SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON THE THREAT OF HUMAN ACTIVITY ON HIGH TENSION CABLES AND POLES IN GHANA BY HONOURABLE ALEXANDER K. AFENYO-MARKIN, MP FOR EFFUTU - 5 JULY, 2017

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Statement made by the Hon Jinapor. Mr Speaker, listening to him, it is clear that this is a well-researched document that he has presented to the House. Mr Speaker, what is not too clear is the issue of his crusade because he has signalled to the House that he is embarking on a noble cause and we do not know whether he has managed to marshal sufficient resources to embark on this noble cause.

Mr Speaker, but we are in full support of this noble cause. It does not come as a surprise because he had just left the Ministry and I am sure that he made a lot of impact over there. Mr Speaker, I would have loved to make an extended contribution but unfortunately, I did not get the opportunity of reading the Statement beforehand. Mr Speaker, a week ago you directed that such Statements should be supplied to us so that we could make meaningful contributions, but that has not been possible.

So, I would make a little comment and proceed with something else. Mr Speaker, on the issue of settlements closer to high tension installations, once again, our institutions of State that have statutory mandate to enforce our laws are invited to look at such a bad practice. Sometimes people are allocated such lands, they pay for it and when one wants to pursue it then it becomes a political matter. So, it is important for people to appreciate the fact that one cannot put up a settlement, build a house or even purchase a land closer to a high-tension installation. It is never done and it must not be done. The Hon Member also draws our attention to electricity and the fact that Government made efforts in increasing generation and extending electricity to very remote areas of our country.

Mr Speaker, yes, it is on record that government after government took such steps, but I am sure that Ghanaians are really very worried about the cost of energy. That is why in the past the concerns of this House was the cost of the contracts that were executed, and at the end of the day if we negotiate poorly the end user would be the one to suffer. Mr Speaker, industry is suffering because of the high cost of energy. So, I am sure that having made this Statement, this House would now be in full know and support every effort by this current Administration in seeking a review of some of the contracts that were signed for power generation.

Mr Speaker, I would at this stage adopt his entire Statement, as though same were mine, for the purpose of the records and congratulate him for the efforts in bringing all the issues to the fore. Congratulations, Hon Jinapor.