

## Acknowledgements

We wish to express our profound appreciation to the people of Ghana for the warm and hospitable reception afforded to us at such a critical juncture in the consolidation of their democratic process. Wherever we went we were deeply touched by the welcome extended to us.

We wish to pay tribute to the Chairman of the Electoral Commission, Dr Afari-Gyan, and his fellow Electoral Commissioners, Regional Directors and electoral officials, who worked tirelessly to fulfil the demanding and challenging duties of the elections with admirable professionalism.

We particularly appreciated the co-operation of the political parties, the members of the Press and non-governmental organisations and individuals who found time in the most demanding circumstances to meet us and share their opinions and concerns.

Our warmest tribute we must reserve for the people of Ghana who, by turning out peacefully and in such large numbers on election day, did their country proud and served so ably the cause of democracy.

We also wish to extend our appreciation to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, for inviting us to participate in this important mission. Finally, we are pleased to record our thanks to the Secretariat staff for their unflagging and skilled support which did so much to assist us to fulfil our mandate.

# **Annexes**

## ANNEX I

### Composition of the Commonwealth Observer Group

#### *The Rt Reverend Sir Paul Reeves (New Zealand – Chairperson)*

The Rt Rev Sir Paul Reeves is a former Governor-General and Primate and Archbishop of New Zealand. He was made a deacon in 1958 and became a priest two years later. From 1966-69 he was lecturer in church history at St John's Theological College in Auckland and later became Director of Christian Education in the Diocese of Auckland. In 1971 he was appointed Bishop of Waiapu, where he served for eight years before becoming Bishop of Auckland. He was Archbishop from 1980-85 and Governor-General from 1985-90. In 1990 he was appointed Anglican Church Representative to the United Nations. Sir Paul has been on several Ecumenical/Church missions. He recently chaired the Fiji Constitution Review Commission. In 1994 he served as Deputy Chairman of the Commonwealth Observer Group to the elections in South Africa. Sir Paul was educated at Victoria University of Wellington, St John's Theological College, Auckland, and St Peter's College, Oxford.

#### *Ambassador Ahmed Hassan Diria, MP (Tanzania)*

Mr Ahmed Hassan Diria has been a Member of Parliament since 1990, and Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee from 1996. Between 1954-58 he was Labour Officer and Deputy Secretary-General of the Federation of Labour Zanzibar and a Member of the Central Committee of the Afro-Shirazi Party. From 1964-65 Mr Diria was District Commissioner of Pemba and Assistant Administrator-General of Zanzibar. He subsequently joined his country's diplomatic service and served as Ambassador in several countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. Mr Diria has held several ministerial positions in Tanzania, including in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation; the Ministry of Labour, Youth and Development; and the Office of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. In 1966 he received the 1st Collar of the Nile from President Nasser of Egypt, and in 1989 was granted the title of 'Right Honourable' by Pope John Paul II. He was also decorated by the President of South Korea in Seoul in 1993.

#### *Mr Peter Fowler, CMG (Britain)*

Mr Peter Fowler completed his diplomatic career in August 1996 after three years as British High Commissioner to Bangladesh and five-and-a-half years as Minister and Deputy High Commissioner in New Delhi. Previously he had served in Hungary, Portugal, India, the German Democratic Republic, as a member of the British delegation to the Comprehensive Test Ban Negotiations (Geneva) and in London in various positions. Since retirement he has been associated with NGOs in Bangladesh and Britain and has joined the board of Cairn Energy plc. Mr Fowler was educated at Nunthorpe Grammar School, York. After completing National Service in Cyprus he read history and political philosophy at Trinity College, Oxford.

#### *Mr Mohammad Abu Hena (Bangladesh)*

Mr Mohammad Abu Hena is Chief Election Commissioner of Bangladesh. After a short career as a teacher in government colleges and at Dhaka University he joined the civil service of what was then Pakistan in 1963 and held various senior positions. In 1989 he was appointed Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh and served as Secretary, Local Government Division. In 1991-93 he was appointed as Bangladesh's Ambassador to Japan and the Philippines. On his return to Bangladesh he served as Secretary of the Ministry of Jute, Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and later as a member of the Planning Commission. In April 1996 Mr Hena was appointed Chief Election Commissioner and supervised his country's national elections held on 12 June 1996. Mr Hena joined the Scout movement at the age of 13 and is currently the International Commissioner of

Bangladesh Scouts. He has been honoured by the World Scout Organisation with the 'Bronze Wolf', the highest world Scout award.

***Ms Frances Mary Howat (Australia)***

Ms Frances Mary Howat is the Australian Electoral Officer for New South Wales and has many years experience in public sector management, complemented by her previous experience as a social worker and a qualified psychologist. Ms Howat joined the Australian Electoral Commission from the New South Wales Department of Local Government, where she was employed as Assistant Director. In May 1994, following a Public Inquiry, Ms Howat was appointed Administrator of the Burwood Council – a position she held until the local government elections in September 1995. From January to June 1996, Ms Howat was appointed General Manager of Randwick City Council, at the request of the elected members, to implement major managerial and structural reform. Ms Howat holds the degrees of BSc in Social Studies, Master of Arts and Master of Jurisprudence (to be conferred in 1997).

