

CCJS04 The Parliament of Ghana

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Y Pwyllgor Busnes | Business Committee

Rhannu swydd cadeirydd pwyllgor | Committee chair job sharing

Ymateb gan Senedd Ghana | The Parliament of Ghana

Age:

JOB SHARING WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF GHANA

Introduction

Reference is made to the letter from Senedd (Welsh Parliament) Business Committee dated 16th July, 2024 requesting for written evidence to assist the Business Committee identify the potential opportunities and challenges that the job- sharing arrangement could pose in a Parliamentary setting.

Unlike, the Business Committee of the Senedd which is responsible for making recommendations on the general practice and procedure of the Senedd, the Business Committee of the Parliament of Ghana is responsible for, among other things, proposing the business of each sitting and the order in which the business is taken, indicating in the proposed time table the different hours at which the various stages of a Bill or other business shall be taken, recommending the time allotted for debates on Bills, Motions, Private Member's Bills, Private Member's Motions and other business and also preparing a rota of Ministers to appear before the House to answer Questions.

The function of making recommendations on the general practice and procedure of the Parliament of Ghana is carried out by the Standing Orders Committee. The Standing Orders Committee is responsible for drafting the rules which relate to procedure of the House and the general conduct of business that should be observed in the House and its Committees for the consideration of Parliament.

Establishment of Parliamentary Committees

Order 204 (1) of the Standing Orders provides that the appointment of the Standing and the Select Committees of the Houses shall take place at the first session. The Selection Committee, chaired by the Speaker, is mandated under *Order 205(2)* to prepare and report to the House within the first ten sitting days after appointment, the list of Members to compose the Standing and Select Committees of the House.

Job Sharing of the Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee

The Standing Orders do not allow for a joint chairpersonship of the Committees. Rather, the Standing Orders provide for

- (a) specific committees to be chaired by the party or parties forming Government - *Order 210(2)*,
- (b) specific committees to be chaired by the party or parties having the largest number of seats other than the party or parties forming the Government - *Order 210(2)(b)*, and
- (c) the appointment of the chairpersons of Committees to be based on the numerical strength of the parties in Parliament - *Order 210(1)*.

Job sharing is relatively new to the Parliament of Ghana as it was not provided for under the previous Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana. Even though job sharing for the position of chairperson is not specifically mentioned, the Standing Orders require that the composition of the Committees should reflect the various shades of opinion in Parliament.

Rational for Job Sharing under the Current Standing Orders of Parliament

One of the rational for the introduction of job sharing within the operational framework of the Parliament of Ghana is to enhance the capacity of Parliament to perform its oversight role of ensuring that the performance of the government and its agencies and other constitutional bodies is aligned with the developmental agenda of the State. Job sharing of the chairpersonship of the various committees enhances the oversight role of Parliament by ensuring the minority is represented at the the committee level to act as a check on the activities of government and its agencies.

Another rational for the introduction of job sharing in the Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana is to allow for the effective and efficient scrutiny of Bills, reports, budgets and other documents emanating from the government and its agencies which are presented before the House. The scrutiny of these documents is enhanced because it allows for diversity of opinions and expertise in the scrutiny of bills and other government documents.

Finally, job sharing is introduced to ensure fairness in the appointment of the chairpersons of the various committees by creating a system which ensures that the Majority Party in the House does not have dominance to the exclusion of the Minority Party in relation to the leadership of

committees of the House, but rather both sides of the House have an equal representation and participation in the activities of the various Committees of Parliament.