



PRESS RELEASE

WAEON Trains 20 Young Professionals in Election Observation Management

Twenty (20) young and mid-level professionals working with election observer organizations across West Africa have been trained in election observation management and equipped with leadership and project management skills to contribute to enhancing electoral integrity within the sub-region.

The two-week virtual election observation academy organized by the West Africa Election Observers Network (WAEON) was facilitated by seasoned election experts from across the continent. The academy sought to strengthen institutional capacity and leadership continuity within and among WAEON-member organizations by building a core group of West African youth capable of leading and supporting electoral integrity initiatives in the sub-region.

The participants were taken through various modules such as understanding election observation, goals and methodology, designing election observation programs from scratch, developing election observation tools, sampling in election observation, Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) methodology, reporting/statement writing and communication, mitigating disinformation and misinformation in elections, outreach and stakeholder engagement, election security, observing elections under a COVID-19 pandemic among others.

Mr. Mawusi Dumenu, WAEON Coordinator and Elections Team Lead at the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) explained that the intervention was purposely designed for equipping younger or mid-level professionals within WAEON member organizations with the necessary skills and knowledge to nurture them into leaders that can contribute their quota in promoting election integrity in their respective countries and the West African sub-region.

He encouraged participants to use the skills and lessons from the academy to build their capacity and confidence to help them deliver election observation at a very high and professional level.

On his part, Mr. James Lahai, Chairperson for WAEON, underscored the need for participants to uphold the statutes of truthfulness and vigilance. He encouraged them to identify and liaise appropriately with election stakeholders and work in networks to make them stronger and more effective.

Thanking the facilitators for the enlightening and engaging sessions, Aminu Suleiman Mande, a participant from the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG) in Nigeria shared some lessons he learned during the training.

“I have learned a lot, particularly that elections are a fundamental human right that every citizen must be allowed to elect periodically ... and I’ve also learned that observers are really critical in improving the democratic processes of a country,” he said.

The trainees, will be deployed to Kenya for the 9th August, 2022 elections to serve as election observers in an exchange learning program, to enhance their experience.

Evidence of skills utilization by the trainees will be subsequently tracked and significant achievements through the application of the skills would be documented.

The WAEON virtual election observation academy was funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

-END-

About WAEON

WAEON is an independent, non-partisan and non-religious network of citizen election observation /monitoring organizations in West Africa. Currently, WAEON consists of Citizens’ Election Observation Groups in 13 West African countries which includes Burkina Faso, Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

For more information, please contact:

Nana Ama Nartey

Communications Specialist and Knowledge Management Support Officer

Telephone: +233 596913690

Email: n.nartey@cddgh.org