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**STATEMENT BY THE MAJORITY LEADER AND LEADER OF
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON THE EBOLA EPIDEMIC &
INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE
19th August, 2014**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members

Let me start by thanking our development partners for all their contributions towards our fight against this sinister outbreak of the deadly disease called Ebola. No gift is too small for us in this fight, no assistance too big, because the socio-economic effects of this deadly plague have created setbacks that are likely to reverse the hard-won gains of the Agenda for Prosperity.

Meanwhile, we are appalled by the slow pace of response by some of our development partners and the abandonment and isolation from those we viewed and believed to be our biggest friends at sub-regional, regional and global levels. These ugly developments are evidenced in cancellation of flights, closing of borders, reduction of operational hours in banks, and further isolation by shutting down of businesses at the time of greatest need.

But we are determined as a nation and we know that through our collective resolve, our prayers and the intervention of the Almighty, this war will soon be over.

When life returns to normal, it behooves us to review our partnerships, considering that good relationships are anchored on principles of mutuality and trust.

Let me announce that Parliament at its next sittings will invite the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassadors to apprise us of all the assistance rendered by our friends and development partners, so as to form a permanent record of who our true friends are as we strive to put this ugly situation behind us.

I thank you.