



# IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF ELECTORAL RISK - GHANAIAN EXPERIENCES

By

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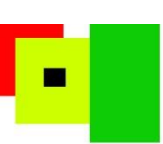


Good morning once again, distinguished participants, our brothers and sisters from the media, ladies and gentleman.

I bring you good tidings from our Electoral Management Body i.e. the Electoral Commission of Ghana especially our new Chairperson Mrs Charlotte Osei. She would have loved to be here with us but assignment had taken her somewhere.

I am indeed privileged and honoured for the opportunity given me to address this august gathering on this very important topic: ***“Improved Management of Electoral Risk-Ghanaian experiences”***.





My presentation will be done through the following steps:

❖ **What the Commission does in the Electoral Circle :**

- Pre-election activities.
- Election activities.
- Post election activities.

❖ **Ensuring, the adherence of principles of Electoral Justice:**

- ✓ Integrity
- ✓ Participation
- ✓ Impartiality/Fairness
- ✓ Professionalism
- ✓ Transparency
- ✓ Independence
- ✓ Timeliness
- ✓ Non-violence

❖ **The role of Political Parties and their operations.**

❖ **The role of Security Agencies/Media.**



## WHAT THE COMMISSION DOES IN THE ELECTORAL CIRCLE

Pre-election activities:

- a. The demarcation of Electoral boundaries.
- b. The registration of voters (electors).

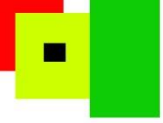
The Commission ensures that the following stakeholders are involved:

- Traditional Authorities, opinion leaders as well as individuals.
- Political Parties.
- Mass Media.

### Demarcation

Traditional Authorities and opinion leaders are of the view that the demarcation should be on traditional lines i.e. Traditional allegiance.





They raise the issue of wanting more constituencies in their areas and the Headquarters of the constituency created. Some of them even disagree with the names given.

The Commission tries to explain to them, that the 1992 Constitution has been very explicit on this issue i.e. Articles (47) and (48). This application of the law ensure the avoidance of gerrymandering in demarcation.



- Copies of the provisional voters register is given to all political parties.
- The Commission exhibit the Provisional Voters Register (PVR) where all voters, political parties have the opportunity to object, include and correct their data before the final register of voters is printed.
- Copies of the final register is given to all registered political parties.



## REGISTRATION OF VOTER (ELECTORS)

The involvement of political parties and media normally ensure that the register is not bloated with:

- Ghost names
- Non Citizens
- Minors. Those who have not acquired the voting age i.e. less than 18 years.
- Agents of political parties and media are at registration centers and they are given copies of daily registration.
- They also have the opportunity to challenge unqualified people who try to register.
- These registration challenges are adjudicated by a committee made up of all registered political parties.



## ELECTION ACTIVITIES

### Nomination of candidates

- All political parties are free to file candidates and also independent candidates.
- The filing fee is affordable and the nomination forms are free and collected from the offices of the Commission.
- The Notices of Election are posted indicating when, where and how to complete the forms.
- Agents/representatives of all candidates monitor the printing of the ballots at the various printing houses.
- They keep records of the quantity of ballots printed based on their serial numbers.





## POLL

- Candidates are represented at all polling stations by their Agents to protect the interest of their candidates.
- Copies of results are given to all candidates Agents after counting, at the polling station.
- Voters vote were they registered.

## POST ELECTION ACTIVITIES

There is a provision for the adjudication of election petitions.

- The parliamentary election is petitioned at High Court within 21 days after the result has been gazetted and the petitioner also makes payment of deposit determined by the Court.
- The presidential selection is petitioned at the supreme Court within 21 days after the declaration of the result.



## ENSURING THE ADHERENCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF ELECTORAL JUSTICE

- Integrity - Ensuring probity and accountability of all resources used in the process.
- Participation: - All stakeholders are involved in the process. They know when and how the process is undertaken.
- Impartiality/Fairness:- Laws are applied firmly and fairly at every stage of the process on all stakeholders.
- Transparency: - The process is known and opened to all stakeholders.
- Independence: - The Electoral Management Body's Independence is guaranteed in the law. i.e. in Ghana Article (46) 1992 Constitution. There is also security of tenure.



- Timeliness: - Election results are declared timeously without delay.
- Non-Violence: - The process is devoid of Violence: i.e. Campaigning, voting and declaration of the results.

## **THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

The Commission ensure there are three (3) levels of engagement of political parties:

- National – IPAC (Inter-Party Advisory Committee)
- Regional – RIPAC (Regional Inter-Party Advisory Committee)
- District - DIPAC (District Inter-Party Advisory Committee)



- The Commission meets political parties at these levels to discuss all process in the electoral system.
- Even though decisions at these levels are not legally binding on the Commission. The Commission considers these decisions seriously so long as they are practicable, legal and they add to the transparency of the process.
- Agents of political parties are trained at every level of the electoral process.
- Agents of the political parties are given copies of registration and results of the elections at polling station level.





## THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA

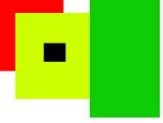
- The media is a partner and a critical stakeholder in the electoral process.
- The Commission ensure we have a national, regional and district fora with the media.
- These fora educate the media on the electoral terminologies in each of the activities.
- The fora also throw light on when, how and where the activities will take place.
- With the help of the media the electorate are well informed about the process.



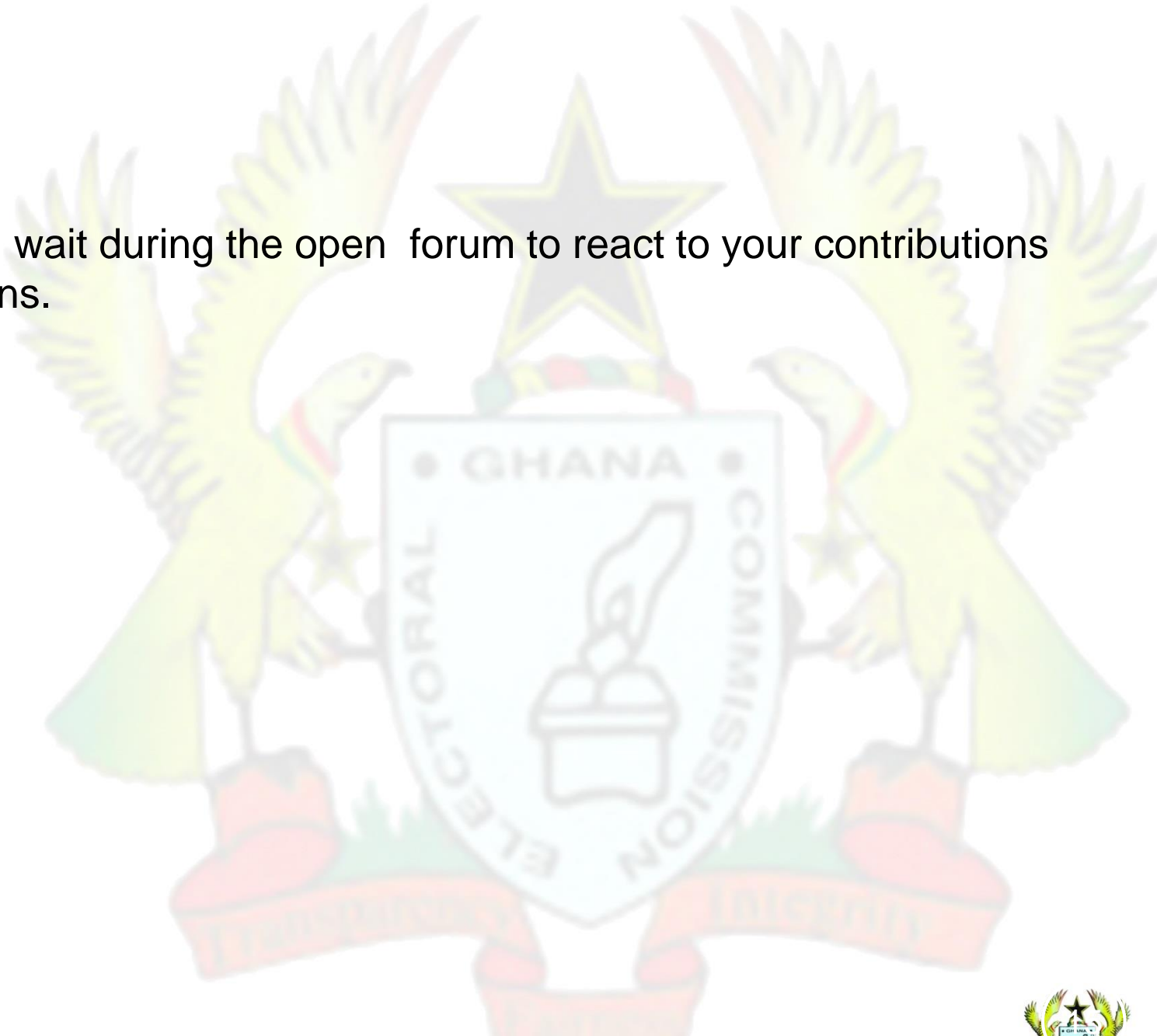
## THE ROLE OF SECURITY

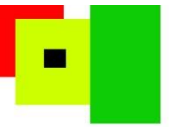
- The Commission makes sure that the security are well trained on the process.
- Security is provided at the various printing houses during the printing and despatch of ballots to the regions.
- Security is provided for the movements of personnel and materials from point of distribution to the polling stations.
- Security ensure law and order during the poll and the counting and declaration of the results.
- The Commission ensures the security map out strategy to ensure peace security and stability in the country before, during and after the elections.





Finally, I will wait during the open forum to react to your contributions and questions.





# THANK

