



Under the Office of the President

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STATEMENT BY THE GHANA AIDS COMMISSION ON MEDIA REPORTS REGARDING HIV TESTING DURING THE RECENT SECURITY SERVICES RECRUITMENT EXERCISE

The Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC), as the statutory body responsible for providing strategic leadership and coordination of Ghana's HIV response, has taken note of media reports regarding comments made on HIV test results during the recent security services recruitment exercise. The Commission considers it important to provide clarification on HIV testing protocols and public communication to ensure that discussions on HIV remain scientifically accurate, protect human rights, and support national efforts to eliminate stigma and discrimination.

The Commission recognises the importance of medical screening in recruitment processes and appreciates the efforts of the security services to safeguard the health of their personnel. At the same time, the Commission wishes to provide important public health clarification to ensure that discussions on HIV remain accurate, evidence-based and respectful of the rights and dignity of all persons.

First, the reported figure of approximately 1,300 reactive HIV test results out of about 100,000 applicants represents approximately 1.3 percent of those screened. This is broadly consistent with Ghana's estimated national HIV prevalence of 1.49 percent among adults at the end of 2024. The reported figures should therefore not be interpreted as unusual or indicative of an emerging public health concern.

Secondly, the Commission wishes to clarify that, under national HIV testing guidelines, a single reactive HIV test result does not constitute a confirmed HIV diagnosis. An initial reactive result is preliminary and must be followed by the nationally approved three-test serial testing algorithm before an individual's HIV status can be confirmed. It is therefore important that public communication accurately distinguishes between an initial reactive screening result and a confirmed HIV-positive diagnosis.

The Commission further emphasises that HIV testing should always be conducted in accordance with national guidelines, including informed consent, confidentiality, and appropriate counselling. Individuals with reactive screening results should receive professional counselling and be supported to complete the confirmatory testing process and, where necessary, be linked to treatment and care services. The Ghana AIDS Commission also reiterates that the Ghana AIDS Commission Act, 2016 (Act 938) prohibits discrimination against persons living with HIV

in employment and other areas of public life. HIV status alone should not constitute grounds for denying employment or otherwise limiting an individual's opportunities. Medical fitness for specific occupations should be determined in accordance with established medical and occupational standards and not on the basis of stigma or misconceptions about HIV.

The Commission recognises that public communication on HIV, if not carefully framed, may unintentionally reinforce stigma and discourage individuals from accessing HIV testing and treatment services. Ghana has made significant progress in expanding access to HIV prevention, treatment and care, and sustaining these gains requires creating an environment in which people feel confident to know their status without fear of discrimination.

The Ghana AIDS Commission remains committed to working with all Ministries, Departments and Agencies to ensure that HIV testing, counselling and public communication are guided by scientific evidence, national policy and respect for human rights. Together, we can promote accurate information, encourage voluntary HIV testing, protect the dignity of every individual, and accelerate Ghana's progress towards ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

MOTTO

WORKING ACTIVELY AND IN PARTNERSHIP TOWARDS ELIMINATION OF HIV & AIDS