



HANSARD IN THE AI WORLD

Exploring the intersection of Hansard, AI, and new media in African
parliamentary practices.

Godwin Vifa Sewornu
Hansard Reporter, Parliament of Ghana

Introduction

Hansard: Tradition Meets Innovation

Hansard, the near-verbatim transcript of parliamentary proceedings, is crucial for transparency, accountability, and historical documentation. Traditionally manual, it now faces digital transformation through AI and new media. This presentation examines Ghana's Parliament's journey in this transformation and its implications for Africa.



The Role of Hansard

Hansard ensures transparency, accountability, and historical documentation of parliamentary proceedings. Its modernisation through AI and new media integration is vital for civic engagement and information ethics in a data-driven society.

Transparency

Ensures public access to parliamentary debates.

Accountability

Holds elected officials responsible for their statements.

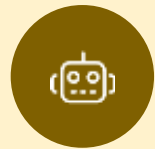
Historical Record

Preserves legislative history for future reference.

Modernising Hansard

AI's Role in Hansard Modernisation

AI offers significant opportunities to enhance Hansard production and dissemination.



Automated Transcription

AI models process various accents and languages for faster, more accurate production.



Data Structuring

AI-powered indexing and semantic analysis make parliamentary data more accessible.



New Media Integration

Hansard data is disseminated via interactive websites, social media, and multimedia formats.

Challenges in African Context

Several hurdles impede the full integration of AI in parliamentary processes, especially in Africa.

■ Infrastructure Deficits

Lack of sophisticated AI tools, unreliable power and Inadequate internet lack of

■ Capacity & Training

Limited technical skills among parliamentary staff.

■ Security & Data Integrity

Increased risk of cyberattacks and data manipulation.

■ Accuracy & Context

AI may misinterpret nuance, requiring human oversight.

■ Automation Bias

Over-reliance on AI may erode public scrutiny and introduce bias.

■ Policy & Regulation

Inadequate legal frameworks for digital data and AI use.

Prospects and Opportunities

Despite challenges, AI offers significant potential for Hansard.



Improved Access

Digital Hansards enhance transparency and citizen participation.



Efficiency & Cost

AI transcription reduces manual record-keeping time and cost.



Data-Driven Decisions

AI analyses trends to inform policy development.



Enhanced Engagement

AI simplifies legislative language, empowering citizens.



Archival Innovation

Future systems could feature voice queries and multilingual translations.



Educational Use

Hansard databases serve as rich educational resources.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical AI Governance

To safeguard public trust, transparent AI governance is essential in Hansard production.

- Public disclosure of AI methodologies and limitations.
- Human oversight in content validation.
- Ethical frameworks for non-partisanship and accountability.
- Policies to ensure digital inclusion and accessibility.



Global Adoption

Parliaments Adopting AI in Hansard

Several Parliaments worldwide are integrating AI for Hansard production. Notable mentions:

- **United Kingdom:** AI assists transcription, human review.
- **Australia:** ASR produces drafts, edited by staff.
- **New Zealand:** AI creates drafts, refined by editors.
- **Canada:** Machine-assisted tools for real-time captioning.
- **European Parliament:** Multilingual AI for drafts and subtitles.
- **Kenya:** Exploring AI tools.
- **South Africa:** Piloting AI transcription tools.
- **Ghana:** Exploring AI-driven solutions.

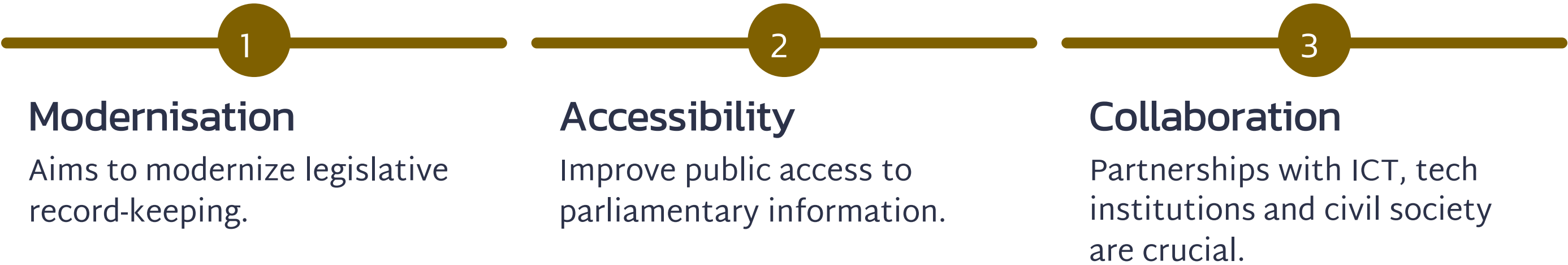
Some AI technologies Used for transcription

- OpenAI Whisper
- Rev
- Microsoft Azure Speech-to-text
- Trint
- Google Cloud Speech-to-text
- Sonix
- Otter.ai
- Turboscribe
- Descript
- Nuance Dragon Professional

