SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY 2017 BY HONOURABLE ALHAJI ABU-BAKAR SADDIQUE BONIFACE, MP FOR MADINA - 8 MARCH, 2017

Mr Speaker, I associate myself with the Statement made by the Hon Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection. Mr Speaker, in representing the Zongo women, today is a global day of celebration for women. Women being byproducts of men —

Wonderful. Mr Speaker, I am a subset of the universal set of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. Mr Speaker, religiously, women are a fine by-product created out of the rib — Mr Speaker, in the book of Genesis in the Bible, women were created out of the rib of a man. So, if I say that they were created out of the rib, are they not by-products?

Mr Speaker, let me go ahead. I am celebrating — Mr Speaker, I withdraw the word “by-product” but they were created out of the rib of a man. Do they agree? Wonderful. It is in the Qur’an that they were created out of man and today we celebrate them.

This is because it is the same Qur’an which tells us that they were created out of us, that also tells us to celebrate, respect and love them three times more than — that is, 75 per cent of the love of a man must go to the woman. Yes, a man must love his mother three times because when somebody went to the Prophet to ask the Prophet that, between their mother and their father, whom should they love, the Prophet said, their mother. The second and third time, the Prophet said, their mother. This means the fourth time is their father. This means that 75 per cent of the love must go to their mother. Mr Speaker, I appreciate the theme which says one should be bold; we should be bold. This makes me to celebrate Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings for saying that one must be bold and that is one of the themes that helps women to understand that they need to be very bold.

We have had women in this country who qualify for celebration; Mrs Esther Ocloo (Nkulenu), Susana Alhassan, Mrs Esi Sutherland-Addy are women we need to celebrate. They really put their lives down for this country and women have to be celebrated socially, economically, culturally and politically.

This is because if one sees how women have suffered for us — In fact, let me come back and say that but for women, I believe by now, men would have been sleeping because when we (men) were told not to eat the apple in the garden, it was the woman who enlightened us. — Would you challenge that? They agree to that one.

Mr Speaker, visibility and awareness would help drive positive change in the lives of women. We need to help our young women who are coming up, especially, those in the rural areas. This is the time to give them the opportunity, gender parity and equality and let them have the opportunity to also come to this level.
The epitome of what we are seeing in Parliament today is enough to tell us that women are really up to the task. I hope they would be up to the challenge. For the future, I expect that women would one day also come to lead the country as we have had in other places.

Mr Speaker, with these few words, I thank you for giving me the opportunity.