



## **Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO)**

### **CONTACT**

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## **CODEO Launches Election Day Observer Training for Elections 2016**

The Coalition of Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO) is holding a three-day National Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for its Regional Coordinators for the 2016 General Elections in Accra. This, according to co-chair of CODEO, Prof. Miranda Greenstreet, ‘marks the first stage of CODEO's preparations to recruit, train and deploy over 7,000 of its members who will volunteer their services to observe the December 7 Presidential and Parliamentary elections’.

The Regional Coordinators, 30 in number and drawn from all the 10 regions, are undergoing the training to spearhead the recruitment, training and deployment of dedicated non-partisan CODEO observers on Election Day throughout the country.

Speaking at the opening ceremony for the training, Prof. Greenstreet identified some key topics to be discussed during the training which include:

- Citizen/Domestic election observation process and the importance of the parallel vote tabulation (PVT) in contributing to election integrity,
- The Ghanaian legal framework for election observation and observers code of conduct,
- Election day procedures for the December 7 elections, and what observers to look for, and
- Serving as a CODEO observer: roles, responsibilities, dos and don'ts.

On Election Day, CODEO shall employ a multi-staged, random sampling procedure to select polling stations in 275 constituencies within the country. Other CODEO Observers will be deployed with the sole aim of observing proceedings at all the Constituency Collation Centres. CODEO will rely on SMS-technology to rapidly receive information from deployed election observers for timely analyses.

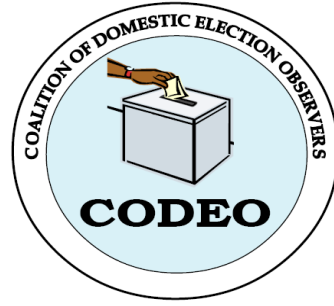
The 3-day training workshop which holds from Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> October to Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October seeks to prepare participants with the requisite standards for them to display professionalism, objectivity and neutrality in their work as CODEO Regional Coordinators who in turn have to instil same in CODEO's Constituency Supervisors and Election Day Observers during their training sessions at the Regional and Constituency levels.

CODEO, a coalition dedicated to promoting free, fair, transparent and credible elections through non-partisan election observation, is made up of 42 circular and faith-based civil society organisations and 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).

Signed:

**Albert Arhin,  
National Coordinator, CODEO**

Dated: Thursday, October 6, 2016



**ELECTION 2016: CIVIL SOCIETY ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT FOR CREDIBLE 2016  
ELECTIONS-A CODEO PROJECT  
NATIONAL TRAINING OF TRAINERS (ToT) WORKSHOP**

**OPENING CEREMONY**

**VENUE: ALISA HOTEL, ACCRA**

**DATE: OCTOBER 6, 2016**

**OPENING REMARKS BY PROF. MIRANDA GREENSTREET, CODEO CO-CHAIR**

**Salutation**

Good morning,

Madam Deputy Chairperson, Electoral Commission of Ghana

The Representative of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE),

The Representative of the National Media Commission,

The Representative of National Election Security Task Force,

The Representative of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID),

The Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands,

Distinguished Members of the CODEO Advisory Board,

Representatives of CODEO member organizations,

CODEO Regional Coordinators,

Friends from the Media

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Advisory Board of the Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO), I welcome you to the opening session of CODEO's National Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop. This marks the first stage of CODEO's preparations to recruit, train and deploy over 7000 of its members who will volunteer their services to observe the December 7 2016 presidential and parliamentary elections.

The 30 CODEO Regional Coordinators assembled today will undergo three days of capacity building and training to spearhead the recruitment, training and deployment of dedicated and non-partisan CODEO observers throughout the country on election-day.

Ladies and gentlemen, the December 7 general election will be Ghana's seventh successive one since 1992. The elections provide yet another opportunity to deepen Ghana's electoral and democratic processes. It is imperative that Ghana emerges from this poll stronger and unified. This means that the credibility of the election outcomes is critical. CODEO understands that this desired outcome can only be made possible if all stakeholder institutions and actors perform their mandates diligently. Accordingly, all stakeholders, including the Electoral Commission, the political parties, security agencies and civil society organizations must work together to ensure that the polls are conducted in a free, fair, and transparent manner. For CODEO, this is a task we have committed ourselves to since the Coalition's formation in the months leading to the 2000 elections. CODEO, currently the largest citizen observer body, will once again mobilize its 42-member organizations to contribute to the desired outcomes.

