Mr Speaker, I would want to start my own contribution from where the Minority Chief Whip ended. He ended by imploring all of us to start the business of reconciliation from this House.

Mr Speaker, I cannot agree more with his conclusion even though I may disagree with the body of his submission but I believe that, where he ended should goad all of us on.

Mr Speaker, the Constitution in article 41 (d) provides and with your indulgence, I would want to read:

“The exercise and enjoyment of rights and freedoms is inseparable from the performance of duties and obligations, and accordingly, it shall be the duty of every citizen —

(d) to respect the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of others, and generally to refrain from doing acts detrimental to the welfare of other persons.”

Mr Speaker, subclause (f) then adds:

“to protect and preserve public property and expose and combat misuse and waste of public funds and property.”

Mr Speaker, we should well be informed about these provisions in the Constitution.

Mr Speaker, further, article 35 (4) provides:

“The State shall cultivate among all Ghanaians respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms and the dignity of the human person.”

Mr Speaker, let me add, article 36 (7) which provides:

“The State shall guarantee the ownership of property and the right of inheritance.”

If we understand these, if we clothe ourselves with these, Mr Speaker, we shall be very circumspect in how we act towards one another. Mr Speaker, that these Statements have surfaced in this House, even though they generated considerable heat, in my view, should suggest to us that, we are moving forward as a nation.

I say so because, Mr Speaker, in 2009, when nine of the victims of Agbogbloshie run to me at the time we lived in the leadership village with blood oozing from various parts of their bodies, I had to hide them and then the following day took them to the Ridge Hospital.

When I wanted to make a Statement on this in this House, for eight years I was prevented. Two wrongs certainly do not make a right. So, if it was wrong yesterday, it is wrong today. And let us all learn useful lessons as we grow up. That is why I am happy that, though temperatures were
up in the discourse, I said to us that, I am fortified by the conclusion of the Hon Minority Chief Whip.

We, as a House, should lead the way in how to douse the flame. We are one people in one country with a common destiny. So, that it was not condemned yesterday does not mean that it should not be condemned today. We are all human beings and what touches us today which has occasioned loud voices being raised, should signal to us that, when voices were suppressed yesterday, those people who were affected, could not have taken it kindly.

Mr Speaker, I agree with the Hon James Agalga, when he referred us to Article 296 and I wish he had repeated it when he wielded authority. You cannot pick and choose. We have seen it in this House. Is that the way to go? Certainly not! We must bring closure to events that have the tendency of raking wounds and letting people remember what happened yesterday.

So, I thought that, the language and tenor of the first Statement was unbefitting and I stated my case. In the wisdom of the Speaker, he said, let us give vent to people to express their hurt feelings. At the end of the day, let us come to some conclusion that, Parliament should be leading the way.

Mr Speaker, happily or unhappily, the two Statements that have been made, both relate to incidents of wantonness and even criminality. Often times, the Police have behaved as if when there is a change of Guard, the rules of engagement must also change. It cannot be. We must fortify our institutions and not allow them to bend in favour of constituted authority at any given time. That is what we have witnessed.

And I am happy Hon Laadi Ayamba related to the incident at Chereponi. I was also there. Mr Speaker, I cannot say that, that Castle Operative, who shot at those people was an NDC member. I cannot say that. But why after the complaint for all those years; six and half years, and that person was never arrested, accosted and put before the Law Court? That would have given the signal that, this cannot go on. For six and half years, in the full glare of all of us, in the full glare of the then Regional Minister, the man opened fire.

The case was reported. The difficulty is that after surgery was conducted on those people who were then rushed to Yendi Hospital, the Hospital Administrator was sanctioned. Why did he allow Prof Frimpong Boateng to use that facility?

And he was removed. What are we saying to ourselves as a nation? Impunity starts from the top and those down, borrow a leaf from what authority nakedly displays. It cannot be allowed to go on.

Mr Speaker, the shriek voices that are being raised today about the wantonness that is being displayed are justified that, the nation has no accommodation for such behaviours and these
kinds of impunity should not be allowed to have further procreation in this country. They must be decapitated urgently and decisively.

Mr Speaker, criminality has no expiry date. That is why some of us would urge the Police to act decisively now. Go back to what happened yesterday, if it is possible to haul them before the law courts and prosecute them, we must do that to send the rightful signal that in present day Ghana, these things have no place. This would strengthen us as a nation.

We cannot behave as ostriches and pretend that, nothing happened yesterday only to raise loud voices today. That is unjustifiable. Let us be very balanced in the way we confront criminality. This is pure criminality. These incidents are pure criminality and nothing else. You cannot hide under the belly of the elephant or under the cover of an umbrella and say that you should be shielded. No!

Mr Speaker, I believe the House should rise in unison in condemning these acts, and my appeal is that, we should urge the Hon Minister for the Interior and the Attorney-General to follow through with these cases that we have cited; the perpetrators of today and the perpetrators of yesterday are still living. They are emboldened by the fact that, when they conducted those bestialities, nothing happened to them. Let us attend to the real issues, so that, tomorrow, it may not have further procreation as I have said.

And while at that, Mr Speaker, I believe the time has come for us as a nation, well-intentioned as the Presidential Transition Act was, and is, we should go back to it. After all, it relates to only Presidential Transition. What happens in the transition relating to other arms of mentioned in the Act and I believe that, we should make it a much more holistic Act so that, we would be able to attend to various facets of our governance in the event of the change of Guards.

Mr Speaker, I thank you.