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THURSDAY, 28TH October, 2021

CONTENTS

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS AND THE OFFICIAL REPORT – [Col.2]

STATEMENTS –

1. Successful Parliamentary Elections in Qatar –[Col.7]
2. Tribute to the late Hon Joseph Adda – [Col .40]

FIRST READING OF BILLS –

Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2021 – [Col. 26]

PAPERS –

1. Annual Statement by the Audit Committee of the Takoradi Technical University for the Year 2020 – [Col. 28]
2. Report of the Finance Committee on the Annual Report on the Petroleum Funds for the 2020 Fiscal Year – [Col. 39]
3. Report of the Finance Committee on the Annual Report on the Collection and Utilisation of the African Union Import Levy for the 2020 Fiscal Year – [Col. 39]
4. Report of the Finance Committee on the Annual Public Debt Management Report for the 2020 Financial Year – [Col. 39]
5. Report of the Finance Committee on the Annual Report on the Management of the Energy Sector Levies and Accounts for the Year 2020 – [Col. 39]

ADJOURNMENT – [Col. 105]

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THE
PARLIAMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

THIRD MEETING, 2021

Thursday, 28th October, 2021

The House met at 12.57 p.m.

[MR SPEAKER IN THE
CHAIR]

PRAYERS

Mr Speaker: Hon Members, we are starting late because our Hon Colleagues from the New Patriotic Party (NPP) had a caucus meeting and there was a miscommunication when the meeting ended. That is why we are starting at this time.

What I can say is that the caucuses must always give prior notice to the Rt. Hon. Speaker so that we can get the information across to Hon Members. I know some Hon Members are always here before 10.00 a.m., so to keep them always waiting till this time is unfair. So let the caucuses inform the Rt. Hon. Speaker so that the Speaker could also pass a word to Hon Members on an approximate time that Sitting would start. I think this would better serve the purpose of all of us than we are doing now.

As these things are happening, we may also reconsider the time for starting our Sittings, and everybody would have to know about that time.

The Standing Orders would be brought before us very soon for a discussion, but my attention has been drawn to one legal issue which I intend to discuss with Leadership before we can talk about the next process.

I think the Hon Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee has informed me about that already, but the information has leaked to me that there is a very fine legal rule that we have to consider in terms of the processes, the nature, and the legal import of the Standing Orders *vis a vis* the provisions of the 1992 Constitution. So we would look at that and finally determine the process to use. Hon Members, with this, I welcome you to today's proceedings. I do not have a Communication from His Excellency the President, so I would proceed to the correction of *Votes and Proceedings* and the *Official Report*.

**Votes and Proceedings and
the Official Report**

Mr Speaker: We would start with the *Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 27th October, 2021*.

Votes and Proceedings and the Official Report

Page 1, 2 ... 6 —

Mr Samuel O. Ablakwa: Mr Speaker, I have been marked as absent on page 6, item numbered 42, but I was present yesterday so if the records could be corrected accordingly.

Mr Speaker: Well, the records of the correction of proceedings clearly show that you were present yesterday. The Table Office should kindly take note.

Page 7 —

Dr Dominic A. Ayine: Mr Speaker, I have also been marked as absent on page 7, item numbered 36, but I was present yesterday.

Mr Speaker: The Table Office should kindly take note. I can testify that the Hon Member was present.

Mr Thomas Nyarko Ampem: Mr Speaker, I beg to take you back to page 6, item numbered 18. I have been marked as absent, but I was present yesterday.

Page 8 —

Mr Issifu Seidu: Mr Speaker, on page 8, item numbered 90, the Hon Bede Anwataazumo Ziedeng was present yesterday but he has been marked as absent.

Mr Speaker: Yes, the Hon Member was present yesterday so Table Office should kindly take note.

Mr Thomas A. Dalu: Mr Speaker, I was present yesterday but I have been marked as absent on page 7 — item numbered 45.

Page 8, 9 ... 10 —

1.07 p. m.

Mr I. Seidu: Mr Speaker, on page 10, the item numbered 8(a) reads: “By the Hon Minister responsible for Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs ...”

Mr Speaker, I think the full stop (.) after “Affairs” must be replaced with a comma (,) instead.

Mr Speaker: Yes, Table Office, the Hon Member is right. It should be a comma but not a full stop, so kindly take note.

Page 11 – 12 ...

Votes and Proceedings and the Official Report

Yes, Hon Ablakwa?

Mr Ablakwa: Mr Speaker, on the item numbered 1 on page 12, the first paragraph, I believe “acquisition” should suffice. It was not about renovation. We can say, “attempted acquisition” or just “acquisition” because it is a matter now before the Norwegian court. We could delete “renovation” and leave it as either “acquisition” or “attempted acquisition”. There is no need to add “renovation”.

Mr Speaker: So you want the sentence to read “... on the attempted acquisition of the property”. Yes, Table Office, please take note. I know the Hon Chairman of the Committee is here, but I cannot see him. You are the Ranking Member, so we take that as an authority.

Page 13?

Yes, Hon Member?

Mr I. Seidu: Mr Speaker, with your permission, I would want us to go to page 11. The item numbered 10 on page 11 has a similar correction. Under “Adjournment”, there is “...ten minutes after one o’clock in the afternoon”. There should be

a comma here before proceeding with the sentence.

Mr Speaker: Well, Table Office, your attention is being drawn to issues of punctuation. Kindly take note. It is not only at that place; as you go on, you would see that there are other areas that you would need to put commas there.

Hon Issifu Seidu, the Member of Parliament (MP) for Nal-erigu/Gambaga, am I right?

Mr I. Seidu: Yes, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Hon Members, in the absence of any further correction, the *Votes and Proceedings* of the second Sitting of the Third Meeting of the First Session held on Wednesday, 27th October, 2021, as corrected are adopted as the true record of proceedings.

I have a copy of the *Official Report* of Thursday, 24th June, 2021. Any correction?

[No correction was made to the Official Report of Thursday, 24th June, 2021.]

Hon Members, we move to item numbered 5 on the Order Paper – Statements. We have a number of

Statements, but I have admitted a few. We would allow Hon Members to present those Statements and we would then listen to comments.

The Hon Member for Effutu, the Hon Deputy Majority Leader, would make a Statement; the Hon Member for Kwadaso would also make a Statement on breast cancer, and the Hon Member for Bole/Bamboi would make a Statement on the rising prices of cement. After that, the House would move to consider other issues and then tomorrow we will continue with the Statements.

We would start with the Statement by Hon Alexander Kwamina Afenyo-Markin, the Deputy Majority Leader and MP for Effutu Constituency, on a successful Qatari Parliamentary Election. Hon Member, you may do so now.

STATEMENTS

Successful Qatari Parliamentary Elections

Mr Alexander K. Afenyo-Markin (NPP — Effutu): Mr Speaker, thank you for this treasured space to make a Statement congratulating

the good people of Qatar for a successful parliamentary election.

Mr Speaker, the election was held on 2nd October, 2021, following an announcement by Qatar's Emir on 22nd August, 2021. This ground-breaking event in governance almost did not happen, but the intervention of Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani ensured that the election was held without fail in October 2021. It was previously postponed in June 2013.

Mr Speaker, Qatar, a Western Asian country, has a relatively small population with approximately 2.8 million people but manages to be the World's richest country with 138,910 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Per Capita. The country has enjoyed appreciable level of political stability within the Arab World. Qatar was the only country in the Middle East and the North African Region which was not affected by the Arab Spring Uprising, with the global peace index recently naming Qatar as the Region's most peaceful country.

Mr Speaker, on 2nd October, 2021, as aforementioned, Qataris voted for two-thirds of the Advisory Shura Council in the Gulf

Statements

Arab State's first legislative elections. Qatar's Internal Ministry announced that 63.5 per cent of eligible voters took part in the election for 30 seats on a 45-member body with the remaining 15 council members being appointed by the Emir.

Mr Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Qatar described the vote as a new experiment and indicated that the Council cannot be expected to have full role of Parliament in the first year. The Qataris are very much interested in building their own bureaucracy to support democratic governance and have shown their capabilities to have successfully completed an election.

