

**SAYING 'NO' TO SUICIDE ON OUR UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES**  
**STATEMENT BY HON DR. EMMANUEL MARFO (MP FOR OFORIKROM)**

**The Rt. Hon. Speaker,**

The incidence of suicides on our university campuses is becoming too worrying. Just this weekend, one has happened on Legon campus. I am sad to observe that just about two weeks or so ago, another 18-year old first year student of the Independence Hall of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNSUT) was found dead in her room occurred in my Constituency. I was shocked upon hearing the news and wish to express my deepest condolences to the family of the deceased and the University community at large. Mr Speaker, I engaged the University authorities last weekend on the issue and as we speak, investigations into the alleged case of suicide is ongoing. At this moment, I will only want to dwell on some peripheral issues related to student security, health and access to counselling, which all have implications for safety.

Mr Speaker it is important because this is not the first time we are hearing of a student committing suicide on our campuses and I believe the time has come for us to say 'no more suicides on our campuses.'

First of all, Mr. Speaker, many of our students are accommodated outside the main campuses due to inadequate official residence facilities. Today, towns like Ayeduase and Bomso for example have become the main areas hosting almost all continuing students of KNUST and I believe the situation may not be different in other universities. The question is how safe are these private hostels? Mr Speaker, I personally walked through the gates of some hostels this weekend without anybody questioning me, so you can imagine if I were a criminal! I understand that the Tourist Board conduct inspections and certify the safety of buildings meant for private hostels. Yet, my cursory checks of some hostels suggest to me that we have more to do in terms of security. in the case of KNUST for example, the situation in some areas is so bad that that it is the SRC has taken steps to provide street lights in the neighbourhood of some hostels in order to ensure the security of students from robbery attacks and rape. the Ministry of Education may need to

