

**A STATEMENT TO CONGRATULATE ISAAC DOGBOE BY THE
RANKING MEMBER OF THE YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE
COMMITTEE, HON. KOBENA WOYOME**

Rt. Hon. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to make this statement which is intended to congratulate the Young talented WBO World Champion Isaac Dogboe who is just 23 years old.

Mr. Speaker, Isaac Zion Dogboe is the latest to project Ghana to the world by winning the WBO Super Bantamweight title in Liacouras Center, Philadelphia, United States. He defeated Jessie Magdaleno from the United States in the 11th round in a steely display of determination and resilience as well as display that one can describe as purely hungry-for-success despite been floored in the first round, he stood up and with hard work and perseverance sent down his opponent three (3) times before he was saved by the referee.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to acknowledge the humble beginning of this determined young man who is on the rise to match legend before him like the Azumah Nelson, Ike Quartey and Joshua Clottey. Inspire of his educational background, the young man discovered his talent at a very young age and pursued it with passion which today we see it manifested in the world title.

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It is also worth noting how his father Paul Dogboe who is his coach, mentor and inspiration left his white collar job to see him through this journey which has proved successful. As we honor the champion for his heroics, we must not forget the men who behind the scenes sacrificed their time and everything to see the success of Isaac's journey.

Mr. Speaker, Dogboe has shown that the youth of today with determination and the right attitude, one can succeed and achieve greatness. When he discovered his talent, he pursued it with passion, discipline, determination and hard work. Got the necessary inspiration, mentorship and tutorship from his father and He is today a world champion.

Today in Ghana, Mr. Speaker, the youth have developed interest in boxing. We do have so many boxing clubs with majority of them based in Accra. It is worth noting that all Ghana's past world champions were products of the Ghana Amateur Boxing. Amateur Boxing is no more as it used to be and it is important that it's put back into the pinnacle where it once belongs.

Also, our nation has focused so much attention on football which affects other sporting disciplines, meanwhile, despite our focus on football, not so much is yet to be achieved while boxing is growing in immerse challenges and producing heroes like Isaac Dogboe. The Ministry Of

Youth and Sports must make sure adequate funding and necessary attention is given to boxing like we have for football, this will go a long way to promote job creation, improved attendance which will lead to more funds for government and also sell Ghana to the world as more and more young talents hit the international stage to challenge for world titles. Isaac Dogboe's heroics has no doubt awaken Ghana from our long slumber and we need to do more for boxing.

Mr. Speaker, Ghana has been blessed with this exceptionally talented crop of youngsters who are ready to die for this country through boxing. I want to urge the officialdom of the National Sports Authority and the technical men to continue to nurture these youngsters and keep faith in them and I can assure you that more hard work, dedication, resilience and further honing of their skills and tactics, Ghana will produce more title holders.

I am therefore using this opportunity to call on the government and all stakeholders including the Committee on Youth, Sports and Culture to, as a matter of urgency, see how amateur boxing will be strengthened to take care of the youth who are showing interest in the game.

On behalf of the Speaker of Parliament and Parliament, I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Isaac for the victory. This victory will go a long way to ensure that the dream of every Ghanaian to see boxing once again taking the centre stage of our sporting activities

Keep climbing the ladder of success and the sky will be your limit. We are here to support you each step on the way.

We say AYEKOO ISAAC DOGBOE !!

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity.