideline forbidding the President from making public announcement before relaying the information to Parliament.

Mr Speaker, in any case, yesterday, the same Hon Minority Leader had cause to make very profound statement about some number of Hon Members on the Majority Side who were supposedly absent. It has found itself in the headline of a newspaper. When the record for today states the fact that that was not the case.

Mr Speaker, I believe that when the Hon Minority Leader wants to delay matters, he should do so within the rules.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Member for South Dayi, we are just done with the *Votes and Proceedings* and the *Official Report*.

Hon Members, we will move to the item numbered 6—Statement on the Order Paper, Statement. It is to delivered by the Hon Minority Chief Whip.

## STATEMENT

### **Celebrating the Laudable Strides of a Climate Parliamentarian**

**Minority Chief Whip (Mr Frank Annoh-Dompseh):** Mr Speaker, it is



with great pleasure that I make this Statement to highlight the good work of our brother and colleague, Dr Emmanuel Marfo, the former Member of Parliament for Oforikrom, and to celebrate another feat of our nation Ghana in the passionate endeavour to shine the black star of Africa to the rest of the world.

Mr Speaker, as part of the global action to address climate change, the energy transition, and climate financing, a great deal of work has been made by our national and international actors of which Dr Marfo is ably represented.

Mr Speaker, Ghana's Parliament has indeed been a model, on the subject matter, holding several successful engagements to shore up inclusivity on climate issues and to institutionalise the objectives of our nation in addressing this endangering phenomenon.

Mr Speaker, in July last year, under the leadership of the Rt Hon Speaker Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin, and the facilitation by Dr Emmanuel Marfo, the Ghana Parliamentary Climate, and Disability Caucuses were both launched to promote sustainable development practices that prioritise environmental conservation, through the advocacy of progressive environmental and social policies.

Mr Speaker, today, I am proud that Dr Emmanuel Marfo has been appointed by the Climate Parliament as its new Director for West and Central Africa regions, having come a long way through academic and professional careers in the field of environmental science, policy

and legislation. The Climate Parliament which is headquartered in London is a global network of legislators working to inform and mobilise Members of various Parliaments and Congresses to take action on the climate emergency. The Climate Parliament, having recognised the commitment of the Members of Parliament of Ghana, has engaged with both sides of the House and found it appropriate to elevate one of our own to direct the affairs of the African sub-regions to continue to marshal all the support needed to address this climate emergency.

Mr Speaker, before his appointment, Dr Marfo was a Principal Research Scientist at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); he then became the Member of Parliament for Oforikrom Constituency for two terms and voluntarily retired. Dr Marfo was the Chairman of the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology in the Eighth Parliament and the global chairman of the Parliamentary Group of the Climate Vulnerable Forum from 2022 to 2024.

Still in Parliament, Dr Marfo served on the Committees on Gender, Children and Social Welfare; Lands and Natural Resources; Constitutional and Legal Affairs; Roads and Transport; and Works and Housing at various times. He was also the Vice Chair of the Disability Caucus and Chair of the Climate Change Caucus.

Mr Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity, even now, at the commencement of the Ninth Parliament

to sound the call the House has consistently made on the matter of climate action: may it not be lost on us as a Parliament, as a nation and indeed the global community, that every day that goes by where we do not act, we do not only stare in the face of a grave and enduring destruction of livelihood, for the near generations after us, but we do so with our hands at our backs.

Mr Speaker, the risk of loss of biodiversity, crop losses, displacement of communities due to the rising sea levels, and the rampant floods are but a few challenges that will overtake us if we do not soldier on in our quest. I am encouraged by such feats in the global landscape that give Ghanaians the opportunity to join the fore actors in impacting our communities with sustainable solutions to challenges such as this.

Mr Speaker, to conclude, to Dr Emmanuel Marfo, I say *ayekoo*. Being one of us, he should be reminded that he has the support of the House at all times to bring success to the endeavours of the Climate Parliament and all other local and international agencies we continually engage with.

1.01 p.m.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon Minority Chief Whip.

Hon Members, I would allow Members to comment on the Statement

subject to Order 93(5) of the Standing Orders. For the purposes of our new Members if I may read,

“A Member may comment on the Statement for a period not exceeding five minutes and the comment shall not provoke debate.”

Hon Members, you may now proceed to comment on the Statement.

**Some Hon Members – *rose* –**

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** I recognise the Hon Member for Asante Akim Central, Mr Anyimadu-Antwi.

**Mr Anyimadu-Antwi (NPP — Asante Akim Central):** Mr Speaker, I am very grateful, but I just realised that the person who succeeded Dr Marfo is on his feet, and I pray to yield to him for now.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Very well

Hon Member for Asante Akim Central, did you first recognise him or are you just giving him the opportunity?

**Mr Anyimadu-Antwi:** Mr Speaker, that is what I said; he is the Member for Oforikrom.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Yes, Hon Member for Oforikrom?

**Mr Michael Kwasi Aidoo (NPP — Oforikrom):** Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to make some few

comments on the Statement made by the Hon Minority Chief Whip.

Mr Speaker, my predecessor, Dr Emmanuel Marfo, is characterised by environmental sustainability, and he has excelled in that field. Today, from Oforikrom, we stand proud and congratulate Dr Marfo for the achievements he has made, and we believe that he is able, and going into his new role, he would make us proud. Today we say *ayekoo* from the people of Oforikrom and, most importantly, from the people of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), we also say *ayekoo* to Dr Emmanuel Marfo. We believe that he would continue to do his best, as he has done over the years, and we stand with him in his new role.

Mr Speaker, thank you.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Member for Tamale Central, Mr Murtala Mohammed?

**Dr Murtala Mohammed Ibrahim:** Mr Speaker, since I am also a past student of KNUST, I say *ayekoo* to Dr Emmanuel Marfo.

Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the Statement made by my good friend, the Minority Chief Whip, on the elevation of our brother on a matter that should be of tremendous concern to everybody and not only the people of the Oforikrom Constituency but the entirety of the global community and, most importantly, the African countries.

Mr Speaker, as a farmer myself, as well as the other thousands of farmers if not millions across the country, climate change is something that is causing a havoc to those of us engaged in this farming business. People find it extremely difficult to now predict rainfalls, to determine when to start tilling the land and when to start planting their seeds because of the havoc caused by the actions of man to the detriment of our climate.

Mr Speaker, there are skeptics, and these skeptics are not just the ordinary man like myself and many other people in this country but includes presidents of the most powerful states of the world. A classic example is the president-elect of the United States of America who, among many people, believes that there is nothing called climate change, but those of us in developing countries and those countries that are islands do know the consequences of climate change. The fact that farmers can no longer predict—And rainfall patterns have tremendously changed tells us that productivity is hindered and, once productivity is hindered, it affects the livelihood of people.

As a state, we have participated in several international climate conferences: to what end and to what end and benefit? What are we doing individually to ensure that we contribute our quota towards ensuring that the environment is protected and farmers get the benefits of their toils on the land?

Mr Speaker, let us bear in mind that once these are affected, it affects trade,

productivity and virtually everything. It is our prayer and hope that our brother having been elevated is not going to look at it as an individual achievement, but what can he do to support the continent of Africa and to support Ghana? As an Hon Member of Parliament—And I know that many of our Colleagues here across the aisle are farmers, and we know the effects of it; we are more than prepared to assist in any way to see that the purpose for his appointment yields something positive for Ghana.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** I recognise the Hon Member for Asante Akim Central. Hon Member, I asked whether you were giving out your slot or not, but you said you were yielding to him.

**Mr Kwame Anyimadu-Antwi (NPP — Asante Akim Central):** Mr Speaker, this being the first time I am speaking while you are in the Chair, let me take the opportunity to formally congratulate you for your elevation to the Chair and to urge you that, because you have started so well, to continue, and you will get to greater heights.

Mr Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the Statement ably made by the Hon Minority Chief Whip. Normally in this House, tributes are usually paid to people who have passed on; it does not usually happen when someone is alive and we pay tributes.

Mr Speaker, in the Fifth Parliament, I heard about Dr Marfo, and especially in the Sixth Parliament when I was the Vice

Chairman of Committee on Lands and Natural Resources, it came to a time where we had to do land and forest depletion, and we had some sub-committees of which I chaired one. During research, I came across the name “Dr Emmanuel Marfo”. He had already given us some papers that we could not go past but had to use for our work. It was later I met him at a party meeting when he was then the chair of the Oforikrom Constituency that I realised that it was this Dr Marfo that I had read about.

1.11 p.m.

Mr Speaker, when he came to Parliament, he was placed on these other Committees, including the Committee on Lands and Forestry, and then he did other things like environment. Dr Emmanuel Marfo, never played with his work. In Parliament, he had other things that he had to do. At the Ashanti Caucus, he became the secretary of the Caucus and his duties were done with admiration; I happened to be the Chairman of the Caucus.

Mr Speaker, I would commend the Leadership of the Eighth and Seventh Parliaments because, Dr Emmanuel Marfo never forgot about his background and what he knew. He was given opportunity by the Leaders to place him in the right committees. I would urge every Hon Member of this House; those who have come anew and those who were here that almost everybody in this House is a professional in one way or the other. So, I would encourage everybody to continue to practice his or her profession.

Mr Speaker, there are various Committees; the Standing and Select Committees and obviously for the first timers, if these Hon Members should look through, they would find something that is relevant to their profession. If we would do that, we can be sure that this House would be taken to a greater height.

With this, I would urge everyone in this House and the Leadership of the House on both sides of the aisle, to look through the Hon Members that have come anew and identify where they can practice most, then we can place the Hon Member, in order that the Parliament of Ghana would be taken to a higher level.

Mr Speaker, thank you.

**Mr Samuel Nartey George (NDC — Ningo-Prampram):** Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

I rise to contribute to the Statement ably made by the Hon Minority Chief Whip and Member of Parliament (MP) for Nsawam/Adoagyiri, Mr Frank Annoh-Dompreh and state that as a technocrat, I am proud of my fellow technocrat, Dr Emmanuel Marfo, who I have had the opportunity to serve in the Seventh and Eighth Parliament with.

It goes without saying that irrespective of our political differences, Dr Emmanuel Marfo was a fantastic parliamentarian who committed himself to the work he did at Committees. So, it comes as no surprise, his elevation and recognition on the international landscape. Even as a Member of Parliament, he represented the House on

several climate and environment assignments.

Mr Speaker, I believe that as a country, we need to pay more attention to the challenges and difficulties that our food sustainability and security faces on the back of climate change. As a developing country, Ghana is one of the smallest contributors to greenhouse emissions, the pollution of the ozone and the effects on climate change. However, Ghana is one of the biggest sufferers of the effects of climate change. You talk to farmers across our country and you would realise the challenges that they are facing with the predictability of the weather.

So as a country, the challenges that the previous speaker, Mr Kwame Anyimadu-Antwi made reference to, must go beyond the fantastic academic pieces and papers that are churned out by members of academia, to implementation by Government heads and agencies. Because we have fantastic research and documents sitting on the shelves of many of our educational institutions but these are not being applied for the benefit of our workers. That is why as a country, we need to apply the work the people like Dr Emmanuel Marfo are doing, for the betterment—

I believe that the new Administration with the focus on agri-business and agriculture would begin to give more impetus to things like this so that we can use the research to resource the agencies that need to be resourced. Because many times, the agencies that need to

implement some of these are left behind because they are not seen as attractive enough. But those are the things that would give us economic stability when we have food security.

Once again, I want to commend the maker of the Statement, because like Mr Kwame Anyimadu-Antwi said, most times we hear about tributes in this House only after the person is dead. In fact, when he started reading the tribute, the first question I heard in the aisle is, if he is dead. Because that is the norm in this House. We need to begin to celebrate our own and recognise people for their contributions to national and international development.

Once again, *ayekoo* to technocrat Dr Emmanuel Marfo.

