Mr Speaker, thank you for an opportunity to make a brief comment on the Statement made by the Hon Annoh-Dompreh on the Peabo disaster. Never again — Mr Speaker, just to premise it with a very good caution you gave that, probably, if he was canvassing for bi-partisan support which should be the case in dealing with a national emergency, he needed not have thrown partisan innuendos which would invite the kind of opposition that he himself invited.

Mr Speaker, so, we share your position on this Statement; a disaster does not know the New Patriotic Party (NPP) or National Democratic Congress (NDC); it knows its victim. And that victim is in distress and needs urgent attention. Therefore, to liaise the comments — Which invite its own issues — We are guided, Mr Speaker. We commend him for making the Statement. I am sure it is a constituency-specific matter and he expects results.

Mr Speaker, but my heart was warmed when I heard the former Deputy Minister for the Interior assure this House that the last Parliament passed the National Disaster Management Organisation Bill into an Act. In that Act, for those of them who are now learning, there is earmarked a certain percentage of the District Assemblies Common Fund for supporting disasters. That provides a sustainable way of financing disasters. This is because the dependence on the Consolidated Fund —

Also, it is our practice, Mr Speaker, that when the disasters happen, we define intervention as if it is just a mat or a mattress which the victim needs. We would need to redefine how to compensate victims of these disasters. When one goes to visit the person with a pillow, mattress and a mat, then we say the person has been assisted.

We must assist people and rehabilitate them well, in order that they could go back to the status they enjoyed before they were affected by the disaster. I trust that the new National Disaster Management Organisation Act would deal with this issue and that the institution would be more responsive and more urgent in dealing with this issue.

Mr Speaker, we should also take a collective position. That is part of it; I believe that when we come to discuss other matters, we would look at it. Parliament has every power to demand that any enquiry and findings be made public, subject to the secrecy Acts of the country. Therefore, in many of these situations, when the investigations are done, nothing stops the Committee of the Interior, with oversight responsibility for NADMO to demand that they let us know what their findings and recommendations were.

Mr Speaker, I would like to commend the Hon Member who made the Statement and share with him in empathising with the victims and to call for urgent action to
support and deal with all other persons who have been victims of disasters and who have not been adequately compensated and rehabilitated. Mr Speaker, with these few words, I once again thank the Hon Member who made the Statement.

Thank you.