Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to contribute to the Statement ably made by Hon Ekow Hayford, Member of Parliament for Mfantseman. Mr Speaker, in contributing to this Statement, may I humbly refer the House to article 15 of the Constitution, which states: “(1) The dignity of all persons shall be inviolable. (2) No person shall, whether or not he is arrested, restricted or detained, be subjected to — (a) torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; (b) any other condition that detracts or is likely to detract from his dignity and worth as a human being.”

Mr Speaker, this is not to inflame passions of the family members of the late Maj. Adam Mahama, but my question is, if the people of Denkyira Obuase were right in their assessment or in their thinking that the person they were dealing with was an armed robber, and if indeed, it had turned out that he was an armed robber, what would Ghanaians have done? I believe that prior to his incident, there were many other incidents that we heard, sometimes in the news, that somebody had stolen something or committed a certain crime and there had been mob action; the person had been killed.

No one ever raised questions that these modes of meting out instant or mob justice was frowned upon by our laws. I do not believe that Ghanaians rose to the occasion to condemn these until it happened to an innocent person. I am sure Hon Members of this House share this opinion with me, because we heard it many times in the news. We saw footage of people being pushed down. They would put car tyres on them and set them ablaze, and not a single soul was ever arrested for getting involved in this kind of mob injustice.

So, somehow, we as a people have contributed to this just by our inaction. We have sat by and this practice has gone on until it got to the point where an innocent person was killed, and then we all raised issues. After that, these three incidents that have happened, the question I pose is this; who has been arrested? I believe the answer would be nobody. If nobody has been arrested, do we take it that the people who perpetrate this are right in their judgment, and that the person to whom they are doing this is indeed an armed robber or has committed a crime, so we should sit by?

This education must go down to everyone. Indeed, we must let people know that even if you go and see that somebody has stolen something and he has it in his hand, it is not within your province to take up the law and deal with the person the way you think, just because you have found him in flagrante delicto. To wit, that the person has actually stolen or done something wrong.

You must take the person to the police station and allow the investigative process to take its course. When this education gets done very well, this instant mob injustice would stop.
come to a lawyer and tell him that somebody has stolen something from them or has done something to them and so they took him to the Police Station and the person was arrested, but in the next moment, they realised that the person was out there. Mr Speaker, the thinking has been that when a person succeeds in getting the Police to arrest the alleged offender, the offender must be kept in cells until probably he is vindicated, perhaps by way of restitution or some other kind of compensation.

Mr Speaker, however, it is because those people do not understand the justice delivery system and the fact that the person who is alleged to have committed a crime also has a right, and so his right must be respected because the law presumes him innocent until he has pleaded guilty or have been found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be guilty of the offence charged. Mr Speaker, I therefore, join forces with my Hon Colleague in calling for greater education, so that our people would understand that the fact that they might have been a victim of crime does not give them a warrant to just take the law into their own hands and deal with the alleged perpetrator of the offence.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity.