Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Statement. Mr Speaker, this Statement is obviously very important. Indeed, it touches on a very salient deficiency in our MMDAs. Mr Speaker, there is no doubt that the imbalance that it touches at the local level is real.

I would even want to point to a basic example, which is the Members of Parliament Common Fund. We have constituencies that are very large and some that are small. There are constituencies with a population close to 70,000 and others with about 20,000.

Mr Speaker, but when we are given Members of Parliament Common Fund, it cuts across. So, if an Hon Member has a population of only 20,000 and I have 100,000 people to deal with, it would obviously reflect an imbalance, where the constituency with a population of 20,000 would be able to do more with what he gets as the Member of Parliament’s Common Fund, while a person like me with a population of over 100,000 — mine would be like a drop in an ocean and the people would not feel it.

Mr Speaker, again, the projects carried out by Hon Members of Parliament to augment what the Assemblies carry out, obviously contribute to various projects, so that in cases of assessment, all these things are counted and looked at.

At the end of the day, a particular district that has the strength in getting more resources from the Central Government through various means would be adjudged as doing better or well than some other Assembly.

So, at the end of the day, a constituency like North Tongu would be counted on the DLT as not having done well, whereas another constituency or Assembly, which has had a lot of resources in order to meet the targets, would be considered as having done so well. That is a clear imbalance.

Mr Speaker, like the Hon Member pointed out, Parliament has the mandate to look at these imbalances and fashion out laws or legislate in order to correct those imbalances. It is very pertinent and important.

Other than that, we would continue to have some areas of the country continue in a certain economic deprivation as compared to others that make tremendous progress.

Indeed, if international organisations want to make assessments, it would be seen as one area doing well, as against other area not doing well, without necessarily looking at the fact that the area seen to be doing well attracts more resources than the others.

Mr Speaker, with that, I would want to support the Statement.