

THE CONSEQUENCES OF ROAD TRAFFIC CRASHES IN GHANA
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Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for giving me the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, permit me to begin my submission with a quote by Moira Fowley-Doyle **"Accidents happens, our bones shatter, our skin splits, our hearts break. We burn, we drown and we stay alive."**

Road accidents in this country I know has been a major concern to this house. Mr. Speaker, it is on record that several submissions have been made by Honourable Members. But as a victim to this painful experience, I deem it very appropriate to add my voice.

Mr. Speaker, road accident is what has made me as young as I am to become a widow, with the burden of taking care of five very young children. Mr. Speaker, one road accident death can result in the death of a whole family's hopes and aspirations. It leads to loss of potential human resources.

Mr. Speaker, today March 3, 2017, is a dark day in the lives of many people especially, me. Today reminds me of pain and it also gives me the opportunity to appreciate what many others are going through. In making my submission, it also gives me the opportunity to pay tribute to my late husband, Mr. William Desmond Ocloo. Mr. Speaker, today is exactly a year that he lost his life in a tragic road accident from the recklessness of an indisciplined driver. **Joe Willie as he was affectionately called was a gentleman of courage and who spoke with candour. He was a man who could transport his audience with his image of glory and goodness but was also a realistic politician who knew the perils that could befall citizens who were seduced by golden words. His favourite quote is from Mahatma Gandhi "man is like ocean, if portion of the ocean is dirty that does not mean the whole ocean is dirty. We must have faith in humanity". This he will quote to refute any erroneous impression about politics and politicians. May His soul Rest in Perfect Peace.**

Mr. Speaker, there are too many reckless drivers on our roads. Mr. Speaker the alarming situation of road accidents should no more be seen as accidental but as a suicide attacks on our roads.

We may recall that in August 2005 Ghana lost three doctors of the Urology Department of the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital to road accident.



And just last week the NPP former Member of Parliament for Akwatia Dr. Kofi Asare, also lost his life in another road accident.

Mr. Speaker, let me use this opportunity to make a passionate appeal to the Acting Inspector General of Police (IGP) to build upon the work of his predecessors and to maintain high policing among the officers and men within the Ghana Police Service.

Mr. Speaker, as a nation we will be failing if we do not find solutions to deal with reckless driving, use of faulty vehicles and other serious road offences on our roads. Mr. Speaker, even though the police and the DVLA are playing their roles, I think they must intensify their operations in order to reduce the human slaughtering on our roads.

Mr. Speaker, another area of concern which must receive serious attention is handling of accident victims by unprofessionals. I believe some of the deaths could be avoided if prompt emergency responses are put in place to attend to accident victims.

Mr. Speaker, as a nation we owe it a duty to protect lives and properties and so, I will entreat this noble house to come out with legislations that will help to strictly enforce road traffic rules and regulations in order to bring sanity on our roads.

Conclusively, Paraphrasing Moira, when accidents happen there are many different consequences; shattered bones, broken skin and broken hearts. We burn and drown, but we must stay alive especially those of us who remain.

I believe we can achieve reduce the carnage on our roads if we commit to the cause; for as the saying goes "where there is a will there is a way"

Mr. Speaker, may the soul of all the faithful departed through road crashes and especially my beloved husband, William Desmond Ocloo rest in the bosom of the Lord. Rest in Peace.

Thank you and God bless.