1	Debitant: Parabolentae 10 (m Fast 20)	Parabolentae	Normal	0.773211	0.1037011	Parabolentae, Easy Tail Rendel	Agonies	Asat Test
2	Parabolentae: Parabolentae 10 (m Fast 20)	Parabolentae	Normal	0.773211	0.1037011	Parabolentae, Easy Tail Rendel	Agonies	Asat Test
3	Parabolentae: Parabolentae 10 (m Fast 20)	Parabolentae	Normal	0.051211	0.0037017	Parabolentae, Easy Tail Rendel	Agonies	Asat Test
Setting Rentals		Parabolentae	LETS	Depliment	Depliment	Ratel Clapp		Parabolentae
1	Parabolentae: Parabolentae 20 (m Fast 20)	Parabolentae	Normal	0.0312511	0.1037011	Parabolentae, Easy Tail Rendel	Agonies	Asat Test
	Parabolentae: Parabolentae 20 (m Fast 20)	Parabolentae	Normal	0.0037011	0.1037010	Parabolentae, Easy Tail Rendel	Agonies	Asat Test
4	Parabolentae: Parabolentae 10 (m Fast 20)	Parabolentae	Normal	0.027517	0.1037011	Parabolentae, Easy Tail Rendel	Agonies	Asat Test
	Parabolentae: Parabolentae 10 (m Fast 20)	Parabolentae	Normal	0.027517	0.1037011	Parabolentae, Easy Tail Rendel	Agonies	Asat Test
3	Parabolentae: Parabolentae 20 (m Fast 20)	Parabolentae	Normal	0.0816611	0.0037015	Parabolentae, Easy Tail Rendel	Agonies	Asat Test
Parabolentae		Parabolentae	LETS	Depliment	Depliment	Depliment		Parabolentae

Ghana's Digital Hansard Project

Ghana's Parliament is actively digitizing Hansard production and archives and integrating speech-to-text technologies.



Recommendations

The convergence of Hansard, AI, and new media offers transformative potential for African Parliaments.

- **Investment in Infrastructure:** Robust transcription software, digital tools, 360 cameras and improved internet.
- **Capacity Building:** Train staff and MPs in digital literacy and AI applications.
- **Policy Development:** Establish clear guidelines for ethical AI and data use.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Collaborate with tech firms and academia.
- **Remote Work:** Nursing mothers should be made to work from home.
- **Clerks at Table:** Editors of Debates should be made to sit among the Clerks at Table
- **Prompt delivery of Hansards to MPs:** Each MP should receive portions of their speech in addition to the whole Hansard before the next sitting day.
- **Adopt Predictable and timely sitting practices:** Sittings should be timely and predictable to enable Hansard Officers complete Reports on time.
- **Structured Voting mechanism:** Devices should be built to allow MPs to vote electronically in order to track thought patterns.

Strategic investments and inclusive policies are key to realising this vision, balancing automation with accountability.

Recommendations

[UK Parliament](#) [MPs and Lords](#) [Find MPs](#) [Rushanara Ali](#) [Spoken contributions](#)

Rushanara Ali

Rushanara Ali is the Labour MP for [Bethnal Green and Stepney](#), and has been an MP continually since 6 May 2010.

Contact information

Parliamentary career

Voting record

Early Day Motions

Spoken contributions

Written questions

Registered Interests

APPG officer roles

Spoken contributions

Review the Hansard spoken contributions of Rushanara Ali. Individual debates are shown below, and you can expand them to show individual spoken contributions.

The counts shown for contributions can be approximate. Also, contribution data prior to 2010 is based on historical records, so the accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

For more information on Hansard, and to perform a more comprehensive search of debates, visit the [Hansard website](#). For more comprehensive information on this Member's spoken contributions, visit the [Hansard Member contributions page](#).

Total results 519 (page 1 of 26)

1

2

3

4

...

11

>

»

Strategy for Elections

17 July 2025

Contributions include 28 answers to questions and 1 statement

Recommendations

Last election result Official portrait	Commons Chamber	Show contributions
	Elections: Participation 14 July 2025	
	Contributions include 3 answers to questions	
	Commons Chamber	Show contributions
	Homelessness Prevention 14 July 2025	
	Contributions include 5 answers to questions	
	Commons Chamber	Show contributions
	Topical Questions 14 July 2025	
	Contributions include 2 answers to questions	
	Commons Chamber	Show contributions
	Absent Voting (Elections in Scotland and Wales) Bill 4 July 2025	
	Contributions include 2 speeches	
	Commons Chamber	Show contributions

Recommendations

Members of Parliament



HON. ABDUL KABIRU TIAH MAHAMA
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR WALEWALE



Recommendations

Contributions - Statements

Recent Fire Outbreaks in Markets and the Growing Threat of Fires Amidst Global Warming

19 Wednesday, 5th February, 2025

Hansard 5th February, 2025 | [Read full Statement & Comments](#)

Dealing with Fundamental Economic Anomalies in Ghana

19 Tuesday, 11th February, 2025

Hansard 11th February, 2025 | [Read full Statement & Comments](#)

Impact of USAID Shutdown on Ghana's Economy

19 Wednesday, 12th February, 2025

Hansard 12th February, 2025 | [Read full Statement & Comments](#)

Education at Crossroads: Safeguarding Progress in Ghana's Educational Sector

19 Wednesday, 19th February, 2025

Hansard 19th February, 2025 | [Read full Statement & Comments](#)



Conclusion

The future of Hansard Officers is likely to be significantly impacted by AI. However, it may also create new opportunities for Hansard Officers to focus on tasks that require human expertise such as analysing and interpreting data, ensuring transparency among others. Officers should therefore embrace AI systems and work alongside with it to enhance the efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility of parliamentary proceedings.



THANK YOU