***HE Mrs Amina Hughes (Zimbabwe)***

HE Mrs Amina Hughes is currently her country's Ambassador to the Nordic Countries. A teacher by profession, she has specialised in the teaching of children with learning difficulties (University of Rhodesia). Ambassador Hughes became a Senator in 1985 and later a Member of Parliament, serving as Deputy Minister of Transport and National Supplies. Ambassador Hughes is a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and has attended CPA conferences in Britain, Australia and Malaysia as well as a number of regional conferences. She was responsible for organising the Commonwealth Speakers' Conference in Harare and has held many executive positions, including Secretary-General of the World Women Parliamentarians for Peace (WWPP) and Board Member for the International Fund Sport for the Disabled. Ambassador Hughes serves many charitable organisations and has a special interest in advancing the development of women.

***The Hon Ilani Isahak, MP (Malaysia)***

The Hon Ilani Isahak is a Justice of the Peace and has been a Member of Parliament since 1990, when she became the sole woman opposition member of the House of Representatives. She was re-elected in the Malaysian general election in 1995 and has since joined the ruling National Front coalition. Ms Isahak was educated at the University of Malaya and the Islamic International University. She has practised law since 1976, has held important positions in the National Front and in the opposition Semangat 46 and was an active member of Malaysia's youth movement. She has extensive experience in general and by-elections in Malaysia.

***The Hon Catherine Kainja, MP (Malawi)***

A former Minister of Education, the Hon Catherine Kainja joined the civil service in 1974 as a teacher and college lecturer and was later appointed National Inspector of Schools. In 1982 Ms Kainja worked for the United Nations as a Liaison and Programme Officer. Following a break for further studies in Canada, Ms Kainja returned to Malawi and joined the University of Malawi where she was appointed head of an academic department. In 1992 Ms Kainja was appointed Minister of Education. She is currently a Member of Parliament, a researcher and consultant in policy, education, nutrition and social development. She has travelled widely on various missions and in July 1996 led a delegation on a goodwill mission to Rwanda.

***HE Mr Lee Llewellyn Moore, QC (St Kitts and Nevis)***

HE Mr Lee Llewellyn Moore has had a distinguished career as a lawyer and statesman. Mr Moore was Attorney-General of St Kitts and Nevis from 1971-79, Premier from May 1979 to

February 1980, and Leader of the Opposition from 1980-84. He has been President of the St Kitts-Nevis Trades & Labour Union since 1978. He was previously a legal practitioner, public relations officer to the Premier of St Kitts and Nevis and a law lecturer. Mr Moore was educated at King's College London and in 1963 was elected President of King's College Students' Union. He was called to the Bar at The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple in 1963. Mr Moore is currently Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

***Mr Justice Soorujnundun Moosun (Mauritius)***

Mr Justice Soorujnundun Moosun is the Chief Electoral Commissioner of Mauritius. He was a member of an international observer mission which observed the Romanian elections in May 1990, a delegation which carried out an electoral law study mission to Senegal in 1990 (both organised by the National Democratic Institute) and the Commonwealth Observer Group to the 1991 Parliamentary Elections in Bangladesh. He also served as an Organisation of African Unity observer at Tanzania's elections in 1995 and in 1993, again for the OAU, helped to organise the elections to the Congo's Legislative Assembly. Mr Moosun was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1968 and after some years as a magistrate and as presiding magistrate in the Intermediate Court joined the Electoral Commission in 1983.

***Senator Jessica Odle (Barbados)***

Senator Jessica Odle was appointed a government senator in 1994. She previously served as public relations officer for the Barbados Labour Party and is currently the Vice-President of the Women's League. A cosmetologist by profession, Senator Odle is also an educationalist and has taught in Brazil, Nigeria, the United States and the Caribbean. She was educated at the Foundation Girls School in Barbados and the London College of Fashion.

***Mr Urban Reyes (Belize)***

Mr Urban Reyes is Chief Elections Officer of the Belize Elections and Boundaries Commission and is responsible for organising all elections in that country. Mr Reyes was previously a lecturer in Computer Sciences at the University College of Belize. He has also worked with NGOs in Belize and is currently President of the UN Association of Belize.

***The Hon Saulo Busolo Wanambisi, MP (Kenya)***

The Hon Saulo Busolo Wanambisi was educated at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where he graduated in 1985 with a Masters Degree in Political Science. He has been a member of the Kenyan parliament (Webuye Constituency) since 1995. A university lecturer by profession, Mr Wanambisi was Assistant Lecturer at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, from 1992-94.

***Ms Janet Willwerth (Canada)***

Ms Janet Willwerth graduated from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1975 with an LLB. She joined the public service of the Province of Nova Scotia after graduation and specialised in municipal law, becoming Municipal Elections Officer in 1988. In 1991 she became Chief Electoral Officer (Acting) of the Province of Nova Scotia. Ms Willwerth served as a Commonwealth Observer to the elections in South Africa in 1994.

**SECRETARIAT SUPPORT STAFF**

Mr J P Sheppard	Team Leader
Mr Michael Fathers	Media Adviser
Mr Richard Nzerem	Assistant to Observers
Mr Amitav Banerji	Assistant to Observers
Mr Christopher Child	Assistant to Observers
Dr Henry Kaluba	Assistant to Observers
Mr Roy Rodriguez	Assistant to Observers
Ms Lorna McLaren	Assistant to Observers
Mrs Ruth Nile	Administrative Officer

## ANNEX II

## Commonwealth News Release of 26 November 1996



# Commonwealth News Release

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96/64

26 November 1996

## Commonwealth to Observe General Elections in Ghana

A team of 14 Commonwealth Observers, together with a supporting team from the Commonwealth Secretariat, will be present in Ghana for the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections which are to be held on 7 December 1996.

In making the announcement today, Commonwealth Secretary-General Emeka Anyaoku said that the Commonwealth was responding to a request from the Government of Ghana for a Commonwealth Observer Group to observe the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections. A planning mission from the Commonwealth Secretariat which visited Ghana in October established that there was widespread support for a Commonwealth presence during the elections.

The Commonwealth team for Ghana will be led by **Sir Paul Reeves**, former Governor-General of New Zealand. The other observers will be:

**Hon Ahmed Hassan Diria MP**  
Member of Parliament, Tanzania

**Mr Peter Fowler CMG**  
Former Diplomat, Britain

**Mr Mohammad Abu Hena**  
Chief Election Commissioner, Bangladesh

**Ms Frances Howat**  
Electoral Officer, Australia

**HE Ms Amina Hughes**  
Diplomat, Zimbabwe

**Hon Ilani Isahak MP**  
Member of Parliament, Malaysia

**Hon Catherine Kainja MP**  
Member of Parliament, Malawi

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**HE Mr Lee Moore**  
Diplomat, St Kitts and Nevis

**Mr Justice Soorujnundun Moosun**  
Chief Electoral Commissioner, Mauritius

**Senator Jessica Odle**  
Parliamentarian, Barbados

**Mr Urban Reyes**  
Chief Elections Officer, Belize

**Hon Saulo Busolo Wanambisi MP**  
Member of Parliament, Kenya

**Ms Janet Willwerth**  
Chief Electoral Officer, Canada

The Group will be supported by a nine-member team from the Commonwealth Secretariat, led by Mr Jon Sheppard, Director of the Political Affairs Division.

*Note to Editors:*

*The mission to Ghana will represent the 19th election observed by the Commonwealth since October 1990, including most recently elections in St Kitts and Nevis, Tanzania, Sierra Leone and Bangladesh. These observer missions are to be seen in the context of a decision taken by Commonwealth Heads of Government to support the promotion of democracy in a number of ways, including through observation, on request, of elections in member states.*

**ANNEX III****Arrival Statement of 28 November 1996**

Ghana Presidential and Parliamentary Elections, 1996

**Commonwealth Observer Group***News Release***Arrival Statement by the Commonwealth Observer Group**

We are pleased to be here in Ghana at this time to observe these important elections. We have come in response to a request from the Government of Ghana to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, for the Commonwealth to observe the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections on 7 December 1996. This request has been endorsed by all the major political parties involved in the elections.

Our Group has been drawn from 14 Commonwealth countries. We each serve in our personal capacities and not as representatives of the countries, governments or the organisations to which we may belong. Our objective is to observe the organisation and conduct of the elections in accordance with the laws of Ghana, and to form an impartial judgment based upon our observations.

We have no executive role. On completion of our task we will present a report to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, who will make it available to the Government of Ghana and to the political parties taking part in the elections, and thereafter to all Commonwealth governments.

We consider our role in observing these elections as part of the Commonwealth's commitment to strengthening the democratic process in member countries. In carrying out this mission we will remain in close touch with the political parties, the Electoral Commission, and others involved in the election exercise. We look forward to being briefed on the preparations for the poll, and to travelling to many parts of the country before and on polling day.

We consider it an honour to be here at this juncture and hope to assist in whatever ways we can in Ghana's political and democratic development.

***Note to Editors***

*The Commonwealth Observer Group to Ghana has established an office at the Novotel, Accra. For further information please contact Michael Fathers (Press Officer). Tel: 667546 and ask for room 108.*

**ANNEX IV****Schedule of Engagements****Thursday 28 November**

- 1030 Arrival Press Conference, Novotel Hotel, Accra
- 1500 Briefing by Dr Kwadwo Afari-Gyan, Chairman, Electoral Commission
- 2000 Dinner for Dr Afari-Gyan, Novotel Hotel

**Friday 29 November**

- 1045 People's Convention Party: Mr Seth Abloso (General Secretary) and Alhaji Mohammed Farl (Vice-Chairman)
- 1145 National Convention Party: Mr Kwame Agyei-Sakyi (General Secretary), Mr Francis Goodwyll (Deputy National Treasurer), Mr Emmanuel Asante-Asare (Chief Protocol Officer) and Mr Samuel Akkan (Administration Officer)
- 1230 Great Consolidated Popular Party: Mr Dan Lartey (Leader), Mr John Thompson (General Secretary), Mr Kofi Abban (National Organiser) and Mr Agble Kpor (Treasurer)
- 1430 New Patriotic Party: Mr Peter A Adjetey (National Chairman), Ms Ama Busia (National Vice-Chairperson), Mr Daniel Botwe (Director, Operations and Research), Mr J O Obetsebi-Lamptey (Chairman, Publicity Committee)
- 1600 National Democratic Congress: Mr Vincent Asiseh (Press Secretary) and Dr Tony Aidoo (Director of Research)
- 1730 Democratic People's Party: Mr Dan Markin (General Secretary) and Mr Emmanuel Duku-Woode (Member, National Executive Committee)
- 1900 Briefing by Commonwealth Heads of Mission at Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra, hosted by Mr R O Wallang (Acting High Commissioner for India) and also attended by HE Mr Ian Mackley (British High Commissioner), HE Mr John Schram (Canadian High Commissioner) and Mr P J Riley (Acting High Commissioner, South Africa)

