



Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO)

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CODEO's Pre-election Environment Observation Statement – October to mid-November, 2016

Introduction

The Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO) is pleased to release its third pre-election environment observation findings covering October to mid-November 2016. The findings presented in this statement are based on bi-weekly field reports submitted by CODEO's Long Term Observers (CODEO LTOs) deployed in 134 randomly selected constituencies across the 10 regions of the country. Guided by a checklist, CODEO's LTOs observe the general political environment, including election-related preparatory activities by state and non-state actors, civic/voter education programs as well as political party campaign activities. The LTOs also observe the conduct of the security agencies, electoral irregularities and pre-election disputes adjudication, among others.

Summary of Findings:

- The Electoral Commission (EC) increased its preparatory activities particularly, recruitment/training of election staff.
- Political Parties, particularly the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) intensified their campaign activities in the constituencies.
- Education, unemployment, corruption and health remain the key policy priority issues dominating political campaigns.
- The National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) lead in featuring women and persons living with disability (PWDs) on election campaign platforms as main speakers.
- Some Parliamentary candidates of both the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and New Patriotic Party (NPP) were seen giving either money or other valuables to electorates to influence their votes.
- Noticeable involvement of some Chiefs in partisan politics.

Main Findings

1. Election-Related Preparatory Activities by State and Non-State Actors (e.g. Electoral Commission, Civil Society Organizations)

The Electoral Commission's preparatory activities towards elections day increased in the months of October and November. Specifically, 77% (an increase of 18% since September) of the CODEO's Long Term Observers (LTO) either observed or heard of the Commission undertaking recruitment/training of its election staff. Similarly, there has been a significant increase in voter and civic education activities across the country. Comparing the findings from CODEO's LTO report for the month of September to this current report, there has been an increase from 55% to

66% in terms of civic/voter education and community meetings across the country. There has also been an increase in the use of radio programs for civic and voter education by both the state and non-state actors.

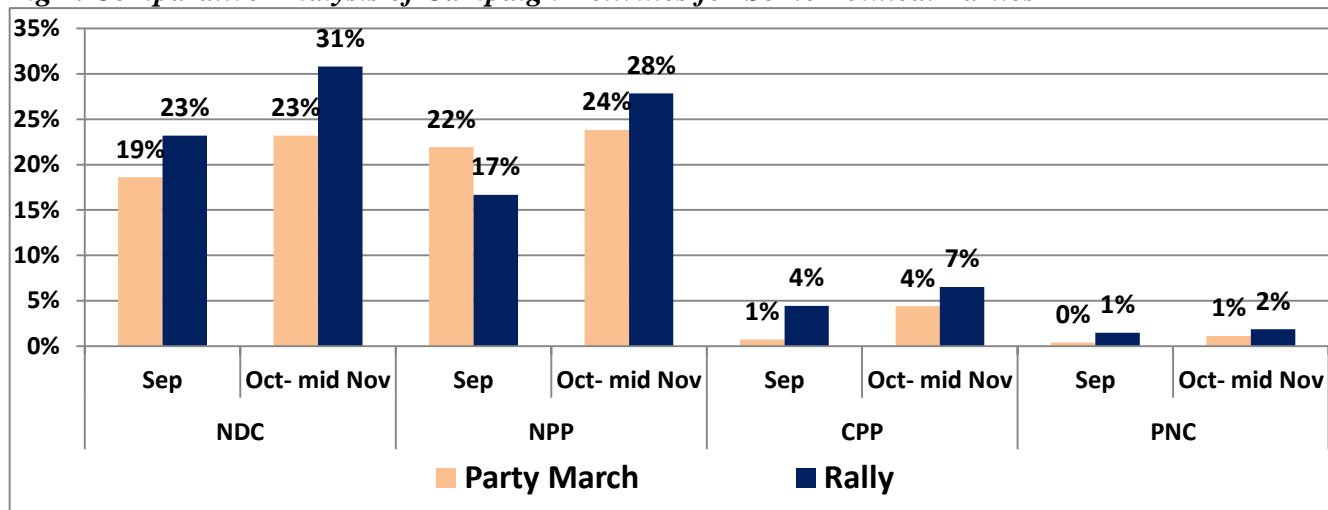
The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) remains the leading institution conducting voter/civic education across the country, followed by the Electoral Commission of Ghana (EC), Political Parties and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). It is also worthy to note that, there has been a marginal increase in the percentage of CSOs involved in conducting voter and civic education.

