Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity given me to contribute to the two Statements.

First and foremost, I would want to refer you to article 296 of the 1992 Constitution and with your kind permission, I quote therefrom:

“Where in this Constitution or in any other law discretionary power is vested in any person or authority—

  a. that discretionary power shall be deemed to imply a duty to be fair and candid;
  b. b) the exercise of the discretionary power shall not be arbitrary, capricious or biased either by resentment, prejudice or personal dislike and shall be in accordance with due process of law; and...”.

Mr Speaker, it goes on but for our purposes, what I have quoted is sufficient. I would want to draw your attention to Standing Order 70 (2) which clearly talks about the nature of Statements and how they should not provoke debate.

Mr Speaker, my understanding of Standing Order 70 is that, it raises issues of admissibility. So, whether or not a Statement has prior admission by Mr Speaker, is not the issue when the Statement is made, or at the time the Statement is being made if Hon Members rise and raise Standing Order 70 as the point of reference and argue that, the Statement made on the floor is likely or will provoke debate. Mr Speaker has every power to disallow that Statement.

Mr Speaker, I would want to assure you that, per my understanding of the laws, you are clothed with the power and authority to disallow Statements when they provoke debates in the future.

Having said so, I early on alluded to —

Mr Speaker, very well.

I would want to throw light on Constitutional provisions —

Mr Speaker, when an Hon Member is on the floor, he or she is entitled to make copious references to the laws of the land, including the Constitution.

In any case, I thank you for the opportunity and I wish to place on record that, after the 7th December Elections, a number of attacks on Government Agencies by members and/or agents of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), have occurred in our country. Examples of the Agencies of State attacked by agents and/or members of the NPP include; the Ghana Ports and Harbour/Authority (GPHA) in Tema. It has been reported copiously in sections of the Media that the ‘Invisible Forces’
were responsible for unleashing the attacks against the offices of the GPHA. Similar attacks were repeated at the offices of the headquarters of the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO).

Mr Speaker, in fact, it took the timely intervention of the Coordinator who is also a General in the Army. His intervention ensured that property at the head-quarters were not destroyed. It took the timely intervention of soldiers from the Burma Camp to restore calm and order at the offices of NADMO.

Mr Speaker, the Hon (Alhaji) Bashir Fuseini Alhassan has already alluded to the attacks that were unleashed in Tamale, but what he alluded to, had been preceded early on by attacks that resulted in the Chairman of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Mr Kofi Portuphy, to engage the Press at that time to decline the misconduct of those agents or elements which had the potential to mar the peace at that time.

One would have thought that, after the Press conference and all the admonitions that came with the Press conference, those who were bent on creating a sense of lawlessness in this country would have taken a cue, but they kept repeating their conduct and that resulted in the attacks the Hon Alhaji B. F. Alhassan alluded to in his Statement.

Mr Speaker, some pictorial evidence is making the rounds on social Media and I have stumbled on one of such pieces of evidence. What we see is very despicable, unfortunate and needs not to repeat itself.

The incident I refer to happened at the seat of Government — the Presidency on the 9th of January, after the peaceful transition and handing over of power by ex-President John Mahama to President Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. Hoodlums associated with the NPP invaded the seat of Government and took it upon themselves, attacked and brutally assaulted an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in the full glare of military officers at the Flagstaff House —

Mr Speaker, these incidents are very unfortunate and should be condemned by all. When these things were happening, the Hon Ministers for the Interior and National Security were yet to assume office. One would have expected that following the assumption of office by the line, Hon Ministers for the management of our security, these incidents would have abated. Unfortunately, these incidents kept on occurring —

Mr Speaker, with the lawlessness that has engulfed our country, we would need to watch out. This is because, there could be unimaginable consequences but we have only one country.

Not too long ago, a group stormed the residence of Mr Kofi Adams without search warrants in search of vehicles which had allegedly been stolen from the State.

Mr Speaker, our laws must be respected by all and sundry and our Criminal Procedure Act is very clear and the Constitution is very clear on the invasion of rights to privacy. No one could storm
the premises of another individual without a warrant. When that is done, then, one would have invaded that individual’s right to own property and privacy.

These constitutional breaches cannot be allowed to fester and continue in the manner in which we allow them to continue and fester.