

**STATEMENT BY THE HON. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR LAWRA-
BEDE A. ZIEDENG ON THE RECENT FIRE OUTBREAK WHICH
GUTTED THE GIRLS DORMITORY OF EREMON SENIOR TECHNICAL
HIGH SCHOOL**

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to make this statement on the recent fire outbreak at the Eremon Senior Technical High School.

Mr. Speaker, the Eremon Senior Technical High School is one of the three Senior High Schools in my constituency and the Lawra Municipality of the Upper West Region. On the night of Monday 6th February 2023, at about 7:00pm, I was informed by the municipal Director of Education and the Headmaster of the School that the Girls Dormitory was in uncontrollable flames and the whole school was in confusion. By 1:00pm, the whole dormitory block had been gutted and left in complete ruins.

Mr. Speaker, I was further informed that properties worth thousands of cedis belonging to the students were destroyed as nothing could be salvaged. Sadly, this also included the little cash the students had with them in school.

Mr. Speaker, my information is that, the female students are traumatized and are currently housed in some make-shift accommodation within the campus.

According to the school authorities, it would take a while to estimate the cost of the damage to the belongings of the students who were unable to salvage any of their items lost as a result of the fire.

Not even the arrival of the Ghana National Fire Service could save the situation. According to eye witness's accounts, the cause of the fire is yet to be established. However, what is known is that, there were intermittent power outages on the campus prior to the fire outbreak yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, the situation is really devastating and I am extremely sad by the development. My deep sorrow goes to the students and the school's management and staff. Indeed, this unfortunate incident has taken everybody by surprise. I got the sad news a few minutes after I returned to Accra on Monday from the constituency. It is, however, a great relief that no life has been lost.

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

Mr. Speaker I am currently in touch with the school management, the Municipal Chief Executive and the Upper West Regional Minister, in finding an immediate solution to the problems so that normal academic work will continue in order that the students do not get distracted unduly.

I call on parents whose children are affected by the fire to remain calm as efforts are underway to find a suitable solution for the incident.

Mr. Speaker permit me to use the platform of this August House to also call on public-spirited people to come to the aid of the students and the school so that the burden of reconstruction of the girl's dormitory which has been burnt down completely will not be the entire responsibility of the government.

I also appeal to the Municipal Assembly, the Upper West Regional Co-ordinating Council, the Ministry of Education, NADMO, and indeed the entire government of Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo Addo - Dr. Mahamudu Bawmia to as a matter of urgency take steps to bring some relief to the girls and the school authorities. In particular, I appeal to the GETFUND to come to the aid of the school with a building for the girls as soon as possible. On my part I will make my support available after the school authorities have assessed the situation and given an indication of their priority areas.

My heart goes out for these young female students who have had to suffer this extreme trauma. May God continue to guide and protect them.

Once more, I thank you Mr. Speaker for the opportunity.