Mr Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the Statement made by the Hon Colleague.

Sometimes, people normally have shortsightedness as far as this particular issue is concerned. Some believe it is easier to get jobs by winning the sand. Others believe it is the shortest way to get income. But unfortunately, in the long run, it affects not only the individual but the whole nation.

This is because one realises that, when it rains, apart from the destruction that is made to the land, in some places, the fertility of the land is gone because the whole top of the soil is destroyed and it is not done in a way where everybody would understand that this is a land bank that has been laid aside for winning.

Mr Speaker, at times, when we have heavy rains, because of the way the winning goes on, they create some kind of trenches, which become ponds. Unfortunately, innocent children get drowned, especially when we have floods. At the end of the day, these children who died as a result of the flood could have become Presidents of the country one day and with a soul lost, a generation is lost.

Mr Speaker, apart from that, we realise that it would cost even the Government and the whole country lots of moneys when we reclaim those lands. Therefore, it is very important. Meanwhile, it even creates some kind of litigation between the youth and the landlords in most places. This is because, in an attempt to generate income for the area, there is a tussle between the chieftain and the youth of the village.

There is another way of bringing some kind of conflict and I believe in the earlier the attention of Government or the Metropolitan, Municipal, District Assemblies’ (MMDA) attention was drawn to those problems, the better for us.

Mr Speaker, it is very important to stop such things because though it is also another challenge for the Government to find a better way — a lively empowerment for the people, to remove them from poverty because I do not believe that is the best way.

My experience in one village was where people went digging; it was a soft soil. Unfortunately, they dug deep and the whole soil collapsed on them. Before they could rescue them, two people were dead just because at the end of the day, they might have got some GH¢20; they have destroyed the soil and their lives because they are not coming back.

Mr Speaker, it is very important. The Statement is timely. Now, we have the Hon Minister for Works and Housing. I say this out of experience. This is because of the amount of moneys that would be expended in trying to reclaim land for the economy and also put up better buildings.
The amount of money could have been used to resettle those people to get them gainful employment.

Mr Speaker, in order not to take much of your time, I will stop here and thank the Hon Member who made the Statement for bringing this to the floor.

Mr Speaker, yes. In a way, there is some kind of sand winning in some of the inner cities. — [Interruption] — Ningo Prampram is an inner city and it has a problem. We have to look at it carefully. In fact, the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing would feel guilty in a way because, we used part of Nsawam when we were doing the affordable housing.

I believe the Government owes them because we were drilling — [Interruption] — We were not digging. We were rather

winning the sand from the river. In a way, we were dredging and not winning. So, Mr Speaker, we would take care of that and thank you for reminding me.