Mr Speaker, I am very grateful for this opportunity to contribute to this very unique Statement ably made by my good Friend, Hon Emmanuel Kwasi Bedzrah. Mr Speaker, history is unfolding before our very eyes. For the first time, we have a legislator in Ghana who has served for 25 continuous years in our democratic transition that we are experiencing now. We are also seeing a consistency in our democratic experiment, starting from 1992, and from this period until now, we have a Member of Parliament who has held various positions, only being closely emulated by the present Hon Majority Leader.

Mr Speaker, it is not only about our democracy, but also about ourselves as a people, and we need to look at it in a broader sense; how this has influenced our development and moved Ghana forward and made her enviable in the eyes of many Africans. Mr Speaker, I believe this period is a good one for everybody and I believe that Hon Alban S. K. Bagbin has made us all proud. It is not just because of him as a person, but also because of us as a people.

We, in the Upper West Region, are very grateful because he comes from the Upper West Region and also comes from Nadowli/Kaleo Constituency in particular. It is important for us to recognise the consistency with which the Nadowli/ Kaleo people have shown confidence in this man. Mr Speaker, I was very happy when the Hon Member who made the Statement said that it is important for us to eulogise people in their lifetime and not wait until they die.

Hon Bagbin is one such example. To serve Parliament for 25 years and attain 60 years in life is a rare experience — Sixty (60) years and 25 years of which is spent on the floor of this Parliament. This is not a small achievement at all and I would want to say that we are very proud of him as a person, and that I know Ghana is also proud of him. Mr Speaker as a result, I would like to suggest that this quarter of a century achievement be recognised and something be done to recognise it as a first mark of such an achievement.

Mr Speaker, I believe it is Parliament that should do it. Parliament, apart from this Statement, should do something I cannot imagine now; something that should be symbolic about our democracy, which would be a lasting event which would show that we want to tell the rest of Ghanaians and the world, that when you give opportunity to somebody to serve, it is not about the fact that the person is looking for material gains; it is about the person’s contribution to society.

Mr Speaker, if we look at the lifespan of Hon Bagbin in all his engagements as Hon Minority Leader, as Hon Majority Leader, as Chairman of various committees, they are all things that show how a person can contribute and commit himself to the service of his people. I am very grateful that I am living to see this history unfold.

Mr Speaker, with these few words, I would want to thank you for the opportunity.