

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE ABOAKYER FESTIVAL
BY HONOURABLE ALEXANDER K. AFENYO-MARKIN, MP FOR EFFUTU, BY HON. DEREK OHENE
ASSIFO BEKOE, MP FOR UPPER WEST AKIM - 6 APRIL, 2017**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me thank my Hon senior Colleague from Effutu, for making this Statement, celebrating the Aboakyer Festival.

Mr Speaker, celebration of festivals in this country forms a major part of our tradition and culture. Aboakyer, which we all know, has been one of these festivals since time of old. But the problem and the challenge that we want to alert the Police to take care of, is the peaceful atmosphere in which this festival needs to be celebrated. Often, we hear of clashes of the two major factions in town, which normally mar the beauty of celebrating the Aboakyer Festival.

When it comes to the environmental aspect, as my Hon senior Colleague and senior Member said, while in school in Winneba, WINNESEC, we were made to believe that the deer was always placed in the forest by the gods. So, if the gods are providing their deer, then Mr Speaker, on that note, I would say there is no cause for alarm for the depletion of the deer in the forest.

What is a matter of concern is the peaceful atmosphere that Aboakyer needs. Actually, the people who come from far and near to witness and also to be part of this celebration, need to be protected as much as this major festival in the history of the country.

On this, I would also add my voice in calling on the Police to make provisions to make sure people who attend this festival, the celebrants and the visitors as well, would all be protected so that after the 1st May Celebration, we would not have any problem or hear news of disaster and clashes in Effutu, which normally mar the celebration of Aboakyer.

On this note, I would want to thank my Hon Colleague and brother, for making me remember my days in WINNESEC, when we would all join the masses in celebrating Aboakyer. Thank you, Mr Speaker.