1.17 p.m.

This is progressive. The elections in Qatar indicate that the ruling Al Thani family is willing to take the idea of ensuring that there is power sharing, participatory democracy, and this step taken demonstrates seriousness. Women were also represented in the elections with 29 candidates running in the elections. Although none of them won any seat, it still shows positive signs of inclusiveness and

democratic governance, and this must be commended.

Mr Speaker, Qatar holds economic forum in Doha in March 2022. Ghana and Qatar can collaborate to help boost trade and industry, particularly, as our country is championing the rollout of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement. Qatar has also done excellently well in the region in the area of housing, and Ghana can exercise her potential by closely working with those industry players with demonstrable experience and financial capabilities.

Mr Speaker, I conclude by saying that we as a Parliament can take advantage by ensuring that there is a parliamentary friendship association between Ghana and Qatar so that we can work together to enrich knowledge.

Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity once again to congratulate the good people of Qatar on their efforts in building parliamentary democracy.

Mr Speaker, I am grateful for this opportunity.

Mr Speaker: Hon Members, any comments?

Statements

Mr Samuel O. Ablakwa —
rose —

Mr Speaker: Yes, Hon Ablakwa?

Mr Samuel O. Ablakwa (NDC — North Tongu): Mr Speaker, I am most grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this Statement celebrating the Kingdom of Qatar on the successful conduct of parliamentary elections which has been eloquently delivered by the Deputy Majority Leader, my respected Colleague.

Mr Speaker, the development in Qatar is very refreshing and welcomed by all democracy lovers and good governance watchers. We all know that Qatar has been an absolute monarchy and it had long been thought that the Thani family, which is the ruling family, would not be keen to welcome multi-party democracy and that they would maintain the regime of absolute or total monarchy.

However, the king has signalled a new dawn, and it is clear that Qatar is opening up for democracy, and creating the opportunity for the people of Qatar to choose their own representatives. Mr Speaker, that is very welcomed indeed.

Mr Speaker, we know of many monarchs such as the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Spain, and many others who have had this kind of a hybrid arrangement historically and it has served their countries well — where the monarchs increasingly retreat into more ceremonial statuses and allow for elected political leaders to spearhead the day-to-day administration of their respective jurisdictions. It appears that that is what the Qatari monarchy is introducing, and Mr Speaker, I know that you in particular have been very keen about Parliamentary diplomacy and you have encouraged us to reach out to our colleagues in other Parliaments in other jurisdictions and to forge strong partnership. That is why you personally inaugurated the Parliamentary Friendship Associations, and you have been seeing to the formation of various Parliamentary Friendship groups.

I am sure that in no time, the Parliamentary Friendship Associations Management Committee would be happily welcoming our newly-elected colleagues in the Parliament of Qatar, and we shall be forming a very strong partnership.

Statements

Mr Speaker, we all know that Qatar is a very important country, as our Hon Colleague has said. They have been very stable and if you look at the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) for that sub-region, it is very high HDI. Indeed, it is third only to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), so the quality of life in Qatar is very high and I also know that we have a good number of our compatriots who are working in Qatar. They are very welcoming because of the relatively-small population of under three million and they have so much oil wealth. Their GDP is so high. It has led to a situation where when it comes to the workforce, they rather like to welcome other nationals. So there are a lot of Africans, Filipinos, Thais, and so on working in that country.

The only matter of concern related to their culture of welcoming many immigrant workers has been the conditions under which these immigrant workers ply their trade. There have been concerns that sometimes some of the families do not treat their workers, particularly, domestic workers kindly – human right concerns are raised. But to be fair to the authorities in Qatar, they

have taken steps to improve on those matters, and I know a number of reforms that have taken place. Recently, they even sent in a Paper to the African Union (AU) to highlight some of the reforms that are taking place so that African migrant workers can feel safe and feel welcomed in that country.

Mr Speaker, as a lover of football and an ardent supporter of the Black Stars of Ghana, we all know that Qatar would be the next host of the World Cup from the 21st of November to 18th December, 2022. The attention of the whole world would be on Qatar which is the host country. They have not been really famous for being a football nation, but it is clear that in recent times, they are investing in football and football infrastructure, and are attracting a number of good players, some from our country, and they pay very well. So a lot of good footballers are looking to plying their trade in that country. I am hoping that the Black Stars of Ghana would qualify for the World Cup so that we can all join them to that country or even if we would have to cheer them remotely from back home, we would render our support. I would not want to go into some of the controversies that came up when they won the bid. I am

Statements

sure that the International Federation of Association Football or Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has the capacity to look into some of those concerns that were raised by a country like the United Kingdom. It is clear, however, that Qatar is doing so well. I monitored the latest FIFA inspection team and it is clear that Qatar has the green light. They are very much ready to host the world.

1.27 p.m.

So, we can only congratulate Qatar for this feat, and we would say that democracy is the best option of governance. Despite all the criticisms, it remains man's best way of governing and there has been no better form of government invented. So Qatar is much welcome to the committee of democratic nations —

Mr Speaker: Hon Members, the Hon First Deputy Speaker will take the Chair.

1.27 p.m. —

[MR FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER
IN THE CHAIR]

Mr First Deputy Speaker:
Hon Member, kindly continue.

Mr Ablakwa: Mr Speaker, I was concluding by welcoming Qatar to the committee of democratic nations. I said that I am also very excited about the development like my Hon Colleague, the Deputy Majority Leader of the House, and we are looking forward to forging strong parliamentary diplomatic ties with the newly-elected members of the Qatar Parliament.

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

Mr First Deputy Speaker:
Does the Leadership wish to make a comment on this one?

Yes, Hon Deputy Minority Whip?

Deputy Minority Whip (Mr Ahmed Ibrahim): Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a few comments on the Statement ably written and presented by the Hon Deputy Majority Leader.

Mr Speaker, I join the Hon Member to congratulate Qatar on their successful parliamentary elections. From the Statement, about 29 female candidates contested various seats in the election. Even

Statements

though none of them was elected, he said that it was a good move to show that people of Qatar are ready to share power on the basis of gender. [*Laughter.*]

Mr Speaker, the reason I am commending Qatar for a good election is that – Libya used to be the Qatar of the African continent, and we know the contribution of Qatar. In those days, the youth used to go to Libya, but after the destruction in Libya, they have now turned their direction to Qatar. A lot of Ghanaian youth migrate to Qatar and many of them are making positive economic contributions in that country. So, if there is democracy or election in Qatar, people will begin to have some extended freedoms because we know democracy comes with freedoms.

Mr Speaker, while we congratulate them, we must also let them know that democracy is good, but a misguided democracy will not lead to a better destination. Even though Qatar just had their Parliament, we know how institutions in Qatar have been doing. We can talk of the Qatar Airways – I do not want to compare. Even though we have our Parliament and democracy, our Ghana Airways could not compete with Qatar Airways.

Mr Speaker, they must not be complacent that in accepting democracy and having their Parliament, they would relent on some of the foundations of their strong institutions that helped them make those economic gains.

Mr Speaker, I had the opportunity to travel to Qatar, in Doha, on the ticket of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting with the former Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Prof Mike Oquaye and the Hon Majority Leader. Their culture, hospitality, enthusiasm, and the way they went about their work – even the venue for the programme showed that they were a serious people and a serious nation. So, when we see some of the gains that they have made and how they have expanded their economy to the extent that youth from other countries are migrating there for economic survival, it is not by magic, but by a concerted effort. We have much to learn from them even though they are also learning from us in terms of democracy.

Mr Speaker, to conclude, they must add on to what they used to do at first. They should not say there would be unlimited freedom and uncontrolled rights; they may not be able to get to their destination.

Statements

During the age of enlightenment, people had to sign the social contract by giving part of their rights for the collective good. That is what Qatar has accepted and they must do it well.

Mr Speaker, with these few words, I thank you for the opportunity.

Mr First Deputy Speaker:
Yes, Hon Majority Leader?

Majority Leader (Mr Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu): Mr Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity to also add my voice to this Statement made by the Hon Deputy Majority Leader. Let me congratulate him for bringing this Statement to the House in respect of the successful conduct of parliamentary elections in Qatar.

