SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON GHANA’S PARTICIPATION IN ECOWAS MISSION IN THE GAMBIA BY HONOURABLE DOMINIC BINGAB ADUNA NITIWUL, MP FOR BIMBILLA AND MINISTER FOR DEFENCE, BY HON AMBROSE DERY, MP FOR NANDOM - 15 FEBRUARY, 2017

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I wish to commend the Hon Minister for Defence for making this very important Statement, which captures the good work that he has done under the leadership of His Excellency the President, in living up to our obligations as a member of ECOWAS.

I believe that the example of His Excellency the President, where he created space for the former President to still play a role in the efforts leading up to this deployment, is a thing that should be commended.

The former President has played his part in his time and the present President is playing his part. I believe that there is no need for competition about recognition and praises. Mr Speaker, except to say that Ghana is a shining example of democracy in the West African sub-region, and that, any time there is an election, we have the smooth transfer of power, and where there is a need, we resort to due process without disturbing the succession. That is the point that should be made.

Yes, there was a petition by the New Patriotic Party against the results of the 2012 General Election results, but it did not obstruct the elected President, the then President John Dramani Mahama from taking his position as the President.

In the case of The Gambia, the President did not create space for the elected President to take office, so that he might resort to due process and have his day in court. That is a very crucial difference that we should not countenance.

ECOWAS has made a good record. It started in Niger, where the ECOWAS made sure that, trying to intervene and disrupt a democratic transition would not be countenanced. Then it came to Burkina Faso and partly also in Mali; and we are working towards a solid profile for the West African sub-region.

Mr Speaker, I believe that, this deployment also shows the confidence of the international community in the quality and status of Ghanaian military personnel. I believe that we should congratulate our personnel. We can boast that the best always comes from Ghana in the sub-region and we could all take pride in that. It is not surprising therefore, that Ghanaians are being protected.

The President said that as Ghanaians, we are citizens, whether within or outside this country. So, the rights of Ghanaian citizens would be protected. I believe that, His Excellency the President, with his able Hon Minister for Defence, are living the talk and it is in consonance with the general trend of His Excellency delivering on the promises that he had made to the people of Ghana.
Mr Speaker, I believe that Parliament must take pride in the role that we play and begin to be more constructive about our role in all this. I am happy that so far, we appear to be responding positively. Ghana has gone in there legitimately and the performance so far, is acceptable and approved by Parliament. I believe that in working together, we would continue to make Ghana the great leader in democratic processes.

In that regard, I would want to appeal to Parliament to build its authority and ensure that everything that happens here, would end here, lest we sell ourselves out to other institutions of governance and lose our significance.

With these few words, I would like to thank the Hon Minister for Defence for making the Statement.

Mr Speaker, I thank you too for giving me the chance to contribute to the Statement.