

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON THE PROLIFERATION OF COMMERCIAL GAMBLING IN GHANA BY HONOURABLE MOSES ANIM, MP FOR TROBU - 16 MARCH, 2017**

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Statement ably read by our Hon Colleague. Mr Speaker, the Act governing gaming has given the opportunity for the country to regulate and at the same time make revenue. At the end of it all, we are also experiencing that other aspects of the gaming is affecting our school-going children and youth negatively.

Mr Speaker, affection for science and mathematics has become a challenge for this country, and any time that is needed to make sure our children are gathered so well to learn is very crucial at this material moment.

Mr Speaker, I would want to believe that parents and everybody in this country must be guided. We have seen it in our constituencies, especially at odd times or hours that we expect our children to be at home and learn. These are the times that our children get into these areas and do these illegal gaming we are all talking about. I believe that opinion leaders, assemblymen and women, unit committee members, and Members of Parliament in our communities must consider this as a very serious thing.

Mr Speaker, in my constituency for instance, where I grew up, we all know that it gets to a time when children are supposed to go back home and do some chores. At the Commonwealth Hall in the University of Ghana, Legon, one would realise that, children came out on time because there was a point where one saw them playing around the trees within the hall, but within 30 minutes, one would not see any child around again. They would have gone back home to do what is very important.

Mr Speaker, if gaming at this material moment is taking the crucial hours of our children and students from learning, then I believe that this Statement is timeous and as a House, we must take it seriously and move forward from it. Let us work hard and make sure that we do whatever we can to regulate and also implement efficiently and effectively the laws, to make sure that the revenue we are generating would not be at the expense of the future generation of this country.

Mr Speaker, with these few words, I thank you for the time and opportunity.