Mr Speaker, I believe we should use this occasion to congratulate Qatar, the Islamic Republic, for choosing this path of national development, the path of governance from what the status quo has been all this while. We should pray that this transition does not suffer any turbulence, because it is new to them and that they would be able to keep faith with the new investment that they have made.

Mr Speaker, Qatar, over the past few years, has witnessed unprecedented development and that, in my view, is a product of continuity in governance that they have had. Until the introduction of parliamentary democracy, it was a kingdom. And even with the birth of parliamentary democracy, it still remains a kingdom. The rulers have not been overly domineering and they spread the proceeds of the oil and gas that God has given them to effect development in the place. Today in the Middle East, Qatar compares favourably with the icon of the Middle East which is the Emirates.

Mr Speaker, the other day when we went there, we witnessed heaven on earth — the then Rt. Hon. Speaker, myself, and the Hon Ahmed Ibrahim, the Deputy Minority Whip. In the evening when they were taking us on a tour, our own President had been invited to the place and we saw their palace even from afar, and we were wondering whether that palace belonged to the planet called earth. It was a spectacle to behold. It tells that the rulers have really spread the proceeds of the oil wealth to develop the country.

Statements

1.37 p.m.

Mr Speaker, everywhere we went, we could see what they were doing for their populace, to the extent that as obtains in Dubai, they have enclaves for widows and widowers for the State to take full charge of the widows – the widows village. I believe that those residences- the widows’ enclaves that they have constructed, would compare with mansions in Ghana. If one entered any of them, one would see the facilities that were contained in the enclaves for the widows. So, Qatar is really taking to a certain otherwise unforeseen aesthete, the levels of development for not only the country, but the citizens of Qatar.

Mr Speaker, they guard jealously the citizenship of Qatar, and they do not allow anybody from anywhere to come and claim citizenship easily. One cannot have it even if he has stayed there for 20 years; he would not be accorded citizenship. One would be given the opportunity to come and serve, after which he would be expected to return to his country of origin, which is one of the reasons they are able to cater for their own.

Mr Speaker, the workforce includes so many people from various countries, and of course, Ghanaians were there. We were told that most of the Ghanaians there are well catered for, and that most of them are professionals. Even those of them who go pushing for jobs are well catered for including house-helpers, but there are a few of them who went uninvited and so were finding it difficult to really find work to do. The consulate at the time therefore appealed that Government should find a way to regularise the work regime of those of them who had come there just as Philippines, Indonesia and those far eastern countries had also done, Thailand inclusive. The people who migrated from there to come and work in Qatar are well replenished. The amount given to them would be the envy of professionals in Ghana.

Mr Speaker, I therefore believe that they should be urged on to continue on this new chosen path. They have been used to the Kingdom regime all this while, and certainly along the way, they may experience some turbulence, but we should just let them be aware that the path that they have chosen is not paved with gold, and certainly, if they are determined, then they

Statements

could overcome the initial hiccups and rise above that to improve the lot of their citizens by giving voice to their citizenry.

Mr Speaker, having said that, the other thing that my Colleague, the Hon Okudzeto had mentioned was in respect of their hosting of the World Cup Tournament in 2022. When we went there, they took us to some of the stadia that they had built at the time, and they are a state- of-the-art. I have not entered any stadium anywhere in the world that measures to what they have built in Qatar, and we wondered how they came to do that; in the midst of such heat, what they have been able to do to mitigate the outrageous temperatures and to allow for football players to enter and play and not be affected negatively by the natural temperatures that obtains in Qatar. My only hope is that our own dear Black Stars would be able to qualify to contest and indeed compete in that tournament. We wish the Black Stars the best, and we wish Qatar the best in this new endeavour that they have purposed to undertake. God bless their efforts.

Mr Speaker, I thank you very much.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Very well, I would move on to the next Statement, which is on the death of the Hon Joseph Kofi Adda, a former Member of Parliament, and it is to be read by the Mr Sampson Tangombu Chiragia, the Hon Member of Parliament for Navrongo Central. [*Pause*] –

Mr Sampson Tangombu Chiragia: Mr Speaker, I wish to be given just ten minutes. So, we may move on to the next Business.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon Majority Leader?

Mr Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu: Mr Speaker, the Hon Kennedy Osei Nyarko, the Member of Parliament for Akim Swedru is programmed to attend some other event, and so I would just want to plead that we alter the programme for the transaction of Business to allow for the Hon Member for Akim Swedru to do the Presentation and First Reading of his Private Members' Bill.

Mr Speaker, therefore, you could allow the Hon Member to do just that and then we can go back to the other work. This is in respect of the item numbered 7 on page 5 of today's Order Paper. We would have to enter Public Business and

Statements

allow him to do it, and then later we can recline.

Mr Ahmed Ibrahim: Mr Speaker, I think that what the Hon Majority Leader is saying would help us so that we can be served with copies of the Statement from the Hon Member for Navrongo Central. He begged for the ten minutes because originally the Statement was not supposed to be taken today. It was supposed to have been the Statement from the Hon Member for Bole Bamboi, who has travelled for the Damba Festival, for which reason he was to be replaced. Therefore, if he is not well organised and copies are not here, the ten minutes would allow us time to receive copies of the Statement so that by the time that the Hon Osei Nyarko finishes, we may be able to go through. I think that the original copy has been given out, so, we can make photocopies.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Hon Members, the application before me is to vary the Standing Orders and move on to the Presentation of Bills. Since that is agreeable to the Leadership of the House, I hereby vary the Standing Orders and go to item numbered 7 – Presentation and First Reading of

Bills by the Hon Member for Akim Swedru, Hon Kennedy Osei Nyarko.

1.47 p.m.

**BILLS – FIRST READING
Citizenship (Amendment)
Bill, 2021**

An Act to amend the Citizenship Act, 2000 (Act 591) to remove restrictions imposed on dual citizens from holding certain public offices specified in subsection (2) of section 16 of Act 591.

Presented by Mr Kennedy Osei Nyarko, MP for Akim Swedru. Read the First time; referred to the Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Hon Member for Navrongo Central, are you ready to read your Statement now?

Mr Sampson Tongombu Chiragia: Mr Speaker, the Hon Leader asked for a copy so, that is being done.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: At the Commencement of Public Business, Presentation of Papers. Item numbered 6.

Hon Majority Leader, your Ministers are not here. I cannot see the Hon Minister for Education nor the Minister for Transport.

Mr Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu: Mr Speaker, an Hon Deputy Minister for Education is here so she could stand in for the substantive Hon Minister.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Minority Leadership, the Hon Deputy Minister would lay the Paper on behalf of the Minister. Do you have any objection to that?

Mr Ahmed. Ibrahim: Mr Speaker, the Hon Deputy Minister for Education is one of us, and she has represented the

substantive Minister on several occasions. She is more than able to do this Business, provided the Hon Minister for Education has given her the mandate to lay the Papers on his behalf.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: He has, otherwise, she would not present herself.

Hon Deputy Minister for Education, item numbered 6(a)(i)

PAPERS

By the Deputy Minister for Education (Ms Gifty Twum-Ampofo) (on behalf of the Minister for Education) –

Annual Statement by the Audit Committee of the Takoradi Technical University for the Year 2020.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

Mr Ahmed Ibrahim: Mr Speaker, yesterday, we had a very lengthy debate on the status of the referrals of those annual audit reports. We were of the view that what you have done was what was supposed to have been done. However, the Rt Hon Speaker disagreed with us, and ruled that the annual audit reports must be referred to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) even though the Hon Chairman of the PAC said that the Committee would be inundated with work. Therefore, these Reports should be referred to the sector Committees. Yesterday, those reports that were laid were referred to the PAC, but today, you have referred them to the sector Committee. It seems there are two rules: yesterday's rule is different from today's rule.

Papers

Mr Speaker, what you have done is what we used to do, and that is what we said yesterday.

