



Mankessim Council Gets Kyidomhene

A colorful ceremony has been held at Mankessim Traditional Council in the Mfantseman Municipality of the Central Region to elevate the 59 year old Chief of Jedu



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ward to 2016 and on Thursday, 3rd March, the Speaker had drawn MPs' attention to the need to use appropriate language and the avoidance of un-parliamentary language in the House.

When Kennedy Agyapong, Assin North MP told the house that he had received a letter from a school asking him to help pay school fees for some students of the school, another MP retorted that Kennedy Agyapong was a liar. The mention of the word 'liar' gored the speaker like a spear. In a tone, uncharacteristic of a Speaker, he railed at the Parliamentarians: "It is un-parliamentary to refer to a member on the floor that he is lying".

Jenkin Lloyd has noted: "A speech is a solemn responsibility", and to ensure the dignity of the august house, the members are expected to eschew insults, insinuation, epithets and allegations. The Speaker uses his discretion to determine what constitutes 'un-parliamentary language', and although Parliamentarians enjoy immunity from prosecution and civil action, words or phrases are expected to be so crafted as not to abuse this parliamentary immunity. Name-calling and insulting language do pose ethical problems in public speaking when they are used to silence opposing views.

Sir Winston Churchill is rated as a master craftsman. A most notable speech he made in May, 1940 was: "I

ground, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender!"

Ghanaian Parliamentarians enjoy freedom of speech and Alban Bagbin quotes Order 47 of the Standing Orders of Parliament and states that: "Proceedings of Parliament shall ordinarily be conducted in the English Language except that a member may exercise the option to address the house in Akan or Nzema, Ga, Ewe, Hausa, Dagbani, Dagari or any other local language provided the facilities exist in the House for its interpretation".

There was some confusion when Afenyo Markin requested the Chair to speak Fanti, but the Speaker did not allow him - the reason being that the facilities for translation were not available. The term 'honourable' is being abused in Ghana. Every law-maker wants to be called 'honourable' and these include 'Assembly-men' of the District Assemblies'. These accolades are showered on people, sometimes to the extent of their own names being lost - outside of Parliament.

What is 'honourable' about a person who talks about 'trees under schools'? What is 'honourable' about MPs who cover their inadequacies by resorting to insults?

Richard Dowis in his book 'The Lost Art of the Great Speech' identifies six basic purposes of a speech: to entertain; to inform; to

swine.'

One MP wanting to criticise another for being 'intoxicated', referred to him euphemistically as 'tired and emotional'. Clare Short, an MP, who wanted to accuse the U.K. Employment Minister of being 'drunk' rather

dignity - a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world... Let there be justice for all, let there be peace for all, let there be work, bread, water and salt for all... Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again

who thought 'The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born' in the sixties?

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'Gov't Must Take Education Seriously'

BY Cephas Larbi

BARAKA POLICY Institute (BPI), an independent think tank that promotes social justice and national development through advocacy and research has marked its 2nd anniversary in Accra with a call on policy makers to take education seriously.

The event which took place at the British Council was on the theme: "Education and wellbeing-A twin necessity for National Development."

The day was also used to launch the BPI biannual development magazine called, "The Baraka".



Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed speaking at the event

Haruna Zagoon-Sayeed, Executive Director of the Institute said, education must be the ultimate goal for any developmental agenda of a nation.

"Education is the prime catalyst for any developmental efforts and wellbeing of the people" he said.

Salem Kalmoni, President of BPI in his remarks said although Ghana has several policy institutes, founders of BPI saw education as a tool with the most impact to national development.

"For national cohesion and peace, as well as economic growth, we need to get education to all corners of our country", he said.

Kalmoni urged government and policy makers to expedite action in drafting and passing the pending National Alcohol Policy to regulate the promotion and accessibility of alcoholic drinks.

"Ghana can take a cue from several African countries such as South Africa and Kenya who have been successful with alcohol legislation", he said.

The Minister of Education, Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyeman in an address read on his behalf said the theme of the event was very apt explaining that a nation that fails to educate its people is deliberately opting out of development.

She commended BPI for their commitment in research and advocacy on education and assured that the Ministry will continue to partner and support its activities.