**Rev John Ntim Fordjour (NPP — Assin South):** Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

I rise to thank the respected Minority Chief Whip, Mr Frank Annoh-Dompreh on the Statement ably made, that paid a glowing tribute to another respected Colleague of ours who was a Member of the Seventh and Eighth Parliament, Dr Emmanuel Marfo, on his contribution to environmental sustainability and climate.

Together with other Colleagues, I wish to join him together with other Colleagues who spoke before I rose, to congratulate Dr Emmanuel Marfo on his well-deserved appointment as the new Director for Climate Parliament for the West and Central Africa. We have every

confidence in his ability to succeed; we wish him God speed.

I have had the opportunity to serve in the Seventh and Eighth Parliaments and on a number of Committees with Dr Emmanuel Marfo and in particular served with him on the Climate Parliament Ghana Chapter, a Caucus which he conveyed and chaired till his exit from the Eighth Parliament. The depth of his expertise in climate change, energy transition and matters of sustainability is remarkable. Most admirable is his commitment to mobilising global action and raising advocacy to ensure that climate financing sees great attention and also key stakeholders tackle issues of climate change as one that is so important.

Mr Speaker, it is so important that in every Parliament, we have champions of climate change that we had in Dr Emmanuel Marfo. Owing to his exit, I believe that another champion would rise up to that occasion. But considering the wide range of effect of climate change from bio-diversity loss to extreme temperatures and in particular in displacement, it is important to also have champions of climate change, particularly in all our schools. It is important that we champion to raise champions who are going to be in our schools.

Mr Speaker, because, whenever there are climate-induced disasters, education is the hardest hit, school going children are the hardest hit. When there is flood and disruptions occur, many children would have to stay out of school for days

if not for weeks or months. Therefore, the effects and the contribution that even the younger generation could adapt climate resilient practices is so important that at these early stages they become familiar and young champions.

On this note, I congratulate Dr Emmanuel Marfo on this feat.

I thank you.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Dr Sebastian Ngmenenso Sandaare—

1.21 p.m.

**Dr Sebastian Ngmenenso Sandaare (NDC — Daffiama/Bussie/Issa):** Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I also rise to contribute to the statement ably made by the Hon Chief Whip of the Minority Side which is a tribute to Dr Emmanuel Marfo, a former Colleague of ours. I also congratulate him on this great height. I was in the Climate Parliament, Ghana Chapter, he was our chairman. And, of course. I am also a product of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology therefore, those of us from that great university of science and technology are proud of him because he is demonstrating that he is a product of that university. We wish him well and we hope that he would continue to contribute to solving the problems of climate change which we know, affects all sectors of life.

We know climate change influences even the incidence and the complexity of infectious diseases. Many of the pandemics that we are witnessing can be attributed to the climate change that we

are facing. We witness clubbing that affects women and children and many such things that we can talk about. We need collective action to fight climate change and we hope that he would bring the experience that he has to bear in this area. Once again, I join the many Hon Colleagues and the maker of the Statement to congratulate him. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** I have to be gender sensitive. Former Regional Minister I am looking behind you.

Hon Member?

**Ms Gloria Owusu (NPP — Trobu):** Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I rise to support the Statement by the Hon Minority Chief Whip. We wish him all the best.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much for that brief.

**Dr Agnes Naa Momo Lartey (NDC — Krowor):** Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity to contribute to the Statement made by the Hon Minority Chief Whip. I want to take the opportunity to also add on briefly in congratulating the former Member of Parliament, Dr Emmanuel Marfo, on his appointment to the Climate Parliament. I served with Dr Marfo on the Committee on Gender, Children and Social Welfare, I was a friend to the Committee on Environment Science and Technology, and the Climate Change Caucus. This appointment comes to encourage all of us here to bring to bear our professionalism to the work that we do on the Floor.

We have all witnessed how he tackled the issues on climate change with passion. I vividly recollect his passion and frustration leading to the delays in the passage of the Environmental Protection Bill, 2024. He took a non-partisan stance and was able to push those on the Floor who were playing neutral to realise that it was a Bill of interest to the nation, for that matter, we had to all put our partisanship aside and look at it with an objective eye.

Today, the Bill is passed into law and we are all going to be beneficiaries of it. In fact, the nation Ghana benefits from it greatly. His appointment comes to attest to the fact that if a person works and serves diligently in this House, the House gives the person the platform to be seen globally and their work would be recognised. We are all witnesses to what has happened to him. This afternoon, I can only add my voice to the many voices in wishing him well and encouraging all of us who are learning and hope to be somewhere from this House that there is life after this House. So, in whatever we do, we should take cognisance of the fact that we would be needed outside there. Life is beyond what we do on this Floor so, whatever we do counts and we should take it seriously. Thank you very much and congratulations to him once again.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Let me recognise the Hon Member for Atiwa West.

**Ms Laurette Korkor Asante (NPP — Atiwa West):** Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Statement by the Hon

Minority Chief Whip and the contributions from my Hon Colleagues. Issues of climate change, energy transition and climate financing are critical in the global community. As a nation, we must be excited that a respected former Member of the House has been given this mandate to lead the charge for the African subregion on the climate emergency. This should also remind us, as a House, to prioritise climate issues to help prevent the destruction of livelihood in the near future. We wish him all the best and we say *ayekoo*. Thank you. — [*Hear! Hear!*]

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much Hon Member for Atiwa West.

Prof Adam?

**Prof Hamza Adam (NDC — Kumbungu):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for recognising the then Committee members. I am the first person to speak from the previous Committee of which Dr Marfo worked. I was fortunate to work in the same Committee with Dr Marfo, we also worked together in the leadership of the Committee, first as a Deputy Ranking Member and subsequently as the Chairman of the Committee.

Dr Marfo is a nice person who transcended political boundaries. He recognised capacity and resources and gave a levelled ground to all of us to work in the Committee. He is a result-oriented person. He is a person who is a team player and hardworking, and I have



no doubt that he has been able to achieve this feat. We worked together to get the Environmental Protection Bill, 2024 passed. At the Committee, Dr Marfo was also very instrumental in ensuring that we formed a Climate Parliament in the Parliament of Ghana so, he subsequently worked hard to ensure that we got that particular Caucus inaugurated. I have no doubt of Dr Marfo's capacity to be able to work in the office that he has found himself.

1.31 p.m.

On behalf the Committee, I can only wish him well and we have no doubt that he will make Ghana shine for the rest of the world to see where we are as a country.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity.

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

Hon Member for Ketu South, you have the Floor.

**Ms Abba Dzifa Gomashie (NDC — Ketu South):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, when I was coming to the Parliament of Ghana in 2021, I had no idea that I would be inundated by the tidal waves that hit my community in 2021. But when that disaster happened, one of the few people who approached me to comfort me and guide me was Dr Emmanuel Marfo. He understood that part of the problem which led to the tidal

waves was because of climate change and global warming. He educated me on it and because of that education, I joined the Climate Parliament and Disability Caucus because of Dr Emmanuel Marfo. Because of that passion which he has for our world, he gave me a lot of materials to read, having read and appreciated them, I decided to go on the internet and join the Global Climate Parliament. I got the opportunity to travel with Dr Marfo to Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and also two other international conferences out of this country. On those platforms, it was a pleasure and joy to see our brother speak on this matter of climate change and I felt proud as a Ghanaian.

His leadership style is one that embraces both his profession, career and just being a human being with feelings for one another. I have had the opportunity to speak to him about family life. I am his big sister and I have shared a lot of experiences with him on how to raise his children. It is important that we learn to marry both what we do inside Parliament and what our private lives are. Because it is the totality of the human being that we are talking about. Dr Marfo exemplifies that and I think his leadership style is worthy of emulation.

Today, I join all Members of Parliament who have spoken highly of Dr Emmanuel Marfo to say that, indeed, here is a great man who is being celebrated in his lifetime for his work that he has done for our country and now he has the opportunity to shine even brighter on the global stage and make Ghana great and proud.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity and may we all learn from his example.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon Member for Ketu South.

Mr Darko, I saw you on your feet. Let me hear you.

Hon Member, you have the Floor.

**Nana Asafo-Adjei Ayeh (NPP—Bosome Freho):** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I would like to commend the Minority Chief Whip, Mr Frank Annoh-Dompreh for the Statement and also join the teeming Members of the House who have spoken in high esteem of our senior, doctor and lecturer, Dr Emmanuel Marfo.

Mr Speaker, having worked with National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) and attended several climate change programs, we made reference to papers and publications that were made by Dr Marfo. Today, I am not surprised that he has attained that height.

Mr Speaker, the elevation of Dr Marfo should draw our attention to some major fundamental issues that as a House, both political divides, concern ourselves with. Mr Speaker, it has to do with securing funds for research that has to do with promoting climate change and its consequences.

Mr Speaker, we can make reference to the National Climate Change Policy

document. When this document was passed, major among the challenges that confronted this document and its implementation was funding. Mr Speaker, it is important that as a House, together, we look at how we can secure dedicated funding to issues of climate change and also encourage investors to also look into funding and supporting climate change issues.

Mr Speaker, the next issue should be the political will. Mr Speaker, as many as have contributed spoke about the challenges, effects and consequences of climate change but when it comes to the political will, it becomes a problem. I would urge the House to look at the heights Dr Marfo has attained and encourage all of us to be interested in supporting Bills and other things that have to do with climate change.

Mr Speaker, with these few words, I would want to congratulate Dr Marfo for attaining this height. [*Hear! Hear!*]

**Mr Ebenezer Oklety Terlabi (NDC — Lower Manya Krobo):** Thank you for the opportunity to also comment on the Statement.

Mr Speaker, a lot of us who were in the Eighth Parliament did not understand the chemistry between myself and Dr Marfo. In fact, our relationship started from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) campus, Kumasi, precisely, when he was the party chairperson for Oforikrom and I was a candidate for the National Democratic Congress (NDC). Mr

Speaker, in fact, the interesting thing is that, anytime we met, we never discussed anything politics. It was all about science, technology, innovation, and climate change. Therefore, I do know that by an act of God, I came here a year before him but we ended up being on the same committee and that chemistry continued. If you would look at what happened in our committee, you would realise that there was harmony because we understood each other and we knew what we were all about. I am not surprised about this appointment because I know what Dr Marfo is made up of and what he believes in.

Mr Speaker, my worry is that, today, issues of climate, climate change and climate funding is so grim. We need people with such expertise to guide policy and to help in unlocking the various funds to support in mitigating the effect of climate change in this country. Unfortunately, I know for a fact that my Hon Colleague, Dr Marfo, did not just decide not to contest but circumstances led him to bow out.

Mr Speaker, this would go to all of us. If indeed we recognise the potential and expertise of Hon Colleagues, we would need to find a way at least to protect such people. Dr Marfo is young and he has more years ahead and I believe that if the New Patriotic Party (NPP) had protected him and given him that opportunity, he would have helped a lot in shaping policy so far as climate issues are concerned in the House. Unfortunately, we lost him.

1:41 p.m.

Today, another opportunity has been given to him and I shudder to say that the influence would be directed towards developed countries than Ghana and we may not benefit too much from his exploits like if he had remained in Parliament. Therefore Mr Speaker, I want to advice that much as we believe in democracy, we must give everybody the opportunity. But then Mr Speaker, when you have people with special expertise especially like climate change and climate financing, areas that are great which we do not have many experts, we should encourage our various parties to protect such persons so we make maximum use of them.

Mr Speaker, on that note, I congratulate my Hon Colleague and I pray that the good Lord guide him wherever he finds himself.

Thank you very much.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon Member.

Former Hon Regional Minister?

**Mr Kwabena Okyere Darko-Mensah (NPP — Takoradi):** Thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity to support the Statement made by the Hon Chief Whip of our Side in congratulating the good work and the elevation of Dr Emmanuel Marfo.

