

SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON GHANA @ 60 CELEBRATION BY HONOURABLE ALHASSAN SUHUYINI SAYIBU, MP FOR TAMALE NORTH AND ON GHANA AT 60: A TIME TO MOVE FROM RHETORIC TO ACTION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT BY HONOURABLE DR EMMANUEL MARFO, MP FOR OFORIKROM, BY HON MATTHEW NYINDAM, MP FOR KPANDAI - 16 FEBRUARY, 2017

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to contribute to the Statement ably made by Hon Colleagues from both the Majority and the Minority sides of the House.

Mr Speaker, on 6th March, 2017, Ghana would be sixty years. Let me use this opportunity to assure the Hon Member from Tamale North that, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo pledged to the people of this country that he would protect the public purse. The GH¢20 million mentioned, I can assure him, if we do not do below that, we would not do above that.

Mr Speaker, I also would want to put on record that the planning committee did not quote the amount in United States dollars; they quoted it in Ghana cedis. We are talking about GH¢20 million.

Mr Speaker, Ghana can do below GH¢20 million if we do become spectators. If we look at the budget, the planning committee is advocating that each and every one should try and contribute the little he could. For instance, out of the GH¢20 million, the little the Hon Member from Adaklu contributes, even if it is GH¢500.00, it would reduce the weight on the public purse.

Mr Speaker, so, he should not be afraid. We are not taking this money from the Central Government alone; individuals are also going to contribute.

Mr Speaker, I am happy my Hon Friend is advancing the point that individuals and corporate bodies are contributing. So, at the end of the day, his quota is much needed and my quota is also much needed.

Mr Speaker, let me continue. The Hon Member who first made the Statement, the Hon Member from Tamale North, said that; ‘life begins at forty and ends at sixty’. “Life begins at forty” is a common saying. When one is working, if Ghana were a human being, Ghana would have gone on retirement from active service at the age of sixty.

Mr Speaker, as I said earlier, they say life begins at forty years. If one is a government worker in the country, we all know that at the age of sixty, he or she would retire. Mr Speaker, the retirement age —

Mr Speaker, I agree to some extent that, it is not in all sectors that folks retire at the age of sixty. But Mr Speaker —

Mr Speaker, there are a lot of people in the country who believe that Ghana is broke, and because we are broke, celebrating Ghana at sixty years should have been suspended. There are a lot of people who also believe that people are not able to afford potable water, people are dying from

malaria and cholera, people cannot get decent places to sleep and for that matter, they believe we should look again at celebrating these sixty years.

Mr Speaker, I agree with those who believe that, but we also, as a nation, have made some progress in life. There is a saying that if one does not work hard during his youthful days, he would be forced to work hard at his old age.

Mr Speaker, as I said, as a nation, we have something to celebrate. Ghana is a shining star when it comes to democracy. There are a lot of countries that would wish their citizens behaved and acted like Ghanaians.

Mr Speaker, we have had peaceful elections in this country. In 1992 and 1996, the people of this country voted for His Excellency Jerry John Rawlings. When they felt it was time, they voted for His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor. Today, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo is the President of the Republic of Ghana. Our democracy is something we can celebrate and talk about.

Mr Speaker, let me get to science and technology. It is true that we have not done much when it comes to science and technology. We could do better, and that is the reason as a nation, at sixty, Ghana must project into the future. Let us look at what we can do. Let us look at how we can transform this country such that, it becomes a shining star for generations yet unborn.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity.