



SEND GHANA

(A Subsidiary of SEND Foundation of West Africa)

Press Release

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Telephone: 0553538221/0302716860/Email: info@sendwestafrica.org

Facebook: SEND GHANA / Twitter : Send_Ghana

AUDITOR GENERALS REPORT ON COVID-19 EXPENDITURE SHOULD NOT BECOME ANOTHER AUDIT REPORT: HEADS MUST ROLL.

SEND Ghana has observed with keen interest continuous media reportage on the Auditor General's report regarding the misappropriation of funds mobilised by the government of Ghana to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. Multiple reports suggest that a substantial part of the COVID-19 funds have been grossly misapplied and channelled to fund other government interventions and flagship programs. It is sad to note that out of nearly Gh¢22 billion that was raised to fight the COVID-19 pandemic between March 2020 to June 2022, just a little over half (Gh¢12 billion) was used to fight the pandemic and its related impact. The misapplication and mismanagement of these funds directly contravenes and/or violates the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921) which was instituted to regulate public sector spending.

In April 2022, SEND GHANA called on the Supreme Audit Institutions, the Auditor General Department and the Parliament of Ghana to as part of their oversight role conduct special audit into COVID-19 related expenditures to ensure value for money. Consequently, we highly commend the Auditor General for heeding our call and been bold and decisive. Whiles commending the auditor general for revealing the rot in the COVID-19 expenditures, we wish to emphasise that this should not be just another audit report. Heads must roll. We urge the Auditor General to surcharge and prosecute all persons and entities found culpable. The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament should as a matter of urgency also prioritise sitting on the report and take the necessary action and ensure heads role immediately. The courts must also be proactive and not overly delay in the prosecution of those found culpable, as has been the case in most grand corruption cases involving public officials. This should not be just another audit report.

Heads must roll.

Signed,

Emmanuel Ayifah (PhD)
(Deputy Country Director)

BOARD MEMBERS

Janet Mohammed (Chair)
Al-Hassan Y. Scini
Justina Anglaare
Emmanuel Darko
Moses Bakar

CEO

Siapha Kamara
pha.kamara@sendwestafrica.org

HEAD OFFICE

A28 Regimanuel Estates,
Nungua Barrier,
Sakumono, Accra (D2D)
Tel: +233 (0) 302 716860
+233 (0) 302 716830

Email:

info@sendwestafrica.org

Website:

www.sendwestafrica.org

SALAGA

P. O. Box S182, Salaga
Tel: 233-03726 22088

TAMALE

H/No. RC 8, Rice City,
Gumani, Tamale
P. O. Box T1347, Tamale
Tel: 233-03720 22547 / 24515

Email:

tamale@sendwestafrica.org

Vision: A Ghana where people's rights and well being are guaranteed.

The Mission of SEND is to promote good governance and the equality of women and men in Ghana.