

Modernising Ghana's Hansard

A Case for Legal and Policy Frameworks in AI,
Technology, and New Media Integration

By

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INTRODUCTION

- Hansard is the official record of Parliament's proceedings.
- In Ghana, production is largely manual, causing delays and limited access.
- AI and technology offer opportunities but require governance frameworks.
- Without frameworks, risks include errors, breaches, misinformation, and loss of control.

CONT'D

- Hansard records legislative debates and intentions.
- Manual processes delay publication and accessibility.
- AI speech-to-text, cloud archiving, and new media can modernise Hansard.
- Lack of governance can turn opportunity into vulnerability.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

- Accuracy risks with AI transcription errors.
- Security threats from tampering and breaches.
- Ownership disputes over records.
- Public trust erosion from misinformation.
- Non-compliance with data laws.

A CASE FOR LEGAL & POLICY FRAMEWORK

- Defines the 'Official Record'.
- Set accuracy and human verification standards.
- Protect data sovereignty through secure storage.
- Clarify ownership rights.
- Regulate new media dissemination for authenticity.

ABSENCE OF REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- Errors can mislead courts and public understanding.
- Cybersecurity threats can alter or destroy records.
- Loss of control if vendors own data.
- Misinformation spread via edited clips.
- Privacy breaches and legal liability.

COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES

- UK: AI-assisted transcription with strict human oversight.
- Canada: Sensitive classification, secure government servers.
- Lesson: Clear mandates + safeguards = successful integration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Legislate Hansard Production.
- Develop Parliamentary Media Policy.
- Strengthen cybersecurity protections.
- Implement two-tier publication (provisional + verified).
- Ensure public access via searchable online formats.

CONCLUSION

- Modernisation is urgent and necessary.
- AI and new media can enhance transparency.
- Regulatory Frameworks are essential to avoid undermining trust.
- Ghana can balance innovation with accountability.