SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON THE PEABO DISASTER BY HONOURABLE FRANK ANNOH-DOMPREH MP FOR NSAWAM-ADOAGYIRI BY HON ALHAJI ABDUL-RASHID H. PELPUO, MP FOR WA CENTRAL - 27 JANUARY, 2017

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to comment on the Statement on the floor. Disaster can be classified in two forms. If it is natural, normally, we can do nothing about it. If it is man-made, it is possible to plan, manage it and ensure that it does not occur.

Mr Speaker, in this particular instance, it was man-made. Disaster management techniques to curb man-made disasters are therefore, very important. Mr Speaker, in managing disaster, it is important for us to understand that it reduces the vulnerability of the people who are at the site of the disaster. I would want to suggest that all the laws about disaster management, all our policies about reducing disasters and fighting them, must be activated.

In Ghana, most of the laws we have are not operationalised when it comes to the need for them. Mr Speaker, when we heard about this particular situation, we were all very sad. The innocent people who lost their lives, the pain it brought to their families, the kind of challenge onlookers vicariously suffered because of the incident, it is important that we support these families.

I would want to call on Hon Members of Parliament to do whatever we could to support the Hon Member in whatever form we can. I heard him talk about personally giving money to people to go to the hospital. Mr Speaker, if Parliament can come out to do something small to support the Hon Member to be able to take care of these disaster patients, it would be of great benefit.

Mr Speaker, however, I would also want to suggest that Government should make sure that all areas where potentially there could be disasters are inspected and ensure that some regiment is put in place so that in the event of a disaster, the damage and destruction of life and property would be limited.

Mr Speaker, with these few words, I thank you and also thank Hon Annoh-Dompreh who made the Statement.