Mr Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu: Mr Speaker, by the 1992 Constitution, PAC deals with reports from the Auditor-General; they do not deal with internal audit reports. They do not. By the provisions of the 1992 Constitution, they deal with the Auditor-General's inquisition into the expenditures of the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). These are not Auditor-General's reports. I was not here yesterday, but the Hon Chairman of the PAC has indicated to me that there was some debate on it, and the Rt Hon Speaker referred it to them at the PAC.

I do not think we can use a back-door to challenge the ruling of the Rt Hon Speaker. I plead that we step this down, and have some consultation on that. I disagree that it should go to the PAC because the Constitution is clear. The PAC deals with the reports from the Auditor-General. Mr Speaker, if the inquisition is at the instance of the Auditor-General, then, it goes to the PAC. The report of internal audit does not go to PAC – *[Interruption]*.

I said that the report of the audit that is conducted internally should go to the relevant sector Committee. That is what I think, and that is why appropriately, it was referred to the sector Committees. Since the Rt Hon Speaker has ruled on it, I would plead that we step this down, and resolve it so that we do not have this referral and counter-referral.

Mr James Klutse Avedzi: Mr Speaker, I agree with the Hon Majority Leader that we step the Presentation of these Papers down for further discussion before they are laid. Yesterday, there was a debate on this issue whether the referrals should go to the PAC or to the sector Committees, and the Rt Hon Speaker eventually ruled that they should be referred to the former. So we would need a further discussion before this can be done.

Mr Speaker, if you look at page 10 of the *Votes and Proceedings* for yesterday, you would see that about five Papers that were laid were all referred to the PAC so, if we could step them down for further discussion.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: I was going to reverse, and go by the ruling of the Rt Hon Speaker, but in

Papers

view of the agreement by Leadership, I will defer the Presentation of all the Papers listed in item numbered 6 which have to do with internal audit reports.

Mr Avedzi: Mr Speaker, the reports we are referring to are not internal audit reports; they are reports of the Audit Committee. It is different from internal audit reports.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Very well, all those Papers captured as Audit Committee's reports from the various institutions under the Ministry of Education are stood down. Hon Leaders, in that case, I suggest that we also stand down item numbered 6(b) because they are practically the same things.

[Papers stood down by leave of the House.]

[Pause]

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Hon Deputy Majority Leader?

Mr Alexander K. Afenyo-Markin: Mr Speaker, the cameras saw – *[Interruption]*. The Hon Member has crossed carpet.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Hon Members, order. Hon Member, kindly let me listen to him; after that, I will listen to you.

1.57 p.m.

Let me listen to him; after that, I will listen to you.

Yes?

Mr Afenyo-Markin: Mr Speaker, this is the third time; he first had an opportunity to read the Statement and there was a problem. Now, finally, it appears he wants to join us; so, Mr Speaker, he has crossed carpet and there must be a by-election. *[Laughter.]* That is the position.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Hon Member, under which Order are you making your application?

Mr Afenyo-Markin: Mr Speaker, I am invoking your inherent jurisdiction.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: I am not aware that Mr Speaker has an inherent jurisdiction in this Chamber.

Mr Afenyo-Markin: Mr Speaker, I am sure he did not attend orientation because we do not cross the Mace here.

Mr Ablakwa: Mr Speaker, I just would like to draw the attention of my respected Hon Colleague that the Statement you have admitted which is about to be read is a very bi-partisan one, and it is one that requires a lot of cooperation and partnership. And it is in that spirit that the Hon Member is attempting to share the Statement with both Sides of the aisle. And it is a very well-intentioned Statement to celebrate the Hon Joseph Kofi Adda originating from your Side, who unfortunately has left

us. It is within that spirit, so the Hon Deputy Majority Leader can let matters slide. He did not even fully overstep his bounds; he just wants you to have copies of the Statement so in the spirit of bi-partisanship, I believe we could let it pass.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Hon Members, the real issue I want to be addressed on is, what is the offence even if he crossed the Mace? What does the Standing Order say about crossing the Mace so that we would be guided? Hon Deputy Majority Leader, if he actually crossed, what would have

been the offence he committed under our rules?

Mr Afenyo-Markin: Mr Speaker, if he had actually crossed, that would have been the *actus reus*; then the *mens rea* would have been the expression of intention to us here that he is no more interested there. He can cross and come and make the Statement; they did not allow him to conclude on the second step. It was clear that he would have made a Statement, but they timely intervened to keep their own *-[Interruption]-* Yes, I have answered Mr Speaker's question as I understood it to be.

Mr Ahmed Ibrahim: Mr Speaker, not too long ago, when the numerical strength of the Majority Side was 169, about 30 of them were sitting on this side of the Mace so that even though the Mace is here, the bar was here and they used to be here. In the Seventh Parliament, about 30 Hon Members of the Majority Side were sitting with us here. They were always sitting at the other side of the Mace.

Mr Speaker, at that time, my distinguished Hon Colleague was always here but he did not comment on that. This one, there is no Statement, there is no — that is why you asked, which Order? And there is no Order which the Hon

Member for Navrongo Central has gone against, so I think the by-election is a different thing my Leader was talking about.

Mr Speaker, we are in your hands.

Mr Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu: Mr Speaker, by parliamentary practice if a Member leaves the confinement where his Party is confined to to another Side, it means that he has left his Party. It is the reason our 1992 Constitution provides - for instance, article 97 (1)(g) states:

“A member of Parliament shall vacate his seat in Parliament – (g) if he leaves the party of which he was a member at the time of his election to Parliament to join another party or seeks to remain in Parliament as independent member; or”.

Normally, we have places assigned to the Parties so if you leave to sit where your Party is not supposed to sit, it is referred as ‘crossing the carpet’. Mr Speaker, that is parliamentary practice which he must be educated on.

Mr Speaker, we do not necessarily have to write. And the Hon Member says that some people sat at the other Side - it is because of

the configuration; this is horseshoe configuration of the House. We cannot say - for instance, when we first came in 1997, our own enclave was just this Side because the number was just 61 and the National Democratic Congress (NDC) had two-thirds of the House at the time and they occupied the entirety of this place except I think four or five Seats which were just here.

Mr Speaker, when a Member crosses the face of the Mace as it stands – that is why when one gets here, one must bow; the Hon Member was determined not to bow but to cross to the other Side. Mr Speaker, that is on the lighter note; I believe we could go with our business. And it is good to learn from this practice.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: That is right. I think the real issue that I wanted us to take note of is, crossing the Mace in itself is not the issue but anytime you have to cross the Mace, you must stop and bow. It is because some Hon Members move across, and being quiet on it is what seems to encourage others. Some Members speak to Friends on the other Side but anytime you must cross, you stop and bow to the Mace. That is what I encourage every Member to observe, otherwise, I do not think we should construe going to speak to a friend on

the other Side to mean you have vacated your Seat.

Mr Avedzi – *rose* –

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Hon Leader, I intend to proceed if it is on the same matter. If it is another matter, yes.

Mr Avedzi: Mr Speaker, it is on the same matter. I just would want to draw the attention of the House that the Hon Member did not even cross; that is one. Secondly, when he was making the attempt to cross, he even bowed from here before going – *[Laughter]* – So, Mr Speaker, there is no offence.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: That is not where we must bow before the Mace. It means that he did not get to the Mace at all.

Mr Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu: Mr Speaker, in that case, he must be charged for wrongful bowing – *[Laughter]* –

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Very well. Hon Majority Leader, we are still in Public

Business; shall we suspend all the laying of the Audit Committee Reports for now? – *[Pause]* –

2.07 p.m.

Mr Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu: Mr Speaker, I believe that the Finance Committee could present their Report on the Petroleum Funds.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Yes, all the issues under item numbered 6(g) are different, so items numbered 6(a) to 6(f) may be stood down until we resolve where they should be.

Item numbered 6(g)(i) by the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Mr Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu: Mr Speaker, could I do so on behalf of the Chairman as a Member of the Committee?

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Very well.

Yes?

Mr Ahmed Ibrahim: Mr Speaker, the Hon Majority Leader is a Member of the Finance Committee and I know he is a busy person. So, he can lay the Reports on behalf of the Chairman. *[Laughter.]*

Mr First Deputy Speaker:
Hon Majority Leader, you may do so now.

