Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wish to associate myself with the Statement ably made by the Hon Member of Parliament for the Bolgatanga East Constituency. Mr Speaker, on behalf of Buluk — when I say “Buluk”, I refer to the Builsa Traditional Area. We wish to extend our profound condolence to the Abingya family. Mr Speaker, I say so because we have lost an in-law. The late Hon Simon Abingya is married to a daughter from Buluk. So, the funeral we have on our hands is a joint one between the Frafras and the Builsas.

Having said that, I wish to place on record that, the Hon Simon Abingya, in his lifetime, left a lot of legacies that we as politicians, who now stand in his shoes, would have to emulate. Mr Speaker, the Hon Dr Ayine, in his Statement, said that he was instrumental in getting some communities in the Bolgatanga Municipality hooked on to the national grid. So, what he did was described in the Gurune dialect as Abingya bugum, literally translated as, “Abingya’s Electricity”.

But we would say in Buli, Abingya bulum, which also means “Abingya’s Electrification” because just as he was instrumental in getting communities within his constituency connected, he did not leave out Buluk. In fact, he was instrumental in getting the part of Buluk, which is now known as the Builsa South Constituency, represented by my brother Dr Apaak, connected to the national grid.

So, we are very grateful to the late Abingya for his efforts. Mr Speaker, the late Hon Abingya also taught us a lesson that as public office holders we may want to emulate. What he did even while he was in office as an Hon Minister of State was to take, as his second vocation, farming in the Gbedembuilsi Valleys also in the Builsa traditional area. The Hon Simon Abingya was a great rice farmer.

Mr Speaker, I am sure as part of the strategy to deal with food security, we have been encouraged time without number, even as public office holders, to consider taking up farming as a second vocation.

He showed the way many years ago and opened up the area. Many people thought it was not feasible to cultivate rice in the area, but the late Hon Simon Abingya actually moved in there and joined others to start rice cultivation. That opened up the area to many more people.

Today, Mr Speaker, as we speak, the Gbedembilsi valleys are credited for rice cultivation, and could easily become the food basket of the country if we pay particular attention to rice cultivation in that area.

So, with those words, Mr Speaker, I would once again want to extend our deepest condolences to the family. We would be in Bolgatanga to mourn with them because they are our in-laws, and in these times of grief, we must mourn with them.

Thank you for the opportunity, Mr Speaker.