



# PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE

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23/03/2020

**Attn. Editor**

**For Immediate Release**

**SPEAKER RESPONDS TO MINORITY CONCERNS ON BIPARTISAN APPROACH  
TO COVID 19**

The attention of the Speaker has been drawn to a letter in circulation in the media written by the Hon. Minority Leader to the Speaker of Parliament. The letter relates to the State of Emergency Bill 2020 with and suggestions on how Coronavirus should be handled through a joint national effort. This came to light, on Monday/23/03/2020, during a press briefing by the Speaker on what Parliament is doing to prevent the possible introduction and spread of the Corona Virus in the House.

The Speaker reiterates, as he had said yesterday, that no such letter has reached his Office, as at Tuesday morning, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. The letter was only received at 12.40 pm this afternoon. It is very strange that a letter addressed to the Speaker has gone viral on social media and other sources, while the addressee is at a loss as to its content.

The Hon. Minority Leader knows the appropriate procedures for handling all matters in Parliament and it would have been most appropriate if these in house channels had been explored rather than circulating the information in the media, especially since it is an internal memo.

Given the seriousness of the matter, the Speaker expected an expeditious action where the Minority Leader would have approached and conferred with the Speaker for necessary action.

On Saturday, the Minority Leader was absent from the House. Again yesterday, Monday, 23/03/2020, he was conspicuously absent both at the Leaders Meeting and in the Chamber. As at 10.00 am today, when the House was getting ready to sit, he had not been seen by Speaker, having once again, been absent from the pre sitting meeting where the Speaker confers with the Leadership before proceedings.

The Speaker will like to inform all concerned, that the issues contained in the said memo are issues that have to be dealt with using due process and this is being done. He emphasises further, that the interest of the citizens and the nation remain paramount.

The Speaker will like to advise all members that Ghana is in a state of emergency at the moment. Parliament will therefore proceed to do the business of The House as an emergency situation requires. The Speaker invites the cooperation of all well-meaning and patriotic MPs and Ghanaians to cooperate and not be inhibitive in any way against national interest.



**KATE ADDO**

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**FOR OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**