**Saturday 30 November**

- 0900 Representatives of the Network of Domestic Election Observers (NEDEO): Justice Kingsley-Nyinah (Chairman, Advisory Board), Dr Baffour Agyeman-Duah (Project Director), Rev Dr Abraham Akrong (Chairman, Reporting Committee) and Alhaji Alhasan Abdulai (Member, Media Committee)
- 1045 People's National Convention: Dr Nii Noi Dowuona (General Secretary) and Mr S K Yiborku (Deputy General Secretary)

- 1200 Bar Association: Mr William Boafo (National Secretary)
- 1400 Mr David Kangah, Deputy Chairman (Operations), Electoral Commission
- 1645 Ghana Journalists' Association: Mrs Gifty Affenyi-Dadzie (President) and Mr Bright Kwame Blewu (General Secretary)
- 1745 Ghana Broadcasting Corporation: Mr Cyril Acolatse (Editor-in-Chief, Radio News) and Mr G Kwawu (Television Production)
- 1930 Chairperson's Reception for Observers and invited guests, Novotel Hotel

### **Sunday 1 December**

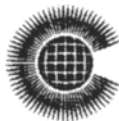
- 1100 National Council on Women and Development: Mrs Ayiku Christian Wilson, Mrs Mariam A Tackie, Mrs Sherry Ayittey and Mrs Stella Bentsi-Enchill
- 1200 Discussion with Mr Victor Butler (UNDP Observers Co-ordinator) and representatives of the National Democratic Institute: Mr Earl Shinhoster (Ghana Field Director) and Ms Antoinette Pearson (Programme Officer for West Africa)
- 1330 Deployment briefing and distribution of Observers' material

**ANNEX V****Deployment of Commonwealth Observers**

<b>REGION</b>		<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>Greater Accra</b>	Sir Paul Reeves (Chairperson) Hon Saulo Busolo Wanambisi MP Mr J P Sheppard Ms Lorna McLaren	Novotel Hotel Accra
<b>Ashanti</b>	HE Mrs Amina Hughes Hon Ahmed Hassan Diria MP	Hotel Georgia Kumasi
<b>Brong Ahafo</b>	Mr Mohammad Abu Hena Mr Justice Soorujnundun Moosun	Catering Rest House Sunyani
<b>Central</b>	Ms Janet Willwerth HE Mr Lee Moore	Sanaa Lodge Cape Coast
<b>Eastern</b>	Hon Ilani Isahak MP Mr Michael Fathers	St James' Hotel Koforidua
<b>Northern</b>	Mr Urban Reyes Mr Christopher Child	Las Hotel Tamale
<b>Upper East</b>	Mr Peter Fowler Dr Henry Kaluba	Catering Rest House Bolgatanga
<b>Upper West</b>	Ms Frances Howat Mr Roy Rodriguez	Uplands Hotel Wa
<b>Volta</b>	Hon Catherine Kainja MP Mr Richard Nzerem	Woezor Hotel Ho
<b>Western</b>	Senator Jessica Odle Mr Amitav Banerji	Planters' Lodge Takoradi

## ANNEX VI

## Check List for Polling Station Visits and Observation Notes for Poll and Count



Ghana Presidential and Parliamentary Elections, 1996

## Commonwealth Observer Group

### CHECKLIST FOR POLLING STATION VISITS

Name of Observer(s):.....

Constituency: .....

Polling Station: .....

Time of Arrival: .....

Time of Departure: .....

Voters in Queue: ..... Rate of Processing: .....

1. **Opening of Poll:** On time? Procedures followed?  
No/Yes No/Yes  
Details:
2. **Layout and Facilities:** Good? Adequate? Poor?
3. **Polling Staff:** Efficient? Satisfactory? Poor?
4. **Security Presence:** Discreet? Intrusive? Oppressive?
5. **Complaints by Party Polling Agents:** No/Yes Details:
6. **Complaints by Voters:** No/Yes Details:
7. **Presence of unauthorised persons:** No/Yes Details:
8. **Atmosphere at Station?** Orderly? Tense? Chaotic?
9. **Secrecy of Ballot:** Assured? Poor? Uncertain

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**10. Voting:**

(a) Personation attempts alleged: No/Yes

Details:

(b) Multiple voting attempts alleged: No/Yes

Details:

(c) Women deterred from voting: No/Yes

Details:

**11. Closing of Poll:** On time? Numbers still in queue?  
Procedure followed? No/Yes

**12. The Count:** Are procedures being observed? No/Yes

**13. Apparent fairness overall:** Good? Acceptable?  
Questionable?

**14. Other Comments:**



Ghana Presidential and Parliamentary Elections, 1996

## Commonwealth Observer Group

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### OBSERVATION NOTES FOR POLL AND COUNT

#### PART A

The Observers may focus particular attention on the following aspects of the conduct of the election:

#### THE CAMPAIGN

1. Balance of TV/radio election coverage and extent and nature of access by the parties (e.g. allocation of time for political broadcasts and advertisements).
2. Print media: nature of coverage and extent of access by the political parties.
3. The tone and content of material put out by the political parties, access to printing facilities?
4. The conduct of political meetings/rallies (permits for public meetings?)
5. The conduct of house-to-house canvassing of voters.
6. Nature, scale and effectiveness of Election Commission and other voter education on radio and television, in the print media and by other methods.
7. Activities/measures to encourage the participation of women.
8. Access to funds and sources of funds.
9. Has there been violence/intimidation and/or tolerance and restraint?
10. In general, has the campaign been conducted according to standard democratic norms?