Mr Speaker, I have known Dr Marfo since he was the Chairman for the Oforikrom Constituency because his

predecessor was a very good friend of mine. Secondly, I knew Dr Marfo at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) where I was a student and Mr Terlabi was also there. Currently, we are next door neighbours so, we are happy that as students of KNUST, our own has been elevated for the West and Central Africa Climate Programme.

Mr Speaker, Dr Marfo is one person who was very strong with his thoughts and even on our own platform, he was fearless and very strong in pushing any agenda that he believed was right and good for the good people of this country.

Mr Speaker, he was also the Chairman for the Parliamentary Climate Caucus of which I was a member. As a student of sustainable development and a biochemist, I have always believed in saving the planet and always believed the sort of things that Dr Marfo did in supporting Ghana in our thinking about climate action, climate emergency, climate finance, and the energy transition including resilience were key components of keeping our country and its biodiversity up to this day. It is therefore my wish and hope that as he sets foot into the world of work with the West and Central Africa Climate Programme on Climate Parliament, key issues like local ownership of the ideas of climate action and key issue of the ideas of climate finance would get to the bottom and the grassroots of our people so that we would own it instead of it just being a policy at the top without going down. We keep talking about them year

in year out without the real actions on the ground.

Mr Speaker, I also do believe that with all the books, textbooks, projects and thesis we have written in the universities, there should be local solutions and technologies to solve a lot these problems. If we are able to get this ownership and the local solutions together at the local level, I do believe that we would be solving more of our problems than always looking after the effect instead of looking at the pre-effect of a lot of things that we have been talking about in this country.

With these few words, I wish once again to say *ayekoo* to Dr Emmanuel Marfo and I believe that as he has been elevated, other people on our ranks in Parliament, would also be elevated in our area of work and profession.

Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity.

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

Let me take Mr Bedzrah, then I would come to the Leadership of the House.

**Mr Emmanuel Kwasi Bedzrah (NDC — Ho West):** Thank you Mr Speaker.

I would also want to add my voice to my Hon Colleagues who have already eulogised our brother Dr Emmanuel Marfo, former Hon Member of Parliament for Oforikrom.

Mr Speaker, the Hon Dr Emmanuel Marfo met us in this House and he has carried himself very well not only as a scientist but also a politician. He cuts across both Sides. He is someone one could approach. When there were issues in this House, we all know, he would approach and say: “Well, you are in the Minority and we are in the Majority, please, let us work together and let us have consensus”. When the days were heated, one would not see him talking. He would walk to an Hon Member—those of us who are his colleagues and friends, he would come to you and say: “Well, let tempers cool down and let us work with consensus”.

Mr Speaker, I have been in two associations with him: Global Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) and African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) and I have travelled with him around the world and Mr Speaker, I can tell you that he has in-depth knowledge in this very area of climate change. So, I was not surprised at all when I met him yesterday and I asked what he was doing, he said he had moved on. I asked what was in the pipeline and he said he had been made the Director for West and Central Africa Programme on Climate Parliament and I told myself that this is a good step for us and we should all learn especially those of us who are here for the first time.

Mr Speaker, Hon Members come to this House and may not know when they would step out, therefore we have to prepare ourselves for the future. It is possible that an Hon Member would only spend one term in this House but if an

Hon Member spends a lifetime here or one term here, and the Hon Member carries himself or herself well and studies studiously, the Hon Member would find himself or herself not only on the local stage but on the international stage as well. For Dr Marfo, he has moved on. He is no longer a Member of Parliament but he has moved on to exhibit that which he has learnt from this House as a politician and a scientist. So, when Members of Parliament come as lawyers, teachers or engineers, they should add politics to their profession so that when they are no longer Members of Parliament, they can also find themselves on another platform where they can exhibit their profession and politics.

With these few words, Mr Speaker, I thank you.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much, Mr Emmanuel Bedzrah. Hon Leaders?

**Mr Jerry Ahmed Shaib (NPP — Weija-Gbawe):** Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Are you speaking for the Leadership?

**Mr Shaib:** Yes.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** All right.

**Mr Shaib:** Mr Speaker, I first of all want to congratulate you personally. It seems everybody is talking about Dr Marfo but I also have to talk about Mr Bernard Ahiafor. This is because of your current elevation and the fact that you are

a *dzolalian* and I feel special that you are a *dzolalian* and once my classmate. I feel very humbled by that.

Mr Speaker, besides that, I also in support of the Hon Minority Chief Whip's earlier Statement, want to also talk about Dr Marfo and this is because he has shown a lot of alacrity and he has moved to a position that one has to commend him. This is because for some of us who are new here, we are emboldened by the fact that we can come, learn and learn properly and aspire to be somewhere beyond the borders of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I pray that Dr Marfo in his new position would concentrate on blue economy where we have a lot of issues we are dealing with especially in Ghana, where we are overwhelmed with filth and squalor.

Mr Speaker, I believe that he is going to concentrate on social inclusion, especially the preservation of livelihoods and growth. It is our prayer that all will go well with him.

Thank you.

1.51 p.m.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Minority Leader, before I give you the Floor, let me state that you would always have your pride of place in this august House as the Hon Minority Leader. You have never withheld your support and cooperation for the Chair. So, we would continue to have a very healthy debate in

this particular House counting on your support.

Hon Minority Leader, you may now have the Floor.

**Minority Leader (Mr Afenyo-Markin):** Mr Speaker, we shall remain friends and brothers till casket. I am happy—I know that sometimes, we all slip, but it is alright. We are in this together.

Mr Speaker, thank you for those kind words. In that same spirit, I would like to assure my Hon Friends who are in Government, that we know the support we had from them when we were in Government. We are not going to obstruct Government Business. There are fundamental and ideological disagreements; we would keep friendship, but make our case and keep their feet to the fire without prejudice. We would do so in utmost respect to everybody in this Chamber. Most of them here are our Hon Friends. We break bread together and do positive things together. It is not politics that would divide us.