### **CODEO's Election 2016Activities**

Ladies and gentlemen, CODEO recently (i.e. September 6) launched its support activities for the 2016 elections. CODEO's 2016 election support activities are built around four main objectives which are:

- Advocacy for the implementation of Electoral Reforms,
- Promotion of Civic/Voter Education,
- Domestic/Citizen Election Observation, and
- Implementation of a Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT)

It is the hope of CODEO that the implementation of this set of comprehensive program of activities during all the three phases of the electoral cycle, particularly the pre and on election day, will contribute and complement the efforts of key election stakeholders, especially the EC, in ensuring peaceful and credible electoral outcomes.

### **CODEO's National Training of Trainers Workshop**

Ladies and Gentlemen, today's event is significant for CODEO. As already stated, it marks the beginning of a process to equip CODEO's 7000 election day observers. The CODEO Regional Coordinators will be managing CODEO's activities at the regional level. Among other tasks, the Regional Coordinators will recruit and train 550 constituency supervisors for all the 275 constituencies in the country. The Regional Coordinators will further coordinate and supervise the Constituency Supervisors to 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.

This 3-day training workshop aims at building the capacity of the Regional Coordinators to prepare them for their tasks ahead. Among many of the topics that will be discussed at this training workshop include:

- Citizen/Domestic election observation and the importance of the Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) in contributing to election integrity,
- The Ghanaian legal framework for election observation and observers code of conduct,
- Election day procedures for the December 7 elections, and what observers must look out for,
- Serving as a CODEO observer: roles, responsibilities, dos and don'ts, and
- Understanding the roles of a CODEO Regional Coordinator and managing funds, among others.

It is hoped that this 3-day training workshop will imbibe in participants the requisite standards for them to exude professionalism in their work as CODEO Regional Coordinators and to instill same when they step down these trainings at the regional and constituency levels.

### **Observing on Election Day**

On December 7, CODEO will deploy its 7000 stationary non-partisan observers, drawn from its 42 member organizations, to 7000 polling stations that will be nationally representative of all the polling stations in the country. CODEO shall employ a multi-staged, random sampling procedure to select polling stations spread throughout the country. These sampled polling stations will be located in the 275 constituencies. In addition, 275 other CODEO Observers will be deployed with the sole aim of observing proceedings at all the Constituency Collation Centres. CODEO will rely on SMS-technology to rapidly receive information from deployed election observers for timely analyses.

Inherent in CODEO's election day activities is the implementation of the Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) as was done in the 2008 and 2012 elections. The PVT is an advanced election observation methodology. It involves deploying trained and accredited non-partisan observers to a nationally representative sample of polling stations. Using time-tested statistical principles, the methodology will allow CODEO to provide the most comprehensive and accurate account of the voting and counting process as well as the quality of the process across the country. The PVT methodology will as well enable CODEO to independently verify the accuracy of the election results tabulation process and the official presidential results declared by the EC. We hope that the implementation of the PVT by CODEO will boost citizens' confidence in the electoral process as well as its outcomes.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, I would like to say that peaceful and credible elections are the hallmarks of maturing democracies, and for that to happen it is a shared responsibility for every well meaning Ghanaian and stakeholder institutions. CODEO believes that all the institutions are up to the task and will work towards a desired electoral outcome in the aftermath of the December 7 presidential and parliamentary elections.

Beginning with the Regional Coordinators, CODEO 7000 observers will be fully equipped to contribute towards lending credibility to the electoral process through the observation of the polls.

While thanking our selected Regional Coordinators for attending this workshop and volunteering to serve CODEO, I strongly urge you to be professional, non-partisan and abide by the EC and CODEO Code of Conduct at all times.

### **Acknowledgment**

CODEO acknowledges and appreciates the collaboration and support it has received from the Electoral Commission over the years, and in particular providing resource persons to train CODEO observers at this workshop. We hope to count on this support during the trainings at the regional and constituency levels.

Finally, on behalf of the CODEO Advisory Board, I wish to acknowledge the generous support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID-Ghana) which has extended support for CODEO's election 2016 project. CODEO also acknowledges the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for their support which is enabling CODEO to deploy additional election day observers.

Thank you and God bless Ghana.

Professor Miranda Greenstreet  
Co-Chair, CODEO

Dated: Thursday, October 6, 2016