



PRESS RELEASE

Kenya Elections: WAEON Deploys 20 Election Observer Trainees

The West Africa Election Observers Network (WAEON) has deployed 20 election observer trainees from the sub-region to Kenya ahead of the East African country's August 9 general elections.

The deployed trainees, who are young and mid-level professionals working with domestic election observer organizations across West Africa, will be embedded into the observation structure of the Nairobi-based Elections Observation Group (ELOG) throughout their stay.

This forms part of a 12-month project titled "Strengthening Election Observation in West Africa", which aims to improve civil society election observations to strengthen electoral integrity in West Africa. The intervention seeks to strengthen institutional capacity and leadership continuity within and among WAEON-member organizations by building a core group of young mid-level professionals capable of leading and supporting electoral integrity initiatives in the sub-region.

The trainees earlier participated in WAEON's two-week virtual academy on election observation management. They were equipped with leadership and project management skills to contribute to enhancing electoral integrity within the sub-region.

The last leg of the project is the deployment to Kenya for a field learning exchange program to enhance the trainees' experience in election observation management.

Mawusi Yaw Dumenu, WAEON Coordinator and Elections Team Lead at the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), said the learning exchange program would allow the participants to have an enhanced and holistic experience of election observation management. In addition, it will allow the Network to monitor how the trainees are able to utilize the knowledge and skills imparted during the Network's two-week virtual academy.

"As much as possible, WAEON would like all participants to acquire on-field observation experiences by visiting the polling stations to get a sense of the interconnectedness of polling station observation with the other critical aspects such as the operation of the Parallel Voter Tabulation (PVT) data center, election situation room, data analysis and statement writing and stakeholder engagements among others," he said.

The "Strengthening Election Observation in West Africa" is funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), and has the Elections Observation Group (ELOG) as its local partner.

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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.

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