Mr Speaker, that said, I would add my voice to the Statement made by my respected Hon Colleague, the Hon MP for Nsawam/Adoagyiri and Hon Chief Whip of our Caucus. Mr Speaker, this man being celebrated today is personally known to me. We were in the Eighth Parliament together. Two years ago, in a conversation, he indicated that he would be starting a new life, meaning, he had planned his life. I asked why he did not contest again, and he said having looked

at the options, he felt that he could move on and make a contribution.

Mr Speaker, he and I disagreed a number of occasions on matters, but one thing I noticed was that anytime we had a serious disagreement, the following day, he would come to my office and say, “*Leader, Ennyɛ sɛ na mereka biribi atia wo; na merekyerɛ m’adwen*”. In other words, “Leader, it was not the case that I was more or less attacking your personality or doing something against you, but I was expressing my opinion.” The last of it was on the Environment Protection Bill, where we were trying some—as you know, Chamber engineering, and he came out strongly and expressed an opinion and I told him that at least he could have discussed that with me privately. He acknowledged that and we settled our matter at the Holding Room behind us. That is the character, Dr Marfo.

Mr Speaker, what do we learn from him? A lot of times, parliamentarians create the impression that there is no life after Parliament, and this is where I would like to spend a bit of time to make some few points, particularly, to our Hon Colleagues who have just joined us. They may be coming from their different professions, and I would like to tell them that they should not abandon their professions. Way back in 2013, when we were here, the former Rt Hon Speaker, Doe Adjaho, encouraged those of us with our professions, particularly, those of us who practised in a court to try and practise, and that we did. I would encourage those who are teachers to continue to find space to teach, and those

who belong to other professions to explore. Back to Parliament, in this Chamber, the debates and advocacy on this Floor is perhaps about less than 10 per cent of our work. The real advocacy is at the Committee level, and how they distinguish themselves outside of this Floor, and if they get the opportunity to travel on any parliamentary delegation, their duty as parliamentarians is to make their name because Ghana is an example to the world and for the world, and parliamentarians from Ghana are so respected.

Mr Speaker, I urge my Hon Colleagues to take every advantage of this Parliament. They should not be too worried if they do not get the opportunity to clear their throat on the Floor. People may intimidate them—the Hon Majority Chief Whip who is very calm these few days, if they see his advocacy in opposition, and Mr Ahmed Ibrahim, are strong voices that may be intimidating. The way they get up and come out strongly, they may wonder how they could make it. Even if they do not get the opportunity, they should know that there is an opportunity for them after Parliament. So, they should build their careers and their *Curriculum Vitae* (CVs), and I know that very soon, we would hear great names from among us, and we would not only be reading tributes, but we would be celebrating.

Also, Mr Speaker, let us complement each other. There was once upon a time, a respected Hon Colleague who is no more with us, Mr Kennedy Agyapong, and there came a time when we were opposing Government Policy on this

Floor—the New Patriotic Party (NPP) was then in Minority—we saw him walk into the Chamber. We thought he was going to join us to strongly oppose the National Democratic Congress (NDC) Government. When he took his turn, he said, “Mr Speaker, this is not about NDC or NPP; it is about systems and policies.”

Mr Speaker, I rest my case on this note.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon Minority Leader.

Yes, Hon First Deputy Majority Whip?

**First Deputy Majority Whip (Mr Ahmed Ibrahim):** Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. This being the very first time you have taken the high chair to preside over this House, I would like to join my other Hon Colleagues to congratulate you on your ascension to that high position.

Mr Speaker, as if by coincidence—anyway, this may be social comparative advantage because your Constituency happened to produce a First Deputy Speaker in this House which paved the way for us to go into by-elections to bring you. Today, you have succeeded your predecessor, not only as an MP for that Constituency but also, to the high office as a First Deputy Speaker in this august House.

Mr Speaker, based on that, together with my Hon Colleagues, we are all commending you, but you have a function. Your predecessor encouraged

and advised the Minority Leader and he is here, may you continue to encourage him. *[Laughter]*

2.01 p.m.

Mr Speaker, on the occasion of the Statement that was made by the Hon Minority Chief Whip, and listening to the various comments by Hon Colleagues, I would want to join them to commend Dr Marfo. In fact, one day, I was with him in Geneva, and the Rt Hon Speaker Bagbin called me and said; “Ahmed, have you seen Dr Marfo? He is super, he has made Ghana proud and I am going to encourage him; I am going to support him.” So, in any of the international conferences of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Dr Marfo was supported by the Rt Hon Speaker to be there.

When he chairs the Climate Committee, you would be proud that he is a Ghanaian. So I am not surprised; he is not there by default nor by coincidence. I used to talk to him and encourage him as a Whip, and he told me; “after Parliament I want to form a Climate—” So I am not surprised that he is there today.

Mr Speaker, the framers of our Constitution were very apt when they brought Article 103(5) that the composition of Committees of Parliament shall reflect the different shades of opinion. Members must take a cue from this. *[Expunged by Order of Mr Speaker]*—*[Laughter]*— and this is a House—



**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Mr Patrick Yaw Boamah, are you on a point of Order?

**Mr Patrick Yaw Boamah (NPP—Okaikwei Central):** Rightly so, Mr Speaker.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Order what? — *[Laughter]*

**Mr Boamah:** Mr Speaker, under the inherent powers of the Standing Orders. — *[Laughter]*

Mr Speaker, it is not entirely right that — Mr Speaker, you know that for sure, that the Committee on Judiciary of which you have been a member, is just a one-item committee. After the budget of the Judiciary is approved, that ends it. So, what is one there to learn?

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Chief Whip?

**Minority Chief Whip (Mr Kwame Govers Agbodza):** Mr Speaker, just to corroborate what he is saying. The truth is that — We are about to set up Committees again and maybe they know the law already so they do not like serving on the Committee on Judiciary. So, we are encouraging them.

Mr Speaker, if you give us the authority, now that we are about to form the membership of the committees, we would make sure that majority of the lawyers in this House would be on the Committee on Judiciary. *[Uproar]*

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, by way of raising an objection, he stated that after consideration of the budget of the Judiciary, what else? I believe it is the duty of the Whip to look at the background of Members and decide which Committee they should belong to. Let me give the opportunity to Mr Mahama Ayariga.

