

Audit Service Bulletin

Vision : To become a world class supreme audit institution, delivering professional, excellent and cost effective auditing



Christmas Message from Mr Johnson Akuamoah Asiedu - Acting Auditor-General

Each year comes and slides away, walking through our lives with its own hope, fear, laughter, and challenges, but we are assured that everyone has resilience to contain whatever it offers as long as we have been blessed with life.



use this holiday season to say a big thank-you to every staff of the Service for your hard work, commitment, and dedication to building a better Audit Service for our motherland Ghana.

Let us use the season to reflect and act on these important relations;

*To your enemy, forgiveness
To an opponent, tolerance
To a friend, your heart
To a client, service
To the less privileged, charity
To the ones we lost, sleep well
To all, love and
To yourself, respect and appreciation*

This year, in the history of the Service, has been eventful and unique, but by the grace of Almighty God, we can confidently say it all ended with the success of achieving our mandate. To all staff who have been strong, diligent, and never given up but worked hard through the challenges of the pandemic and seeming turbulence, I can say nothing better than **ayekeoooooooooooo!** I am amazed at the effort and diligence put in by staff in delivering on assignments and seeing through their audit programmes.

You have all proved to be loyal to the Service and even when in our minds sometimes, we may have doubted ourselves, we still achieved. I would like to

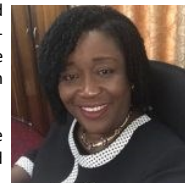
Together let us forge toward our vision, never relenting, doing as much as we can, whenever we can.

I pray for all that 2021 showers on us; love, laughter, success and good health
And for the Service, greater heights in all our endeavours. God richly bless you all!

Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Christmas Message from Mrs Roberta Asiamah- DAG/DAD

This year has been an eventful year, filled with a lot of uncertainties. But as an organisation, we have been able to overcome these challenges and have gone through the year accomplishing our targets.



The Service feels proud to have valuable employees like you who have provided excelled service.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be safe and protect yourself from the COVID-19 pandemic by following all the protocols.

Christmas Message from Mr. George Winful - DAG/EID



This year has been an extra ordinary one across the world. As you may be aware of, the Ghana Audit Service has experienced so many uncertainties and opportunities.

Reflecting particularly on the COVID 19 pandemic, I am proud of how the Service responded to the situation. So far, we've been able to ensure the safety of staff and also leveraged on technology so well, resulting in minimal disruption in our operational activities. We can also be proud that, not only have we been able to deliver on our mandate, but also, we were able to donate Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to three strategic health institution involved in the fight against the Corona Virus.

As we move into the new year (2021), let's resolve to even do better than we've done in the past in ensuring the promotion of public accountability, the core mandate of the Service.

In the coming festivities, I urge you to celebrate moderately to minimize your risk of contracting the virus.

On that note! I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year. Afehyia Pa ooooooo

Christmas Message from Mr Mohammed Zakaria Ali - DAG/FA&HRD



2020 has been an eventful year with a lot of uncertainties. But as an organisation, we have been able to prevail and have undertaken our duties to achieve our targets for the year.

As the year comes to an end, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As you engage in the seasonal festivities, I entreat you to abide by all the COVID-19 protocols and keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

Christmas Message from Mr Lawrence N. Ayagiba - DAG/PSAD



The year 2020 has been a difficult year because of the COVID-19 pandemic which affected our work plan initially.

However, we have been able to surmount the challenges to work and produce some reports. I hope next year will be much better.

I wish you all Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Enjoy the holidays and remember to stay safe by following the COVID-19 protocols.

In this issue

Christmas messages from Ag. AG	1
Christmas messages from DAGs	1
COVID-19-How to stay safe	1
Upcoming events	1
Heart: 72 beats of Health and Happiness	2
Audit Service Staff undergo capacity building training	2
Personality profile	2

Articles and contributions are welcome from staff

COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS

HOW TO STAY SAFE



UPCOMING EVENTS

* Roll-out of AMIS

Heart: 72 beats of Health and Happiness

The advent of modern technology has brought about a drastic shift in comfort and convenience for people of all economic stratas and age groups. However, this has also resulted in fast paced and stressful lifestyles that have contributed to a spike in heart diseases. A bigger challenge is tackling cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) as their onset begins slowly but eventually leads to serious disturbances in heart health.

Cardio-Vascular Disease Burden

There is enough evidence suggesting that more people die annually from CVDs than from any other health issues. As per WHO estimates, 17.9 million people died from CVDs in 2016, representing 31% of all global deaths. Non-communicable diseases which mainly comprise of CVDs had been responsible for 2.6 million deaths or about 35% of all deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa.

High blood pressure, heart attack, heart disease and stroke are some of the key cardiac health issues CVD patients suffer from. Ghana has a significant cardiovascular disease burden and heart diseases are reported to be one of the leading causes of deaths under non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

What is Heart Disease?

