SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT IN MEMORY OF HON JOSEPH BOAKYE DANQUAH ADU BY HONOURABLE GIFTY TWUM-AMPOFO, MP FOR ABUAKWA NORTH, BY HON ALEX KOFI AGYEKUM, MP FOR MPOHOR - 9 FEBRUARY, 2017

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to comment on the Statement ably made by the Hon Member on the commemoration of the passing on of our Colleague.

One year ago, Mr Speaker, we were all witnesses to this gruesome murder. Let me first of all extend my condolences to the bereaved family, especially the surviving wife and the children.

Mr Speaker, one year ago, Leadership, and for that matter, the entire House was assured that as investigation proceeded, Parliament would be briefed on the stages of the investigation. Our checks revealed that nothing of that sort has been done. All we hear in the media is the alleged murderer always requesting for a particular type of food and the opportunity to go home and meet his wife.

This is quite strange at this time and age when a Sitting Member of Parliament was murdered in this manner and a year on, the representatives of the people do not even know where the case has reached.

Mr Speaker, she made mention of the fact that we all live in fear, and this is true. We are not saying that we are supermen and women, and that special treatment should be given to Members of Parliament, but as representatives of the people, there are so many issues in which we get involved, and for which every single day, our lives are threatened by unscrupulous people.

Mr Speaker, as we speak, just two days ago, a Colleague of ours was attacked by armed robbers. They made away with several items.

The question is, how long can we always come here and bemoan these things? It is time a decisive action was taken on this, and His Excellency the President has indicated that the security of the country is dear to his heart. We would not sit unconcerned and allow the citizenry to be killed in this manner.

Mr Speaker, even as we are talking about people attacking us, security in terms of issues like flooding — Mr Speaker, this particular year is a year that all of us must be on guard. The onset of the rains should not be met with Statements by Hon Members to the effect that this disaster has occurred not by anything but by floods because of choked drains.

Mr Speaker, we are all aware that mitigating some of these issues call for funds and sometimes logistics, but how can we continue to have logistical problems when grants given to security agencies who are supposed to work on some of these things, sometime, are reduced to a level that is ridiculous?

Mr Speaker, while commending the Hon Member who made the Statement, on her behalf, I assure all of us that we are in an era where the Government would do everything possible within
the circumstances, to ensure that Ghanaians do not die in a manner that would be ridiculous in the face of the international community.

We would ensure that the basic things — We are not saying that disaster would not occur. Sometimes, some of these things cannot be prevented, but even if they occur, the manner in which we respond to them is an indication of how prepared we are as a nation and the extent to which we value human lives.

Mr Speaker, finally, attention should be given to her recommendation that this is the time when a decision must be taken to protect not only Ghanaians in general but specifically the people that they have mandated to work on their behalf.

Mr Speaker, even in Parliament here, our security, in spite of the fact that now we have automated some of our entrances, it would baffle you to know the number of people who parade our corridors and in front of our offices.

Mr Speaker, let me call upon the House Committee and the Leadership to respectfully look into this. Sometimes, you would be in the lift and you would see some strange face; you and that person inside the lift alone. You would wonder how that person got into that lift. At places that they have earmarked “MPs only”, you would go and find strange persons there.

Mr Speaker, strange is strange. All these things must be taken up seriously by the House Committee and the Marshall.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.