

Dáil days diary

Dublin 15 local Ekow Agyeman Prempeh is taking part in 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 final part of his experience.

AS IT is remarked every so often that for every season there is bound to be an end, my journey within the confines of the Leinster House expired in March.

I had been dreading the day coming; conscious of the inevitable feeling of nostalgia that will befall me; ostensibly, due to the strong bond I had established with Deputy Moynihan in particular, and others in the course of my stint in the Dáil Éireann.

But then, we must give way to other immigrants to have their fair share, and also have the rare opportunity to respond to changing times in this Republic.

Expectantly, the couple of weeks leading to my final exit were comparatively relaxed in terms of my engagements, yet, worthy to comment on.

In the latter part of March, as I had intimated in my previous piece, with the kind permission of Deputy Moynihan, I was present at a Fianna Fáil public meeting in Charleville.

Central to the forum which featured Deputy Moynihan, Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Justice and Equality, Niall Collins, and some retired Garda officials, among others was cuts to



community Garda resources, the closure of local Garda stations and the increase of burglaries and crimes across Co Cork.

Aside very memorable ones, I reckon, this was my last official assignment in Leinster House; but it would not be the last, as I attended Fianna Fáil's supreme Ard Fheis on April 26; courtesy of Deputy Moynihan.

But, to cap it all, my very last day was quite emotional. I was in a pensive mood throughout the day as I bade final goodbye to anyone I came across. Then as I sat face to face with

Deputy Moynihan, the man who I consider to be one of my greatest mentors, to exchange our last pleasantries, I cannot, but equally be grateful to Crosscare and its dedicated staff for the ground-breaking opportunity afforded to me in particular, and the immigrant community in Ireland in general.

More so, I was chuffed by the heart-warming farewell dinner organised by Fianna Fáil staff; all, who for want of space I cannot express enough gratitude.

When all has been said and done for the day, I was, at the 11th hour, ushered into Honorable Micheál Martin's office a day I have earnestly been longing for.

My regret, however, was that, I could not meet the An Taoiseach to show my appreciation, though I had seen him a good number of times in the Dáil chamber. As I descended the stairs into the open space, I turned to the Irish flag hoisted on Leinster House, stood still, and did obeisance, while Deputy Moynihan looked through the window and respectfully said to me, Slainte!



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