### THE POLL

1. The location of polling centres.
2. Distances travelled by voters to polling centres, particularly in rural areas.
3. The procedure followed at the opening of the poll.
4. The length of time voters wait to cast their votes.
5. The adequacy or otherwise of facilities at polling stations and their state of readiness.
6. Availability of adequate supplies, eg, ballot papers, official stamps and stamp-pads, indelible ink, etc.
7. The performance of electoral officials at the polling centres/booths visited.
8. The procedures in place to ensure proper security of ballot papers, ballot boxes and official seals.
9. Arrangements to facilitate voting by women.
10. The steps taken to ensure that the secrecy of the ballot is assured.
11. The general atmosphere at the polling centres/booths visited.
12. Access of party agents and observers to polling centres and the performance of party agents.

### THE COUNT

1. Inspection of seals.
2. The process of reconciling the number of people who voted with the number of ballots cast.
3. The determination of invalid ballots.
4. The facilities for candidates and their representatives to witness and verify the count and overall transparency.
5. Access by domestic and international observers.
6. The conduct of electoral officers.
7. The collation and transmission of results information to constituency and higher levels.

**PART B**

Questions that may be put:

**BEFORE POLLING DAY**

1. Was the Voters' Register compiled in a satisfactory way? Were people missed out? Were the names of dead people or "phantom voters" included?
2. Who are the election officials? How were they chosen? Are voters confident that they will be impartial?
3. Is the person in the street satisfied with arrangements? Will he/she vote? If not, is he/she afraid to do so? Were there any attempts to discourage/encourage the participation of women and were they effective?
4. Have all parties been able to campaign freely? Has the campaign been free of intimidation, etc? Have all parties had full access to the mass media?
5. Is there freedom to advertise and distribute posters, leaflets, etc?

**ON POLLING DAY**

1. Before polling starts, are the ballot boxes empty? Are they properly sealed? Are all procedures being adhered to?
2. Are all parties represented at polling stations? Are they satisfied with the process?
3. Are voters apparently voting freely? Are they enthusiastic? Do they talk freely? Do they exhibit signs of fear or intimidation?
4. Do voters and election officials understand the procedures properly? If not, are the procedures being explained fully and impartially? Are attempts being made to suggest how voters should vote?
5. Does the turnout indicate that women have been deterred from voting?
6. Is only one person at a time being allowed into the voting booth?
7. How long are voters waiting to vote? If a long time, are some being put off? Is there queue jumping?
8. Will all parties be represented at polling centres throughout voting and count? Are party polling agents adequately trained and vigilant?
9. Will foreign observers have free access to all stages of the process?
10. Is the security presence effective/oppressive?

### THE COUNT

1. Are the boxes kept safe until opened? What measures are taken to protect Special Votes? Are all parties present at opening?
2. Does the number of used ballot papers tally with the record of those who voted?
3. Are the papers counted properly? Are counting agents present? Are they satisfied with the procedure of the count? Is the collation and transmission of results being carried out properly?

**ANNEX VII****Interim Statement of 8 December 1996**

Ghana Presidential and Parliamentary Elections, 1996

**Commonwealth Observer Group***News Release***8 December 1996 : 0030****Interim Statement by The Chairperson, Sir Paul Reeves**

The Commonwealth Observer Group, consisting of 23 eminent persons and support staff has been in Ghana for the last ten days and some members of our group have been here longer. After thorough briefings our members were deployed to every region of Ghana for about a week.

On election day our observers visited nearly three hundred polling centres across the country. We were present when the polls opened and when they closed. We also stayed to observe the count. Where we visited was entirely our own decision and the logistical support for our Group was provided solely from the resources of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

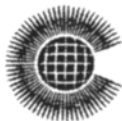
These elections mark an important advance in the democratic process in Ghana. Overall they have been well planned, organised and conducted. It is significant that all parties were determined to contest the elections/and they did so vigorously. By turning out in large numbers, peacefully and patiently, the people of Ghana have demonstrated their commitment to the democratic future of their country. We believe that the conditions existed today for a free expression of will by the electors.

This statement is issued while the constituency results are being compiled. We will later be submitting a comprehensive and considered report to the Commonwealth Secretary-General who will then make it available to the Government of Ghana, the Electoral Commission and all the political parties that have taken part in the elections.

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**ANNEX VIII****Departure Statement of 11 December 1996**

Ghana Presidential and Parliamentary Elections, 1996

**Commonwealth Observer Group***News Release*

11 December, 1996

**Departure Statement by Sir Paul Reeves  
Chairman of the Commonwealth Observer Group**

The Commonwealth Observer Group arrived in Ghana on 27 November and leaves today having completed its observation of the Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

During this time our 23 members travelled extensively and were present in the last week of the campaign in all Ghana's 10 regions for special voting and on election day. We met representatives of the Electoral Commission, the leading political parties, the broadcast and print media, non-governmental organisations and interested groups, and many Ghanaians across the country.


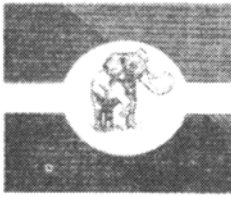
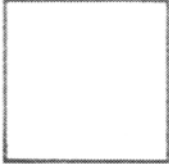










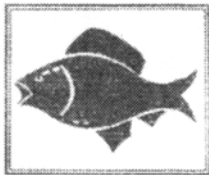

We were deeply impressed with and wish to commend the strong commitment of the people of Ghana to the democratic process. We believe this was a credible election which reflected the will of the people. With the election now behind them we urge all the political parties, whether in government or in opposition, to work for national reconciliation, for the further consolidation of democracy, and for the greater benefit of their country.

