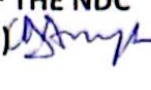


MEMO

TO: RT. HON. SPEAKER

FROM: HON. MAJORITY LEADER AND LEADER OF THE NDC CAUCUS (HON. DR. CASSIEL ATO FORSON) 

DATE: 25th NOVEMBER, 2024

SUBJECT: RE: REQUEST TO RECALL PARLIAMENT TO CONSIDER OUTSTANDING PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Rt. Hon. Speaker, we refer to the above subject matter and trust that this memo finds you well.
2. The NDC Majority Caucus in Parliament has taken notice of a request to you, Rt. Hon. Speaker, praying you to recall Parliament to consider so-called outstanding public business.
3. We note further, that the petitioner has not satisfied the threshold and requirement under Article 112 (3) of the Constitution and Order 53(1) of the Standing Orders which require signatures of fifteen percent of members of Parliament to trigger a recall of Parliament.
4. Rt. Hon. Speaker, the petitioner's request is premised on an appeal to you to exercise your discretion to recall Parliament to consider what they have termed "high priority" government business. They proceeded to enumerate the said businesses.
5. Respectfully, Mr. Speaker, we wish to submit that based on the petitioner's own request, you are not obliged to recall Parliament. Further, the petitioner has not demonstrated that there is any emergency nor urgent government business to warrant a recall of Parliament, with barely eleven (11) remaining days to the crucial 2024 General Election.

6. Having had a distinguished parliamentary career spanning over three decades, Rt. Hon. Speaker, you are very familiar with the demands and rigours of parliamentary elections. As we speak, members of parliament from both sides are in their constituencies having critical engagements with the electorate ahead of the December 7th election. This election is not only a destiny-defining election for Ghana, but a career-defining one for many members of Parliament.
7. Rt. Hon. Speaker, the petitioner has proposed Thursday, 28th November and Friday, 29th November, 2024 as the dates for this ill-fated and ill-timed recall. Should this request be granted, not only will members of Parliament be required to truncate their important engagements with the electorate, but members will have to contend with logistical and other challenges to commute over long distances, difficult and hard-to-reach constituencies to Accra.
8. Mr. Speaker, this proposed two-day sitting if acceded to will mean that members will have less than one week to conclude their campaigns, train their polling agents and make key logistical and other election-day arrangements. This will disadvantage many members of Parliament, and such a situation is most unfair.
9. Mr. Speaker would recall that this is the fourth time in 2024 alone that the NPP parliamentary caucus is requesting an urgent recall of Parliament. It is also noteworthy that at each of the previous urgent meetings, many of the businesses listed in the instant petition were stated as so-called urgent Government Business, but in the end, they were abandoned.
10. During a similar recall as recent as Thursday, 7th November, 2024, the NPP parliamentary caucus which requested the recall abandoned the parliamentary chamber and failed to show up to transact Government Business.
11. It is on record that the NPP parliamentary caucus failed to mobilise up to thirty (30) members of Parliament on their side to transact business on the floor. This was the reason why they failed to show up in the chamber. In the end, Mr. Speaker was compelled to adjourn the House indefinitely.

12. In view of the foregoing, it is our considered position that there is no urgent Government Business currently before the House to warrant an urgent recall. This current Parliament continues until the midnight of 6th January, 2025. Parliament can therefore reconvene immediately after the December 7th General Elections to undertake the businesses that have been outlined.
13. In less than two weeks, Ghanaians will be going to the polls to elect a President and members of Parliament. Both the electorate and those running for office must be accorded these few remaining days to engage meaningfully so that the people of Ghana can make an informed choice.
14. Rt. Hon. Speaker, this recall that is being requested is ill-timed and will constitute a needless drain on the Ghanaian taxpayer. We therefore respectfully urge you to reject this call in the national interest.
15. Again, with barely eleven (11) days to the elections, a recall of the House at this time will only fuel the unresolved stalemate that has prevailed in recent time. We must avoid anything that has the potential to disturb the peace of our country and stability of our democracy. Rather, let us prioritise the conduct of credible, peaceful, free and fair elections at this stage.
16. I therefore suggest a leadership meeting after the elections to resolve the stalemate and to agree on a suitable date to recall the House to consider any outstanding Government Business.
17. Please accept, Rt. Hon. Speaker, assurances of our highest esteem.