SUPPORTING TRIBUTE TO PARLIAMENT ON THE LATE HON SIMON ABINGYA BY HONOURABLE AMBROSE DERY, MINISTER FOR THE INTERIOR AND MP FOR NANDOM - 23 MARCH, 2017

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I heavy-heartedly have to speak about Hon Simon Abingya whom I knew when I was in form one in Navrongo Secondary School, as my Assistant Senior Prefect. He used to speak with an American accent because he had gone on an AFS exchange programme.

He was a very good athlete; a long-distance runner. I used to carry his spikes, and I was his chief supporter. Subsequently, after he had left the country and came back, I was still a student. When he got into politics, he was a model for all of us.

I grew up in Bolgatanga and I am a Farragut. I do not know if you understand that. He was a person who had sterling qualities right from the time he was the Senior Prefect. Subsequently, when he went to the university and we were in secondary school, we looked up to him. When he became a politician, we were still students.

He was a man who attracted most of us, the youth. Any time he came home, we followed him because he was always wearing what was trending at the time. So, he was a man whom we admired.

I lived in Bolgatanga where he did a lot. When he became an Hon Minister in the energy sector, he did a lot of good work; and at the time, we appreciated his contribution to the electrification in the Upper East where I lived. Mr Speaker, words cannot describe the loss that his death is to us, except to say that, the rest of us who saw him must be inspired by the sterling qualities that he displayed, especially qualities of leadership.

I believe that while he rests with the Lord, we pray for his family and take his good example as a guide for us in the leadership roles that we are given now in this House.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.