

AUDIT SERVICE

In case of reply the
number and date of the
letter should be quoted



Good Governance
and Accountability

My Ref. No: **...GAS/PR/2020/09**

Your Ref. No:

Tel: 233 (0) 302 664920/28/29

Fax: 233 (0) 302 6751495

Website: www.ghaudit.org

P. O. Box **M. 96**

ACCRA

September 30 2020

**TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PRESS STATEMENT

RE: A CALL FOR THE SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL FOR 2019 FINANCIAL YEAR BY THE MINORITY CAUCUS IN PARLIAMENT

Our attention has been drawn to a statement by the Minority Leader of Parliament, Hon. Haruna Iddrisu on 28 September 2020 on behalf of the Minority caucus in Parliament on the above subject and wish to respond as follows:

1. We are aware of the mandate of the Auditor-General as enshrined in the 1992 Constitution and the Audit Service Act 2000, (Act 584) and have always worked to uphold same in times past and would continue to do so.
2. While we admit that the Office has not been able to submit all the Reports of the Auditor-General on the Public Accounts of Ghana for the 2019 financial year to Parliament as required by the relevant laws, we wish to state that this delay is not intentional or purposeful as Hon. Iddrisu sort to adduce. The delay is solely due to the outbreak of the novel corona virus 2019 (COVID-19) that disrupted government business and social life.
3. Section 80(1) of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921) charges Principal Spending Officers of covered entities (public institutions) to prepare and submit their accounts and information to the Auditor-General within two months after the end of each financial year for the purposes of audits. The implication is that audits of the accounts prepared by public institutions only started in earnest in the middle of March 2020. Unfortunately, the Audit Service had to suspend all ongoing audits on 30th March 2020 in complying with the lockdown directives issued to all institutions on 28th March 2020 in line with section 169 of the Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851).
4. The staff of the Audit Service resumed work at their respective locations when the lockdown was lifted, but some employees of the Service contracted covid-19 during the audits resulting in the suspension of audit assignments. Staff were then asked to work from home which

culminated in further delays in the work due to technical and logistical challenges encountered by both auditors and clients (auditees).

5. These delays prevented the various audit teams from completing their audits on schedule to enable the Auditor-General (Mr. Daniel Y. Domelevo) to submit his reports on the public accounts of Ghana to Parliament before the statutory date of 30th June 2020.
6. The delays can certainly not be described as “deliberate for the primary purpose of avoiding further embarrassment to the Government ...or intended to cover up malfeasance on the part of Government because this year is an election year”, as the Minority is speculating, but rather the result of the general situation affecting the nation as a whole, and was totally out of the control of the Auditor-General.
7. The cause of the delay can therefore not be attributed to “the directive by the President to the Auditor-General to proceed on leave” as the Minority’s asserts.
8. It is also instructive to note that on 20th July 2020, the acting Auditor-General (Mr. Johnson Akuamoah Asiedu) submitted the “Report of the Auditor-General on the Consolidated Statements of the Foreign Exchange Receipts and Payments of the Bank of Ghana for the year ended 31st December 2019”. The acting Auditor-General, informed the Right Hon. Speaker of Parliament through the cover letter that reports covering other accounts would delay because of the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the audit activities of the Service.
9. Most of these outstanding reports have since been sent out for printing for onward submission to Parliament. Copies of all reports that would be submitted to Parliament would be published on the Services website (www.ghaudit.org) in due course and in conformity with Section 23 of Act 584.
10. We wish to assure all Ghanaians that the Service would continue to work assiduously in the interest of the nation but would not compromise the health and safety of its courageous and industrious staff who toil to generate the relevant information required to produce Reports for the Auditor-General to submit to Parliament.
11. For further enquiries please contact Mr. Bernard Conduah on 0243317182.



Ama Awotwe-Bosumafi
Assistant Director/Public Relations
Audit Service
For: Acting Auditor-General