SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT TO CONGRATULATE H. E. PRESIDENT AKUFO-ADDO AS AU GENDER CHAMPION FOR 2017 AND CO-CHAIR OF UNSDG BY HONOURABLE COMFORT DOYOE CUDJOE GHANSAH, MP FOR ADA - 6 JULY, 2017

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity. Mr Speaker, I would want to thank the Hon Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection for this Statement and I would want to touch on it paragraph by paragraph. Mr Speaker, it would be noted that the Hon Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection kept on congratulating the President for the award. In my view, before an award is given, there would be a Committee which would be set up for a month or two to look into it before the country that would win the award is selected — and a four- or five-month’s work would never give us this award — which meant that it started from somewhere.

Mr Speaker, the Hon Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection could not even congratulate the former President who created the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in her Statement. Mr Speaker, former President Jerry John Rawlings started by projecting women, former President John Agyekum Kufuor continued and created the Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs, as my Hon Colleague said — late President John Evans Atta Mills built upon it, former President John Dramani Mahama also did his best and increased the number. Even Parliament has recently done its best to increase the number in the House.

So, it is an effort by all the former Presidents and all the Hon Members of Parliament, that has positioned Ghana to receive this award and President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, as our current President, received it on behalf of Ghanaians. Mr Speaker, I would want to congratulate him for receiving the award for Ghana and also for continuing with the gender equality issues. Mr Speaker, I would want to urge Parliament — we would want a policy for gender equality. I would want to plead with the President, the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and the employment agencies to make sure that, anytime they would want to employ, they should consider women. Mr Speaker, it was only few women who were involved in the recent District Chief Executive (DCE) issues. One is from Ada and as I speak now, men are on their feet to make sure that, this woman who would be the first female DCE is confirmed this week. Mr Speaker, I would want to congratulate the Hon Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection once again, for championing a lot of appointments of women in government.

This is the first time we would have a female DCE for the Ada District. Mr Speaker, I would want to plead with the men, the Hon Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, and the President, for receiving this award for gender equality, to also step in. Women in politics, women lawyers and everybody should descend to Ada and fight this cause to make sure that the woman who would be the first female DCE is confirmed this week. Mr Speaker, I would want to congratulate the Hon Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection once again, for championing a lot of appointments of women in government.

Mr Speaker, I would also want to plead with the President that no woman should be reshuffled. Recently, it was circulated in the social Media that the Hon Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection would be reshuffled. We do not want a situation where one hand is used to offer something and the other hand is used to collect it back. If we have been given the positions,
it should be sustained because, we are capable and can deliver. Their positions should all be sustained till the end of the four years which would be 2020 when the National Democratic Congress (NDC) would take over and also continue with the good works.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the wonderful opportunity.