

MONITORING REPORT ON THE 1ST MEETING OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 9TH PARLIAMENT OF GHANA



Prepared by

African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA)

Executive Summary

The 1st Meeting of the 2nd Session of Ghana's 9th Parliament reconvened on 3rd February 2026 and adjourned sine die on 27th March 2026. It was a meeting that delivered legislative output, invited institutional reflection, and at times descended into partisan friction. From the passage of landmark bills to persistent absenteeism, dramatic floor confrontations, and a mid-session swearing-in, the meeting offered a vivid cross-section of Ghana's parliamentary democracy.

This report, produced by the Africa Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA), assesses the meeting's performance across key parliamentary functions and names both the commendable and the concerning.

11 Bills were passed

3 Bills were introduced

4 Key bills progressed amid ongoing discussions

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I. Setting the Scene

The Rt. Hon. Speaker Alban Bagbin opened the session with a reflective address that struck a cautious, optimistic tone, acknowledging the steady progress of the First Session while reminding members of the work still ahead. He announced plans to institutionalize a One-Year Anniversary review at the start of each session.

A welcome step toward building a culture of parliamentary self-assessment. The session also began under a cloud of grief. The House mourned the passing of three Members of Parliament: Hon. Naser Toure Mahama (Ayawaso East), who passed during the recess on 4th January 2026; and the two other MPs who had died in the past session. The late Hon. Murtala Mohammed and the late Hon. Ernest Yaw Kumi. Tributes were paid, and minutes of silence observed.

Also of note was the resolution of the Kpandai constituency dispute. A matter that had lingered unresolved. The Supreme Court overturned a High Court ruling that had nullified Hon. Matthew Nyindam's (NPP) electoral victory, restoring his seat and parliamentary representation for the constituency.

II. Legislative Business

The meeting produced a meaningful volume of legislative output. The following bills were passed or debated during the session:

A. Bills Passed

01

**The 24-Hour
Economy &
Accelerated
Export
Development
Authority Bill
2025**

02

**Education
Regulatory
Bodies
(Amendment)
Bill 2026**

03

**Security
and
Intelligence
Agencies
Bill 2025**

04

**Ghana Deposit
Protection
(Amendment)
Bill 2025**

05

**Accra
International
Airport Bill
2026**

06

**Growth and
Sustainability
Levy
(Amendment)
Bill 2026**

07

**Value for
Money
Office Bill
2026**

08

**Legal
Education
Bill 2025**

09

**University of
Engineering
and
Agricultural
Sciences Bill,
2025**

10

**Government
Advisory
Council Bill 2026**

11

**Ghana
Investment
Promotion
Authority Bill
2026**

B. Bills Introduced

Bills Introduced

Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill, 2025 (Anti-LGBTQ+ Bill)

Community Service Bill 2026

Maritime And Related Offences Bill, 2026

C. Honourable Mentions



01

Constitution of Ghana Amendment Bill 2025



02

Ghana Cocoa Board (Amendment) Bill 2025



03

Intestate Succession Bill, 2025

D. Key Approvals

1

GHS 9.2 billion approved for the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) for 2026.

2

GHS 2.9 billion approved for the Ghana Medical Trust Fund (Mahama Care).

3

The Corporate Strategic Plan (2026–2030) of Parliament was formally launched on 12th of February 2026. It is a five-year institutional roadmap for deepening democratic governance in Ghana's parliament.

4

District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) Formula, 2026 — approved on 17th March 2026, setting the allocation of funds at GHS 8.77 billion, a 16.78% increase over the 2025 funds released.

III. The Good Standout Moments

A. A Parliament That Reflected on Itself

The Speaker's commitment to institutionalizing an annual One-Year Anniversary review is a significant gesture toward parliamentary self-accountability. Combined with the launch of the 2026–2030 Corporate Strategic Plan, the session opened by emphasizing the institution's commitment to its own governance. A signal that deserves recognition.



