

# Dáil days diary

**Dublin 15 local Ekow Agyeman Prempeh is taking part in the Crosscare's Opening Power to Diversity migrant project, during which he's working on an internship with Fianna Fáil TD, Michael Moynihan. Here's the latest update of his experience.**

MY ENGAGEMENTS, observations and tasks

in the past few months have been largely characterised by picketing and demonstrations outside of Leinster House, research on assigned areas of interests, Oireachtas Joint Committee Meetings on Transport and Communications and political hecklings, theatrics and drama in the Dáil Eireann gallery, most memorably during Budget Day. On November 21, I had the privilege of accompany-

ing Deputy Moynihan to an Oireachtas Joint Committee on Transport and Communications Energy.

Renewable energy and "smart metering" were on the agenda for the day. During the meeting, technocrats were invited to give talks on these themes, followed by question and answer sessions with the attendees.

What's more, with the benefit of our office television, late last month, I watched with rapt attention, the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health and Children's debate on child obesity.

Members deliberated on how it costs the Republic and Northern Ireland economies a combined €1.6 million per annum in dealing with obesity related issues alone.

The issue of whether smoking should be permitted within Leinster House premises was also discussed and voted on during that same session.

Perhaps, it was being the only black person immigrant at the Dáil public gallery during the budget reading early this month that will forever remain on my mind's eye.

Proudly sporting my House of the Oireachtas security check card, I calmly, but confidently, made my way



through the somewhat heavily guarded corridors of Leinster House to hear the Finance and Public Expenditure Ministers deliver their sixth austerity measures in four years (whilst people demonstrated outside).

What the new year holds for me in Leinster House, I cannot predict. Only time will tell.

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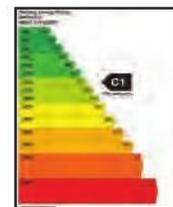


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