

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY BY  
HONOURABLE DR SEBASTIAN N. SANDAARE, MP FOR DAFFIAMA/BUSSIEL/ISSA - 21 MARCH,  
2017**

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I beg to associate myself with the Hon Colleague who made the Statement on this World Down-Syndrome Day, otherwise known as Trisomy 21. Mr Speaker, all of us are made up of genes, and our survival on earth is an interaction between our genetic makeup and the environment in which we are born. Others like sickle cell disease, glucose 6 phosphate deficiency disease are all genetic abnormalities, but once born, our Constitution 1992 in article 13, guarantees the right to life.

Mr Speaker, therefore, children with Down-Syndrome have the right to life. As a society, we have to ensure that we protect these individuals to live and also contribute to the nation Ghana. Mr Speaker, as well articulated by the Hon Member who made the Statement, it is known that in about 1 in 800 births, one is likely to be born with this condition, and therefore, as a society, we have to develop ways to protect them.

Normally, they are born with problems such as feeding, difficulty in breathing and others that normal children are not exposed to. The public would have to be educated on the symptoms and signs of down-syndrome and what we can do to prolong their lives. Mr Speaker, sometimes, cultural practices endanger the lives of children with down-syndrome. In some societies, the elders find ways of disposing these children. Either they are thrown far away from society, into water or forests, just to ensure that they do not grow up with these challenges that society does not want.

Mr Speaker, it is our duty to educate the public and let people know that they are also human beings and they have the right to life. If we protect them, they would live to contribute to mother Ghana.

Mr Speaker, I would therefore, join my Hon Colleague to appeal that we develop child development centres in our various constituencies, districts or regions, so that parents who have children with these problems could easily go to these centres for early counselling and care.