

SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF ROAD TRAFFIC CRASHES IN GHANA BY HONOURABLE DR SEBASTIAN NGMENENSO SANDAARE, MP FOR DAFFIAMA/BUSSIE/ISSA - 3 MARCH, 2017

Mr Speaker, I rise to contribute to the Statement made by Hon Linda Akweley Ocloo, Member of Parliament for ShaiOsudoku Constituency on the consequences of road traffic crashes in Ghana. Mr Speaker, the issue about road traffic accidents is not only about road safety, but it is also an issue of public health concern.

Mr Speaker, we are losing too many lives in this country through road traffic accidents. Annually, we lose about 1600 lives; averagely about four (4) deaths daily. About 70 per cent of these deaths are males and 30 per cent are females. This should be a worry to all of us.

Mr Speaker, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has projected that if nothing is done about road traffic accidents by the year 2020, road traffic injuries would be about the third ranked causes of morbidity and mortality globally. Mr Speaker, the causes are a number of factors put together: the human factor, where the drivers form about 60 per cent to 70 per cent of the cause, Indiscipline, use of drugs and alcohol contribute to the reckless nature by which our drivers drive. The vehicular factors are also there: the kind of vehicles we use and whether they are in the right condition. Mr Speaker, the nature of our roads is another factor. What is also worrying is that, generally we know that when roads are bad, then we anticipate that we should have more accidents. In Ghana, it is the opposite. When the roads are good or fairly good, that is when more accidents are recorded.

The nature of road traffic accidents is that, it is not a respecter of persons. Politicians die, doctors die, journalists die and children die. We are all at risk. Anytime someone dies through road traffic accident, the question I ask myself is, “could I be the next person?”

Mr Speaker, the last contribution I would want to make is about our response to emergencies resulting from road traffic accidents. Mr Speaker, our health system does not have the adequate capacity to respond to save lives when we have casualties resulting from road traffic accidents.

Mr Speaker, I join the Hon Member who made the Statement to call for collective action by the National Road Safety Commission, the Police, Ministry of Health — I mean, all of us should join hands to ensure that we prevent road traffic accidents because, together, we can save millions of lives.