

SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY BY HONOURABLE DR SEBASTIAN N. SANDAARE, MP FOR DAFFIAMA/BUSSIE/ISSA - 24 MARCH, 2017

Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a comment on the Statement made by the Hon Member on the World TB Day. Indeed, I rise to thank the Hon Member who made the Statement on this particular and very important day. TB is a disease that affects all of us because, those with the disease spread it to those of us who are healthy, therefore, the need for more public education on TB.

Mr Speaker, indeed, the burden of TB is about four times higher than we know, and it is complicated by the fact that, as a country, we are dealing with the challenge of drug resistance to the bacteria, and this is adding more cost to the country.

Therefore, we need to educate the public that, TB is curable and that anybody with a cough of a duration of at least two weeks is encouraged to visit the nearest health facility, where he or she would be investigated, and if diagnosed with TB, then treatment would be started very early. The challenge at the health facilities is that, those with TB report very late and once one reports very late, then, the complications would have already set in and it would normally be difficult to save the lives of these patients.

Mr Speaker, so, I would add my voice to the Hon Member who made the Statement and say that, we should see it as a national duty and educate members of the public to take TB seriously and report to health facilities early, so that we could handle this disease.

Mr Speaker, thank you.