

SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON GHANA'S PARTICIPATION IN ECOWAS MISSION IN THE GAMBIA BY HONOURABLE DOMINIC BINGAB ADUNA NITIWUL, MP FOR BIMBILLA AND MINISTER FOR DEFENCE, BY HON AHMED IBRAHIM, MP FOR BANDA - 15 FEBRUARY, 2017

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to make brief comments on the Statement that was ably presented by our able Hon Minister for Defence.

Mr Speaker, I must commend my good Friend for being the second Minister to make a Ministerial Statement on the floor of this Seventh Parliament of the Republic of Ghana. Although one of the youngest, he is the second, and this is an inspiration to the youth.

Mr Speaker, on the substantive issue, political commentators and security experts have said that, it is better for the ECOWAS to have a good standing military force to be able to protect the democratic principles that we cherish very much in our sub-region.

Mr Speaker, we have read about it, people have said it, and I strongly believe that the very example that has been set in The Gambia confirms that if there were a standing Force to make sure that West African leaders go by the wishes and voices of the good people that they lead, it would help us to install peace and security in the West African sub-region.

Mr Speaker, I cannot continue without commending the former President of the Republic of Ghana as well as the current President, to the extent that they led the mediation effort. The current President came to concur that when persuasion fails, force must be applied.

Mr Speaker, I am not surprised that the Hon Minister said when the military entered The Gambia, there was no force. I am very happy about that. When one knows that a power that is stronger is in existence, the fear of a more powerful force can sometimes lead one to comply.

This should also speak to us politicians, such that, when we compete with someone, the person is not our enemy. When we lose elections honourably, we must be ready to hand over power, and that would pave the opportunity for us to be one of the "I shall return".

Mr Speaker, it has happened and happened. I strongly believe that this example that has been set by the Heads of State of West Africa, is there for us the young and emerging politicians to learn. When the people decide, we must respect the voice of our constituents. When the nation decides, we must respect the voice of the people. If it goes in your favour, take it. If it does not favour you, be ready to relinquish power.

Mr Speaker, I cannot sit down without making just a humble application. My good Brother, the Hon Defence Minister, having been one of the first to bring a Ministerial Statement, we on this side would humbly make an application to you to request the Minister for Defence to do same and brief the good people of Ghana, especially the Parliament of the Republic of Ghana, about the current situation in Bimbilla.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity.