



Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO)

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Election 2016: CODEO trains constituency supervisors and civic educators

As part of its preparatory activities towards contributing to a generally peaceful and credible election in the upcoming December 7 polls, the Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO) is organizing training workshops for its Constituency Supervisors from October 25 to November 8, 2016. The training workshops, taking place in all regional capitals, mark the second phase of CODEO's preparations to recruit, train and deploy over 7,000 of its members who will volunteer their services as observers on Election Day.

These training workshops will prepare CODEO Constituency Supervisors with the requisite standards and rules to enable them exude professionalism required of them in their work with CODEO. Some key issues, among others, that the participants are being trained on include domestic election observation process, Ghanaian legal framework for election observation and observers code of conduct, Election Day procedures for the December 7 elections, and the importance of the parallel vote tabulation (PVT) in contributing to election integrity, among others.

National Coordinator of CODEO, Albert Arhin, remarks that 'the Constituency Supervisors, a total of 550 (2 for each constituency), currently undergoing training will also recruit and train observers at the constituency level. At the end of the constituency level trainings, CODEO would have equipped 7000 stationary observers who will be ready for Election Day'. Mr. Arhin commended Officials of the Electoral Commission who are assisting with the trainings.

In a related development, CODEO has also recruited and trained 216 District Community Civic/Voter Educators to carry out civic and voter education in all the 216 administrative districts of Ghana, including the Metropolitan, Municipal and the District Assemblies to complement the efforts of the Electoral Commission (EC) and the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), and widen the coverage of civic and voter education to all corners of the country. The participants were taken through various topics such as Understanding the Electoral Processes and Electoral Reforms being implemented by the Electoral Commission, and the importance of Civic/Voter Education in a democracy, among others.

CODEO's 216 District Community Civic/Voter Educators are expected to effectively apply all they have been taught at their training in a non-partisan manner to realize the expected goal for the project. Civic/voter education constitutes one component of the CODEO interventions during the 2016 elections aimed at deepening citizens' knowledge and awareness of the electoral process and the political environment.

CODEO, a coalition dedicated to promoting free, fair, transparent and credible elections through nonpartisan election observation, is made up of 42 circular and faith-based and civil society organisations, and it has been independently and credibly observing elections in Ghana since 2000. CODEO's Election 2016 observation program is made possible with the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands.

Signed:

**Albert Arhin,
National Coordinator, CODEO**

Dated: Thursday, October 27, 2016