

SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON TIME TO REFORM AND DECENTRALISE OPERATIONS OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS SECRETARIAT BY HONOURABLE FRANK ANNOH-DOMPHEH, MP FOR NSAWAM-ADOAGYIRI, BY HON. MATTHEW NYINDAM, MP FOR KPANDAI - 5 APRIL, 2017

Mr Speaker, I would want to give a brief comment and thank the Hon Member who made the Statement and also to congratulate him for bringing our attention to this very important subject matter.

Mr Speaker, I believe no individual should be deprived of access to education because of the poverty level. I am sure that is the rationale behind the offering of scholarships to brilliant but needy students.

Mr Speaker, unfortunately, because of the human factor, people who deserve to have access to these scholarships —

Mr Speaker, I thank you for adding the political aspect. But more importantly is the human factor. People who actually need this particular facility do not get the opportunity to utilise it. That is why I would want to agree with the Hon Members who proposed that, inasmuch as we would want to decentralise this particular Secretariat, it should be done with technology, so that individuals could access the scholarship through the internet.

Mr Speaker, if such an approach is encouraged, the human factor would minimise and people who actually deserve it would be given the opportunity.

The current situation is difficult and it is gradually making Hon Members of Parliament agents of the Scholarships Secretariat. This is because individuals from our communities, who want scholarship forms come to us. I believe it is not the best way, and I would want to discourage that.

Mr Speaker, I would also want to appeal to the Scholarships Secretariat, that people who are disabled and are part of this particular scheme should be given the needed attention, so that they can also develop their potentials. This is because disability does not mean inability.

Mr Speaker, with these few words, I would want to support the proposal which was made, that a Bill should be introduced, to bring all these units that give scholarships together so that proper regulations can be offered for the betterment of this particular institution.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity.