

SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY BY HONOURABLE DR KWABENA TWUM-NUAMAH, MP FOR BEREKUM EAST - 24 MARCH, 2017

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Statement on the floor. Mr Speaker, without doubt, Tuberculosis is one of the most difficult diseases that has confronted the developing world, and the burden has been increased with the coming of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Hitherto, people who used to not suffer from TB are now getting a lot of problems from TB because of underlying HIV infections.

Mr Speaker, because of technology, the invention of the Gene Xpert technology has now enabled cases which were hidden from other diagnostic tools, to be revealed now. Unfortunately, this technology is not very common in the country. So, that anybody with this condition would be caught so that we could treat them. Unfortunately, not all districts in Ghana have this technology.

Mr Speaker, secondly, the use of digital x-ray machines has also contributed a lot in revealing cases of tuberculosis. Here too, not all hospitals in Ghana have this digital x-ray machines. So, it would be very encouraging if steps are taken to ensure that these two facilities are made available to, at least, every district hospital in the country.

Mr Speaker, the other challenge is the financial challenges facing the National Tuberculosis Programme as regards the purchase of the anti-Tuberculosis medications. Because of the fact that Ghana has now attained a lower middle-income status, Global Funders is gradually reducing their funding support for the National Tuberculosis Programme.

So, as a country, we have to increase our funding support for the National Tuberculosis Programme. If not, we would not be able to meet all our demands for our Tuberculosis patients in the country. If we are not able to treat them, they would go get resistant strains, and it would create more problems for the country.

Mr Speaker, it is my hope that, as a country, we would take this as a challenge and be able to make resources available, so that, we can save all tuberculosis patients in the country and also ensure that, Tuberculosis is done away with in the country.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity.