

REJOINDER

RE-OFORI ATTA, IGNATIUS, OTIKO, OTHERS NAMED IN GH¢892 MILLION CEDIS IRREGULARITIES

The attention of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations' (MELR) has been drawn to Media reports circulating that MDAs have squandered GH¢892 million following the release of the 2017 Auditor General's report on 12th July, 2018.

Notably, the report mentioned the Minister for Finance, Hon. Ken Ofori Atta, the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations, Hon. Ignatius Baffour Awuah, and the Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Afisa Otiko- Dzaba, as Ministers who could not account for the irregularities in their respective Ministries.

According to the report, the MELR is the second in a league of Ministries cited as having been involved in a financial irregularities amounting to GH¢135 million, creating the impression that same occurred under the watch of the Current Sector Minister, Hon Ignatius Baffour Awuah.

The MELR, therefore wishes to clarify issues and also to set the records straight on the said Audit Report as follows.

- That the said Audit Report is that for the year ended 2016 which work was conducted in 2017 and reported in the 2018 Auditor General's Report.
- That the Sector Minister was only appointed in March 2017 and could not have been implicated in the reported irregularities.
- That the Ministry deems it necessary to point out that the said irregularities are largely in reference to some transactions carried out by one of the Ministry's Agencies, the Youth Employment Agency (YEA) in respect of some of expenses.
- That the MELR has taken the necessary steps to get the YEA to respond to the Audit Findings, which when received shall be made available upon request by the Public Account Committee of Parliament.

It is the hope of the MELR that such media reports of irregularities and the labelling of Hon. Ignatius Baffour Awuah as being involved in squandering monies in the 2017 Audit report of MDA's should be ignored.