

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



POLLING DAY OBSERVATION: SITUATIONAL (MID-DAY) REPORT

CONTACT

Mr. Albert Arhin
CODEO National Coordinator
Phone: +233 (0) 24 474 6791 / (0) 20 822 1068
Secretariat: +233 (0) 244 350 266/ 0277 744 777
Email: info@codeoghana.org
Website: www.codeoghana.org

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Introduction

This mid-day situational statement (a preliminary report) is based on reports CODEO has received from **1,486** out of the **1,500** PVT Observers (i.e. **99%**) from every region and constituency as of 12:00PM today (i.e. Election Day).

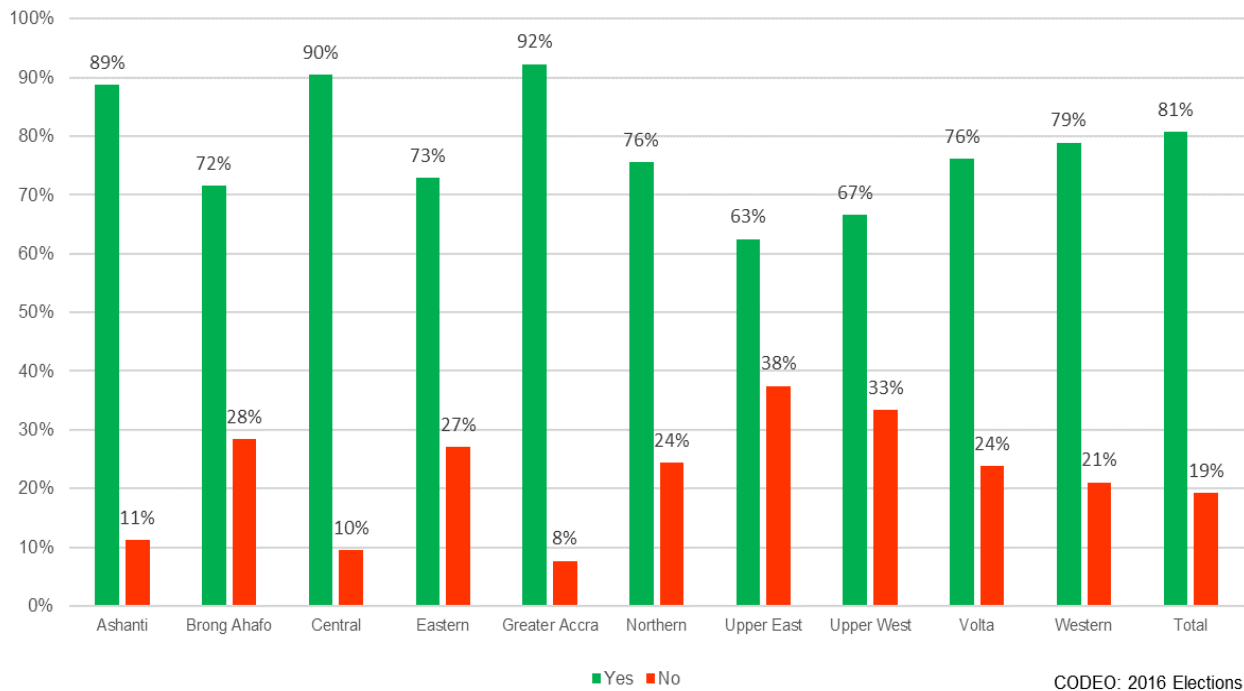
The Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO) has deployed about 8,000 trained, accredited, non-partisan observers. These observers are Ghanaians, from every walk of life who have volunteered their time to help ensure that every registered voter cast his/her ballot freely and unhindered on Election Day. Of the 8000 observers, 1,500 are Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) Rapid Response Observers (RROs).

The report focuses on the set up and opening of polling stations as well as few incidences recorded as at the time of reporting.

Arrival at Polling Stations

- By 7:00am, **81%** of all CODEO Observers had reported at their assigned polling station. In **99%** of polling stations where CODEO observers are located, electoral officials respected their status as EC's accredited election observers and permitted them to observe the polls. Only **1%** initially had challenges, which were quickly and successfully resolved.

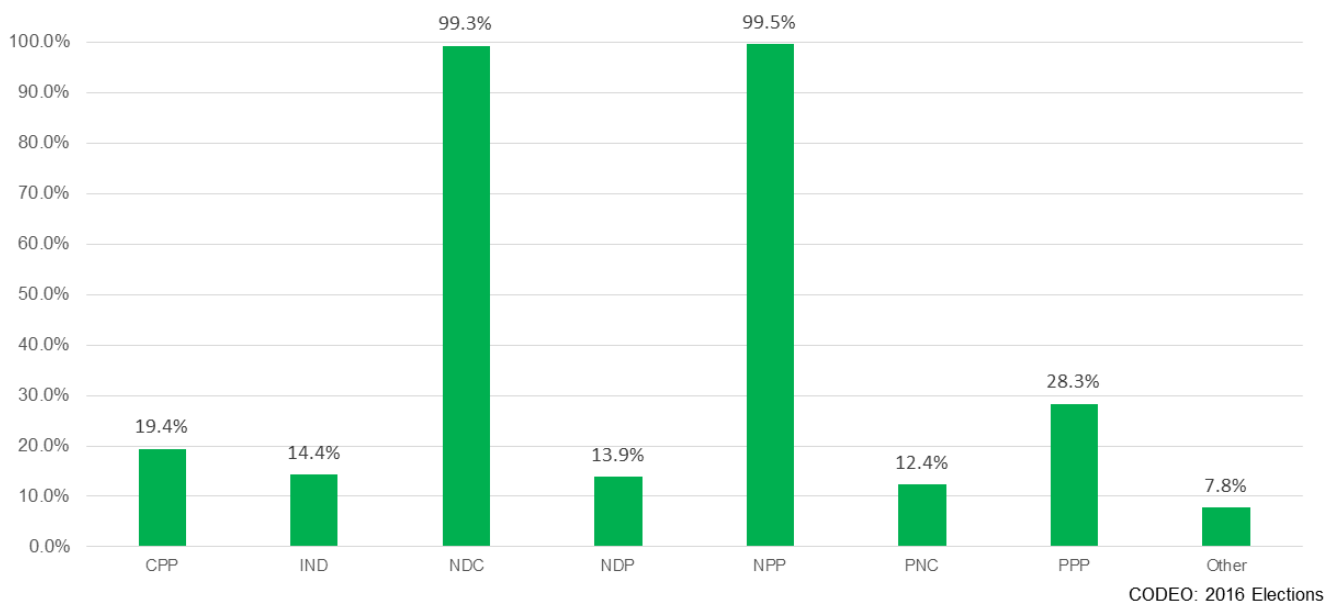
Election Official Present at Polling Station at 7:00 am by Region



Set Up for Polls

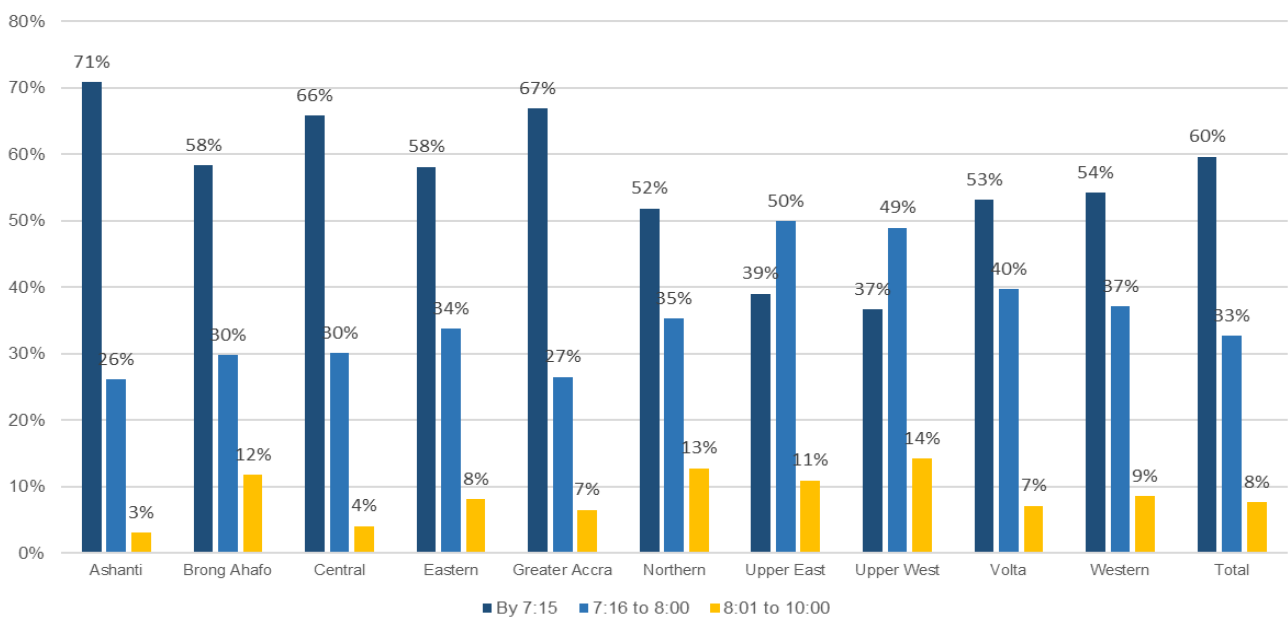
- Reports from CODEO Observers indicate that **91%** of polling stations were set up so voters could mark their ballots in secret.
- CODEO Observers report that almost all (**96%**) of polling stations were accessible to persons with disability and the elderly.
- At the time of set up, the two main political parties had their polling agents present in almost all polling stations (NDC, **99%**; NPP, **99.5%**). Polling agents of the other parties and independent candidates were present only in some of the polling stations.

Party Agents by Party at Polling Stations by Region



- Reports received from CODEO Observers showed that in **90%** of the polling stations, all election materials were available at the time of opening. According to CODEO observers, the voter register and biometric verification device were available in almost all polling stations (**96%** and **95%**, respectively).
- Cases where items were reported as not present were due to the late arrival of some materials.
- CODEO Observers could confirm that in **ALL** polling stations, the presidential and parliamentary ballot boxes were shown to be empty, sealed and placed in public view before the commencement of voting.
- CODEO Observers reported seeing uniformed security personnel at post at **88%** of polling stations.
- CODEO Observers reported that voting generally commenced on time. By 7:15AM, over half of the polling stations (**60%**) had opened. Another **33%** opened between 7:16 and 8:00AM adding up to **93%** opening by 8:00AM.

Polling Station Opening Times by Region



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Reported incidents

- CODEO observers reported a few incidents (27 in all) of intimidation and harassment at the polling stations listed below as at 10:30am.

Polling station	Constituency	Region
D/A PRIM. SCH KOJO NKWANTA	Adansi Asokwa	Ashanti
L/A PRIM. SSCH APAASO	Kintampo South	Brong Ahafo
C M B SHED SUSUANSO	Tano North	Brong Ahafo
C M B SHED SUSUANSO	Tano North	Brong Ahafo
TOWN HALL	Cape Coast South	Central
TAXI STATION, POTSIN JUNCTION	Gomoa East	Central
KORANSAN ACHIASE	Achiase	Eastern
L/A PRIMARY SCHOOL ABOASA	Akropong	Eastern

- With respect to violence, CODEO observers reported just 7 cases in the polling stations listed below.

Polling Station	Constituency	Region
POST OFFICE ACHIRENSUA	Asutifi South	Brong Ahafo
OLD MARKET YEJI	Pru East	Brong Ahafo
D/A PRIM. SCH AHABASO	Upper Manya Krobo	Eastern
ALAJO CENTRAL MOSQUE 1	Ayawaso Central	Greater Accra
PRESBY PRIM. SCH OYARIFA	Madina	Greater Accra
T/B KANBONTOONI	Savelugu	Northern
ILLITERACY HOUSE BANDA	Krachi Nchumuru	Volta

Other incidents

- In Jaman North constituency, we have received reports from our Observers that most polling stations have not opened due to delays in the arrival of election materials and issues related to the voter register.

From the foregoing, CODEO in this preliminary situational report can confidently confirm that the arrangements put in place by the EC for setup and opening of polls were adequate for most polling stations.

Conclusion

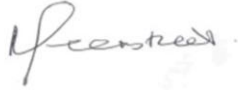
CODEO is continuing to receive reports from its network of nationally deployed observers and will continue to release updated reports.

Finally, CODEO appeals to all Ghanaians to remain calm and be law abiding throughout the country.

SIGNED:



Justice VCRAC Crabbe
Co-Chair



Professor Miranda Greenstreet
Co-Chair

(For and on Behalf of the Advisory Board)

CODEO Secretariat, Wednesday, December 7, 2016