

PRESS RELEASE

(For Immediate Release: Saturday, 7th December 2024)

Preliminary Comments on the Political and Security Conditions on Ghana's 2024 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections

Introduction

As part of IDEG-CFI's National Elections Situation Room observations and analysis of the 2024 Presidential and Parliamentary elections, we have over the course of the voting day noted both **progressive** and **regressive developments** during the first phase of the elections.

Preliminary Observations and Analysis

1. Election Administration

The general administration of the elections proceeded smoothly in many areas, but isolated issues were noted, which includes late start of polls in a few areas. Despite the challenges, the voting processes were carried out smoothly including Yendi, where the political parties agreed to continue with the elections.

2. Security Concerns

Maintaining a secure environment for voting is critical, but of public concern are the reports of military presence in some communities and around polling stations. Although we noticed that reports of military presence in constituencies such as Okaikoi North and Ayawaso West Wuogon (University of Ghana, Legon Campus) were intended to ensure order, their presence raised concerns among some voters and the wider public.

3. Collation of results

As the process transitions to the **results collation phase**, public anxiety is escalating around the need to avoid the repeat of the unfortunate incidents that happened in the 2020 elections, which led to the loss of lives.

Based on the preceding analysis, IDEG-CFI considers it crucial to emphasize that, under the Elections Peace Pact signed by the presidential candidates, electoral violence and impunity have no place in the pursuit of power.

Relatedly, while we commend the National Elections Security Task Force on their conduct so far, **we are concerned about the deployment of military** in the resolution of security issues.

Accordingly, IDEG-CFI calls on all stakeholders, particularly the political parties to uphold the peace and the integrity of the electoral process in this critical phase. We therefore urge:

- a) **The Electoral Commission** to address any administrative concerns in the collation and recording of figures in the pink sheets swiftly and dispel rumours through its media briefings.
- b) **The National Elections Security Task Force** should sustain the public briefings on security issues but should reconsider the quick deployment of the military. It is imperative that the

police-military collaboration stays reassuring rather than intimidating to boost public confidence in their operations.

- c) **The NDC and the NPP should strictly adhere to the law and immediately cease** any acts of misinformation or disinformation that threaten to undermine the integrity of the vote collation and declaration processes. **Such behaviour may delay the processes unduly and heighten tension.**
- d) **The Media** should abide by the ethics of their profession in the publication of election results to avoid undue tensions among the populace.
- e) **Voters** have a right to safeguard the integrity of the elections but should refrain from any form of rowdiness or disruptive behaviour that could lead to chaos at the collation centres.

Conclusion

Elections are a cornerstone of democracy, and the success depends on the collective efforts of all stakeholders. IDEG-CFI remains committed to monitoring the process and ensuring that the outcomes reflect the will of the people.

God Bless our Homeland Ghana!

SIGNED


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