2. Political Parties’ Election-Related Activities and Policy Issue-based Campaigning in the Constituencies

CODEO LTOs findings reveal an increase in the political party campaign activities for both the NDC and NPP. Specific activities observed by our LTOs include party marches and rallies (see Figure 1 below). However, the CPP and PNC conducted very little political campaigns activities within this reporting period.

Further, CODEO’s LTOs reported that, the political parties continue to focus campaigns on policy issues. The LTOs reported education, unemployment and health as the most dominant political campaign issues political parties focused on in the constituencies. Oil and gas was the least prioritized issue accordingly to the long-term observers.

Fig 1. Comparative Analysis of Campaign Activities for Some Political Parties



3. Participation of Marginalized and Disadvantaged Groups in Election-Related Activities

CODEO LTOs report the involvement of women and person living with disability (PWDs) in the election campaigns of the major political parties. LTOs report that the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) are the parties leading in featuring women and persons living with disability on campaign platforms as main speakers.

Less encouraging, however, CODEO LTOs reported very limited interventions aimed at enhancing the capacity of women and persons living with disability (PWD) candidates’ in the upcoming election by CSOs or other election stakeholders in the constituencies.

4. Election-Related Irregularities (e.g. treating, vote-buying, breach of electoral laws and violence)

Both the NDC and NPP parliamentary candidates were seen giving money to people and some women groups in some communities in the Tolon Constituency of the Northern region. There were also reports that, some parliamentary candidates distributed plastic chairs to some groups in some communities. Similarly, both the NDC and NPP were reported to be busing people to rally grounds for instance in the Mampong and Kwabre East constituencies in the Ashanti region and, Ellembele constituency in the Western region.

CODEO's LTOs also reported seeing politicians give money and other valuables to electorates in order to influence their vote. For instance, on October 14, 2016, an aspiring Member of Parliament in Sefwi Akontobra gave money to parents of some Senior High School (SHS) students and university students to settle their school fees.

Chiefs doing partisan politics

CODEO LTOs also reported that some chiefs have flouted the Constitution and elections rules by actively participating in partisan politics. For example, some chiefs in the Kasulyili traditional area and Nyankpala traditional area (all in the Northern region) actively engaged in partisan politics by attending functions of the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) and also canvassed for votes in their communities for the NDC.

Breach of electoral laws and violence

There was disturbance at the EC's office in Saboba when the incumbent Member of Parliament allegedly transported people from Gusheigu for their votes to be transferred to Saboba. The opposition and independent candidate resisted this move and led to the suspension of the exercise.

Recommendations:

- CODEO calls on all political parties to desist from acts, such as offering money and other valuables to the electorates to influence their vote.
- CODEO further calls on the Electoral Commission and the Police to be proactive and bring to book persons or groups of persons involved in any act of vote buying, because it contravenes Section 33 (1) of the Representation of The People Law, 1992, PNDCL 284.
- CODEO takes this opportunity to encourage the general public to condemn and disassociate themselves from any illegal acts and be guided by policy issues come December 7, 2016.

Conclusion

CODEO assures the public that it will continue to observe the pre-election environment as the political parties and other key stakeholders intensify their election-related activities in the coming days and will duly share its findings with the public. CODEO's long-term pre-election observation of the political environment is made possible with the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Signed:



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APPENDIX

List of Constituencies Covered by CODEO for Long-Term Observation in the Reporting Period

S/No	Region	District	Constituency
1.	Ashanti	Adansi North	Adansi Asokwa
2.	Ashanti	Adansi South	Akrofuom
3.	Ashanti	Afigya Kwabre	Afigya Kwabre South
4.	Ashanti	AhafoAno North	Ahafo Ano North
5.	Ashanti	Ahafo Ano South	Ahafo Ano South East
6.	Ashanti	Asante Akim North	Asante Akim North
7.	Ashanti	Asante Akim South	Asante Akim South
8.	Ashanti	Asokore Mampong	Asawase
9.	Ashanti	Asokwa	Asokwa
10.	Ashanti	Bantama	Bantama
11.	Ashanti	Bekwai Municipal	Bekwai
12.	Ashanti	Bosome Freho	Bosome Freho
13.	Ashanti	Bosomtwe	Bosomtwe
14.	Ashanti	Ejisu Juaben Municipal	Ejisu
15.	Ashanti	Ejura Sekyedumase	Ejura Sekyedumase
16.	Ashanti	Kwabre East	Kwabre East
17.	Ashanti	Mampong Municipal	Mampong
18.	Ashanti	Obuasi Municipal (Obuasi)	Obuasi West
19.	Ashanti	Offinso North	Offinso North
20.	Ashanti	Oforikrom	Oforikrom
21.	Ashanti	Old Tafo	Old Tafo
22.	Ashanti	Sekyere Kumawu	Kumawu
23.	Ashanti	Suame	Suame
24.	Brong Ahafo	Asunafo North	Asunafo North
25.	Brong Ahafo	Asunafo South	Asunafo South
26.	Brong Ahafo	Asutifi South	Asutifi South
27.	Brong Ahafo	Atebubu/ Amantin	Atebubu/ Amantin
28.	Brong Ahafo	Berekum Municipal	Berekum East
29.	Brong Ahafo	Dormaa Municipal	Dormaa Central
30.	Brong Ahafo	Jaman North	Jaman North
31.	Brong Ahafo	Kintampo South	Kintampo South
32.	Brong Ahafo	Nkoranza South	Nkoranza South
33.	Brong Ahafo	Sene West	Sene West
34.	Brong Ahafo	Sunyani Municipal	Sunyani East
35.	Brong Ahafo	Tain	Tain
36.	Brong Ahafo	Tano North	Tano North
37.	Brong Ahafo	Tano South	Tano South
38.	Brong Ahafo	Wenchi	Wenchi
39.	Central	Abura/ Asebu/ Kwamankese	Abura/ Asebu/ Kwamankese
40.	Central	Agona East	Agona East
41.	Central	Agona West	Agona West
42.	Central	Ajumako Enyan Esiam	Ajumako Enyan Esiam
43.	Central	Asikuma Odoben Brakwa	Asikuma/ Odoben/ Brakwa
44.	Central	Assin North	Assin Central
45.	Central	Awutu Senya West	Awutu Senya West
46.	Central	Cape Coast	Cape Coast South
47.	Central	Effutu	Effutu
48.	Central	Gomoa East	Gomoa East
49.	Central	Mfantseman	Mfantseman

50.	Central	Upper Denkyira West	Upper Denkyira West
51.	Eastern	Afram Plains South	Afram Plains South
52.	Eastern	Akwapim North	Akwapim North
53.	Eastern	Asuogyaman	Asuogyaman
54.	Eastern	Atiwa	Atiwa East
55.	Eastern	Atiwa	Atiwa West
56.	Eastern	Ayensuano	Ayensuano
57.	Eastern	Birim North	Abirem
58.	Eastern	Birim South	Akim Swedru
59.	Eastern	Denkyembuo	Akwatia
60.	Eastern	Fanteakwa	Fanteakwa South
61.	Eastern	Kwaebibirem	Kade
62.	Eastern	Kwahu South	Mpraeso
63.	Eastern	Lower Manya Krobo	Lower Manya Krobo
64.	Eastern	Suhum	Suhum
65.	Eastern	Upper West Akim	Upper West Akim
66.	Greater Accra	Ablekuma	Ablekuma Central
67.	Greater Accra	Ablekuma	Ablekuma North
68.	Greater Accra	Ablekuma	Ablekuma West
69.	Greater Accra	Ashaiman	Ashaiman
70.	Greater Accra	Ayawaso	Ayawaso East
71.	Greater Accra	Ga East	Dome/Kwabinya
72.	Greater Accra	Ga South	Weija/Gbawe
73.	Greater Accra	Kpone Katamanso	Kpone-Katamanso
74.	Greater Accra	Ledzokuku Krowor	Ledzokuku
75.	Greater Accra	Osu Clottey	Korle Klottey
76.	Greater Accra	Shai-Osudoku	Shai-Osudoku
77.	Greater Accra	Tema	Tema-West
78.	Northern	Bole	Bole/Bamboi
79.	Northern	Bunkpurugu/ Yunyoo	Bunkpurugu
80.	Northern	Central Gonja	Yapei-Kusawgu
81.	Northern	Chereponi	Chereponi
82.	Northern	East Mamprusi	Nalerigu/Gamgaba
83.	Northern	Karaga	Karaga
84.	Northern	Kpandai	Kpandai
85.	Northern	Mamprugu/Moagduri	Yagaba/Kubori
86.	Northern	Mion	Mion
87.	Northern	Nanumba North	Bimbilla
88.	Northern	Saboba	Saboba
89.	Northern	Savelugu/Nanton	Savelugu
90.	Northern	Tamale	Tamale North
91.	Northern	Tatale/Sanguli	Tatale/Sanguli
92.	Northern	Tolon	Tolon
93.	Northern	West Mamprusi	Walewale
94.	Upper East	Bawku Municipal	Bawku Central
95.	Upper East	Bawku Municipal	Binduri
96.	Upper East	Bolga	Bolgatanga East
97.	Upper East	Bongo	Bongo
98.	Upper East	Builsa North	Builsa North
99.	Upper East	Builsa South	Builsa South
100.	Upper East	Kassena/Nankana West	Chiana/Paga
101.	Upper East	Pusiga	Pusiga
102.	Upper East	Talensi	Talensi
103.	Upper West	Jirapa	Jirapa
104.	Upper West	Lambussie-Karni	Lambussie-Karni
105.	Upper West	Lawra	Lawra

106.	Upper West	Wa East	Wa East
107.	Upper West	Wa Municipal	Wa Central
108.	Upper West	Wa West	Wa West
109.	Volta	Afadjato South	Afadjato South
110.	Volta	Biakoye	Biakoye
111.	Volta	Central Tongu	Central Tongu
112.	Volta	Hohoe Municipal	Hohoe
113.	Volta	Kadjebi	Akan
114.	Volta	Keta	Keta
115.	Volta	Ketu North	Ketu North
116.	Volta	Ketu South	Ketu South
117.	Volta	Kpando Municipality	Kpando
118.	Volta	Krachi West	Krachi West
119.	Volta	Nkwanta North	Nkwanta North
120.	Volta	North Dayi	North Dayi
121.	Volta	North Tongu	North Tongu
122.	Western	Ahanta West	Ahanta West
123.	Western	Bia West District	Bia West
124.	Western	Effia-Kwesimintsim Sub	Effia
125.	Western	Ellembele	Ellembele
126.	Western	Jomoro	Jomoro
127.	Western	Juaboso	Juaboso
128.	Western	Nzema East Municipality	Evalue-Ajomoro-Gwira
129.	Western	Prestea/Huni-Valley	PresteaHuni-Valley
130.	Western	Sefwi Akontombra	Sefwi Akontombra
131.	Western	Takoradi Sub	Takoradi
132.	Western	Tarkwa Nsuaem	Tarkwa Nsuaem
133.	Western	Wassa Amenfi East	Amenfi East
134.	Western	Wassa East	Wassa East