

SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON SAYING 'NO' TO SUICIDE ON OUR UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES BY HONOURABLE SOLOMON NAMLIIT BOAR, DEPUTY NORTHERN REGIONAL MINISTER AND MP FOR BUNKPURUGU - 16 MARCH, 2017

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the Statement on the floor. I would first of all thank the Hon Member who made the Statement for the insightful revelation that we have received from him. Mr Speaker, I think the issue of suicide is becoming one too many in our tertiary institutions. We have to look at the behaviour of our wards in schools in a very serious manner.

Mr Speaker, yesterday, I received a very striking information from a student from the University of Education, Winneba. She sent me a text message, which was that, "Uncle, I want to confess something to you, but I do not know how it will end. I do not want my father or my mother to hear of what I am going to tell you, please."

Mr Speaker, the information was that, she is a student who completed senior high school two years ago. She could not pass her English, Mathematics and Science. She was allowed by her parents to go and collect the results from the school. When she did that, we realised she had failed three (3) very important courses.

Mr Speaker, this young lady was brave enough, took the results, went to Kumasi and altered it because she did not want her mother, who is so strict, to know that she had failed in these three core subjects. Mr Speaker, she managed to alter it, and used that one to apply for admission into the University of Education, Winneba.

Mr Speaker, three weeks ago — I am told this is because I called on one of the masters this morning and I was told that they went to confirm their results, only to note that she had failed in these three core subjects. It is very shocking.

So, she was given a letter of dismissal. Now, she cannot go home. She wants to confess to me, we do not know what will happen the next moment because she says that whatever would happen from now, I should not let her parents know why she is in that situation. What I told her this morning was that, I would send her GH¢100.00 to come down to Accra and discuss the issue with me but all was not lost. I could just see that the young lady wants to do something untoward.

Mr Speaker, we would have to take a second look at the way we interact with our children at home; the way we counsel them about the need to study and pass their examinations. This is because I am very sure that the Almighty God directed this young lady to call her Hon Member of Parliament, probably, because I am closer to the family, to confess this to me. Otherwise, she could have gone to the next level to do anything and then we associate it to mental health — self-inflicted mental health.

Mr Speaker, so, the young ones must really understand that success in life is not just all about getting 'A's or 'B's throughout at their Senior High School level or University level. They should

understand how to shape their thinking, as far as life is concerned. This is because the issue of suicide in our tertiary institutions is now becoming too much.

Sometimes, one sits down to wonder why somebody of about 17, 18 or 19 years old would commit suicide. That is a very serious matter and I think we should send a message out there to our children to understand that, life is not all about being the best in their class but then they could be better even without the best grades.

Mr Speaker, on this note, I would want to thank the Hon Member who made the Statement for this very important information we have got from him.