

**SUPPORTING TRIBUTE TO PARLIAMENT IN MEMORY OF THE LATE JOSEPH HENRY OWUSU-ACHEAMPONG BY HONOURABLE AHMED IBRAHIM, MP FOR BANDA - 2 AUGUST, 2017**

Mr Speaker, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to make few comments on the tribute. Mr Speaker, today is a very sad day because we are talking about the first Hon Majority Leader of the Fourth Republic of Ghana. Looking around, I am very sad because those who started in the First Parliament of the Fourth Republic, one can see only three who benefited from that Parliament in this current Parliament. They are the Hon Majority Leader, the Hon Alhaji Collins Dauda and our father, the Hon Alban S. K. Bagbin.

Mr Speaker, I said it is sad because when they started the First Parliament of the Fourth Republic, records can tell us that there were only two Members of Parliament who benefitted from the Third Republican Parliament. For that matter, the Hon J. H. Owusu Acheampong and the then Hon Member for Osu Klottey, Hon Nortey were the only two MPs with Parliamentary experience who helped to build the principles, systems and firm foundations of the infrastructure that we are enjoying today.

Mr Speaker, one cannot question the experience of the first Hon Majority Leader looking at some of the people who served under him. When one sees the Hon Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu, nobody would tell the person that he benefitted from the experience of the Hon J. H. Owusu Acheampong.

The same way, when one sees the Hon Alban Bagbin, nobody would tell the person that he benefitted from the Hon J. H. Owusu-Acheampong; the same goes for Hon Collins Dauda. It is on that note that I would urge we the young ones to pay attention. If we want to be here for long, we need to tap from the experience of those who benefited from the first Hon Majority Leader. That is the reason people will make noise but if one has that experience, the person would go and come back.

Mr Speaker, on the other side, if we go to the political history of Hon J. H. Owusu Acheampong, we were in school those days and two letters of the English alphabet were floating everywhere — J. H. — J. H. It is either J. H. Owusu Acheampong or J. H. Mensah. Mr Speaker, these were men who could stand on their feet and give superior arguments to convince their opponents. When we go into the Hansards, they are there.

Mr Speaker, Hon J. H. Owusu Acheampong trained a lot of people. I can call myself a grandson of the Hon first Majority Leader of the House. He trained the Hon Johnson Asiedu Nketia and he has made it clear that, Hon Owusu Acheampong was a selfless and principled politician. Therefore, if the Hon Johnson Asiedu Nketia benefitted from Hon J. H. Owusu Acheampong and today I am also feeding on the experience of Hon Johnson Aseidu Nketia; I give credit to Hon J. H. Owusu Acheampong the latter.

Mr Speaker, on the side, when asked about their properties, these selfless, altruistic, principled and much disciplined politicians owned their Constituencies and Regions. Therefore, if Brong

Ahafo East is very well modernised and planned today, we should credit the first President and the Hon J. H. Owusu-Acheampong. He was a disciplined politician and he made sure that the principles that set out the layout of Sunyani were also strictly followed. Therefore, when one goes to Sunyani, one can see that it is a planned city.

Mr Speaker, even though certain things have started going bad, I would not mention them. If Brong Ahafo is benefiting from asphaltic roads today, we cannot say it without mentioning the name of Hon J. H. Owusu-Acheampong.

Mr Speaker, even though I am not trying to draw our Clerk to Parliament into the debates, history will tell us that, those days when one is in Brong Ahafo and got to Techiman and wanted to go to Nkoranza, they used to call it “No Ghana”. Nkoranza used to be called “No Ghana” because there was no proper roads going to that place. Hon J. H. Owusu Acheampong made sure that he opened the place up.

Today, we are proud of the place that used to be described as “No Ghana”. It is now a municipality. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I wish the Hon Maj. Rtd Derek Oduro were here, he would have confirmed that, yes, it used to be called “No Ghana”. The timing is what I may get wrong.

Mr Speaker, what I am saying is that he was the Regional Secretary from 1988 to 1993. He is the longest serving Regional Minister in the Brong Ahafo Region. Nobody has got that opportunity. Not only is he the longest serving — Mr Speaker, I started by saying that the Hon Majority Leader benefited from the first Majority Leader’s experience. This is a House of record. He cannot just make a blanket statement that my statement is full of inaccuracies. If they are full of inaccuracies, he benefited from his experience, he should set the records straight and let it go into the Hansard.

But Mr Speaker, beyond that, this is why political offices exist for us to occupy. Therefore, when we have the opportunity, the legacy we leave is what we would be remembered for. It is on that note that I am just mentioning few of the legacies that were left by the first leader of this House.

He was not just the only longest serving Regional Minister of the Brong Ahafo Region, he was also the longest serving Majority Leader of this House. Mr Speaker, to borrow the words from the tweaa DCE, he had no co-equal and this is on record. On this note, Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity given to me and I believe the Hon J. H. Owusu-Acheampong raised the political bar so high.

If today, he started with Hon Justice D. F. Annan as the first Rt. Hon Speaker of the House and we have named the parliamentary auditorium after him, I will make a humble plea that something be named after the Hon first Majority Leader of this House, Hon J. H. Owusu Acheampong just to serve as a legacy for some of us to appreciate that, at least, it pays to serve Ghana; it pays to leave a legacy. If for nothing at all, one would be remembered by the legacy that one left in this place.

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I believe this my humble plea would be taken in good faith.

I thank you for the opportunity.