SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON THE CHALLENGES IN OUR PRISONS BY
HONOURABLE DR ZANETOR AGYEMAN-RAWLINGS, MP FOR KLOTTEY KORLE - 7 MARCH, 2017

Mr Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Hon Member who made the Statement and also make a small comment regarding this.

The psychiatric hospitals appear to be an extension of some of the prisons, so my comment is just to draw our attention to the fact that there are a lot of people who are in the psychiatric hospitals. For example, in Accra, the Accra Psychiatric Hospital has a section that is specifically for patients who are inmates as a result of being prosecuted within the criminal justice system.

The problem with some of these patients is that the cases have either been dismissed or have gone ahead and been processed and these persons who have been admitted to the hospitals have not been called back. So, they have remained there and the doctors just have to care for them and they are also taking up a lot of capacity there and nobody knows what their fate is because the cases that resulted in them being kept in these hospitals have not been followed up.

This is to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the prisons seem to be offloading some of the inmates into the hospitals and the hospitals are not managing to send them back. That is the complaints that we have received from some of the staff in the psychiatric hospitals.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.