

STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT BY HONORABLE ABLE NAANA EYIAH ON
TEACHERS IMPREGNATING SCHOOL GIRLS

Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker

Teenage pregnancy is an issue of concern to all parents especially mothers because some fathers usually stop caring for their teenage girls when they become pregnant and mothers have to take the responsibility all alone.

Even though teenage Pregnancy is been debated on several platforms and attempts to put in place measures to reduce the situation has been to no avail. In the Central Region of which my constituency is part, recent reports from Ghana Health Service performance Review in the Central Region reveals that 12,048 young girls got pregnant in 2016. 301 of the girls were impregnated by teachers and teachers were named among the top people that impregnated these school girls.

Mr. Speaker, the situation is devastating because teachers who are supposed to play the roles of parents in the schools and are seen in our communities as role models, guardians and counsellors are now the major perpetrators of this wrong doing in our various schools. If we should allow this continuity of this wrong doing, then what is the future of the girl child's education?

Mr Speaker
In my constituency (Gomoa Central) for example we have teenage mothers between the ages of 13 to 16 in almost every home which is one of the factors that lead to high level of poverty in the area. Statistics shows that most of these teenage mothers had no formal education. One of my top most priorities for my constituent is to empower the girl child through education that will help them acquire employable skills. This will improve their access to job opportunities and empower them economically to help their families, reduce teenage parenting and poverty. I see this irresponsible attitudes of some teachers impregnating school girls as a threat to achieving my aim.

Mr Speaker

I wish to appeal to the Honourable Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection to put some mechanisms in place to curb this menace as a matter of urgency.

Mr. Speaker, I also urge the Police to enforce the section 101 (1) & (2) of the Criminal Offence Act, 1960 (Act 29). This law makes one criminally liable if he

has natural or unnatural carnal knowledge of a child under sixteen years of age. Therefore, teachers who impregnate these school children are culpable and must face the full rigour of the law.

Mr. Speaker, I will also encourage all parents whose girl children or wards fall victim to this wrongdoing, to promptly report such criminal acts to the Police.

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am very grateful.