

PRESS RELEASE

A CALL FOR PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY: IDEG-CFI STATEMENT ON UPCOMING AKWATIA BY-ELECTIONS

(For Immediate Release: 28 August 2025)

In a matter of a few days, Ghana will hold a by-election in the Akwatia Constituency in the Eastern Region. In a different time and space, this election should be expected to pass normally without any fear or anxiety.

However, the history of by-elections in Ghana is marked by repeated violence, intimidation, misinformation, attacks on media personnel, and free rein of vigilantism. These acts tarnish Ghana's image as a peaceful and stable democracy in Africa and flagrantly violate the nation's deeply held values of neighbourliness and communal security.

Already, voices on social media portend a by-election that may not turn out to be peaceful. Consequently, we want to appeal to the conscience of all stakeholders and fellow citizens to contribute to the peace of Ghana in the forthcoming Akwatia by-election.

We wish to appeal to the following stakeholders:

- 1. The Police:** We commend the Ghana Police Service, under IGP Tetteh Yohuno, for decisively arresting and initiating the prosecution of eight individuals involved in the Ablekuma-North election re-run. This sets a strong precedent against electoral violence. We urge that the Police rigorously implement measures to stop violence in the Akwatia by-elections, block weapons inflow, protect all legitimate actors—particularly the media—and enforce zero tolerance to electoral violence and impunity across all parties, irrespective of affiliation.
- 2. Political Parties:** We strongly urge the leadership of the two major political parties, the National Democratic Congress and the New Patriotic Party, to fully uphold their commitment to non-violence, and ensure that their members and supporters conduct themselves lawfully and peacefully before, during and after the by-elections. They must prevent the bussing of supporters across the regions into Akwatia, limit large gatherings of party officials without direct roles at polling stations, and uphold democratic responsibility by safeguarding Ghana's reputation as a stable and peaceful democracy in Africa.

3. **Media:** We call on all media houses to reject inflammatory and provocative content, misinformation and disinformation on their platforms and commit to objective coverage of all aspects of the by-election.
4. **Civil Society Organisations:** To fellow civil society organisations, let us endeavour to observe every aspect of the by-election, directly or indirectly, and restrict all commentary strictly to verified facts.

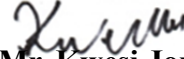
May we pray for a peaceful, transparent, free and fair outcome of the Akwatia by-elections and for the lasting peace of our beloved Mother Ghana.

SIGNED



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