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## Press Release

### Parliament Reconvenes for the Second Session

**Accra, Ghana | 2nd February 2026** – As Parliament reconvenes on Tuesday, 3 February 2026, for the Second Session, the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) welcomes Honourable Members of Parliament back to the House and reaffirms their central role in advancing democratic governance in Ghana.

ACEPA commends Parliament and its partners for their continued collaboration to strengthen legislative performance and deepen democratic practice. Such partnerships remain critical to effective lawmaking, robust oversight, and inclusive governance.

We acknowledge the progress recorded during the First Session, particularly the passage of key legislation aimed at strengthening fiscal governance and public administration. Notable milestones include tax and revenue reforms, amendments to the Income Tax and VAT Acts, the repeal of the Electronic Transfer Levy (E-levy), the passage of the Social Protection Bill, and the approval of the 2026 Budget - measures that responded to pressing national economic priorities.

However, the First Session also exposed persistent challenges that require urgent attention. Absenteeism in plenary and committee sittings, delays in legislative business, and uneven committee engagement constrained Parliament's ability to fully discharge its constitutional mandate. An audit covering 43 sittings between January and March 2025 underscored the scale of these challenges, which weakened oversight, slowed decision-making, and affected public confidence in parliamentary processes.

As the Second Session begins, ACEPA urges Honourable Members to prioritise regular attendance and active participation in plenary and committee work to ensure timely and effective consideration of parliamentary business. We further call on Parliament to strengthen the exercise of its oversight mandate - particularly through its committees - to ensure that 2026 budget allocations are utilised efficiently, transparently, and for their intended purposes. Strong committee engagement in tracking implementation and service delivery will be essential to translating policy commitments into tangible outcomes for citizens.

ACEPA wishes Members of Parliament a productive and successful Session and looks forward to a renewed commitment to effective representation, accountability, and democratic consolidation.

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