

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

WEDNESDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY, 2010

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THE
PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF GHANA

FIRST MEETING, 2010

Wednesday, 3rd February, 2010

The House met at 10.50 a.m.

[MADAM SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR]

PRAYERS

**Votes and Proceedings and the
Official Report**

Madam Speaker: Hon Members, Correction of *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 2nd February, 2010.

There is a 5-year bond and some clarity needs to be brought to bear. It could have been a 3-year bond for five years or five years for three. But I think it is important that that statement be withdrawn and a clarification made so that the nation can understand it. But on the matter of the financial ombudsman, just to add Mr. Speaker, I think this is a very important institution and when it comes, all of us should be willing to support such a motion.

I want to thank the Senior Member for New Juaben North for having brought our attention to this matter. As I said, if the Minister for Finance and Economic Planning will take note of the handing over notes, there is in the Office of the Ministry a draft Bill for the Financial Services Authority that can be quickly worked on and when it comes here, we will all be ready to support it.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. First Deputy Speaker: Hon Members, that brings us to the end of the first Statement.

The second Statement is in the name of Hon Prof. Mike Oquaye, Second Deputy Speaker and Member of Parliament for Dome-Kwabanya.

12.40 p.m.

**Rescue Achimota School —
A National Asset**

Prof. Mike Oquaye (NPP —Dome-Kwabanya): Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity to make this Statement titled “Let us Rescue Achimota School — A National Asset” on the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, one most disturbing news in Ghana today is what some Ghanaians are doing to a vital national heritage — Achimota School. Following the publication on page three of the *Daily Graphic* of Friday, 29th January, 2010, I visited the school out of a national concern. May I point it out clearly that I am not an old Achimotan but a proud

Presecan. But if any serious Ghanaian sits unconcerned when Achimota School is bleeding, then God, indeed, help us all.

Achimota School was the baby of the great Governor Guggisberg. At a time when cocoa had revolutionized the Gold Coast economy, we were twice blessed to have a Governor whose pre-occupation was development. In those days, most Governors were liberal arts graduates. The difference was that Guggisberg was a surveyor by training and profession. He personally surveyed and mapped out Korle-Bu Hospital and Achimota School lands.

Mr. Speaker, the school land was bought for four thousand British pounds (£4,000) from the Owoo Family. I saw a photo copy of that colonial receipt dated 29th June, 1922 when I visited the school, prior to writing this Statement.

Mr. Speaker, the white man laboured to leave a significant monument. Should we destroy it? No school is as endowed as Achimota School. Mfantsipim, Adisadel, Presec, Wesley Girls, Aburi, Holy Child, *et cetera*, started as the efforts of the Church. Achimota School was put up once and for all as a monumental government school. From its bowels, the University of Ghana was born. Its Golf course, hospital, zoo, swimming pool complex, *et cetera* make it unique. If this generation will not work to add to it, let us not spoil it.

We have learnt that the Accra Metropolitan Authority (AMA) has asked for the closure of the school as the sewerage system has collapsed. The problem has been caused by encroachers who are building with speed on that part of the school called “The Folly” where the entire sewerage system has been channelled since the time of Guggisberg. People are building unlawfully on the main channels, causing the system to collapse. Any serious Ghanaian who cares to visit will see broken main lines, gushing human excreta and liquid waste plus foul stench which engulf the hemisphere. The school poultry farm has collapsed as a result.

In the late 1980s, the Board of the school made the tragic mistake of attempting to sell portions of the school land to certain individuals. The Board had no legal right to sell Achimota School lands which are by law vested in the Head of State of the Republic of Ghana, the President. People were asked to go for a refund of their monies when this illegal act became public. Some stood on the payments and without documents of ownership and approved plans, began to build with indecent haste.

The Owoo Family also stepped in and started selling the land they had already sold. Other land contractors and *macho* people waded in. The resultant chaos is too indecent to recount.

Later, another set of encroachers expanded the assault to “The Folly” area on the southern side of the compound. The encroachment on the school land has no respect for the usage. Hence a disco was built which the school had to demolish. The pilfering, drug usage, drunkenness, refuse dumping and sand winning activities which have put the life of young school children at risk, should be condemned by all well-meaning Ghanaians.

These acts of indiscipline are similar to the causes of the fires and road accidents all over our dear nation. They should stop.

