



# MAJORITY CAUCUS

## PARLIAMENT OF GHANA

Parliament House - Accra (Ghana)

### STATEMENT BY THE MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT CONCERNING RT HON SPEAKER BAGBIN'S SOLE AND ARBITRARY DECISION TO ADJOURN THE HOUSE *SINE DIE* WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S MINISTERIAL NOMINEES AND THE ABANDONMENT OF OTHER GOVERNMENT BUSINESSES

1. Today, the 20th day of March 2024, is a sad day for our democracy by reason of the arbitrary decision of Rt Hon Speaker Bagbin, who was visibly annoyed that a letter from the Office of the President informing the House about the injunctive processes in the Supreme Court relating to the transmission of the Human Sexual Rights and Family Value Bill 2024, is an affront to the dignity of Parliament and subversive of Ghana's democratic process.
2. The letter emanating from the Office of the President and under the hand of Nana Bediatuo Asante, Secretary to the President, in substance, pointed to the fact that the President, having regard to the pending Suit number **J1/9/2024**, *Richard Sky v The Parliament of Ghana and the Attorney General* and Suit number **J1/13/2023**, *Dr Amanda Odoi v The Attorney General and the Speaker of Parliament* in the Supreme Court with their injunctive process, and that the House should not transmit the Human Sexual Rights and Family Value Bill 2024 to the President.
3. The spirit of the President's letter is conclusive that the President is constitution-minded and will not undermine the Supreme Court of Ghana in its sacred role of administering justice. The President was in no way being dictatorial in his communication to Parliament given the fact that the content of the letter was not binding on Mr Speaker.
4. Mr Speaker, who has been out of the jurisdiction since Monday, occupied the Chair this evening and used his high office to attack the President, who could not answer in the Chamber. Mr Speaker did not mince words at all in stating that the letter emanating from the Office of the President is an affront to Parliament and a contumacious behaviour of the President. This, and the President's previous conduct, Mr Speaker forcefully argues, undermines the authority of Parliament and democratic governance.

5. The Majority asserts in no uncertain terms that the President was being law-abiding by reason of the injunctive processes pending before the Supreme Court. Moreover, the President did not undermine the powers of the Supreme Court so as to bring the administration of justice into disrepute.
6. On every interpretation and permutation, the letter from the Office of the President did not undermine the authority of Parliament as wrongly alleged by Mr Speaker. Needless to say, the President's letter did not breach any provision of the Constitution and significantly, Mr Speaker could not misconstrue the same as a continuous attempt by the Executive to subvert the constitutional order.
7. It is a matter of regret that Mr Speaker arbitrarily and capriciously, and on his own motion, adjourned the House indefinitely without the House considering the Ministerial Nominees who have been vetted and reports on them duly laid for the consideration of the House. The Rt Hon Speaker premised his decision on a monumental error that in Suit numbered **J1/12/2024**, filed on the 18th day of March 2024 between **Rockson-Nelson Etse K. Dafeamekpor v the Speaker of Parliament and the Attorney-General**, an injunction has been filed in the Supreme Court restraining him and the House from vetting, considering, and approving the President's Ministerial Nominees. Even a casual reading of that Supreme Court action is clear that the Dafeamekpor action and the injunctive process related to what he conceived as revoked ministers who have been reshuffled into new ministries.
8. It beggars belief that our distinguished Speaker could not, or did not want to, appreciate what has been filed in the Supreme Court and which is very unconnected with the President's Ministerial Nominees who have been vetted and are waiting for the House to approve their nominations. The gargantuan contradiction of Mr Speaker is that, while he accuses Mr President of respecting mere injunction applications, he will respect a mere injunction application whether or not it touches on Parliament's work.
9. The upshot is that Mr Speaker has torpedoed the Government's work by depriving the President and Ghana of the able men and women who will assist him in running the Government machinery. It is our humble belief that it is the Speaker who is undermining our democracy and not Mr President.



**10. The decision of Mr Speaker to adjourn the House without recourse to its members, especially the Leadership, is most arbitrary, capricious, and undemocratic. The settled practice has always been that the Leadership of the House guide the Chair to conduct the Business of the House. However, The Speaker aborted the work of the House when the following matters, of which he was aware, were pending as Business of the day:**

- a. Tax waivers
- b. Laying of papers
- c. Consideration of bills
- d. Outstanding IDA facility and
- e. Approval of Ministerial Nominees

**11. The consequences are clear that the economy will suffer and Government business will be undermined because of the pleasure of one man.**

12. The NDC minority, who are in a fertile mood to come to power, are very excited and supportive of Mr Speaker. This is a conspiracy to sabotage the Government. Mr Speaker and the NDC deliberately misconstrued the letter from the Office of the President to set an agenda to satisfy their parochial political interest. It is consistent with their avowed aim to put impediments in the way of the NPP's governance of the country. Was it not their failed agenda to reject the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of 2022 as a grand scheme to mislead Ghanaians so they would vote them into power?

13. The NDC is bereft of ideas. They do not have any credible alternative solutions to the problems of international dimensions facing Ghana's economy. The poverty of the NDC's political posture is clear and obvious, and Ghanaians will not return them to power come December 2024.



Dated 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

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