We are grateful to have had this opportunity to serve our fellow Commonwealth citizens in support of the Commonwealth's fundamental values. We wish to express our appreciation to all those Ghanaians who have assisted us in our work and for the many kindnesses extended to us.

Our report will be submitted to the Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku who will then make it available to the Government of Ghana, the Electoral Commission and to all the political parties that took part in the elections. It will then be available to the general public.






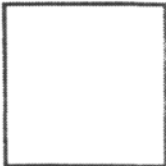
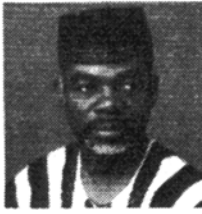


**ANNEX IX**

**Sample Ballot Paper, Parliamentary Elections, 7 December 1996**

010801		010801	
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: 1996 GREATER ACCRA REGION KLOTTEY-KORLE	PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: 1996 GREATER ACCRA REGION KLOTTEY-KORLE		THUMB PRINT IN BOX BELOW ↓
	CANDIDATE	SYMBOL	
	 Gilbert Quartey	 NPP	
SAMPLE	 Tei Okunor	 IND.	
	 David Lamptey	 NDC	
	 Adolf Lutterodt	 PCP	
	 Kwame Nyarko Akuffo-Mensah	 IND.	

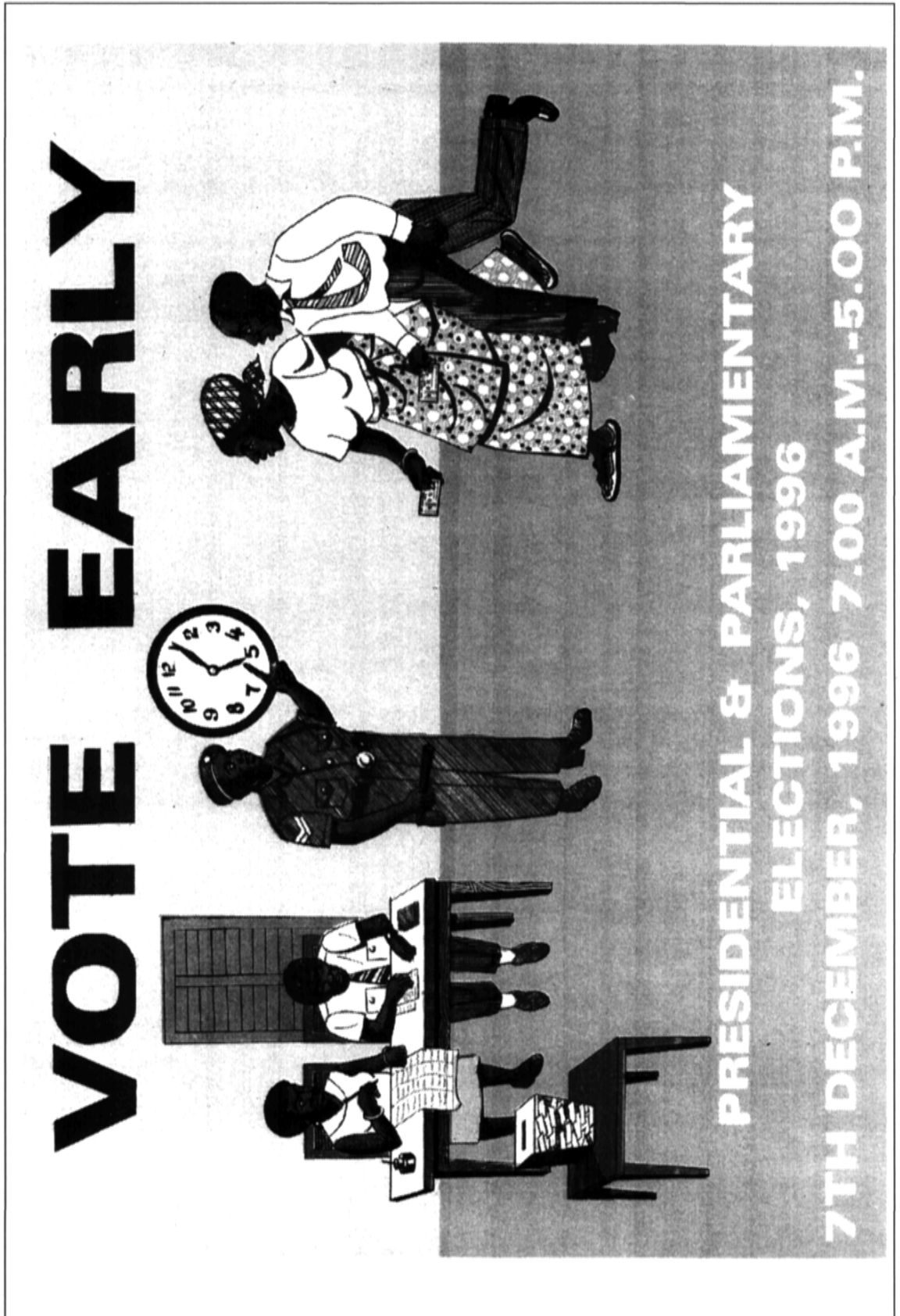
**ANNEX X**

**Sample Ballot Paper, Presidential Election, 7 December 1996**

9042101		9042101	
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, 1996	PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, 1996		THUMBPRINT IN BOX BELOW ↓
	CANDIDATE	SYMBOL	
SAMPLE	 J. J. RAWLINGS	 NDC	
	 J. A. KUFUOR	 NPP	
	 E. N. MAHAMA	 PNC	