The white man looked at Harrow and Eton, first class schools in the United Kingdom and gave us Achimota School. Do we not want good things in this nation? Governor Guggisberg had a reason for acquiring the vast land. Why do we destroy someone’s vision? Why do we not add to it by building a model IT institute for Ghanaian JHS and SHS children, *et cetera*?

Mr. Speaker, the development in “The Folly” is an act of lawlessness, the kind of lawlessness that will destroy this country if we do not discipline ourselves. This is principally because no one has got a registered document on any portion of the land there. Achimota School lands are by law vested in the Head of State of Ghana. No President since independence has divested an inch of the lands.

Indeed, article 257 (i) of the 1992 Constitution has vested all such public lands including Achimota School lands in the President of the Republic of Ghana. Any purported attempt by any person, body or authority other than the President of Ghana, to alienate any portion whatsoever of Achimota School lands is bogus, void, illegal and of no effect. We call on the President to save Achimota School lands.

No building permit — not one has been approved by the appropriate authorities. The Accra Metropolitan Assembly confirmed this even as far as 2005 (see *The Heritage* of March 11, 2005 and other newspaper publications). The Owoo Family, which many people rely on as grantors, have come out clearly that they have not divested any lands in “The Folly” (*Daily Graphic*, August 27, 2009).

The question is: Should we sit back as anyone who is bold enough, enters the area and commences building day and night?

I reiterate firmly, the school lands are vested in the President of Ghana. I call on him to save Achimota School. All the houses there built on school land could be acquired and given to the school. Government should take all the buildings by law. If a bonafide purchaser for value without notice is identified by a committee which could be set up, compensation should be paid by law. Parliament is the representative body of the people of Ghana. Let us get a committee to look into this and act accordingly.

Meanwhile, the security agencies should all be employed to save Achimota School, a national heritage.

The school associated with Nkrumah, Busia, Akufo Addo, Rawlings, Atta Mills, Jawara of The Gambia, Mugabe of Zimbabwe, is a national heritage; a tourist attraction; it is worthy of preservation, not destruction.

Parliament must act now as the representative body of all Ghanaians.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity.

Mr. First Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much, Second Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources?

Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources (Mr. H.F. Kamel): Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this Statement. Mr. Speaker, in doing so, I want to associate myself with the Statement made by Hon Prof. Mike Oquaye, the Second Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the problem of encroachment upon Achimota School lands is not an isolated one. Honestly, there is a general trend, a phenomenon of encroachment on public lands all over the country and especially in most of our educational institutions. This phenomenon is a sad reflection of our failure as a nation to protect public lands.

Now, coming to the issue of Achimota School lands, this was acquired under the Public Lands Ordinance of 1976 in 1921 and I think four thousand pounds was paid for the purpose of educational institution, Achimota School. Somewhere in 1927, additional acquisition was made for the expansion of the school and for woodlot purposes, to serve the fuel needs of the school.

Mr. Speaker, the problem with Achimota School lands started, like he rightly said, when the school committee called Achimota School Protection Committee decided to start selling parts of the land to prominent former students of the school. This attracted vehement protestations from the original land-owners, the Owoo Family. Eventually, the matter even went to court and the court refused to grant the release being sought by the original landowners, neither were the encroachers stopped from developing the school lands.

What is happening is that the Ministry's attention has definitely been drawn to the issue. But as we speak now, even in the previous Administration, attempts were made to embark on demolition exercises on the said lands but I remember only two houses were destroyed. And for very inexplicable reasons, the exercise stopped. Right now, we tried embarking on a demolition exercise and there is a court restraining order on us and so, we are handicapped. Until the court order is varied or vacated, there is nothing that we can do.

What we want to say is that, as a nation, we all need to collectively look at the issue of encroachment as a serious one and resolve to try and solve the problem. It is not only a problem for Government. It is a collective duty.

But let me also use this opportunity to say that anybody who has got parcels of the land there, should know that it is illegal, like he rightly said. All the structures there are illegal and at the right time when we free ourselves from this court restraining order, we will definitely move there. It is not only on Achimota School lands. We did it at Atomic; we did it at Nungua farmlands and so the resolve to demolish and free government lands is definitely on course.

12.50 p.m.

