



ELECTORAL COMMISSION
GHANA

BRIEF REMARKS BY MRS. CHARLOTTE OSEI, CHAIRPERSON OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION AT THE LAUNCH OF THE 2016 GUIDE TO CANDIDATES AND THEIR AGENTS - PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Representatives of Political Parties,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen of the media,

On behalf of the Electoral Commission, I am very pleased to welcome you all to this short but very important ceremony.

As you are all aware, we are now fully in the political campaign seasons ahead of this year's presidential and parliamentary elections on December 7, 2016.

The Electoral Commission's officers across the nation will soon be receiving the nominations from candidates seeking to contest this year's elections. So far, as many as 23 persons have picked up the Presidential nomination forms. This is made up of 16 political party and 7 independent Presidential aspirants. Hundreds of parliamentary aspirants have also done same. They are all going through the required processes in order to submit their nominations and become confirmed as candidates for the 2016 Elections.

This morning's exercise dovetails into that exercise (filing), in that it helps the various aspirants to fully understand the requirements that they need to meet in order to become accepted as a candidates.

For a democratic political system to be truly representative, voters need an electoral process that is executed with integrity.

Ensuring integrity in the electoral process demands that candidates, agents, voters and the electoral management body all conduct their activities in line with the electoral laws and policies.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are just some 74 days away from the elections. On December 7, 2016 when the voters go to the polls, it would be their opportunity to decide which of the candidates, best represents their values, interests, choices and their vision for the future of their families, community, constituency, region and the country.

This Guide is to help potential Candidates and agents of the Candidates understand the nomination and electoral process, and to outline the



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responsibilities they are undertaking when seeking to be elected to the office of President or the House of Parliament. It also highlights the duties and responsibilities of the agents who will represent the candidates at the 29,000 polling stations and the 275 constituency collation centers.

The Guide is divided into three parts. Part I contains guidelines on the process for becoming a presidential or parliamentary candidate, as well as other useful information. Part II deals with the important role of polling agents, their duties and their responsibilities. It spells out what they can do and what they cannot do. Part III gives general information about the elections that may be useful for the candidates and agents.

Also included in this volume as an appendix, is a form that candidates or political parties can conveniently use to appoint their polling and collation agents.

We believe this Guide is a source of basic information about the electoral process as it relates to the candidates, but it is not at all meant to be exhaustive, and it is by no means intended to be a substitute for the electoral laws. Persons who wish to know more about the issues discussed herein are advised to refer directly to the relevant sections of the 1992 Constitution, the Political Parties Act, 2000 (Act 574) and the Public Elections Regulations 2016 (CI.94) and other relevant pieces of legislation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Achieving free, fair, credible and transparent elections is never and cannot be the responsibility of the Electoral Commission alone. It is equally the responsibility of the candidates and their appointed agents, the media, as well as the general public. As a result, the Commission is hopeful that, candidates and polling agents would play their respective roles dutifully and in good faith to ensure a peaceful electoral process.

I would like to express our profound gratitude to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of the United States of America through the US Ambassador to Ghana Mr. Robert P. Jackson for the generous support to enable the publication of this Guide. We take the opportunity to wish all those seeking to be elected to either Parliament or the highest office in the land, the very best of luck in the weeks ahead, and God's wisdom and blessings.

We thank you very much for your time and attention this morning.