STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON THE SEIZURE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES BY HONOURABLE HARUNA IDDRISU, MINORITY LEADER AND MP FOR TAMALE SOUTH - 11 JANUARY, 2017

Mr Speaker, thank you for your indulgence. I would like to raise a matter of grave public concern, which is the worrying takeover of public institutions by vandalizing jubilant youth in the name of change in Government. Mr Speaker, the phenomenon is countrywide and can undermine---

Mr Speaker, thank you for your indulgence and the opportunity to raise an issue of grave public concern. It is worrying and a phenomenon that could undermine national peace and cohesion. There are some masquerading celebrating youth who are taking over public institutions in the name of change in governance -

Notably, the Youth Employment Agency in Tamale, the National Health Insurance Office in Bodi and some Toll Booths. Mr Speaker, I must admit that the phenomenon is not new but we need to find a necessary end. Mr Speaker, the phenomenon has the potential to undermine national peace and cohesion. We are celebrating the conduct of credible, peaceful elections. The nation has witnessed one of the best political transfers of power, consistent with the outcome of the 2016 Elections. Mr Speaker, the seizure of the National Health Insurance Offices in Bodi in the Western Region borders on crime. It is important that the law enforcement agencies take ruthless and decisive action in bringing an end to the growing phenomenon.

We can celebrate but there are excesses associated with the celebration. In Agbogbloshie, it is beginning to engender some ethnic tension in that area. What is important is to be circumspect in the celebration and respect the rights of other persons.

Mr Speaker, some of these celebrations have resulted in abuses of the rights of other persons. As I indicated early on, throughout history and throughout transitions, we have noted these developments across the country. We need to bring an end to it. The law enforcement agencies must identify persons responsible for it and punish them.

Mr Speaker, let me indicate that there has been concerns raised by Hon Members of Parliament, that constituents which have become victims of these abuses are worried. In order to maintain national peace and harmony, I urge that this House, with your guidance, take a position on this matter and ask the law enforcement agencies to treat it as a crime. and punish persons, regardless of their political affiliations in maintaining national peace and cohesion.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.