Mr Speaker, just a few remarks. Mr Speaker, I also rise to express my appreciation to the two Hon Members who have made the Statements in respect of the satellite launch by the All Nations University at Koforidua. Mr Speaker, I congratulate the students and their lecturers for the efforts that they have put into the research and the launch of the Satellite. Mr Speaker, the Hon Deputy Minority Leader got it right when he said that the perception out there is that, because it is coming from students and lecturers, especially from a private university, the quality may not be very high.

Mr Speaker, but that is what was associated with the initial products from Japan. We in Ghana, when we first had the experience of Japanese products invading our markets as against the products from Europe and the Americas in the 1970s, the usual complaint was, this is a Japanese product, it cannot be good. Subsequently, they survived and when Korean products started arriving in Ghana, the focus then shifted onto their products. It is from Korea, it cannot be good. Today, we have all recognised the efficacy of Korean products. When we had products coming in from China, the initial reaction was that Chinese products cannot be good. Increasingly, we are growing to accept Chinese products.

Mr Speaker, so, if it is from Ghana and people are suspicious about the quality, let us not be perturbed, but encourage the students and tutors of the All Nations University at Koforidua. My worry though is that, the investment required to have a second bite, might not come from the students and lecturers if they are not supported in a way by the Government through the appropriate Ministry. So, I would urge that with this, we should recognise the efforts they have made, perhaps, patent what they have done and encourage them to deepen the research which went into it. I remember in the late 1970’s, when a private individual established a radio station in Kumasi and decided to call it OTEC. When the military intervened in our politics, the first thing they did was to collapse the radio station.

They said they would not allow that. It took a nosedive. After about five or six years, the rules were relaxed. When OTEC started the first radio station, it was at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) campus. When the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) first burst onto the political scene, the first thing they did was to collapse that enterprise. Increasingly and over the years, the nation saw the value of that initiative and were encouraged thereafter to deepen what they were doing. Over time, other radio stations were born. Mr Speaker, private universities have shied away from involvement in science and technology because of the huge capital required to build science laboratories.

So, they are all going into humanities, commerce, administration and human resource development. However, there is a fertile area where they might be able to channel their abilities and competencies, which is what we are seeing in the efforts of the lectures and students of the
All Nations University at Koforidua. Let us encourage them and as the Hon Members who have contributed have alluded to, the nation might stand to reap huge economic advantages from what they have started in earnest. Mr Speaker, if they are able to develop what they have done, it could help us combat the menace of trans humans in Ghana and West Africa. It might also help us fight cross-border crimes. Some of these satellites are now able, from those heights, to zoom in and detect vehicle number plates.

They could detect vehicles that have been stolen and ferried across various borders. They could ultimately help us to fight cross-border crimes. So, the advantages are galore. Just this morning, we were talking about the Fall Armyworm menace in this country. How did they come into this country when we know that their usual habitation is Southern America? How did they come to Ghana? Nobody can tell. If we had the complements of the satellites, they might be able to help us. If after coming to Ghana, maybe, they were migrating to any of the neighbouring countries, we could also alert the authorities in these countries in order for them to sufficiently prepare to face the menace of the army worms.

Mr Speaker, we hear of galamsey operations in Ghana and we hear of what nationals from other countries bordering Ghana are into. Perhaps if we developed this, it would help us to combat the menace of galamsey operations and cross-border crimes. As a nation and as a Parliament, let us encourage the students and lecturers of the All Nations University, give them the platform that they require and also plead with the appropriate Ministry, especially the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, to quickly identify with what they have done and patent it. Mr Speaker, they should also provide some partnership with them. If it means providing some logistics and resources to them, let us help them to sustain the efforts, so that what they have started would not collapse overnight.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the space granted.