B. Women Awoken

Ahead of International Women's Day, a notable number of female MPs took to the floor to speak substantively on gender equity, unpaid labour, the Affirmative Action Act, and structural barriers in leadership. Contributions from Hon. Helen Ntoso, Hon. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings, Hon. Zuwera Ibrahimah, Hon. Nana Ayew Afriyie, Hon. Agnes Momo Lartey, Hon. Ntim Fordjour, and Hon. Rita Naa Odoley Sowah showed, collectively, an advanced conversation that went beyond the usual symbolic recognition of the celebration.

C. Cross-Party Solidarity on Health and Social Issues

Both Majority and Minority MPs condemned the no-bed syndrome following the death of accident victim Charles Amissah, who was turned away by three hospitals. The bipartisan push for an Emergency Care Law demonstrated that Parliament can set aside partisanship when human welfare is at stake. The Speaker's call to legislate on emergency healthcare was a principled and timely use of parliamentary influence.

D. The 24-Hour Economy Bill 2025: A Bridge where Policy Meets Legislation

The long-awaited 24-hour Economy Bill 2025 finally made it to Parliament after a year of testing. A government's proposal that has ultimately become a law. According to the President, it is a transformative strategy aimed at unlocking productivity, creating jobs, and building a resilient and self-reliance.

E. Kwame Nkrumah's Overthrow & J.B. Danquah Death Remembered

Parliament commemorated the 59th anniversary of the overthrow of Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah on 24th February, 1966, an event many view as a dark day in our nation's history. That day marked the deliberate removal of Ghana's first President and Prime Minister, which many believed was a carefully orchestrated attack on the nation's sovereignty. The marking of the 61st anniversary of Dr. J.B. Danquah's passing was a modest but meaningful exercise in the institution's memory. As Hon. Mahama Ayariga noted in an earlier session: "You cannot write the history of Ghana without him."

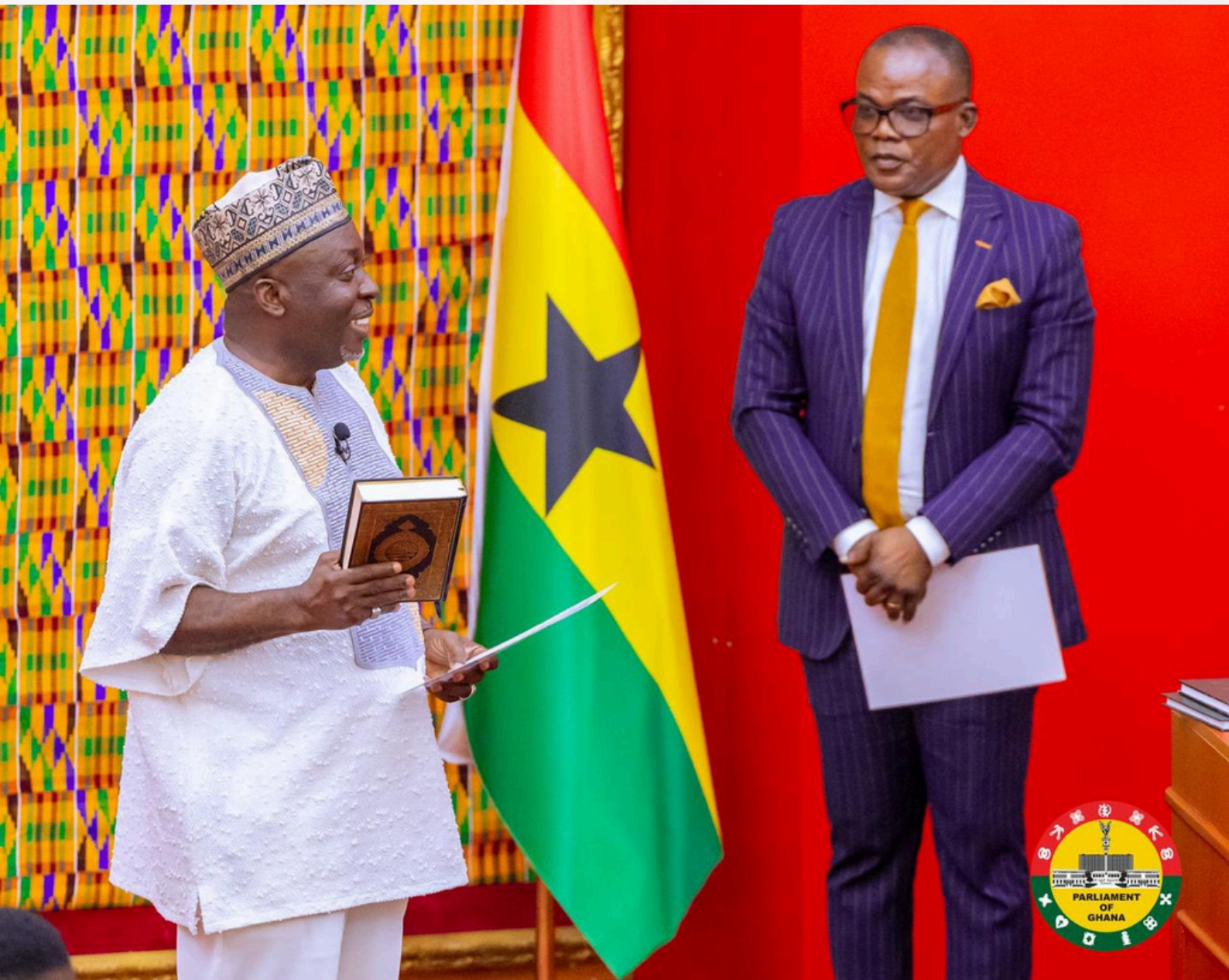
This gave birth to the Accra International Airport Bill debate later in the meeting, where the Hon Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah argued that it is a rightful thing as it is inappropriate to have the nation's international airport's old name, which refers to the overthrow of the country's premier leader, and that it was best to revert to its original name.