Mr. Isaac Osei (NPP — Subin): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon Second Deputy Speaker for bringing to the fore problems facing one of our most important institutions of learning, Achimota School. I make my contribution not because I am an *Akora* but because a veritable national institution established by ordinance, by law, is threatened by lawlessness and we seem as a country to be impotent and incapable of righting the wrong.

Through the hallowed halls and classrooms of Achimota School, the Hon Second Deputy Speaker has named a number of individuals who have risen to prominence in our country, who have passed through these halls. But Mr. Speaker, today, people have built on Achimota School lands without any legal documents and without any permit. And yet, the authorities are not targeting the lawbreakers and encroachers, but they are now threatening Achimota School with closure.

Mr. Speaker, the spewing of human excreta as a result of putting up buildings and structures on channels and pathways is very offensive. But of equal significance is the damage which has been caused to a sewerage system, which serves not only Achimota School but also all the areas from Greenhill through *Anumle* Village, all the way to the Achimota Police Station.

Mr. Speaker, the school farm which was dependent on the sewerage system — because Achimota School developed a system of converting faecal pellet and fluids into — *[Interruption]* — I am not ruining your appetite

— into manure, a very environmentally friendly method of generating manure for the school farms and for the purposes of greening the entire Achimota area. The school farm, today, exists only in name.

Mr. Speaker, I recall that in our days at Achimota School when disciplinary measures had to be applied, some students had to carry the stuff all the way to their halls of residence for the purpose of gardening and keeping the lawns green — *[Interruption.]* — Hon Akoto Osei knows about that. *[Laughter]* —

Mr. Speaker, Achimota Forest, which is part of Achimota School lands, is currently under siege. All manner of churches ply their trade there; and charlatans posing as churches also operate there.

The time has come for us to act; the time is now. To close Achimota School even for a day is not the solution. It is not only unacceptable; it would not solve the problem. Encroachers and illegal structures must be removed, and Government should exhibit the political will to do what is right in accordance with the laws of our country. Achimota School has to be saved; and this Parliament must be seen as part of the efforts to save the school and uphold the law.

Mr. Speaker, finally, there are many other schools in Ghana where encroachers are roaming freely, and action is required now which will send signals to our countrymen everywhere that we want to do what is right.

Once again, I would like to thank the Hon Second Deputy Speaker for bringing the plight of Achimota School to this House to enable us recommend action to right the wrongs of the past.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Mr. D. A. Azumah (NDC — Garu/Tempane): Mr. Speaker, I just rise to make a few comments and to also congratulate the maker of the Statement for bringing to fore the issue of encroachment upon Achimota School lands.

Mr. Speaker, I chanced to be an executive member of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) of the School, and the issue of Achimota School lands has time and again come up in our agenda for discussion.

The PTA took all the steps to see how best we could address these concerns but the encroachers continued to play a whole lot of nonsense about it. Mr. Speaker, this issue of lands is quite complicated. In the course of our meetings with some section of the encroachers, their arguments were that they acquired those lands legally. Sometimes, even without documents, without anything to prove, they still maintain their stance that they acquired those lands legally.

It was a concern that we took to the Ministry of Education, and we discussed with the Minister — In fact, at that time, it was the Hon Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu. We pleaded with him to try and see how best he could — and just when he was about to handle the matter, he was moved out of the Ministry of Education.

Mr. Speaker, it is a real concern. I want to endorse the recommendations of the Hon Second Deputy Speaker that action be taken and taken now. A special committee of this House should be set up to look into the Achimota School lands. The issue of demolition came up; I am constrained to say that our courts need to look at these issues more in the interest of the country.

It is not for anybody to get up and go to court and make a demand, and they rule it in his favour, and he comes displaying what kind of evidence it is. It constrains the school authorities to take appropriate action.

Mr. Speaker, if even there will be cause for demolition, it should be pursued and pursued vigorously without any political interference. I think that Achimota School deserves better. It is a school that is actually improving the standard of education of our children, and we are all concerned about the school lands.

I hope that in your ruling, you will refer this issue to the appropriate committee, hopefully, so that we can all look into it dispassionately and come out with a solution once and for all for Achimota School.

All the parents are looking up to this House to see what kind of steps we can take to address the concerns of the school.

Mr. Speaker, on that note, I thank the Hon Member who made the Statement drawing our attention and hope that this House can find the solution to the issues he had raised.

Thank you so much.

1.00 p.m.

Mrs. E. K. T. Sackey (NPP — Okaikoi North): Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

I think it is appropriate for us to discuss this issue of this school at this time. I want to say that Achimota School, which was formerly known as the Prince of Wales College, acquired this land as far back as 1924 and it was paid for. We are all, as it has been said this morning by the Hon Second Deputy Speaker, getting to know what is happening in the school now — encroachments on different levels.

As my Hon Colleagues have already said, the school has educated many African leaders. We are fortunate to say that our present President is an *Akora* and he is a product of the school. I wish that he will take over this issue because we all know that the school lands are invested in the President and therefore, issues of that nature should be dealt with and dealt with well. The issue has been sent to court and on several occasions, the court has ruled and we still have people building on that land.

There are certain mind-boggling questions from the public and the constituency, which I would like to bring to the attention of the House for all to discuss and debate and attempt to answer.

The first question is, what happens to the students when the Achimota School is closed down? I consequently ask, the present situation or crisis in the school, will it be the first or the last or is this the solution? Are we going to solve it or what are we going to do?

The second point is, if the land is being vested in the hands of the President, then what is the President also doing about it since he has authority to assist? Surprisingly, with this Government in power — we know of His Excellency, former President John Jerry Rawlings and former First Lady Nana Konadu Agyemang Rawlings who are also past students of that same school, *Akoras*. I hope and wish that they will take this matter up seriously.

The next point that the public want to know about is if AMA and Lands Commission would also be held responsible. This is because they are all around; AMA knows about what is going on in the school now and yet no legal action is being taken. Those buildings over there have no legal permits and yet the buildings are springing up. I was informed by the Headmistress yesterday that the court has ruled also that for now there should not be any demolition on that land and for that ruling, people have started building more day and night.

Are we going to allow this to continue? Though the court has ruled, I believe strongly that it should be a piece of good advice for the court to get down to the site and then see things for itself. This encroachment is leading to a lot of challenges in the school. We now have prayer camps all round the school and a lot of disturbances. When the children are learning, there will be shouting, praying and singing and it disturbs a lot. It makes learning very difficult.

The next issue is sand winning, where people go round winning sand very close to the school and that is also creating a problem and causing health hazards. The school is also facing a problem of workshops, that is, there are mechanical and electrical workshops all round, welding and others. I do not see how this will lead to the comfort of the children to allow them have good sleep.

I want to take this opportunity to appeal to the whole House that this should not be the responsibility of one person; it should be the responsibility of all of us as a House. I go in for the suggestion made by the Second Deputy Speaker that we should form a committee that will look into hazards and issues at the school.

I also want to take this opportunity to let you know that just quite recently, just at the beginning of the term, two computers were stolen from the school just because of all these kind of the challenges that they are facing.

As a mother, I am also thinking that closing down the school will not help in any way. Though we know that the spilling of the sewerage system is creating a health hazard, we still think that it could be worked on when school is on vacation.

If we are asked to close down the school, then it poses this question in mind — what about the hospital? This is because the hospital serves the whole community and its environs, that is Pokuase, Amasaman and others. And therefore, if they should close down the school because of the sewerage system, then it means that the hospital also needs to be closed down. And I want to know whether it will be in the best interest of all.

So I ask that even as the court has given a ruling, it should — The court should sit again and re-approach the whole thing and see how best we can solve this issue because it is an issue that matters most and it is an issue that affects the whole community and not only the students. Madam Speaker, I think that I would want to rest my case here and say a big thank you to the Second Deputy Speaker for bringing this to light.

Thank you very much.

Mr. First Deputy Speaker: Hon Members, we are yet to start Public Business, so the message on the floor is very, very clear. The message from both sides of the House is very, very clear. I will however take brief comments, one each from each side — from each side so I will call the Chief Whip from the Majority side and then the Hon Member for Akwatia to end the comments on the Statement.

1.10 p.m.

Mr. E. T. Mensah (NDC — Ningo/Prampram): Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the Statement ably presented by the Second Deputy Speaker.

Listening to all the concerns, the Second Deputy Speaker is right by saying that the buildings are going on with satanic speed — satanic speed, indeed. Now, there is this issue that the fourth paragraph of the Statement — He said that he learnt that the AMA has asked for the closure of the school as the sewerage system has collapsed.

