

PRESS STATEMENT

(For immediate release: 11th December, 2020)

RESOLVING THE POLITICAL CONTROVERSY OVER THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS RESULTS: VIOLENCE IS NOT AN OPTION

The Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) and the Civic Forum Initiative (CFI) wish to commend Ghanaians for the high turnout and the orderly manner in which the electorate exercised their franchise on December 7. We further wish to commend the Electoral Commission and the political parties for their role in delivering relatively peaceful election. We however observed with growing concern that both the presidential and parliamentary elections results have stoked partisan controversy with both sides claiming victory.

The disputed results have raised questions about the credibility of the outcome of the elections which can only be resolved in a court of law. Accordingly, we urge the aggrieved parties to resort to the court system to deal with the disputed aspects of the results instead of resorting to violence. The public has the right to know the truth about any discrepancies relating to the results because this election was the best opportunity for the electorate to exercise their sovereign right.

The courts have the mandate and the tools to investigate, review and resolve any election related disputes based on the evidence provided in a transparent manner. Moreover, the supreme court is not only an avenue for peaceful resolution of election conflicts, but also clarifying electoral rules and regulations in order to improve electoral standards and advance critical reforms in the electoral system as demonstrated by the supreme court of Ghana in 2013.

In the meantime, we appeal to the leaders and supporters of the two parties, to conduct themselves peacefully, mindful of the commitments their presidential candidates made by signing the Presidential Election Peace Pact on Thursday 4th December 2020 at the Movenpick Ambassador Hotel, Accra. In this pact, the leaders pledged:

- i. That we hereby commit ourselves and our supporters to peaceful elections in the December 2020 general elections;
- ii. That we undertake to accept the results of the said elections;
- iii. That we undertake to restrain our supporters from resorting to violence in the aftermath of the said elections;
- iv. That we are committed to the Judicial resolution of all election disputes;

Furthermore, we appeal to the National Chief Imam, the National Peace Council and the National House of Chiefs to engage and ensure that the Electoral Commission acts expeditiously on all complaints and encourage the parties to go to court as they have committed in the peace pact agreement.

Finally, we appeal to all Ghanaians including our vibrant youth to honor the memory of the founding father of the Fourth Republic, former President Jerry John Rawlings, by maintaining the peace, stability and security of the nation.

Going forward, we entreat that collectively as a nation, we renounce violence as an option for resolving electoral disputes.

Long Live Ghana and the Fourth Republic!!!

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Maj. Gen Nii Carl Coleman (Rtd)
Chairman, CFI

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