F. Sovereignty Limits Ghana

On March 5, Hon. James Agalga explained that Ghana's security forces could not protect citizens operating in foreign territories due to sovereignty limitations, following attacks on Ghanaian traders in Burkina Faso. He clarified that such safety is the responsibility of the host country, emphasizing that Ghana cannot intervene directly in another nation.

G. Middle Highlight of the Meeting

On 10th March 2026, Mohammed Baba Jamal Ahmed was sworn in as the new MP for Ayawaso East, filling the vacancy left by the late Hon. Mahama Naser Toure, restoring full representation in the chamber.



IV. Where Parliament Got it Wrong

A. Absenteeism

Perhaps the most embarrassing moment of the meeting was the Speaker's public rebuke of members for low attendance on February 10th, stating that at the start of that day's meeting, only approximately 20 MPs were present in the chamber. This is consistent with attendance data from the preceding session, based on data attendance analysis done by ACEPA, which showed nearly half of all MPs falling below the average attendance threshold of 28 days. The Speaker had to urge members to attend all continuing proceedings, highlighting a broader concern about the House's discipline and attendance culture.



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B. The District Assembly Common Fund(DACF) Controversy

The Minority Caucus accused the government of the unconstitutional use of DACF guidelines, citing approximately GHS 7.33 billion in accumulated unpaid funds. While the DACF formula for 2026 was eventually approved, the delay and controversies surrounding it raised serious questions about whether local government units received their constitutionally guaranteed allocations on time.

C. Ghanaian Students in the UK

The Minority Caucus had to raise the alarm about Ghanaian scholarship students in the UK facing a one-week ultimatum over unpaid fees and the threat of deportation. They emphasised that this issue had reached a crisis point and required MPs to intervene. This suggested a failure of both the government's monitoring systems and parliamentary oversight of student welfare programmes.

D. Point-Scoring on a Tragedy

The deaths of eight Ghanaian traders in Burkina Faso sparked a heated parliamentary debate that unfortunately turned partisan. Rather than uniting around a shared demand for answers and regional security cooperation, MPs traded political jabs. The 1st Deputy Speaker, Hon. Ahiafor had to intervene to urge sensitivity. It was a moment that called for statesmanship and received politics instead.

