

# AUDIT SERVICE

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

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

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Good Governance  
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**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