PAPERS

By the Majority Leader (Mr Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee) –

Report of the Finance Committee on the Annual Report on the Petroleum Funds for the 2020 Fiscal Year.

Report of the Finance Committee on the Annual Report on the Collection and Utilisation of the African Union Import Levy for the 2020 Fiscal Year.

Report of the Finance Committee on the Annual Public Debt Management Report for the 2020 Financial Year.

Report of the Finance Committee on the Annual Report on the Management of the Energy Sector Levies and Accounts for the Year 2020.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: I am supposed to present item numbered 8, that is the Report on the Pan-African Parliament. Unfortunately, I am sitting here and none of the other Members is in the House.

Mr Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu: Mr Speaker, with respect, could we go back to enable our very Hon Member for Navrongo Central to make his Statement.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Very well, I would do so but I want to defer item numbered 8. My other Committee Members are not in the Chamber, so we would do it tomorrow. So, Motion numbered 8 is deferred.

Hon Members, we would go back to Statements and I would now invite the Hon Member for Navrongo Central to read a Statement on Hon Adda.

STATEMENTS

Tribute to the Late Hon Joseph Kofi Adda

Mr Sampson Tangombu Chiragia (NDC – Navrongo Central): Mr Speaker, I crave your indulgence to formally announce to the House the home call of the Hon

Statements

Joseph Kofi Adda, the immediate past Member of Parliament for the Navrongo Central Constituency, which sad event occurred on Wednesday, 13th October, 2021, at the Legon Hospital.

Mr Speaker, Hon Joseph Kofi Kwowe Adda was born in Navrongo, the capital of the Kasena-Nankana District of the Upper East Region of Ghana in 1956. He had his secondary education at St John's Secondary School, Sekondi and later obtained a Bachelor of science degree in Politics and Economics from the Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana, United States, where he studied from 1979 to 1982.

Mr Speaker, between 1982 and 1984, he was at Columbia University, New York, where he obtained a Master's Degree in International Affairs, specialising in Finance and Banking. He went on to obtain a graduate certificate in African Studies from the same university in 1989. He obtained a certificate in French Language and Civilization from the Sorbonne University, Paris, France.

Mr Speaker, the late Hon Joseph Kofi Adda was a Financial Economist and a Management Consultant. He worked as an Executive Officer at the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Ghana in 1979. Between 1983 and 1984, he was a Research Analyst intern at the Third World Trade Institute, New York, USA. Over the next two years, he was an Accounts Executive and Management Trainee at the Equitable Financial Service, Inc., in New Jersey, USA.

Mr Speaker, the late Hon Adda also worked at Essex County College, Newark, New Jersey, USA from 1986 to 1988; Thomson McKinnon Securities Incorporated, New York from 1989 to 1991 and with Deloitte and Touché Consulting, (West Africa), Accra from 1991 to 1994. Since 1994, Hon Joseph Adda was the Director of Omni Consulting International (Ghana) Limited. Between 1996 and 2000, he worked in various capacities at the Ministry of Finance in Ghana.

Mr Speaker, Hon Joseph Kofi Adda was first elected as a Member of Parliament (MP) of the Navrongo Central Constituency in 2003 in a by-election following the death of the then incumbent MP, Hon John Achuliwor. He retained

Statements

the seat in the 2004 parliamentary election.

Mr Speaker, Hon Adda was appointed Minister for Manpower Development and Employment by the former President, Mr John Kufuor, in 2005. In a cabinet reshuffle in April 2006, he was moved to the Energy Ministry as Minister. Hon Kofi Adda again retained his seat in the 2008 parliamentary elections even though the New Patriotic Party (NPP) lost the presidential elections. He, however, lost the seat in the 2012 general elections to Hon Mark Owen Woyongo of the National Democratic Congress (NDC).

In the 2016 elections, the late Hon Kofi Adda recaptured the Navrongo Central seat on the ticket of the NPP and was appointed Ghana's first-ever Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources by his Excellency the President of Ghana, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. He was later transferred to the Aviation Ministry where he served until the end of the Seventh Parliament of the Fourth Republic.

Mr Speaker, Hon Adda was an MP for all, devoid of any discrimination based on party, gender, religious or ethnic lines. He was a man

who did not have a mean bone in his body; a warm, friendly man who made his mark in the world not with grand gestures or fancy titles, but by the basic goodness and generosity of his character, by the quality of his involvement with his fellow man, and how he brought out these qualities in others.

Mr Speaker, Hon Adda distinguished himself in all the ministerial positions he held and was also an outstanding legislator. His warm affable character endeared him to a lot of people, and his houses both at the constituency and in Accra were always buzzing with his constituents and even others not from his constituency. No wonder he was often referred to as "Guru".

Mr Speaker, one of the exciting things about Hon Adda was that he was not just serving his country and constituency but also knew how to check his ego against excesses and conducted himself with utmost humility.

Moreover, he was able to put aside partisan considerations whenever necessary and worked for the common good of the constituency and the country. Indeed, he never viewed anyone who disagreed with him as an enemy.

Statements

Mr Speaker, Hon Joseph Kofi Adda was a strong pillar in the constituency with a strong passion for youth and women development. He was always with the market women, helping them to grow and manage their businesses and also the young entrepreneurs to set up and manage their various businesses.

Mr Speaker, his passion for farming made him build a house near the Tono Irrigation Dam and he used that opportunity to understand the plight of the farmers to help them increase their produce. He also established a large livestock farm within the same locality, and a crop farm in Tumu in the Upper West Region where he cultivated maize to feed the livestock. Indeed, it is said that he returned from the farm in Tumu as usual, and passed on the following dawn. Hon Adda was caring, approachable and responsible to a fault, and his demise is a big blow to the entire constituency and beyond.

Mr Speaker, it is an undeniable fact that Hon Adda's death is a huge loss to the Navrongo Central Constituency, the Upper East Region and the nation as a whole. On a personal level, I have lost a very special advisor. I learnt a lot from him, but I could have learnt more.

Like an orphan, I am only consoled by the saying that, "Lives are like rivers: eventually they go where they must, not where we want them to."

Mr Speaker, the late Hon Joseph Kofi Adda left behind his loving wife and children, and we pray that the good Lord gives them the fortitude to withstand the huge loss occasioned by the loss of this colossus. The "Guru" will certainly be remembered for many things, particularly for his persistence to achieve whatever he set his mind to do.

My condolences and sympathy go to his wife, Madam Victoria and his children, Justice, Allison and the whole family.

I thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity.

Mr First Deputy Speaker:
Hon Member for Tano North?

2.17 p.m.

Ms Freda Akosua Prempeh (Tano North – NPP): Mr Speaker, I beg to contribute to the Statement made by the Hon Member for Navrongo Central. I am so hurt this afternoon as I commiserate with the

Statements

immediate family and the National Patriotic Party (NPP) family.

The late Mr Adda, as my Hon Colleague on the other Side referred to him as an “Hon Member for all” was an affable man, very accommodating and always ready to offer a helping hand. I had the opportunity to work closely with him when he was the Hon Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources. We shared a common block; I either met him on the staircase, in the elevator or sometimes, I took pains to visit him in his office. He always offered pieces of advice to persons who had problems or issues. We did not hear about his sickness.

One day, he called me to his office and told me he had a present for me and he gave me a rich *kente* cloth from the Northern Region. I still have that cloth and I cherish it. Last week, when I picked up the cloth, I asked myself when I would get the second one from him. We have lost a gem, a brother and a friend. As my Hon Colleague rightly referred to him, he had a soft spot for gender issues and young people in his constituency. He did not side with the NPP constituents but he sided with his constituency and I am happy that my

brother on the other Side has attested to the fact that he used to advise him and that he would miss those pieces of advice.

Mr Speaker, as we mourn him this afternoon, we should also look back and reflect on our lives. Just a week ago, he was with us but today, he is no more. What went wrong? Do we take good care of ourselves? Do we visit the health centres? Do we find out exactly what happens around us? As Hon Members of Parliament, we go through a lot of stress. This afternoon, we are eulogising the late Mr Adda and I could only pray that the good Lord would continue to spot him and that he would continue to rest peacefully in His bosom. I pray that the Almighty God would support his family and strengthen them in this trying moment. It is a difficult situation.