Heart disease or cardiovascular disease includes a range of conditions that affect your heart. This includes blood vessel diseases such as Coronary Artery Disease (CAD), heart rhythm abnormalities, and heart defects among new-born babies to name a few.

Coronary Heart Disease occurs when the arteries that supply blood to the heart muscle become hardened and narrowed due to a build-up of plaque on the arteries' inner walls. Plaque is the accumulation of fat, cholesterol and other substances. As the arteries get narrower due to plaque depositions, blood flow to the heart gets reduced.

Heart disease can lead to a heart attack which is what happens when an artery becomes totally blocked with plaque, preventing the supply of vital oxygen and nutrients to the heart. A heart attack can cause permanent damage to the heart muscles. Other factors may also

contribute to heart diseases including Sleep Apnea, stress, and harmful consumption of alcohol.

Symptoms

Cardiovascular disease symptoms can be different for men and women. Men are more likely to have chest pain; women are more likely to have other symptoms along with chest pain, such as shortness of breath, nausea and extreme fatigue.

Symptoms can include:

- Chest pain, chest tightness, chest pressure and chest discomfort (angina)
- Shortness of breath
- Pain, numbness, weakness or coldness in your legs or arms
- Pain in the neck, jaw, throat, upper abdomen or back
- Nausea and fatigue

Types of Heart Diseases

- **Congenital Heart Disease** – A general term for some deformities of the heart that have been present since birth
- **Arrhythmia** - An irregular heartbeat
- **Coronary Artery Disease** - Disease caused by a buildup of atherosclerotic plaque in the coronary arteries that supply the heart muscles with nutrients and oxygen
- **Myocardial Infarction** - Commonly known as a heart attack. Occurs when blood flow decreases or stops to a part of the heart, causing damage to the heart muscle
- **Heart Failure** – Also known as congestive heart failure. Occurs when the heart does not pump blood around the body efficiently

Diagnostic Avenues

Generally ECG is the most common diagnostic tool used by Cardiologists and physicians to assess heart health. Advanced tests like TMT, ECO Cardiogram, Doppler also are available to provide detail diagnoses. Angiography is done to find out presence of clots in the Coronary Arteries. Early detection of conditions that warn of an impending heart

disease such as Hypertension, Dyslipidemia, Diabetes, Triglyceridemia aid in timely treatment of the same and can prevent development of severe cardiac ailments. There are a number of Pathology tests available like Lipid Profile, Apo A/B ratio, Lipoprotein (a), High Sensitive Troponin I, Glucose tests etc. which help to detect the early warning signs of a serious heart disease. It is therefore important to undergo regular check-ups under medical supervision after a specific age irrespective of signs and symptoms.

Ways to control/limit severity of heart dysfunction

While we cannot change some causative factors of cardiovascular diseases like family history, gender or age. Most heart diseases can be averted by addressing behavioural risk factors such as

- Smoking
- High blood pressure
- High blood cholesterol
- Obesity or being overweight
- Lack of physical activity
- Unhealthy diet
- Diabetes and pre-diabetes

Conclusion

The Heart is probably the least appreciated organ of our body despite it being responsible for several critical functions. Heart health is of utmost importance as far as our overall wellness is concerned. Those among us, who witness any symptoms or have the presence of any underlying disease which can cause heart ailments, should immediately contact their healthcare providers. A routine heart check-up for healthy individuals is also recommended. As far as diagnosis and treatment of heart ailments as concerned, accurate test reports are key to effective management. Hence, one should always choose a lab which is accredited by reputed local and international quality standards since quality and accuracy of the results are directly related to favourable patients' treatment outcomes.

Source: Daily Graphic (29/09/20)

Audit Service Staff undergo capacity building training—Kwamena Tandoh and Hannah Obeng (PR Unit)

The Board and Management of the Audit Service has embarked on a capacity building exercise for staff aimed at equipping staff to carry out audit assignments effectively and efficiently.



Thousand officers comprising of Assistant Auditors, Auditors and Senior Auditors participated in the training exercise which was rolled out in phases. The Board Chairman, Professor Edward Dua Agyeman, in his opening address urged staff to acquire higher professional qualifications to

raise their competitiveness and skill diversities needed for the job in protecting the public purse. He further charged the staff to be innovative in the discharge of their duties towards the continuous upliftment of the image of the



Audit Service.

The Acting Auditor-General, Mr. Johnson Akuamoah Asiedu said the workshop will empower staff to become versatile auditors to deliver their work accordingly. He also encouraged staff to consider the training as an avenue

to improve the quality of their output.

Staff were engaged in several team building activities and lecture sessions in accounting and audit proficiency, basic



leadership, public financial management and the legal framework within which the Audit Service operates.

A section of staff interviewed were full of praise and commended the Board and Management for the positive and insightful training.

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Personality profile



Mavis Markwei

- * Labourer
- * Joined the Audit Service in 2010
- * Hails from La in the Greater Accra Region
- * Enjoys Banku with Tilapia
- * Watches movies as a hobby