



COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE  
JUBILEE HOUSE - ACCRA

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

**For Immediate Release**

**PRESIDENT AKUFO-ADDO RELEASES THE KPMG REPORT ON GRA/SML TRANSACTION**

On 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, received a request from the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), under section 18 of the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989) (RTI Act), for a copy of the KPMG report on the contracts and transactions between Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) and Strategic Mobilisation Limited (SML). The President had commissioned KPMG, on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, to undertake an inquiry to gain a clear understanding of the matters in controversy, and to be properly advised in taking the necessary decisions.

Bearing in mind the provisions of the RTI Act, particularly section 5 (1) (a) and (b) (i) of the Act, the President denied the request by MFWA since the KPMG report constitutes matters exempt under section 5 of the RTI Act.

Section 5 (1) (a) and (b) (i) of the RTI Act states that **"information is exempt from disclosure where the information is prepared for submission or has been submitted to the President or Vice President for consideration or contains matters the disclosure of which would reveal information concerning opinion, advice, deliberation, recommendation, minutes or consultation made or given to the President or Vice President and is likely to undermine the deliberative process on the part of the President or Vice President."**

Furthermore, there has been judicial pronouncement, in a case involving Media Foundation for West Africa, that a request which falls within the categories of information exempt under RTI Act can be lawfully declined.

The KPMG report comprises opinions, advice, deliberations, and recommendations that are integral to the President's deliberative process and, therefore, qualifies as exempt information under section 5 (1) (a) and (b) (i) of the RTI Act. Thus, the Office of the President was justified in turning down the request from MFWA for a copy of the KPMG report.



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It is important to recount that, even before the request from MFWA, the President had, on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, caused to be published a detailed press statement outlining KPMG's findings and recommendations, as well as his directives to the Ministry of Finance and GRA.

The Office of the President reiterates the necessity for those who file applications and requests under the RTI Act to have a thorough understanding of its provisions. It is vital to appreciate that the legal framework for access to information includes safeguards intended to protect the sanctity of decision-making at the highest levels of government, which must not be compromised or misused in the pursuit of access to information.

However, the President, in the interest of full transparency in governance, openness, and honesty with the public, has decided to waive the privilege under section 5 of the RTI Act and has directed the publication of the KPMG report in full.

A copy of the KPMG report can be accessed from the website of the Presidency – [www.presidency.gov.gh](http://www.presidency.gov.gh).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eugene Arhin".

**Eugene Arhin**  
**Director of Communications**  
**Office of the President**