



GHANA CENTER FOR DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

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Press Release

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CDD-GHANA CONDEMNS ACTS OF POST-ELECTION HOOLIGANISM, VANDALISM AND ASSAULT ON STATE OFFICIALS AND PROPERTIES

The Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) condemns the incidents and acts of hooliganism, vandalism, storming, raiding and occupation of public facilities and offices, ejection and threatened ejection of public officials from their offices or official residences, and similar disorderly conduct reported across the country in the aftermath of the December 7, 2024 general elections and since the reins of government passed from the New Patriotic Party (NPP) to the National Democratic Congress (NDC) on January 7, 2025.

CDD-Ghana is aware that a similar pattern of post-election disorder and violence perpetrated by partisans of the victorious party has characterized previous turnover elections in the country during this Fourth Republic. This regrettable fact, however, cannot excuse or justify the latest spate of post-election violence. Rather, the Center is concerned that this pattern of post-election partisan hooliganism, left unchecked and unpunished from one turnover election to the next, would become an ugly feature of our political culture, undermining efforts to mitigate our winner-take-all politics and threatening the peace and stability of our Republic.

It is in this regard, that the Center calls on the law enforcement authorities to apply the laws of Ghana firmly to arrest this growing tendency. In the same vein, we urge the newly-installed Government of President John Dramani Mahama, in keeping with its pledge and mandate to Reset Governance and Politics in Ghana, to send a clear message to all Ghanaians, without regard to party, that this growing and disturbing tendency in our electoral politics will no longer be tolerated. At the minimum, Government must do nothing to hinder the leadership and personnel of the Ghana Police Service and the law enforcement authorities generally from dealing lawfully with those persons arrested in connection with the recent or ongoing post-election hooliganism and vandalism.

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We recall that similar resoluteness and consensus on the part of the political class to deal with the related problem of party-aligned political vigilantes, culminating in the passage of the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act (2019) has helped to stem or mitigate that dangerous tendency in our electoral politics. We propose that post-election partisan hooliganism attract enhanced criminal penalties similar to those prescribed in the Vigilantism Act for offenders of that law. We propose that future Transition Teams, following turnover elections, prioritize addressing and containing post-election partisan violence and hooliganism as a critical component of the transition process.

As the recently-concluded elections show, Ghana continues to make important strides in our quest to build a stable democratic order. The orderly conduct of the December 7, 2024 General Elections reflects the steady, incremental progress we have made collectively in our democratization journey since 1992. We must continue to work harder to improve upon the performance and quality of our democracy by ensuring that our elections and their aftermath are free of acts of violence and harm to life, limb, and property.

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About CDD-Ghana

Established in 1998, Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) is an independent not-for-profit think-and-do-tank that works through research, policy engagement, thought leadership, and civic dialogue and partnerships to promote and strengthen democracy, good governance, and inclusive development in Ghana and the rest of Africa. A founding Core Partner (and Ghana National Partner) of Afrobarometer, CDD-Ghana is also the convener and secretariat for the Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO), West Africa Election Observers Network (WAEON), and West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS).

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