

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE RT. HON. D.F. ANNAN TO PARLIAMENT ON THE
OCCASION OF THE ~~FOURTH SESSION~~ THIRD MEETING OF THE FOURTH
SESSION OF THE FIRST PARLIAMENT OF GHANA ON TUESDAY, 1ST OCTOBER
1996.**

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Hon Members,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you back from the recess. I also wish to take this opportunity to welcome back to the House our Parliamentary Press Corps and to thank them for their fair coverage of the proceedings of the House. A fair coverage of the parliamentary proceedings is essential in promoting democracy.

I am aware that there has been a lot of activity of a political nature during the recess which may have deprived you of much of your well-earned rest. I am convinced however, that you have come back to the House with greater determination to pursue the rest of what is left of this Session which is the third and final Meeting of the First Parliament of the Fourth Republic. For the Meeting, there are a number of pressing political, social and economic problems that must engage the serious attention of the House. We have a legislative programme which includes a historic Bill in the form of Constitution Amendment Bill which could not go through at the last Meeting. This House is being called upon, for the first time to debate amendments to the Constitution. It is possibly the first time in recent Parliaments that the House is being called upon to debate a Constitution Amendment Bill. In view of its historic importance, I hope to have occasion soon to make a preliminary statement to the introduction of the Bill. Other Bills of a political nature to be debated will be the Presidential Election (Amendment) Bill and the Political Parties (Amendment) Bill. The Roads Fund Bill which has financial and economic implications will also be debated. Among the Papers to be laid before the House are two Reports of the Auditor-General's on the Public Accounts of Ghana for 1994 (District Assemblies and

Traditional Councils) and the Accounts of the District Assemblies Common Fund for 1994.

Hon. Members, the time-consuming and hectic period of the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections are a few weeks away. I would, nevertheless, want to advise Hon. Members to attend upon the meetings of this House more regularly and in greater numbers than has been the case in the recent past in view of our firm commitment to the performance of our functions.

I therefore ask for your full support in terms of attendance in this House to ensure that we complete our programme for this final Meeting of the First Parliament of the Fourth Republic.

On that note, once again, I welcome you to the House and hope that we will have a very successful Meeting.

Thank you.

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