I think that we have been a bit reckless in the enforcement of our laws. When we set up that sewerage system there, it was far away, and it was managed from a very strategic perspective. Now, what has happened? People attempted to steal the lands in Achimota and we sorted them out. I am surprised that there is a court ruling that there should be no more demolitions.

There are laws in this country. Public Lands Protection Decree, NRCD 240 is very, very important. When it is becoming difficult, the AMA has all the laws, they have the right to demolish any property. This whole thing about “when I think it is above lintel level, then it cannot be touched” is not true. They can demolish and surcharge the owner of the property.

Because of the rampant encroachment of public lands, the Public Lands Protection Decree of 1974, NRCD 240, was introduced and the punishments are two: You demolish the property, surcharge the owner of the property, and fine the owner of the property 5,000 cedis then or both.

Furthermore, it is said that you could take over the property. Whatever property they have on the land you have the right to take over and use it for the purposes for which the land was acquired.

So, I am surprised about the lamentations of the AMA, that we have not moved in to do what has to be done. If we have not done that, there would have been no “Kanda” Highway. Kanda Highway was zoned in the 1958 structural plan of Accra. By the 1980s and 1990s, we realized that it had been fully encroached upon. When we

got money to open up the “Kanda” Highway, we went ahead and cleared — That is how today you have “Kanda” Highway.

AMA must be up and doing; they should live up to their statutory duties that have been given to them. You do not operate only in Accra Metropolitan Area, clearing people from the pavement. There is serious business that has to be done — the encroachments all over — It is not only in Achimota School. Other public lands are being encroached upon. All schools — you go to Abavana Down and you go to all the schools — The lands that were acquired for the schools have all been encroached upon.

So Mr. Speaker, we want to plead with the courts too, they should call for all the laws, especially on public lands protection, and ensure that they give support to people who have been given the responsibility to deal with these issues.

Mr. Speaker, the other issue that I want to end with, is the concern about sand winning. Sand winning also contravenes the planning regulations of this land. The very first laws on planning in 1945 all through to the current ones that we have, development is defined as “anytime you change the form of any land — it is development”. So if you are going to win sand, it is development, and you need permission from the planning authorities.

You do not only go to the Ministry of Mines and Energy to get a mines certificate and move on to go and start winning sand. After you have got the mines certificate, you have to go to the city authorities for permission to change the status of the land. We are not doing all these, and that is why we are having all the problems that we have. Instead of closing down the school, we should rather go in and take over the lands and let the children use that property for the purpose for which they are acquired.

Even if we have not been to Achimota School, three of my children went there. If the people then had sold out the land or it had been encroached upon, there would have been no school for any of us or for any of my children that I am talking about to go.

We are being too irresponsible, too reckless and so we are charging AMA to go and challenge the ruling to the next court and to be empowered to deal with the situation — demolish the properties or take them over.

I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. Kofi Asare (NPP — Akwatia): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to contribute to the Statement by Hon Mike Oquaye.

As a past student of the school, I get worried anytime I visit my alma mater. Achimota School as has been said, is a heritage for this country and it has produced men and women of stature, not only for this country but for the rest of the world. There are many others — writers. I remember reading Sefa Ekuasiam where he wrote that in one year he grew six times in Achimota School because of what he learnt and what he did there. Achimota is an African heritage, not only for this country.

It is interesting that the school was acquired — In fact, I have a copy of the colonial receipt for 4,000 pounds, signed on behalf by George Owu for the head of Owu Brothers and Family and S.W. Mortey for Okuwe Family, dated 29th June, 1922. But the title of certificate number 869/1921 had been signed dated 16th day of June, 1921 by the Chief Justice of this country and the Chief Registrar, Mr. A. White and Chief Justice Cramptom Mealy, this was dispatched to be registered and this is what it says:

“The instrument was delivered to me for registration by the Solicitor-General at 3.40 o’clock afternoon this 16th day of December, 1921.”

The Instrument was signed on the 16th December, 1921 by the Chief Justice. On that same day, at 3.40 p.m. it was sent to be registered with dispatch, and that shows how they worked and how serious it was for them to get the

land well documented. Now, we have not unlettered members of our society, but those of us who claim to have been to school, grabbing and destroying this national asset.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, there is no court ruling; but there is an injunction to stop the demolition. That injunction also prohibits people from building but yet everyday, even as we speak now, people are building, going contrary to the courts. On the sewage system, a prominent pastor in this world is putting up a big and huge building on the very structure that is supposed to be dealing with the human excreta, not only from Greenhill but from the Achimota Police Station.

