Mr Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the Statement on the floor of the House, which is on the nature of roads in our country.

Mr Speaker, the demand for good roads would live with us for many years. This is because there are new settlements in our country every day. Once there are new settlements, there would be the need for road construction to those new settlements. So, as we struggle to fix and construct the existing number of roads in our country, we also add up to that number because of the new settlements springing up all over the country. So, the demand for good roads would remain with us for some time.

Mr Speaker, the Statement would definitely affect every Hon Member of the House; every Hon Member of this House almost on weekly basis would want to ask a Question about what plans the Ministry of Roads and Highways has for the construction of roads in their Constituencies. We would have to have some sympathy for the Ministry of Roads and Highways because the demand is too much on them. Mr Speaker, the issue here is about funding for the construction of roads.

So, when issues came up and Hon Members said that a particular Government neglected some Constituencies, I believe that it is not proper. A new party is in Government now; what would they do? Would they have the financial resources to fix all the roads in Ghana? I do not think the answer would be yes, so let us not go on that tangent. Mr Speaker, but we can take a cue and learn from other jurisdictions as to how they handle their situations. When one goes to Malaysia, major roads, regional and national roads are constructed under Public Private Partnership (PPP) agreements where private and public capital are pooled together to do those roads which are then tolled. We can do same in our country by looking for private capital to support public capital to build those major roads that can be tolled.

Mr Speaker, the Road Fund could be focused on the feeder roads and the local roads, but here is the case, we have a situation where the Road Fund is used for fixing feeder roads as well as the maintenance of major roads. So, we should make a conscious effort and have a strategy and promote PPP as that is the only way we can pool in capital from the private sector to support Government. If we leave it for Government to do it alone, I do not think that Government would be in a position to do that. It would take a very long time for Government to do that. Meanwhile, the demand for good roads in order to promote economic activities is now. We need it now to grow our economy.

So how long should we wait for Government to fix those roads in order to grow our economy? Mr Speaker, this is something that government must start thinking about, and I am happy that the Hon Deputy Minister for Roads and Highways is here. The efforts started by previous governments on PPP should be revisited and continued to ensure that we bring in more private capital to support the construction of roads, especially the major ones in our country. Thank you.