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E. The Minority Leader's Retraction

On 4th March, Minority Leader Hon. Alexander Afenyo-Markin publicly retracted allegations he had made against the Interior Minister, Hon. Muntaka, concerning illegal recruitment by security services. While the retraction and apology were ultimately offered, the episode reflected poorly on the quality of information presented on the floor and raises questions about fact-checking before allegations are made in the House. The 2nd Deputy Speaker's request to exclude the matter from official records does not reduce the institutional cost.



V. When Parliament Missed the Opportunity to Protect its Dignity

A. The Hon. 1st Deputy Speaker Ahiafor vs. Hon. Vincent Assafuah

On 25th February, a verbal confrontation between Hon. Vincent Assafuah and Hon. Ahiafor disrupted proceedings after the former accused the presiding officer of being unfair. His words, “We will disrespect you if you disrespect us” were not just a personal outburst; they were a direct challenge to parliamentary order and the authority of the Chair. Whatever the underlying grievance, threatening disrespect toward a presiding officer on the floor of Parliament is a serious breach of decorum.



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B. The Nkoko Nketenkete programme and its Chaos

The sitting on 17th March was suspended for 30 minutes following a heated exchange sparked by Hon. Jerry Ahmed Shaib's remarks on the Nkoko Nketsekete Project. His concluding words, "God is watching", proved inflammatory enough to bring proceedings to a standstill. The Hon 2nd Deputy Speaker, Asiamah, was left with no option but to suspend the House to restore order. The show that a routine sitting on a budget formula could devolve into a suspension is a stark indicator of how fragile floor discipline has become.

C. Conduct of Members During the Burkina Faso Tragedy Discussions

The Minority's protest and disruption at the remarks of Hon. Samuel Atta Mills, however ill-timed those remarks may have been, added an unedifying spectacle to an already sensitive national moment. Eight Ghanaians had died in Burkina Faso. The chamber should have risen to the gravity of that loss. Instead, it descended at that very moment to talk about huge sums of money pumped into the failed Pwalugu irrigation dam and it was only normal that the Minority Caucus took offence to it and counter-protested.

D. Hon. Sam George vs. Hon. Minority Leader Alexander Afenyo-Markin

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VI. Debates that Defined the Meeting

01

SONA 2026: The
Reset Agenda



02

The Two
Narratives of the
Economy

03

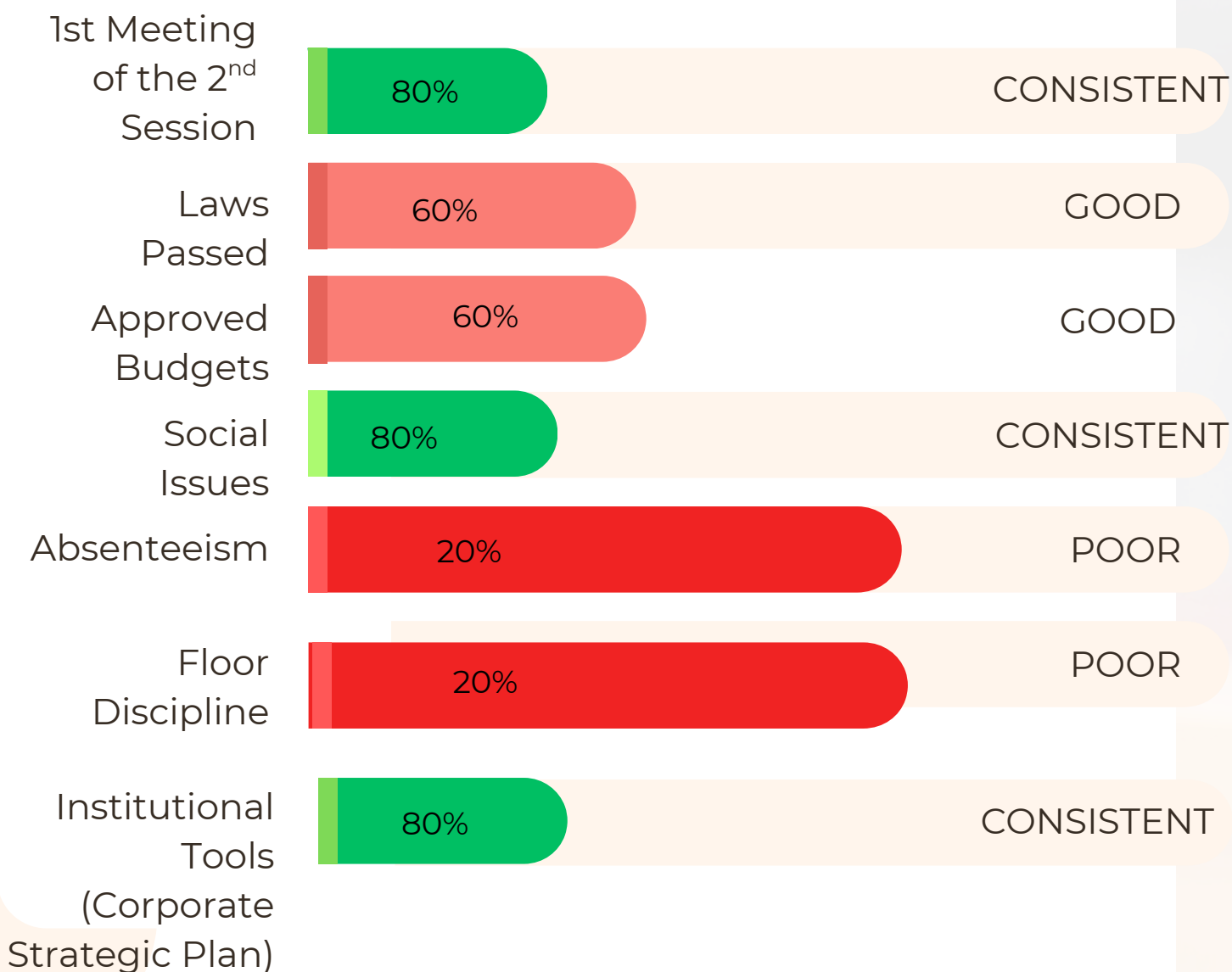
Anti-LGBTQ+ Bill:
The Slow March



04

World Cancer Day,
FGM and Water
Supply

VII. Overall Meeting Rating: A Parliament Capable of More



Green means 'Consistent'

Light Red means 'Good'

Red means 'Poor'

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VIII. Highlights to Watch for in the Next Meeting



The Anti-LGBTQ+ Bill



Attendance Enforcement



Cocoa Sector



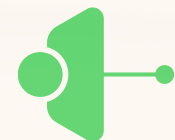
Cancer Care and Clean Water



**Updates on the Cyber Security
(Amendment) Bill 2025**



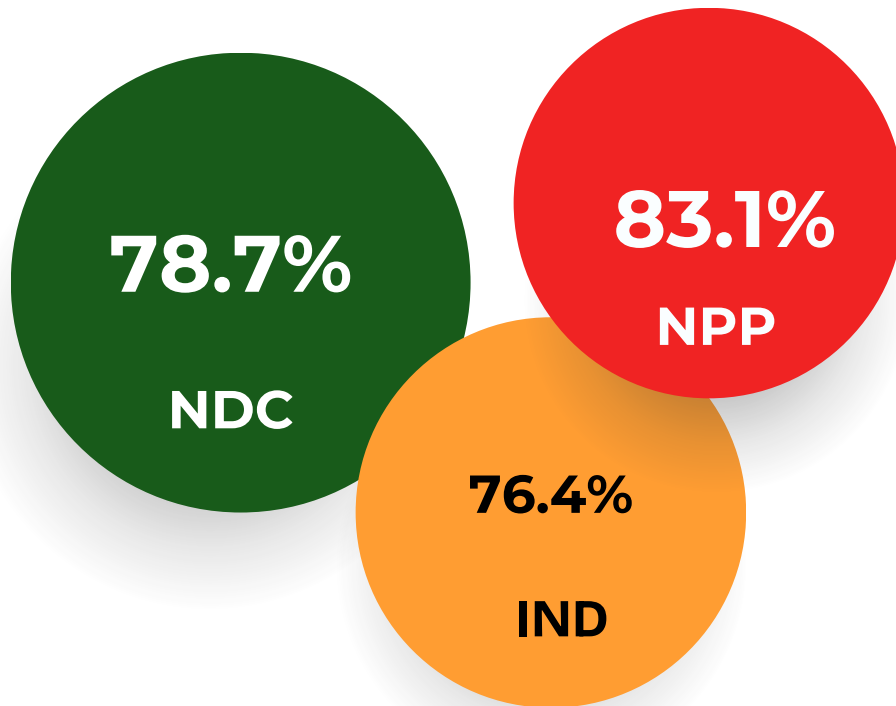
**Constitution of the Republic of Ghana
(Amendment) Bill 2025**



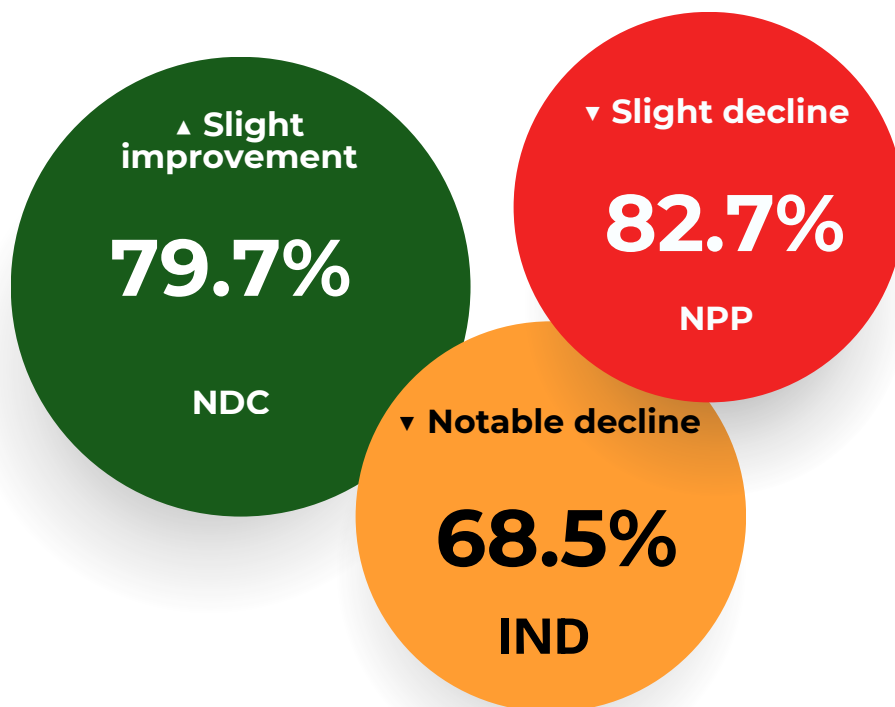
**University of Engineering and Agricultural
Sciences (UEAS) Bill 2025**

X. Party Attendance and Breakdown

3rd Meeting, 2025



1st Meeting of the 2nd Session, 2026

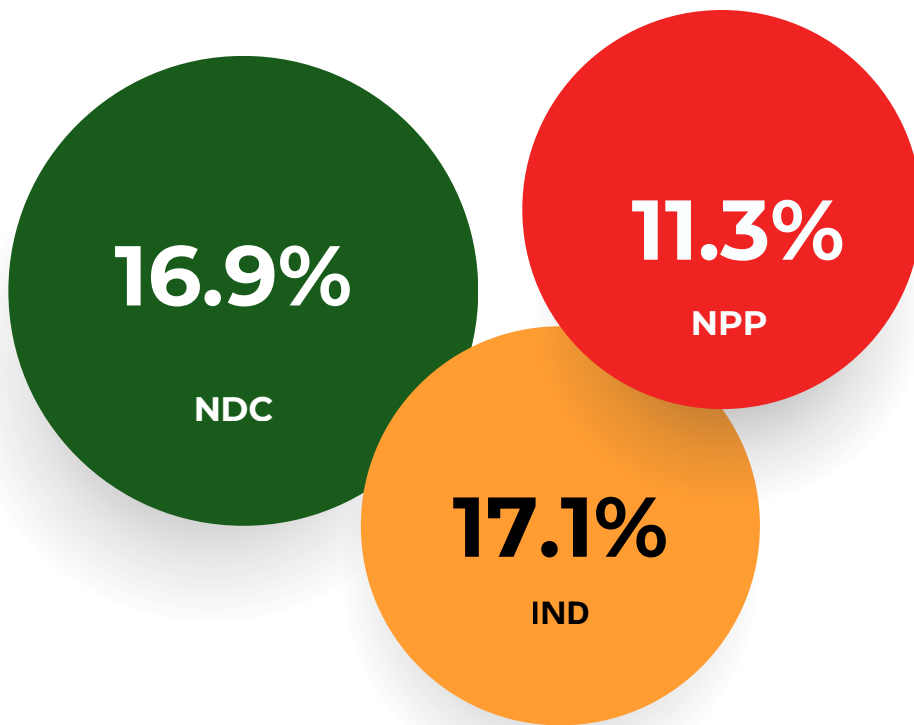


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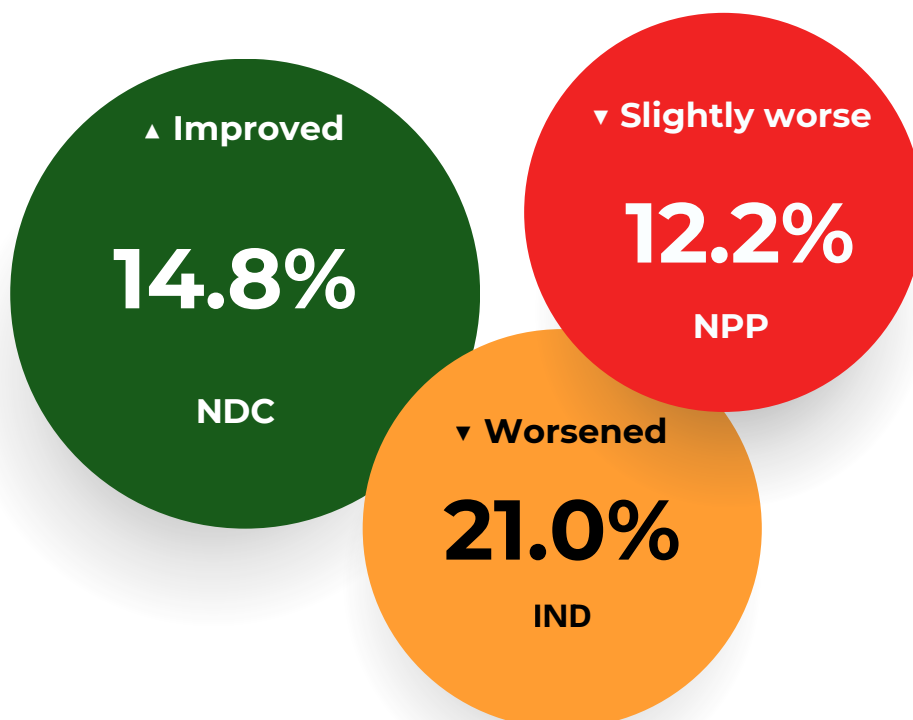
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X.I Party Absenteeism and Breakdown

3rd Meeting, 2025



1st Meeting of the 2nd Session, 2026



IX. ACEPA's Closing Remarks

Parliament is not only judged by the laws it passes but also by the culture it cultivates. The 1st Meeting of the 2nd Session passed bills, mourned losses, celebrated women, and rose to the occasion. But it also suspended sittings, saw its Speaker plead for attendance, and watched its members trade jobs over tragedies. These contradictions are not unique to Ghana's Parliament, but they are not inevitable either.

As Parliament prepares to reconvene, ACEPA calls on the institution, political parties, the Speaker's office, and civil society organizations to use the next meeting to demonstrate that the 9th Parliament has absorbed the lessons of its first year. The recess is brief. The work is not.

***This Parliamentary Monitor Series was prepared by
the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA)***

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