

**STATEMENT BY THE HON. COLLINS OWUSU AMANKWAH, MP FOR  
MANHYIA NORTH AND SECRETARY OF THE GHANA CHAPTER OF  
AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK AGAINST CORRUPTION  
(APNAC)**

I thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me the opportunity to make this statement in commemoration of African Union Day Against Corruption.

Mr. Speaker, the African Union (AU) at its 30th Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in January 2018 declared 2018 as the African Anti-Corruption Year. The Summit was held under the theme: "Winning the Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation".

Mr Speaker, what is significant of the Day is that after many years of battling with corruption, it appears African Leaders are beginning to move the discussion from rhetoric to concerted actions. African Leaders have appreciated the fact that the development, grounded on good governance, democratic values, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law as spelled out in the Agenda 2063 of the African Union would be a nightmare if corruption is left unconquered.

The paradox is that while African businesses are booming, majority of Africa's population living below the poverty line keeps on increasing as reported by the UN Human Development Index. While Africa is a land endowed with rich natural and human resources, several of its states remain heavily dependent on foreign aid to meet the most basic needs of their citizens. A youthful continent, with about 65% of the population below age 35, yet high levels of illiteracy and unemployment.

Regrettably, Mr. Speaker, the 2017 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) published by the Transparency International revealed that eight (8) countries in Sub-Saharan

Africa were among the list of 10 most corrupt countries in the world. The African Union estimates that Africa loses about \$148 billion annually due to corruption. Ghana's situation is not different as evidenced by the annual reports published by the Auditor General.

The critical situation which demands solemn reflection is that with several anti-corruption commitments and frameworks promulgated by AU, such as AU Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption (AUCPCC); African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation, Local Governance and Local Development as well as those promulgated at country levels, reports and perceptions of corruption are still on ascendancy.

Mr. Speaker as we commemorate the Day, I wish to propose that we take serious introspection of our approach to the fight against corruption and accept the fact that corruption undermines every fabric of the very democracy and the rule of law that we are striving to build, leads to violations of human rights, hampers political and economic stability and thwarts effort of eradicating poverty, inequality and marginalization. In fact it is the worst enemy to our forward march towards economic transformation and emancipation.

I call on all stakeholders to be committed to enforcing our anti-corruption legal and regulatory instruments, strengthen anti-corruption institutions and ensure that they are free from political interference, protect the independence of justice systems, which is the cornerstone of the rule of law, and allow citizens and civil society to demand accountability from duty bearers without undue restrictions. Parliament should also be adequately resourced to carry out its oversight responsibilities.

I am sincerely hopeful that with tenacity of common purpose, concerted effort and persistent commitment we would be able to win the fight against the canker to increase the fortunes of Africa and create prosperity for all but NOT a section of the people who are fortunate to occupy certain positions.

I am grateful to you, Mr. Speaker, for given the opportunity.