Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to contribute to this unfortunate Statement this afternoon.

Mr Speaker, let me state that my greatest disappointment is in the Rt. Hon Speaker, and not you Mr First Deputy Speaker —

Mr Speaker, the disappointing tendency of the Rt. Hon Speaker to be this partisan, is the cause of the problem we have.

Mr Speaker, I would have been happier if you had waited to hear me out while I made those conclusions.

Mr Speaker, I minuted a Statement from the Hon Agalga to the Rt Hon Speaker. After the Rt Hon Speaker read it —

Mr Speaker, with respect, I am very much aware of the Standing Order that the Hon Majority Leader makes reference to. I said that I was “disappointed” — I did not make reference to his conduct. I said I am disappointed that he admitted this Statement —

No, why do you say there is a problem with it? I said that I am disappointed in him for admitting the Statement —

Mr Speaker, without challenging your ruling, I withdraw, and I am very hopeful that, we would come back to this issue.

Mr Speaker, the disappointing nature of our behaviour of equalisation pushes this country into the gutters.

Mr Speaker, the Hon Agalga wrote a Statement, and I corrected it five times because of the tone of the language. Finally, when I minuted it to the Rt Hon Speaker, he invited me and said that he still thought that the Statement was harsh, and I responded that we were at his mercy.

He therefore sent me to tell my Hon Colleague, Hon Agalga, that, the Statement could not be admitted, and I did.

Mr Speaker, when the Hon A. B. A. Fuseini made this Statement that he read today, I corrected it equally for almost three times, and made sure that all names associated with people were not stated in the Statement.

Mr Speaker, when I finally minuted it To the Rt Hon Speaker, he admitted it, but the unfortunate thing was that, there was this agreement that because these things had reoccurred again and
again, it would be good that we had a Statement from the other Side that would create a balance, so that, at least, all the issues would be put on the table —

It is noted. Mr Speaker, my worry is the mentioning of names in the Statement, particularly by my Hon Colleague for Nhyiaeso, Hon Kankam.

Mr Speaker, with the greatest respect, as a people, we need to grow. It is true that in 2001, some nasty things happened. It is also true that, in the year 2009, some other nasty things happened.

Mr Speaker, all of us condemned them at different levels. Even then, it is not true that in 2001 when those things happened — I do not want to mention people’s names because, they may not be here to respond — I can say, even in this House, we had some Hon Members of the then ruling party in 2001 who frowned at what happened.

In much the same way, in the year 2009, when those things happened, we equally had people of the Government Side also disapproved and condemned what happened. Even today, with what is happening, I have heard and seen a number of other persons, even within Government also condemn it.

Be it as it may, we must not programme ourselves to say, as my Hon Colleague the Hon Minister for Defence said — This year, it is an improvement. There is no sense in maltreating any individual, being Ghanaian. Even if it is one person, you cannot say that it is an improvement.

Mr Speaker, as we speak, let those of us at the helm of affairs check, it is our actions and inactions which make our brothers and sisters down the lane behave the way they do.

Mr Speaker, if you have a letter to a chief executive officer telling him or her to vacate his office by 5 p.m. in a day, what indication are you telling those on the ground? We are treating one another as if all the services that each and every one of us provide this country is meaningless and useless. Let us treat each other with respect.

You may disagree with me and you may want to change me from my office but treat me with decency; treat me with respect. Do not treat me as if I was put there like a criminal. When you do that, you get people going home with a lot of pain in them. And as they sit and converse in whatever area they find themselves, they instigate people indirectly.

Mr Speaker, what is happening is very unfortunate. I will just use one agency — Ghana Cocoa Board. Mr Speaker, the facts are there. Seventeen staff of the hierarchy have all been asked to go home.

What happens to institutional memory? What happens to the services they have rendered this country? Even if all of them are known NDC or NPP persons, I believe that, in asking them to go home, whether in 2001, 2009 or 2017, we need to do it with some respect. It has to be fair and decent.
Mr Speaker, for those of us in the Minority, we would definitely come under Standing Order 93 (5) to challenge, the conduct of Mr Speaker in admitting this Statement.

As rightly said, we would go through the proper procedure because, I believe he is a father to all of us. He is not somebody to be seen to defend or protect only the Majority. He is a reverend Minister. He is supposed to care for all of us and we would definitely come under Standing Order 93 (5).

Mr Speaker, I am not going back to that.

In conclusion, the unfortunate incident of our Hon Colleagues, Hon Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu, Hon Ayorkor Botchwey, Kofi Adams, Agyenim Boateng and the likes, is very regrettable.

I plead that, as a country, let us put our acts together and we can start it in this House. Let us make sure that, our citizens, especially, people we put in responsible positions, are not treated the way we have all done it at one time or the other. It does not show strength and unity and it does not help us to build strong institutions that would help our democracy to grow from strength to strength.

I thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity.