SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON SANDWINNING: A THREAT AND POTENTIAL ‘GALAMSEY’ BY HONOURABLE FRANK ANNOH-DOMPREH, MP FOR NSAWAM-ADOAGYIRI, BY HON ALFRED OKOE VANDERPUIJE, MP FOR ABLEKUMA SOUTH - 15 FEBRUARY, 2017

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to add my voice to the Statement by my Hon Colleague.

I believe, he must be commended for the full content of his Statement. It has laid out all the facts on the ground on the issue of sand winning. I stand to support it because my constituency, Ablekuma South, also suffers from the negative effects of sand winning, particularly along the coast.

I also speak for all the coastal communities of the Greater -Accra Region. This situation must be stopped. I beg to say that; the District Assemblies do not have all it takes to stop this situation and I say this from experience. The District Assemblies have to be backed fully and supported by the Ghana Police Service to ensure that we effectively bring this situation, if not completely eliminated, under control to some extent.

The degradation along the coast is very distraughting, especially when one thinks of the fact that these days, all the coconut trees we used to have along the coast are virtually gone. So, there must be a two-pronged approach.

While we stop this exercise, we must also collaborate with our schools, youth communities and societies to go back to tree planting, especially coconut trees along the coastal lines.

Mr Speaker, the matter has to do with enforcement. We have the laws; so, we need severe enforcement. I tried it when I was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) — but the District Assemblies must be supported. The task forces of the District Assemblies are not armed; they do not have the resources.

In such situations, we would need the strong arms of the Police or the Military to eliminate these situations from our environment. This is because the effect of it is too much to bear.

Mr Speaker, I would want to thank the Hon Member who made the Statement and I fully support him.