ANNEX XI

Electoral Commission Voter Education Posters



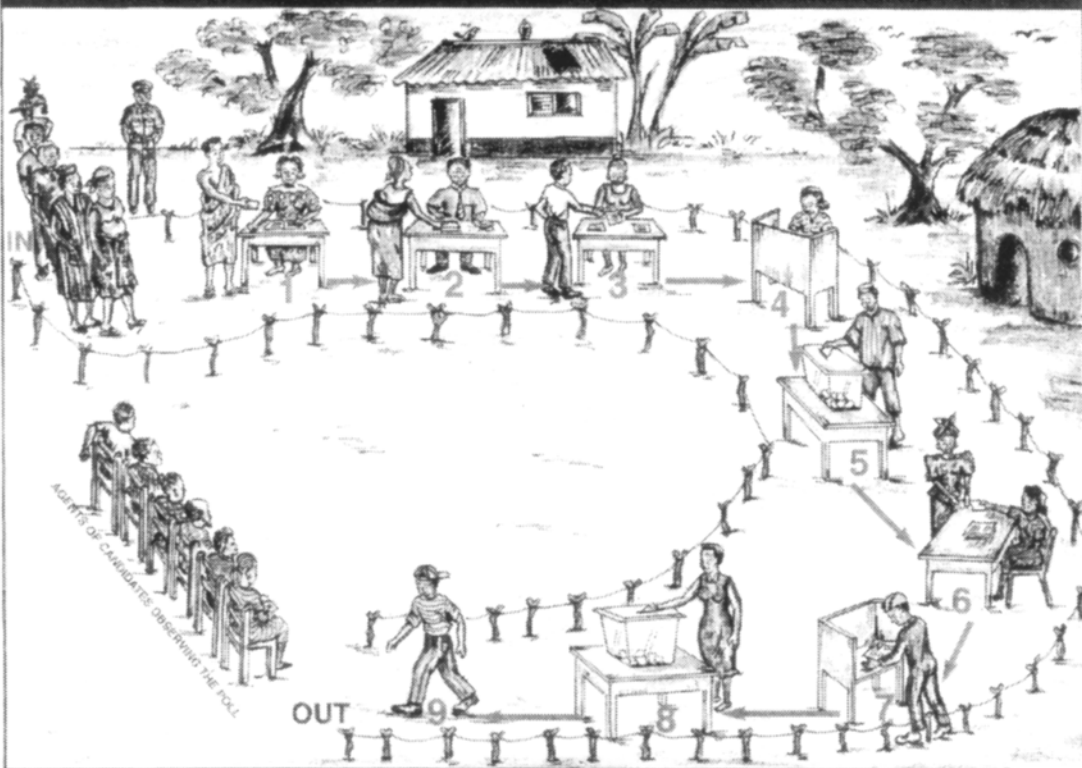
# VOTING IS FOR EVERY ADULT



**PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY  
ELECTIONS, 1996**

**7th DECEMBER 1996  
7,00am - 5,00pm**

# VOTING STEPS AT THE POLLING STATION



<p><b>REGISTRATION</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Polling assistant checks the name of the voter on the voters register.</li> <li>2. Polling assistant applies for electoral stamp.</li> <li>3. Polling assistant gives voter the Presidential ballot paper.</li> <li>4. Voter marks a choice for President on the ballot paper behind a voting screen.</li> <li>5. Voter casts the Presidential ballot paper in the Presidential ballot box.</li> <li>6. Polling assistant gives voter the Parliamentary ballot paper.</li> <li>7. Voter marks a choice for Parliament on the ballot paper behind a voting screen.</li> <li>8. Voter casts the Parliamentary ballot paper in the Parliamentary ballot box.</li> <li>9. Voter leaves polling station.</li> </ol>	<p><b>GA</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dehikiffo akofa a wɔlaa wɔdehikiffo gbe yi wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>2. Dehikiffo akofa a yi wɔdehikiffo beɔ wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>3. Dehikiffo akofa a yi wɔdehikiffo beɔ wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>4. Dehikiffo yi bea wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>5. Dehikiffo akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>6. Dehikiffo akofa a yi wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>7. Dehikiffo akofa a yi wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>8. Dehikiffo akofa a yi wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>9. Dehikiffo akofa a yi wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> </ol>	<p><b>REGISTRATION</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ma wɔdehikiffo yi, kɔrɔrɔ yi kɔrɔrɔ wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>2. Ma wɔdehikiffo yi, kɔrɔrɔ yi kɔrɔrɔ wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>3. Ma wɔdehikiffo yi, kɔrɔrɔ yi kɔrɔrɔ wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>4. Ma wɔdehikiffo yi, kɔrɔrɔ yi kɔrɔrɔ wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>5. Ma wɔdehikiffo yi, kɔrɔrɔ yi kɔrɔrɔ wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>6. Ma wɔdehikiffo yi, kɔrɔrɔ yi kɔrɔrɔ wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>7. Ma wɔdehikiffo yi, kɔrɔrɔ yi kɔrɔrɔ wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>8. Ma wɔdehikiffo yi, kɔrɔrɔ yi kɔrɔrɔ wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>9. Ma wɔdehikiffo yi, kɔrɔrɔ yi kɔrɔrɔ wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> </ol>	<p><b>REGISTRATION</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Anɔfɔfɔfɔ Dehikiffo yi akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>2. Dehikiffo yi akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>3. Dehikiffo yi akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>4. Dehikiffo yi akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>5. Dehikiffo yi akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>6. Dehikiffo yi akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>7. Dehikiffo yi akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>8. Dehikiffo yi akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>9. Dehikiffo yi akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> </ol>
<p><b>REGISTRATION</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>2. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>3. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>4. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>5. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>6. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>7. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>8. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>9. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> </ol>	<p><b>FANTSE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>2. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>3. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>4. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>5. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>6. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>7. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>8. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>9. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> </ol>	<p><b>REGISTRATION</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>2. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>3. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>4. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>5. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>6. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>7. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>8. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>9. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> </ol>	<p><b>REGISTRATION</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>2. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>3. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>4. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>5. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>6. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>7. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>8. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> <li>9. Akofa akofa wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo wɔdehikiffo.</li> </ol>

**PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS**  
**7 DECEMBER 1996 7am to 5 pm**  
 ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF GHANA

# THUMBPRINT YOUR BALLOT PAPER CORRECTLY CORRECT MARKING OF BALLOT

PICTURE	SYMBOL	PLACE THUMBPRINT IN BOX



## WRONG MARKING OF BALLOT



**BALLOT UNMARKED**



**VOTED FOR MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE**



**SELECTED CANDIDATE UNCERTAIN**



**VOTER CAN BE IDENTIFIED**

**PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS**

**7 DECEMBER 1996 7am to 5 pm**

**ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF GHANA**

PHOTO: ILO/UNEP

## *ANNEX XII*

### **Electoral Commission Code of Conduct for Election Observers**

#### *Policy on Election Observation and the Election Observers' Code of Conduct*

(Issued by Electoral Commission of Ghana)

### **Policy on Election Observation**

#### **Introduction**

The Electoral Commission welcomes you as an observer in the 7th December 1996 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections. The observation of an election is a serious undertaking. The Commission and people of Ghana trust that you will perform your duties faithfully and in accordance with the policy and code of conduct laid out in this brochure.

#### **Election Observation Policy**

1. An observer shall have the right to enter any polling station or constituency centre throughout Ghana to observe the packing and transporting of election materials, the voting process and the counting of votes at the polling stations, and the collation of election results at the constituency centres.
2. Accreditation for purposes of observing the presidential and parliamentary elections shall be given to organisations recognised by the Commission.
3. Any organisation seeking accreditation shall file an application with the Commission, giving the following information:
  - (a) the names, addresses and phone numbers of the organisation and its principal officers;
  - (b) the name, address and phone number of the person put in charge of the observation exercise;
  - (c) an undertaking that the organisation will abide by the laws, regulations, policies, and code of conduct governing the election and its observation;
  - (d) an undertaking that the organisation will take reasonable steps to ensure that its proposed observers are well versed in the rules, regulations, and procedures which govern the conduct of election observation;
  - (e) a list of all persons who will serve as observers and their photographs (approx. 3 cm wide x 3.5 cm long).
4. Unless the Presiding Officer otherwise permits, access to a polling station shall be limited to a total of four (4) observers per polling station at any one time.
 

*Observers should identify themselves to the Presiding Officer at each polling station visited.*
5. Unless the Returning Officer otherwise permits, access to a constituency centre for purposes of the collation of results shall be limited to two (2) observers from each accredited organisation.

6. No observer shall be allowed access to any polling station or constituency centre:
  - (a) unless he or she is wearing the official identification issued by the Commission;
  - (b) if he or she is carrying, wearing or in any manner displaying any identification of a political party or candidate contesting the election.
7. The Commission or its representative may cancel the accreditation of any organisation or individual where, in the opinion of the Commission or its representative, the organisation or individual has:
  - (a) failed to comply with a lawful instruction, direction or order issued by or on behalf of the Commission; or
  - (b) demonstrated publicly a bias in favour of a particular candidate or political party; or
  - (c) hindered or obstructed any election official in the conduct of his or her duties; or
  - (d) infringed the Code of Conduct for Election Observers published by the Commission.
8. An organisation sponsoring observers shall be entirely responsible for all costs in assisting its observers in the performance of their duties.

### **Election Observers' Code of Conduct**

The object of the Code of Conduct as prescribed by the Commission is to ensure that:

- (a) election observation is done with integrity and transparency; and
  - (b) election officials are left alone to do their work.
1. An observer shall not offer advice or give direction to or in any way interfere with an election official in the performance of his or her duties.
  2. An observer shall not touch any election material or equipment without the express consent of the Presiding Officer at a polling station or the Returning Officer at the constituency centre.

*Observers may not involve themselves in the conduct of the election.*
  3. An observer or observer organisation shall maintain strict impartiality in the course of observing the election and shall at no time indicate or express any bias or preference for any political party or candidate contesting the election.
  4. An observer shall not carry, wear, or display on his or her person any electioneering material or any article of clothing or any insignia denoting support for or opposition to any party or candidate contesting the elections.
  5. An observer shall not carry or display arms or any offensive weapon during the conduct of his or her duties as an observer.

6. An observer shall take reasonable steps to substantiate every statement or information provided in connection with the conduct of the elections. If any statement cannot be substantiated, the observer's report shall state that he/she was unable to verify the truth of the statement or information.
7. An observer shall comply with any lawful directive issued by or under the authority of the Commission, including an order to leave a polling station or a constituency centre given by the officer in charge of the place.

*Failure to follow a lawful directive is a violation of Ghanaian law.*