

# INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to make a statement on the floor.

Today is international dance day!

Mr Speaker, which means that we in Ghana, as part of the Community of nations, also celebrate it. Mr Speaker, dance is an art form within every culture of the world. When performed, it elicits a wide variety of emotions, happiness, excitement, peace and sadness. For us as Ghanaians, dance is a key to our very existence. It is a key form of communication. Dance binds and bonds us. A man from Wallembele, my hometown, marries a beautiful woman from the president's hometown, Kyebi, when there is an event <sup>in</sup> from Kyebi and the Kete drummers invite the man to dance, his performance brings harmony to the family and seals the relationship of the two cultures.

In Ghana, dance as an art form falls under the performing arts. The performing arts as a social, cultural and economic oriented sector is the responsibility of the National Theatre of Ghana.

Mr Speaker, I stand here, humbly as a member of its Board. The national theatre with its national dance company, has uplifted our various dance forms on the local and international levels. Today, in the corridors of this august house, they have excited members, some of who joined them in dance.

We on the Board have re-oriented the direction of the theatre with a vision; 'To be the beacon of the performing arts for Ghana'

Mr Speaker, what that means is that, in the area of dance in particular, we are working to bring all that Ghana has to the fore for the benefits of cultural harmony, tourism, education, job creation and health.

We have also targeted to raise Fifty Million Ghana Cedis to support our work in communities across the country. We call on all MPs to support us in this endeavour.

The national theatre invites all MPs to come to our variety of performances in dance, drama and music

Mr Speaker, today is international dance day!

Let us dance for harmony and peace.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.