



October 23rd, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

CORRUPTION WATCH COMMENDS GOVERNMENT’S DECISION TO SET UP SPECIALISED COURTS TO HANDLE AUDIT INFRACTIONS

ACCRA – Corruption Watch Ghana has taken notice of a decision by the government to “designate special courts” to handle cases arising from audit infractions contained in the reports of the Audit-General.

We commend the government for taking this crucial decision and believe that, if implemented effectively, it will significantly enhance the fight against corruption. The importance of this initiative is underscored by the fact that just four types of the Auditor-General’s reports covering the five years 2020-2024 contain approximately 82.2 billion cedis of financial irregularities. These reports cover public boards and corporations, ministries, departments, and agencies, as well as district assemblies and the utilization of the District Assemblies Common Fund.

Corruption Watch Ghana considers the decision by the government as the most appropriate at this stage of the nation’s fight against corruption. The absence of speedy sanctions for culprits of audit infractions has not served the purpose of deterrence.

However, the Attorney-General in prosecuting cases at the specialized courts must not limit cases to regime-based accountability.

Corruption Watch Ghana, therefore, urges the Attorney-General and Auditor-General to go as far back as possible to retrieve funds that have been locked in audit infractions for so many years. This is because our analyses of some of the Auditor-General’s reports on public boards and corporations, ministries, departments and agencies, district assemblies, and the utilization of the District Assemblies Common Fund show the continuous raping of the public purse year after year.

In addition, we urge the government to quicken the process of reviewing and strengthening the legislation establishing the Internal Audit Agency to ensure effective supervision of internal auditors across the country. It has become glaringly evident during some of the recent hearings of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament on some reports of the Auditor-General for the 2024 financial year that some internal auditors are not performing optimally to detect infractions at the inception stage.

Furthermore, we urge the Minister for Finance to enforce the Public Financial Management (PFM) Act and utilise his surcharge powers under the law.

Corruption Watch further stresses the need for the government to expedite the passage of the Conduct of Public Officers (CPO) Bill into law.

Background

According to a statement issued on Monday, October 20 2025, by Felix Kwakye Ofosu, Spokesperson to the President and Minister for Government Communications, the decision to designate special courts was agreed upon when President John Dramani Mahama met with the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, and the Auditor-General.

The statement added that the remit of the special courts will include the enforcement of surcharges and disallowances and the prosecution of related criminal offences.

The statement by the Minister for Government Communications also explained that the initiative forms part of the government's broader effort to enhance accountability, deter misuse of public funds, and ensure prompt recovery of monies owed to the State.

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About Corruption Watch Ghana

Corruption Watch Ghana is an initiative by the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) and a coalition of anti-corruption civil society organizations, including Transparency International (TI) Ghana, Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Africa Center for International Law and Accountability (ACILA), and Multimedia Platforms Joy FM and Adom FM as our main media partners.

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