



ELECTORAL COMMISSION  
GHANA

## PRESS RELEASE

### **ELECTORAL COMMISSION'S RESPONSE TO CODEO'S PRELIMINARY FINDINGS ON THE CONDUCT OF AYAWASO WUOGON BY-ELECTION ON 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY, 2019.**

The attention of the Electoral Commission has been drawn to a report on the conduct of the Ayawaso West Wuogon Constituency By-Election issued by the Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO) on Thursday, January 31, 2019.

While the Commission recognizes the important role of local election observers in ensuring fairness and accountability in the electoral process, the Commission would have expected CODEO to have given the overall picture of the conduct of poll i.e the credibility of the voters register, the voting process, the conduct of election officials as well as counting and declaration of results etc.

The Commission has taken note of the content of CODEOs report and responds as follows:

#### **1. Allegation of incident of shooting at La-Bawaleshie**

The Commission rejects the attempt by CODEO to link the Electoral Commission to the alleged incident at the private residence of the parliamentary candidate of the National Democratic Congress. The Commission wishes to state that the said shooting incident did not take place at any of the polling stations in the Constituency and therefore did not in any way disrupt the conduct of the poll. In this respect, the Commission strongly disassociates itself from the alleged act of violence that occurred at La-Bawaleshie.

#### **2. Allegation of intimidation by security personnel**

We wish to reject the assertion that the presence of unarmed police, immigration and fire service officers disrupted the conduct of the polls. It is important to stress that none of the security officers in any of the 137 polling stations across the Constituency was armed, giving voters the free will to exercise their right to vote. Indeed the police and officers of fire service and immigration deployed to the polling stations were seated quite far from the polling booth.

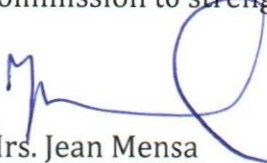
#### **3. Attack on security personnel at Prison's JHS Polling Station**

The Commission wishes to state that the alleged attack on the police officer by National Security Personnel as stated in CODEO's report is untrue. The Commission's checks from its election officials i.e. the Presiding Officer and the District Electoral Officer proves contrary to CODEO's observation.

The Commission condemns in no uncertain terms, the attempt by sections of the society to link it with the alleged act of violence. As a Commission our focus and mandate is to conduct credible, transparent and fair elections that uphold the will of the people as witnessed in all the 137 polling stations in the Constituency.

The Commission abhors any form of violence in elections and condemns the act of violence that took place at the private residence of the parliamentary candidate of the National Democratic Congress (NDC). As a Commission, we see elections as a simple process of affording voters the free will of selecting their leaders in an atmosphere of peace.

We therefore encourage the good people of Ghana to partner and work with the Commission to strengthen our electoral processes and to uphold our democracy.



Mrs. Jean Mensa  
Chairperson