



Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO)

CONTACT

Mr. Albert Arhin, CODEO National Coordinator

+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

CODEO's Pre-election Environment Observation Statement-September

Introduction

The Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO) is pleased to release the second of its pre-election environment observation findings covering August 31st to September 28, 2016. The findings in this report are based on bi-weekly field reports submitted by CODEO's Long Term Observers (CODEO LTOs) deployed in 134 out of the 138 constituencies randomly selected from the 10 regions of Ghana. 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.

Summary of Findings:

- The Electoral Commission (EC) is undertaking key preparatory activities ahead of the elections across the constituencies.
- Radio continues to remain the main medium for civic/voter education in the constituencies.
- The National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) continue to remain the most visible parties with regard to election campaigning activities across the constituencies under observation.
- Four key policy priority issues: education, unemployment, health and corruption dominated political party campaigns in the constituencies.
- The National Democratic Congress (NDC) leads as the party that featured women and Persons with Disability (PWDs) as the leading speakers on their campaign platform followed by the New Patriotic Party (NPP), the Convention People's Party (CPP) and Progressive People's Party (PPP).

Main Findings

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

CODEO LTOs reported that the Electoral Commission [EC] undertook recruitment and training of their election staff, received candidate nomination forms and held Inter-Party Advisory Committee (IPAC) meetings in the observed constituencies during the reporting period. About 6 out of 10 (59%) of CODEO LTOs reported they observed or heard the EC undertook recruitment and training for their election staff; 56% reported observing or hearing the EC receiving candidates nomination forms; and 43% reported the EC held IPAC meetings. Majority (74%) of CODEO LTOs also reported that they observed or heard the EC undertook other election related activities in the constituencies.

CODEO LTOs report of limited Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) election-related preparatory activities in the constituencies. Majority of CODEOs LTOs reported they did not observe or hear

CSOs conduct violence monitoring, peace promotion programs and candidate platform monitoring.

2. Civic/Voter Education Platforms, Modes, Actors and Targeted Audience

CODEO LTOs reported that voter/civic education in the constituencies were mainly done through radio. In a little over 6 out of 10 (62%) of the constituencies observed, LTOs reported hearing civic/voter education on radio discussion programs. Similarly, in more than half (55%) of the constituencies observed, LTOs reported observing or hearing civic/voter education discussion at community meetings in the constituencies during the reporting period. A third (31%) of the LTOs also reported that, they observed or heard of civic/voter education being conducted through the use of posters and through street announcements in the constituencies respectively.

Key election stakeholders that were seen conducting civic/voter education programs included the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), followed by the EC, Political Parties and CSOs. While the voter and civic education programs targeted the generality of citizens, the youth ranked first, followed by party supporters and workers, women, traditional authority and lastly, disability groups, when it comes to targeted civic and voter education message,.

3. Political Parties' Election-related Activities and Policy Issue-based Campaigning in the Constituencies

CODEO LTOs reported that the two major political parties, the NDC and the NPP have intensified their election campaign activities. Both parties, LTOs reported, conducted frequent party meetings, rallies and party marches in the constituencies. Other parties like the PPP and the CPP were less visible in terms of their campaign activities. Furthermore, CODEO's LTOs reported that the parties discussed various policy issues on their campaign platforms in the various constituencies observed. CODEO LTOs observed four key policy priority issues as follows: Education (23%); Unemployment (18%); Health (14%); and corruption (14%) that parties focused their campaign message.

4. Participation of Marginalized and Disadvantaged Groups in Election-related Activities

CODEO LTOs report observing very little interventions to enhance the capacity of women and PWD candidates' in the upcoming election by CSOs in the constituencies observed. Similarly, political party campaign platforms featuring women and PWDs as leading speakers varied among the major political parties. The NDC leads as the party that featured women and PWDs as leading speakers on their campaign platform followed by the NPP, CPP and PPP.

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

CODEO LTOs reported they observed political parties providing various forms of treats such as food and drinks and provision of transportation to people who attended their events. The NDC was cited as the leading party that gave such treats, including transportation for those who attended party events, followed by the NPP and PPP.

Almost all (94%) of CODEO LTOs reported not observing or hearing anyone being given money or other valuables, ostensibly, to influence their vote choice. However, three percent (3%) of LTOs reported witnessing some people being given money and other valuables by political party representatives. For instance, a group of NDC members were seen moving from house to house distributing cutlasses, fertilizers and used cloths to the people of Asempanaye Community in the Ahafo Ano South East of the Ashanti region on September 21, 2016. Similarly, members of the NPP were seen providing twenty (20) bags of cement to the people of Opembo Community in the Awutu Senya West Constituency of the Central region to construct a bridge. Other related vote inducements incidents were seen in Asante Akim North Constituency in the Ashanti region, Tolon

Constituency in the Northern region, Bongo Constituency in the Upper East region, Builsa South Constituency in the Upper East region and Jirapa Constituency in the Upper West region.

CODEO LTOs reported that chiefs are generally abiding by the constitution and election rules to be non-partisan in their activities in the constituencies. About 5% of CODEO observers, however, reported otherwise. Instances where chiefs were seen engaging in partisan activities were high in the Volta and Brong Ahafo Regions.

6. Election-related Security Activities by Security Agencies

CODEO LTOs reported very limited visible security preparatory activities in the constituencies. About 65% of CODEO's LTOs indicated they did not observe or hear of any District Security (DISEC) or Regional Security (REGSEC) meeting. However, 35% of them reported of either observing or hearing of a DISEC or REGSEC meeting.

Generally, the LTOs reported that the security agencies have acted in accordance with the law. More than half (68%) of CODEO LTOs reported they observed or heard the campaigns being policed in accordance with the Public Order Act of 1994. However, a little over a third (32%) reported otherwise. Similarly, more than half (59%) of CODEO LTOs reported that the police granted permission to parties or candidates to hold rallies in accordance with the Political Parties Code of Conduct 2013.

7. Pre-election Petitions and Dispute Resolutions

CODEO LTOs reported of limited pre-election petitions lodged at the district courts in the various constituencies during the period of observation. Almost all (94%) of CODEO LTOs reported that they did not observe or hear of any pre-election petitions lodged at the district courts.

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 weeks 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:



**Albert Arhin,
National Coordinator, CODEO**

Dated: Tuesday, October 18, 2016

For further information on the statement please speak to any of the following CODEO Spokespersons:

Mr. Albert Arhin, National Coordinator – 0208 221 068

Mr. John Larvie, Member, CODEO Advisory Board – 0243 714 444

Mr. Angel Cabonu, Member, CODEO Advisory Board – 0244 665 065

Sheikh Armyawo Shaibu, Member, CODEO Advisory Board – 0243 661 350

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	Mfansteman	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/Kwabanya
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