Mr Speaker, let me also commend the Hon Member for making a Statement of fact in respect of the massive congestion at Subin and what ought to be done.

Mr Speaker, the Statement could not be timelier than the time that it has been made, when we have ushered in a new Regional Minister and the Chief Executive of the Metropolitan Assembly.

Mr Speaker, Kumasi is the centre in terms of transportation. Per the road network in this country, it is the emporium receiving the major arterial road in the country and then fanning them out to the various regions in the country.

Mr Speaker, unfortunately, the centre of Kumasi, which is supposed to be the receptacle, has now ceased to perform that function because of conflicting development plans for Kumasi. Kejetia has now been taken over by stores; the people have nowhere to park their vehicles. Those operating in the central business district of Adum do not have anywhere to park their private vehicles, let alone commercial vehicles coming from all corners of the country.

We need to look at the development plan of Kumasi again. This is because, truth must be told, the managers of the Metropolis are interested in putting up stores, and then benefitting directly from them. Now, in Kejetia, people are happy about the construction of a new market. Where are the terminals for vehicles? So, there is eternal congestion. Unless, we look at this again —

Mr Speaker, I thought at the outset that, perhaps, we would have the stores beneath the parking lot or create the parking lot beneath and have the stores on top of the parking lot. Unfortunately, somebody dreamt and decided to occupy the entire space with market stores. The wisdom in that, I cannot comprehend.

Mr Speaker, in the meantime, we are not developing the satellite markets in Kumasi. Asafo Market is a rotten place. Bantama Market is now spilling to the Bantama Highway. Today, at Suame, when you turn to the roundabout entering Suame Township, it has been taken over by marketers.

Mr Speaker, the plan was to have a first ring road around Kumasi. It was to begin from Anloga Junction and it was to have an interchange. Another interchange is at the Airport Roundabout, which continues to Suame Roundabout and then it goes to Sofo Line.

Mr Speaker, that interchange was started, but it is still not completed fully, even though it is about 90 per cent completed. The road then goes to Santase Roundabout. That interchange has also not been developed. It links up to Georgia Roundabout, but that interchange has not been developed. When you get to Ahensan, that interchange has been done.
Mr Speaker, therefore, of the six interchanges, only two have been developed. There is supposed to be a second ring road around Kumasi. The design has been done and compensation was to be paid. Money was secured to pay compensation to property owners, but that money was taken to Accra.

Mr Speaker, it was used to pay the compensation for those properties that were destroyed on the development of the Pokuase-Awoshie Road. That is the injustice that has been done to Kumasi. The people of Kumasi should also know that what used to sustain Kumasi — the gold, the timber and the cocoa, these three major items, have migrated elsewhere.

Mr Speaker, today, the centre of cocoa production is the Western Region. Timber is also got from the Western Region. That is why all the Sawmills in Kumasi have collapsed. Gold has also migrated to the Western Region. What sustains Kumasi today are two major things — the traditions and culture of the people, and perhaps, the Lake Bosomtwe, which is a major Lake. Indeed, its formation, due to the impact of a meteorite, is the second of its kind in the world, apart from Salt Lake City in the United States of America.

Mr Speaker, if we properly harness it, perhaps that could be a centre of attraction. Unfortunately, now the Lake is dwindling in size. This is because no rivers or streams feed into the Lake. It is just caused by the impact of a meteorite. So, it is only rain water that feeds it, and because of massive deforestation around it, the Lake is also silting up.

Mr Speaker, if care is not taken — and I keep saying this — the fate of Ibadan may befall Kumasi. Ibadan used to be sustained by cola, timber and cocoa, but now, all these are gone and Ibadan is now described as the largest village in Africa.

Mr Speaker, spatial development is also not controlled. Land is in the hands of chiefs, who sell and re-sell. The areas that are zoned for roads are also taken over. People buy parcels of land, and when they finish their construction, they cannot have access to their houses. What manner of havoc are we causing to our environment? The situation repeats itself in many towns and in many of our communities.

Mr Speaker, it is therefore, a tragedy that is unfolding, and if we do not intervene timeously, then Kumasi would waste away.

Mr Speaker, I thank you.