If we close down the school, are we saying that we are going to close down Greenhill? Because their waste passes through these channels? *[Interruption.]*

Mr. K. T. Hammond: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, my Hon Colleague who just spoke indicated that “a very prominent person” — He seems to know who this prominent person is. Could he indicate who that person is?

1.20 p.m.

Mr. First Deputy Speaker: Hon Member, can you continue?

Dr. Asare: Mr. Speaker, *mi nim ni din.* *[Laughter.]* Well, if he knows, he can provide it to the House.

Mr. Speaker, Achimota students should not bear the brunt of the misdeeds of those who claim to have gone to school, who are lettered. Our unlettered members of society would not do this destruction. They revere the land and they protect our environment. Those of us who claim to have been lettered, we are letting this country down and it is a shame that indigenes are destroying what the White man has brought for us.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, there is a court injunction that prevents Achimota from demolishing — but also that injunction prevents them from building and we think that the courts should enforce their rulings and prevent those who are continuing building on the site to stop.

The other thing that worries me is, those of us doing this are the very people who have been outside. Go to great cities and you have green lands, green areas left because of environmental reasons. Yet the very people who ought to know this and who ought to be teaching this are destroying the Achimota forest, the only forest in Accra area.

It is a shame and those who are doing it should be brought to book. They should be made to pay for the repair of the sewage system. We should have learnt from that, otherwise, we will not be always fighting as to where to dump solid waste in this country.

If the AMA had taken a cue from what Achimota did in those days and put up a sewage system, we would be using the manure for our gardening and producing food. But because of this, we are suffering here and there. Anytime there is a landfill, there are a whole lot of problems.

We should call those who have destroyed it to pay for it. We should not only demolish their buildings; they should be made to repair the sewage system as it was in those days.

The other thing, Mr. Speaker, that has brought about this is that policy of looking at all schools as the same. I believe funding of schools should be graduated.

There should be a way of graduating our schools and giving funding for them, because for the wealth of Achimota, all that they have, it is not for Achimotans, it is not for the school, it is for this country and it needs to be maintained. Therefore, we must pay for it. That notion of treating all schools as equal and giving them that same money cannot maintain a national heritage like Achimota School, and we should look at that policy again.

Mr. Speaker, I think a lot has been said and as an *Akora*, we want to thank you all and we believe that Mr. Speaker will refer it to a Committee and we will have an input and ensure that what is right is done and ensure that Achimota as a national heritage is preserved.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to contribute to it.

Mr. First Deputy Speaker: Hon Members, thank you very much for Statements and the comments thereon. I have a small difficulty here in referring this matter to a committee, in view of the pending matter of the case in court. However, because the matter is in court, and taking from the floor — because after the committee brings it work, the matter has to be debated. And when the debate comes, what happens to it which will go counter to the court's decision?

What I intend doing, and with the indulgence of the House, is to refer the Statement and all the comments by Hon Members to the respective agencies of State — the Hon Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, the Hon Minister for Education, the Hon Minister for Local Government and Rural Development and the Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana so that they take the comments of this Honourable House and at the appropriate time the Business Committee may schedule any of them to brief the House accordingly.

Hon Members, thank you very much.

That brings us to the end of Statements.

Hon Majority Leader.

Mr. John T. Akologu: Mr. Speaker, items 5 and 6 have some issues to be resolved by the committees. Under the circumstance, we want to seek your permission and the indulgence of the House to step them down and take them at another date. Therefore, we can proceed to item 7 — and then the rest of the items.

Mr. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu: Mr. Speaker, I believe that is acceptable.

Mr. First Deputy Speaker: Very well, items 5 and 6 are accordingly deferred.

[Items 5 and 6 deferred by the leave of the House.]

MOTIONS

PAC Report on Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Management of Ghana Police Residential Accommodation

[Continuation of debate from 2nd February, 2010]

Mr. First Deputy Speaker: Hon Members, I will now put the Question on this motion.

Question put and motion agreed to.

Resolved:

That this Honourable House adopts the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General on Management of Ghana Police Residential Accommodation.

Mr. Akologu: Mr. Speaker, item 8 —

Mr. First Deputy Speaker: Very well Chairman of Public Accounts Committee.

MOTIONS