Mr Speaker, thank you for this opportunity. Today is a very special day not only for women and girls but for corporate bodies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), individuals, our parents and friends. On this special day, I would like to bring the attention of this House to a trend, that is revenge pornography. This particular trend is affecting young women — women who are aspiring to be leaders.

Mr Speaker, in the past when we were young and being mentored, we were told that we should be mindful that people do not call us asawo or prostitutes. But these days, it is people using technology to blackmail young women. People are using videos during their intimate times to make recordings and as women climb either the corporate ladder or political ladder, these things are used against them. So, they cannot really come forward to move up —

On this special occasion, I would like the leadership, whether it is corporate or political, to assist the young women to be very mindful. When you have your special intimate moments, whether it is with your partner or whoever, please, be mindful that when there are video recordings or any kind of digital recordings, you make sure that the men also have their faces in the videos —

Mr Speaker, this is the trend now; people are selling young women’s pictures and videos to sites for money and even blackmailing the political aspirants. It is a very key thing that we have to take note. As we celebrate this day or this whole year, the theme for empowering women, technology is going to be one of the tools. So, as we encourage the women to use technology, we might as well educate them to be very careful not to use it to their disadvantage.

Mr Speaker, I would like to also continue to ask the Hon Minister to pay attention to the corporate bodies. Women should not just be empowered for the political environment; there are various leadership positions that other young women or women in general can take up. It is very important — the corporate bodies are doing their part. It is about time that we paid more attention to them. They can even identify upcoming women who can take up these political positions if need be.

Mr Speaker, on this special day, I would like to say Ayekoo to both men and women, to our past and present Ministers and to the future ones. We hope that those who aspire to take up leadership positions, even when they fail, they should fail forward. There is always a better time ahead.

Thank you.