

BRIBERY ALLEGATION AGAINST MINORITY MEMBERS OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker, taking due cognisance of the provision of Order 72 affirmed by 73(1), I humbly crave your indulgence to bring to your notice an allegation of bribery levelled against the chairman as well as the other members of the Appointments Committee by the Honourable member for Bawku Central, Honourable Mahama Ayariga.

Mr. Speaker, currently trending in the mass media is this allegation by My Honourable Friend who is also the chairman of the Subsidiary Legislation Committee that, minority members of the Appointments Committee were bribed to approve of the nomination of the then minister-designate for Energy.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable gentleman is reported to have made mention of the Honourable member for Asawase who is the Minority Chief Whip as his source of evidence.

Mr. Speaker, as a friend of the Appointments Committee I have witnessed the meticulous and tedious nature of their deliberations recognizing also the longevity of their sittings and cautious speed to work in order for His Excellency the President to commence the full business of government.

Mr. Speaker, an allegation of such severity and sensitivity is not only an embarrassment to the chairman and members of the Appointments Committee, but, by extension, the whole house. This, Mr. Speaker, impugns on our credibility and cripples commitment to work. Mr. Speaker, we have been the subject of public ridicule after this allegation.

Mr. Speaker, inspired by the provision of Order 28 and article 122 of the 1992 constitution, this allegation when unsubstantiated would be an affront to the dignity of parliament and fuel further, the perception of corruption of parliament, and parliamentarians in the discharge of parliamentary duties.

Mr. Speaker, it is in this regard that I come under Order 30(2) which provides that the act or conduct of member to the extent that it “affronts the dignity of parliament or (which) tends either directly or indirectly to bring the name of parliament into disrepute” constitutes a breach of privilege or contempt of parliament. In the event, I humbly make a complaint of breach of privilege against the Honourable Mahama Ayariga, the member for Bawku Central, and duly appeal to you Mr. Speaker to invoke your powers under Order 31 to have the said member referred to the Committee of Privileges.

I thank you very much Rt. Hon. Speaker for your indulgence.

Submitted by:

Hon. Dr. Nana Ayew Afriye.

M.P. Effiduase-Asokore

30th January, 2017