**Mr Mahama Ayariga (NDC—Bawku Central):** —. I served on the Committee on Judiciary for one term of Parliament. Very often, the lawyers are not many, so, when we do the distribution between the Committee on Subsidiary Legislation and Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs, we often do not have many to spare to deal with the Committee on Judiciary.

So, Mr Speaker, — On a lighter note, lawyers are not judges. So, you cannot say that because we are lawyers, we should be interested in serving on the Committee on Judiciary. In a court, there is a judge, but there is the accused, the defendant and the applicant; these are all parties that should be serving on the Committee on Judiciary—*[Laughter]*. They are parties that should be interested in the Committee on Judiciary, so, it does not have to be the lawyers alone but the accused persons; there are many accused persons sitting here— *[Laughter]*— and the litigants and registrars. So, all those people are interested in the Committee on Judiciary.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Member, I was the Vice Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary at the Sixth

Parliament as a lawyer, so that should attest to the fact that lawyers have been serving on the Committee on Judiciary. I know my good Friend, Mr Rockson-Nelson Etse Kwami Dafeamekpor, is a lawyer, and has also served on the Committee on Judiciary. So, lawyers have been serving on the Committee on Judiciary in Parliament. Mr Francis-Xavier Kojo Sosu is a lawyer who also served on the Committee on Judiciary in Parliament.

It is also true that lawyers are not many; the rule is that you cannot serve on more Committees on one Side. So, after distributing them— you may continue your comment, Hon Deputy Majority Leader.

**Mr Buah:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. For the sake of my Colleagues who are lawyers—

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Mr Richard Acheampong, are you on a point of Order?

**Mr Richard Acheampong (NDC—Bia East):** Mr Speaker, I am an interested party in this matter. The people who are putting the blame on lawyers, do the distribution of Committees.

Mr Speaker, they made me the Deputy Ranking Member of the Committee on Judiciary— *[Laughter]*— I am not a lawyer, although I have an LLB, I advised them to put me on a committee where my expertise would be used.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Acheampong, as a budding lawyer, do you think your expertise is not needed on the Committee on Judiciary?

**Mr Acheampong:** At least, they should not have made me a Deputy Ranking Member — *[Laughter]*— a member would do, and when I complained, they took me to the Committee on Youths and Sports — *[Laughter]*—

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, let us conclude comments on the Statement. Yes, Hon Deputy Majority Leader?

**Mr Ahmed:** Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity. For the sake of my friends who are lawyers, that aspect where I said, —

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** I also direct as such.

2:11p.m.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** I also direct as such.

**Mr Ahmed:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I quoted Article 103(5) for a specific reason and this is the very first Statement that we are commenting on in this House. I have been here for 16 years now, and this is my 17<sup>th</sup> year. I have seen former Hon Members of Parliament who have excelled very well in their committees and, therefore, after their exit from Parliament, international organisations have chased them, and I am not surprised that Dr Marfo has been the immediate one. I can also mention the likes of the

former Hon Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Ms Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey; Dr Mohammed Ibn Chambas; Dr Hannah Tetteh; Mr Kwame Ampofo in the energy sector. They would be in their constituencies and international organisations will write letters to them for international assignments. So, Hon Colleagues, just as you have come, if you are made to go and serve in a committee, work diligent. Your talents will sell you. I am proud of Dr Marfo, and I believe many lessons can be learnt from this.

Mr Speaker, to conclude, Dr Marfo as a person has performed creditably well. He has gained international recognition, but, as a country, if there is a sector that we have not performed well in this our generation, it is in the field of environment. We should not only become theoretical environmentalists; we must be practical environmentalists as well.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity.

**The First Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

Hon Members, let me also add my voice by thanking the maker of the Statement highlighting the good work of Dr Emmanuel Marfo, a former Hon Member of Parliament for Oforikrom Constituency, on the subject matter under reference. Dr Marfo, your good work as an Hon Member of Parliament and your interest in climate related matters are really deserving of emulation. Your contributions to climate change are recognised nationally and internationally.

Thank you very much for lifting the image of Ghana very high and making the Parliament of Ghana very proud. Once again, thank you very much—  
[Hear! Hear!]

Hon Members, Statement time has ended.

Is there any indication from the Majority Leadership?

**Mr Agbodza:** Mr Speaker, it was meant to be a short Sitting today, and it is past two o'clock. If it would please you, I have had some discussions with the Hon Minority Leader: some names came out today and were referred to the Appointments Committee. Just us under Order 65(1), sometimes, the President communicates to the House and, in some circumstances, the action is taken and then whenever Parliament is properly constituted, Mr Speaker reads out the communication to the House. We agreed that if it would please the House and further Communications comes to the attention of the Speaker that requires referrals, Mr Speaker can go ahead and make those referrals and when we return on Thursday, then Mr Speaker can bring that to the attention of the House. Unfortunately, I have not seen—All right, Mr Patrick Yaw Boamah is here to maybe—

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon available Leader?

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

Mr Speaker, let me corroborate what the Majority Chief Whip said: it is true that the Acting Clerk to Parliament conferred with the Hon Minority Leader who asked me to reiterate that point to you that we would be expecting a supplementary list from the President on his nomination. We know that that list has kept a lot of my Colleagues in the Chamber, and I believe when the list is submitted to the Speaker, we would go through the Motions, but we would indulge the Speaker and the President and take it through the Appointments Committee as said. Just keep your nerves cool; once the list is submitted, we would work on it.

Thank you.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much Leadership.

Yes, Hon Majority Chief Whip?

**Mr Agbodza:** Mr Speaker, if that would be the case, the proposal is for us to come back on Thursday, but it is not very usual for us to start the week on Thursday. If it pleases the House, can we propose that instead of coming back on the 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, we come back on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2025? Our first term Colleagues are to go through some orientation for four days; at least, it gives them the next weekend to rest before they come back on Tuesday. But I did not discuss that with my Colleague, and I know the way he was looking at me, he would say that was not part of the agreement. I know he would have some comments to make.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Minority Leader?

**Mr Afenyo-Markin:** Mr Speaker, I can see the incoming Hon Majority Leader and his Deputy conferring, and I have heard you. Those of us in opposition know more things than those of you in government, so if you ask me, I can tell you where all of you would go. But you do not know; that is how it is.

I know that Mr Armah-Kofi Buah would go to the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources. Is he scared? Nobody will stop it; if destiny has it for him, he would get it, so why is he scared? Mr Kwame Governs Agbodza would go to the Ministry of Roads and Highways; Mr Ahmed Ibrahim would go to the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, and a lot of you would remain at the Back Bench—*[Laughter]*.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Minority Leader?

**Mr Afenyo-Markin:** Mr Speaker, Mr Richard Acheampong has done so well; I would be surprised if he is not sent to the Ministry of Finance as a Deputy Minister, and Dr Apaak would definitely go to the Ministry of Education as a Deputy Minister.

Mr Speaker, we know; that is why I know Mr Mahama Ayariga would assume the black chair, and his Deputy is my good Friend, Mr Kweku Ricketts-Hagan—*[Interruption]*—Yes, Mr Ricketts-Hagan would be the Deputy Majority Leader—*[Laughter]*—Once again, majority of them would remain at the Back Bench.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Minority Leader, with all due respect, the issue before the House is whether the adjournment should be on the 16<sup>th</sup> January or 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2025.

**Mr Afenyo-Markin:** That is so.

Mr Speaker, my good Friend, Mr Agbodza, knows the practice of the House. He cannot just come to the Floor to make an announcement, and he knows it. One would normally engage—*[Interruption]*—Do you now see?—*[Laughter]*—Mr Agbodza is begging me today. Mr Dafeamekpor, the incoming Majority Chief Whip would come; we know.

Mr Speaker, Mr Agbodza is begging me. What he did to me when I was there. Agbodza *paa ni*? Time changes; I would not do that to him because I know that, 2029, I would be there—*[Hear! Hear!]*—So, I would be magnanimous and obliged him; although he did not consult me, I would oblige him.

2.21 p.m.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Minority Leader, did I hear you say 2039?—*[Laughter]*

**Mr Afenyo-Markin:** Mr Speaker, where you are, you cannot join the debate. I said 2029; I did not say 2039.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** All right

**Mr Afenyo-Markin:** Mr Agbodza has been my good friend, but he did many things to me. I would not repeat that because to forgive is divine even

though he did not consult this Side of the House. Today, he is begging.

Mr Speaker, I know he is anxious for his appointment; he has worked so hard for it, and he deserves it, so I would not stand in his way.

Mr Speaker, I would oblige him; thank you so much indeed.

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Since it is the will of the House to adjourn to Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January, we shall do—

Hon Members, is 21<sup>st</sup> January not a Tuesday? Instead of Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January, the will of the House is that it be adjourn to Tuesday.

**Mr Afenyo-Markin:** Mr Speaker, just for emphasis; my respected Colleague, Mr Patrick Yaw Boamah, Member of Parliament for Okaikwei Central, a respected lawyer and a fourth term Member of Parliament of this House, had earlier submitted that in the spirit of cooperation and the need to assist the Government to get into motion as quickly as possible, while we adjourn, all nominations that would come by way of correspondence be assumed to have been so announced on the Floor, so that they can be ferried to the Appointments Committee for us to continue the work on them.

Mr Speaker, if I may invoke Standing Order 3, the incoming Hon Majority Leader is helping me, and I take a cue. I would ground my application under Standing Order 3 of the Rules of the House, so that we make progress there.

Mr Speaker, for the avoidance of doubt and the benefit of our young ones, I would read Order 3. Standing Order 3(1) provides:

“Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, a Motion for the suspension of an order or a part of an order may be moved without notice with the leave of the House.”

So, basically, what I was just trying to put across was that, per our Rules, when there is a communication, that is why we have it on our Order Paper, it must be read. On this occasion, we only have one that has been read by the Speaker; subsequent ones may come while this House is not in session, so we are praying that the Rule be suspended to allow the Speaker proceed to refer as though same is regular within the context of our Rules.

Mr Speaker, that is the rule of procedure and the jurisprudence of the House allows us to come under Standing Order 3 to achieve the same effect. So having said so, I move that the said expected referrals be considered and deemed as having been so done properly at Plenary, so that the Appointment Committee can proceed to do the vetting. I add this to regularise the earlier point made by my respected Colleague if our House so pleases.

## MOTION

### Invocation of Standing Order 3(1)

**Minority Leader (Mr Alexander Kwamena Afenyo-Markin):** Mr Speaker, I beg to *move*:

That the expected communications from His Excellency the President in relation to appointments be referred to the Appointments Committee while the House is not in session as though same has been read on the floor of the House.

**Majority Chief Whip (Mr Kwame Govers Agbodza):** Mr Speaker, I second the Motion.

*Question put and Motion agreed to.*

*Resolved accordingly*

**Mr First Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members, before adjourning, let me use the opportunity to thank the entire House for the confidence reposed in me in electing me as the First Deputy Speaker of Parliament. I promise to work very diligently and reliably with your support. I am forever grateful. All my friends and the entire House will forever be remembered.

So, Hon Member for Tamale Central Mr Murtala Muhammed, do not worry; you are in my mind. Hon Member for South Dayi, Mr Rockson-Nelson Dafeamekpor, I am all for you.

Hon Members, the House is accordingly adjourned to Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2025.

## ADJOURNMENT

*The House was accordingly adjourned at 2.23 p.m. till Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2025, at 10.00 a.m.*

## **Editor's Note**

This *Official Report* was corrected by the House on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2025, as follows:

- a) Column 7 and 33, paragraph 8, line 3 “Mr” was inserted and “Dr” was deleted.
- b) Column 39, paragraph 4, line 1, “NPP” was inserted and “NDC” was deleted.