Mr Speaker, let me thank you for the opportunity, and to thank the maker of the Statement, Hon Dr Ayine, for paying tribute and eulogising the Hon Simon Abingya who was an Hon Member of this House from 1997 to 2000. He was a member of the Appointments Committee, and also served the country as Hon Deputy Minister for Mines and Energy.

Mr Speaker, in eulogising him, the Hon Simon Abingya was modest and humble as a person. As the nation mourns the athlete and the politician, I recall and in reference to the Hansard of 30th January, 1997, the Hon Abingya contributed to a debate on the Floor of Parliament, and this is what he had to say. I would just want to fondly remember him for those words.

He said a constituent referred to him at the time when the Bolga-Paga Road was being constructed by the Korean Company to improve the road infrastructure of that area, and also relative to the construction of what is now referred to as the Bulk Oil Storage and Transportation (BOST) Depot, which has become a strategic national asset in terms of storage of petroleum products to serve that particular part of the country.

Mr Speaker, this is what a constituent had to say about the Hon Simon Abingya, and with your permission, I quote: “Hon Member of Parliament, you helped us, your government helped us, now, I have a wife; I have a bicycle because you employed me.”

He touched many lives as a respected Hon Member of Parliament for Bolgatanga, and inspired many young people to the rigorous politics in the Upper East Region and nationally at large. Mr Speaker, may I respectfully convey to the bereaved family our deepest sympathy and condolences.

I pray that God would give them the fortitude to accept the loss; it is a national loss — a loss to this House and a loss to our country. May the soul of the late Hon Simon Abingya rest in perfect peace.

Mr Speaker, thank you.