

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON THE STATE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN GHANA
BY HONOURABLE THOMAS NYARKO AMPEM, MP FOR ASUOGYAMAN BY HON ALFRED OKOE
VANDERPUJJE, MP FOR ABLEKUMA SOUTH - 22 FEBRUARY, 2017**

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I rise to make a comment on my Hon Colleague's Statement.

Mr Speaker, I do not believe that we should argue about the tier two issue. Whether we are under the tier two watch or not, the issue for us, I believe, should be the fact that our children are dying; our children are not where they must be at the right time.

Mr Speaker, if we go to my own constituency, Chorkor, and come to James Town, or to Elimina and Ada, in each of these communities, our children, when they should be in the classrooms, are not there. That is a matter that should be of concern to all of us.

Mr Speaker, it should not take America to have to monitor us and use money, such that we do this because we would lose money. Please, I believe that it should be a matter of concern to us, first as Ghanaians, to want to make sure that we are each other's keeper for our children.

Mr Speaker, it is heart-breaking to go to the places that I mentioned and many others, even in our markets throughout this country, or just to walk the streets of our major communities in this country, to see our children who should be in the classrooms and in schools at their prime time missing the classroom for other reasons.

Mr Speaker, sometimes we could blame their parents but where is our culture of being each other's keeper to ensure that we take responsibility as a community for the raising and direction of our children so that they can be better citizens when they grow up?

Mr Speaker, yes, I agree that we must work and do things, so that, in the eyes of the international community, they would see that we are doing the best for our children. But I believe that we would need to put the appropriate laws in place.

Mr Speaker, sometimes, we see children raising children themselves because, we all know about the teenage pregnancy rate in this country. We know that in Accra for example, for several years, so many of our children who should be in school only got four hours of education under the shift system, and they were — sometimes they did not go to school at

all. So for over twenty years, we have had children who raised children, and today, they do not have skills.

Mr Speaker, that is why we have our institutions who must safeguard our children, and these institutions are not performing their expectations as set out in their set ups.

Mr Speaker, I therefore rise to say that the Police must act, and our Social Welfare Institutions must also sit up because our children are dying every day. Our children are losing out on

opportunities, and they would not be there when our country needs them. For me, I believe that this is of uttermost importance.

Mr Speaker, I thank you, and with these few words, I support my Hon Colleague's Statement.