When we went to Walewale, a lot of people mourned not only the Vice President’s mother but they also mourned the late Mr Adda because I saw a lot of fliers around. That was the kind of person he was. I pray that the good Lord would continue to strengthen both the immediate family, the NPP Government, Navrongo constituency and all of us in this Chamber because we have lost a dear brother.

Statements

Mr Speaker, with these few words, I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Statement, and I pray that the Almighty God would continue to strengthen the family.

Mr Emmanuel Kwasi Bedzrah (NDC – Ho West): Mr Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the Statement and I also want to thank our Hon Colleague who read the tribute of our friend and beloved brother who has passed on to the other side of life.

Mr Speaker, I met the late Mr Kofi Adda in this House when we came as first timers in 2009 in the Fifth Parliament. As usual, when a political party loses power and new Hon Members come to the House, the idea is that one would want to flex around because his or her political party is in power while others would also look on from different angles. One particular person that our eyes caught was Mr Kofi Adda, who was all over and did not look at us as people who came from a different political party. He blended with us, asked us a lot of questions and tried as much as possible to guide some of us.

2.27 p.m.

Mr Speaker, he lost his election when we came back to the Sixth Parliament. As we usually laughed at ourselves, he became a returnee to the Seventh Parliament as we all know. I closely worked with him in the Seventh Parliament when I became the Ranking Member for the Committee on Works and Housing and he also was given the opportunity to serve as the Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources.

Mr Speaker, anytime we met even at the committee level, he allowed the technocrats to express themselves and explain things to us. He gave them the opportunity to do their work as technical people. Whatever we found problems with; issues concerning his Ministry, he asked the technical people to respond to those issues unlike some Ministers who would come and would want to be jack of all trade even if they did not know what was happening in the various departments. They would want to talk for them but Kofi Adda was not like that. He allowed the heads of departments and technical people to speak on issues from their departments.

Statements

Mr Speaker, just as my two Hon Colleagues who spoke have said, he is affable. The late Hon Kofi Adda was someone one could approach even when one is from the other political party. When one got to his office, he was willing to sit down with them. I think this should be a lesson to all of us that in this House and in our political journeys, we may not know where we would find ourselves today or tomorrow. Therefore, when our colleagues come to us in our offices, let us make sure we open our doors to them. Some Ministers in this House would not even allow – We sit down and wait as colleagues but Kofi Adda was not like that at all.

Mr Speaker, we were in Kenya when we heard that he had passed on. But before we went to Kenya, I met the Hon Kofi Adda at our usual eating place – Country Kitchen. When he saw me, he mentioned my name and queried; “Emma, do you also come here to eat?” I answered, “Yes”. That was about two months ago. After eating, I was going to pay but I did not see Kofi Adda sitting at his place. Then, the lady said, the gentleman who greeted you has paid for you. I asked again how come he, a former Member of Parliament, paid for me, a sitting Member of Parliament. That is the

kind of person we are talking about. He did not even care whether one belongs to his party or not. He was very generous in that sense.

Mr Speaker, we have lost a friend; we have lost a brother. We have lost someone whom we all know that was a gentleman.

Mr Speaker, one thing that I have been thinking about since I heard of his death has to do with our health. Hon Kofi Adda left this House just last year. Within ten months, we heard of his passing on. What could have accounted for that? And he is not the only person. We do not take good care of our health. We come and sit under this air-condition without exercising, go back and eat late in the night. Then, when we are off this seat and we are home, we just go off like that with all the experiences that we have within ourselves.

Mr Speaker, we need to take care of ourselves; we need to take care of our health so that even if we are no longer in Parliament, we can also contribute to the national development of this nation.

Mr Speaker, with these few words, I commiserate with the family, the NPP and the entire nation at large.

Statements

Dr Mohammed Amin Adam (NPP – Karaga): Mr Speaker, it is my pleasure to contribute to the discussions on the Statement on the passing on of my dear brother, the Hon Kofi Adda.

Mr Speaker, Hon Kofi Adda, before he passed on, I met him at the Airport. He did not look unwell. So, it is so sad that he passed on so soon. My first encounter with him was when he contested for the first time, the Navrongo seat. I had a meeting with him together with the then General Secretary, the Hon Dan Botwe. We strategised together on how to win the seat and God willing, he won the seat for the NPP. That was when I worked closely with him. Subsequently, when he became the Minister for Energy, he did the Tamale Street Lighting Project. I was the Mayor of Tamale at the time and that contributed significantly to the successful hosting of CAN 2008 of which Tamale was one of the host cities.

Mr Speaker, Hon Kofi Adda was a gentleman and an accomplished professional. There are many lessons we can learn from his life. He was hardworking, time conscious and loved people. Anytime I encountered him, he would

ask, “Where have you been hiding, bro?” That was the man we have lost. We would miss Kofi Adda and I would want to thank the Hon Member who made the Statement for this tribute.

I thank you, Mr Speaker.

Ms Abla Dzifa Gomashie (NDC – Ketu South): Mr Speaker, I thank you very much for the opportunity to contribute to the Statement on the demise of our Colleague, the Hon Kofi Adda.

Mr Speaker, I met the Hon Kofi Adda in the mid 1980s when one of his younger brothers stayed with us in my father’s house at Madina. We did not know that we would become members of NDC and NPP. His younger sister, Mrs Rebecca Adda Dontoh, the wife of David Dontoh, is a very good friend of mine. I call her a sister.

Mr Speaker, I share in the pain that my Hon Colleague Member of Parliament has expressed in reading this beautiful tribute in memory of the late Kofi Adda. It is a gentle reminder to all of us that life is ephemeral and when we have the opportunity to serve this country, we should not be so colour blind but seek to bridge the gaps and

Statements

reach out. When I became the Deputy Minister for Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts, he met me one day and said that I should have joined him in his Party and I said to him that he, big brother, should have joined me in our Party and we laughed about it.

Mr Speaker, we have lost a great guy, we have lost a man who cared for humanity. We have lost a man who cared for people and as a Catholic which he was too, I would say the Hail Marys on his behalf so that his soul would find eternal rest in the bosom of Abraham.

Mr Speaker, with these few words, I thank you very much for the opportunity to join in commiserating with his wife and his children.

Mr Samuel Atta Akyea (NPP – Abuakwa South): Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Statement on the Floor, which is essentially to eulogise our departed former Colleague, Hon Kofi Adda.

Mr Speaker, I did not know that a Statement would be made on the Floor regarding his passing on and as a typical Akan man, what I am putting on is not the proper attire. I would have put on cloth because I

knew this gentleman so well. We have had very good moments in the Cabinet. I did not find a man who was so affable and had lots of wits more than the Hon Kofi Adda.

I call him power under control; he is a very educated individual. He is so deep, not noisy and not a show-off and I admire his shock absorbers. As a younger man, sometimes, I got angry over issues and he would be tapping me to take it easy, especially when it involves the Government.

One day, we had a debate as to who a politician is and we wanted to come to a conclusion so that we use it as a guide. So, Hon Kofi Adda and I were debating over who a politician is until we converged at a point and had our own definition which we said as follows: “a politician is an extremely wise man who decided to be sufficiently foolish in order to bring the crowd along”.

2.37 p.m.

Mr Speaker, may I quote it again because some of the Members did not hear. [*Interruption.*] Yes, Hon Kofi Adda and I, in our

Statements

own debate came to this conclusion as to who a politician is.

The conclusion of the matter was that a politician is an extremely wise man who decided to be sufficiently foolish in order to bring the crowd along.

What I remember him for is that he had a world class temperament. This is one of the things I am still working on because sometimes, I lose my cool. That is, a matter will get so stormy and heated but he will take it in his stride and one will see that at the end of the day, he will weather the storm.

Mr Speaker, I am of the humble view that if a man has not tasted the 'two worlds'; that is being in opposition as an Hon Member of Parliament and then having his or her government in power, then that person has not felt the full understanding of being a Member of Parliament. The late Hon Kofi Adda tasted both worlds and then eventually he left us. An Hon Member said he was generous and I agree that that is what defines us eventually, that even if one is mean, how would he or she be able to serve a crowd? Unless that person shows some generosity. He was always

giving to people and I thank God for his life.

Some issues have been raised about our health. It is true that our medical check-ups are very important because we think we are very normal until one day, a doctor tells us we are hypertensive but we are not on any medication. So, as Hon Members of Parliament, by reason of the weight of what we do and the matters that affect our health but we ignore them, it could hurt us. So, we should do our medical check-ups well.

Mr Speaker, again, we have been educated that if a man is 40 years old and would not exercise his body then he is in crisis because it will catch up with him. It is very important that this august House encourages us to do our physiotherapy and so on but we should also do our very best to exercise.

I think it is important, as we always do, that this House gives our Hon Colleague, a befitting send-off. He has served us so well and so, our representation should be very strong as well as our pockets, especially when he left behind –

Mr Speaker, I crave your kind indulgence that as we are solemnising a Colleague, my fellow Hon

Statements

Colleagues should have the occasion at heart.

Mr Speaker, I know that you will put a very good representation together for us to organise a befitting send-off and also help the widow and the children.

Finally, there is something I find very interesting and which the philosophers say. It is in the sense that the day a man is born, he starts dying. This is because death is an eventual inevitability. We are all in a queue and there is nobody who will stay alive but we should always bear in mind that our service to people is what we will be remembered for which is more important than the office we occupy. I think what we will be remembered for, more than compensates for everything. He was a man with a good heart for the people and my heart goes out to the bereaved family and may his soul rest in peace.

I wish to thank the Hon Member who made the Statement for doing us the honour of bringing us to terms with the passing of our dear Hon Colleague.

Mr Speaker, thank you for your kind indulgence.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Hon Member for Bolgatanga, do you still want to comment? I learnt that the name ‘Ayine’ means ‘God’. Is that true?

Dr Dominic Akuritinga Ayine: Mr Speaker, that is so.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: You have kept such a beautiful thing from the rest of us. Now, I will call you Hon ‘God’. Kindly make your contribution.

Dr Dominic Akuritinga Ayine (NDC – Bolgatanga East): Mr Speaker, it will not be proper to call me Hon ‘God’ because it will mean that I am playing ‘God’ and I am not a man of hubris.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: If you were Ashanti, you would have been called ‘Nyame’.

Dr Ayine: Mr Speaker, that is so.

Mr Speaker, it was with deep sorrow and shock that I learnt of the death of Hon Kofi Adda. In fact, I considered it a great loss to me because I got to know the Hon Adda in the roundup to the year 2000 General Elections. He was looking for a lawyer to partner with in the execution of

Statements

a consultancy contract he had won and he was a big time management consultant then. I was one of the young lawyers he recruited to help him in the execution of that contract and that is how we met for the first time.

Mr Speaker, one way or the other, we got into talking about politics and I realised that at that point in time, he was a sympathiser of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) just as myself. I distinctly remember that both of us flirted with the National Reform Party (NRP) of Mr Goosie Tanoh in the roundup to the year 2000 elections. So, it came as a surprise to me in the year 2009 when he stood on the ticket of the New Patriotic Party (NPP).

I went to him and asked if he had changed his ideology of social democracy to believing in property owning democracy? He laughed and told me that in politics, sometimes, one takes certain strategic decisions but does not abandon his or her ideological memories and that was the end of the story in respect to his transition from being one I knew as a sympathiser of a social democratic party to a market oriented liberal capitalist party.

I continued to have personal relations with him while he was in Parliament and I distinctly remember that he was a man who did not allow party colours to stand in the way of his relations with his Hon Colleagues here in Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I distinctly remember when he represented His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo in July 2018 to inaugurate the Bolgatanga East District Assembly. As Hon Member of Parliament for that constituency, I was there with him and he delivered a very fantastic speech and mentioned the fact that as Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources, he was going to ensure that the District had its fair share of water.

So, I publicly committed him and told him that if he does not deliver on his promise, I would come to Navrongo Central to campaign against him and we laughed about it. However, he told me that I am his good younger brother and that there was a big project that was coming – I think it was a regional district water project, an Agreement which we approved in this House.

Mr Speaker, true to his word, that project is ongoing and the day I heard about his death, I was so

Statements

sad. I remember that whiles driving pass the Project, I stopped to say a prayer for him and to thank God for his life and what he had done for my people. The Project has not yet been completed but I am sure the people of Bolgatanga East are going to enjoy clean potable water as a result of the effort of the late Hon Joseph Kofi Adda.

Lastly, I would like to say that this was a man of integrity; a man of his words. I remember when he was campaigning in Navrongo Central Constituency, one of the issues that came up during the course of the campaign was the fact that he spoke his mind even at the peril of losing an election. I think that is the kind of person we need; a man of integrity that should populate the political space of our country.

With these few words, I wish to thank the Hon Member who made the Statement and Parliament in general for honouring the memory of a great man and politician.
[Hear! Hear!]

2.47 p.m.

Mr Kingsley Nyarko (NPP – Kwadaso): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to add my voice to the Statement.

Mr Speaker, Hon Kofi Adda was one of the finest politicians that this country has ever produced. He was somebody who worked in the public sector as well as the private sector. He worked with Deloitte and Touche and was also a Director for Omni Consulting International, both in the private sector. He also worked with the Ministry of Finance and became the Hon Member of Parliament for Navrongo Central Constituency after a by-election in 2003 following the demise of Hon John Achuliwor. He went on to retain the seat in 2004 General Elections and was appointed by His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor as the Hon Minister for Manpower Development and Employment and in April 2006, he was reshuffled and made the Hon Minister for Energy.

Under the tenure of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo Addo, he was appointed as the Hon Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources and later as the Hon Minister for Aviation. Mr Speaker, we are talking about somebody who had acquitted himself uniquely in the discharge of his service to mother Ghana and I pray that his sterling attributes would influence all of us to live, not only for ourselves, but for our beloved country.

Statements

Mr Speaker, I was shocked when I heard of his demise because he did not seem to be a person who was unwell. However, as previous contributors have alluded to, it means that we must be mindful of ourselves as we contribute our quota to ensure the development and progress of this country. Our health must also be on the front burner so that we do not exit this life without accomplishing our mission on earth. I think we do not have to toy with regular medical check-ups because it can happen to any of us.

Mr Speaker, I want to wish him a peaceful rest. His death is a great loss to the NPP and the political class of this country. I wish his family well and I hope that this House and the Government would give him a befitting burial to merit what he did for this country.

Mr Speaker, on this note, I want to thank you for the opportunity to express my appreciation to the memory of this great man that the country produced.

Mr Speaker, thank you.

Mr Thomas A. Dalu (NDC – Chiana/Paga): Mr Speaker, a lot has been said about the late Hon Kofi Adda and his working life, but

I just want to share a little information about him. The late Hon Kofi Adda happened to be my nephew because his mother comes from my place, Chiana.

Mr Speaker, Hon Kofi Adda was one of the few politicians that I knew before coming to Parliament who belongs to a particular party but gives back to the community. This was a man who would help anybody no matter where the person came from. Mr Speaker, after his death, a good number of people called to tell me about what he did for them. As I said, wherever you meet him, even if it is in a restaurant, he would pay for your bill.

Mr Speaker, this was a man who had shown that politics is not just about a person's party but about everyone. I think we have lost a great man in the Kassena Nankana area and we pray that his soul would rest in peace.

Mr Speaker, he was a great man; we will do our best to bury him. Thank you.

Mr Alhassan S. Sayibu – rose –

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Hon Member, I would give you the last bite before I come to the Hon Leaders.

Statements

Mr Alhassan S. Sayibu (NDC – Tamale North): Mr Speaker, thank you very much and I wish to associate myself with the kind words that have been spoken about the late Hon Kofi Adda and I join in commiserating with the family and members of his party.

Mr Speaker, Hon Kofi Adda was indeed a gentleman and one would leave his presence feeling enriched with wisdom and knowledge and not feeling less. He appreciated people from all walks of life and took on board views, even when they were divergent from his. I recall an interaction I had with him one time when we both travelled from Tamale to Accra and that was when he had been reassigned to the Ministry of Aviation. We lamented about the state of the former international terminal; Terminal 2. We both discussed what could be done with Terminal 2, given the resources that are there and the opportunity that we could derive from it as a country. He took advantage to also share with me some of the interventions that he had initiated when he was the Hon Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources and it included some of the water projects that Hon Dr Ayine spoke about and another was to the benefit of the

Tamale Metropolis which we took advantage of that time to discuss the nitty gritty.

Mr Speaker, it is on this note and many other conversations I had with him with regards to policy that I came to the conclusion that he was not just a gentleman and a politician, but he was also a policy guru; one who paid attention to the drafting of policy and took part, as a politician, in the implementation as well.

Mr Speaker, this is what we need to promote more so that people who understand policy and have the opportunity to implement same would get to work and utilise all the very beautiful policies, programmes and books that are gathering dust on shelves.

As I said, he was a pleasant fellow and every time one had an interaction with him, one would leave very enriched in knowledge and feeling quite important as well. I would conclude by adding few thoughts to the fact that the remembrance of the dead, we are told, is a warning to those of us who are alive. As many have already indicated, this was a man who did not look sick at all until his demise and that is why we all need to be grateful for whatever minute that we

Statements

spend on this earth. I have said that growing is the euphemism for dying so when we say that we are growing, it is just the euphemism for saying we are dying. We need to prepare for the inevitable even as we enjoy whatever opportunities that life presents to us.

Mr Speaker, on this note, I would want to once again commiserate with the family and the members of his party especially, the constituency that he held before the Eighth Parliament. I wish that the good Lord would grant him a perfect place to rest after his hard toils and contributions to the development of this country.

Mr Speaker, with these few words, I associate myself with the Hon Member who made the Statement and I thank you very much for the opportunity.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Minority leadership?

3.37 p.m.

Deputy Minority Leader (Mr James Klutse Avedzi): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to also associate myself with the Statement on the demise of our former Colleague, Hon Joseph Kofi Adda.

Mr Speaker, I met the late Hon Kofi Adda in 2005 when I was elected into Parliament for the first time. We have been friends since that time until his demise a few days ago. A lot has been said about the late Kofi Adda, a very humble man and someone who was willing to associate himself and accommodate everybody.

In fact, we call ourselves brothers. Any time that he sees me, he calls me “brother” and I also do same. When he was the Hon Minister for Aviation, we had an issue about the new Terminal 3, where the loan taken by the Ghana Airports Company Limited was supported by Government in order to build the terminal. I recall that the issue about the tax component that was ceded to the Ghana Airports Company Limited in order to raise funds for revenue to pay for the loan was brought to the Finance Committee, which I chaired at the time. Later, when he became the Hon Minister for Aviation, he was willing to go by the terms of that Agreement.

Mr Speaker, his demise is a loss to us as Parliament of Ghana and is a big loss to his constituents and his party, the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and Ghana as a whole.

Statements

As said by one of the Hon Members who contributed, with the conditions under which we operate as Members of Parliament, it should be a lesson for all of us to take good care of ourselves in terms of our health needs. This is because we Sit and try to satisfy our constituents and attend to their needs all the time but we forget about ourselves, particularly about how we can also take care of ourselves in terms of our health, so that we do not encounter these issues, where not long after one leaves Parliament, health issues start to set in at a time when one does not even have any flow of income to care for his or her medication and others.

Mr Speaker, this Statement is a good one. In my view, the Leadership and Management of Parliament should look into what should be done for Members of Parliament who lose their seats so that we do not have these occurring to Members of Parliament immediately they lose their seats.

Mr Speaker, I also associate myself with the Statement and wish the family well. Our condolences go to the people of Navrongo Central. I believe strongly that at his burial, a delegation of Parliament would definitely be represented at the funeral.

Mr First Deputy Speaker:
Yes, Hon Deputy Majority Whip?

First Deputy Majority Whip (Mr Habib Iddrisu): Mr Speaker, I thank you and the Hon Member who made the Statement, eulogising the late Hon Kofi Adda.

The late Hon Joseph Kofi Adda was a Member of this House for 13 years having come through by bye-election in 2003, retaining the seat in 2004, winning the seat again in 2008; lost the seat in 2012 and was able to recapture the seat in 2016.

He was a man who really lived his life and contributed immensely to the development of the country. If we all remember, in 2005, when he was appointed the Hon Minister for Manpower and Employment, he brought a lot of reforms to that Sector. In 2006, he was made the Hon Minister for Energy. It was through his term as the Hon Minister for Energy that we discovered oil, and he brought a gallon of oil to Parliament in 2006 and showed it here that at Cape Three Points, oil had been discovered and the physical evidence was shown to this House.

This was a man who in 2017, the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo made the Hon Minister

Statements

for Sanitation and Water Resources. He brought a lot of reforms in the Water Sector. Sanitation was actually reinforced and one could see that the Youth in Sanitation and Coastal Assistants module under the Youth Employment Agency (YEA) was rolled out, and in our constituencies, we had people who swept and did other things just to be able to help Ghana become cleaner.

Not only these, when he was made the Hon Minister for Aviation, as my senior, the Hon Deputy Minority Leader said, at the Terminal 3, he brought a lot of changes. When you go to the Kotoka International Airport, you would see that through his hard work and dedication to service, he was able to do a lot.

We pray that God forgives Hon Joseph Kofi Adda, and he would be in the hands of good angels. We also pray that we who are still alive have good health, and that Parliament should actually look at the services of former MPs. It is very terrible and frustrating when we meet our former Colleagues who were unable to return and in a matter of months their health and social responsibilities become a huge challenge.

I pray that the Leadership and Speakership of this House would have a look at it so that we would be able to help our former Colleagues. If we could have routine exercise among Members of Parliament so that every quarter we could go to the Mountains or have a keep-fit session just to keep us fit. We are doing a lot but we are forgetting our health.

The late Hon Joseph Adda was playing his second half since he was 65 years, born in 1956. When I say second half, my nephew Hon Alhassan Suhuyini – When you get to 50 years, there is no guarantee that you get additional 50 years. So it is a second half you are playing after 50 years. [*Laughter.*]

Mr Speaker, with these few words, I thank the Hon Member who made the Statement and wish the late Hon Joseph Kofi Adda would be in the hands of good angels and at the mercy of the Lord. Thank you.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Hon Members, our former Colleague, Hon Kofi Adda was one of our fine gentlemen and a dedicated Member of Parliament. It is a pity that like all of us, when we walk back and forth, sometimes, we forget that we ourselves also have

Statements

problems that we must pay attention to. We are almost always focusing on community problems rather than individual problems forgetting that our health matters.

We regret very much the death of our Colleague. As it is our practice, we shall rise and observe a minute silence in memory of our Brother.

[A minute silence was observed.]

Mr First Deputy Speaker: May the soul of our departed Brother, Hon Joseph Kofi Adda and the soul of all the faithfully departed rest in peace.

Yes, Hon Leader?

Mr Habib Iddrisu: Mr Speaker, it is past 3.00 pm. We are in your hands for adjournment.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: Very well. Yes, Hon Deputy Minority Whip?

Mr Ibrahim Ahmed: Mr Speaker, I totally agree with the Hon Member on the other Side.

Mr Speaker, today happens to be one of the good days in the life of this House because one of the Senior Assistant Clerks of the Parliamentary Service has written a book on the Legislative Systems in Ghana, and the launch of it is being undertaken at the Foyer.

I am just reminding you so that you entreat Hon Members to be there. We are in your hands, Mr Speaker.

Mr First Deputy Speaker: I was actually going to make that announcement. You have taken the wind out of my sail.

Hon Members, kindly be reminded that the book launch on Parliament is being done at the Foyer right after here. I encourage all Hon Members to be at the function.

ADJOURNMENT

The House was adjourned at 3.10 p.m. till Friday, 29th October, 2021 at 10.00 am.