



TOWARDS A WORLD-CLASS ELECTION 2016

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Chairperson, Electoral Commission

HOW ARE WE GETTING THERE?



for the people

- A World-class Electoral Commission
- Internal Reforms
- Electoral reforms



OUR REDEFINED VISION!



for the people

We are working to become the Benchmark in Africa for facilitating **Independent, Trusted, World Class** Democratic Elections for citizens and candidates alike.



OUR REDEFINED MISSION!



for the people

Our job at the EC is to:

Deliver on the electoral mandate by **facilitating** free and fair elections and **regulate the activities** of all registered political parties.





ACCOUNTABILITY

I take ownership of my work, my responsibilities and my decisions



EXCELLENCE

I strive for my personal best in my thoughts, my words and my actions, being better today than I was yesterday



INTEGRITY

I am honest and transparent in all my dealings, ensuring I am worthy of the trust placed in myself and the EC



INCLUSIVENESS

I work to ensure that the voices of all our people are heard, in the organization, the community and the country

OUR OBJECTIVES



for the people

- ❁ Ensure that the Election Mandate is delivered and managed transparently and ethically.
- ❁ Ensure EC is legally and functionally independent.
- ❁ Develop and maintain a relationship of trust and credibility with citizens, parties, state institutions and other stakeholders.
- ❁ Ensure that EC is operated efficiently, effectively and to world class standards.



for the people

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page, consisting of several stylized human figures arranged in a circle. Each figure is composed of a dark blue triangle for the body and a dark blue circle for the head. The figures are pointing towards the center of the circle.

INTERNAL REFORMS

INTERNAL REFORMS



for the people

→ **A new Legal Department:**

to manage compliance, provide advisory support, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) services and oversee relationships with strategic partners.

→ **Separation of Human Resources from administrative services:**

to strengthen the focus on HR, performance management, improve internal stakeholder engagement, training and career advancement.

INTERNAL REFORMS



for the people

→ **New department for Administration and Internal Coordination:**

to improve administrative oversight and flow of work within the head office departments, and between regional offices and head office.

→ **New Fee-for-Service Structure:**

A new structure for managing third party/fee for service elections and renewed focus on Internally Generated Funds - management, oversight, procedures.

INTERNAL REFORMS



for the people

→ **New Office of Electoral Services:**

Former Directorate of Elections has been expanded to include elections, regulation of political parties and voter registration services.

→ **New Communications Department:**

A move away from Public Affairs to a restructured Communications Department to oversee expanded platforms for more efficient and proactive stakeholder engagement and voter education.

INTERNAL REFORMS



for the people

→ **New Online Strategy:**

A more interactive, user-friendly and modern online presence through the Commission's new website, with a better social media presence and engagement to serve the people of Ghana better.



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**ELECTORAL
REFORMS**

27 ELECTORAL REFORMS



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→ **After 2012/13 Election Petition:**

Electoral Reform Committee was set up by the EC.

The Committee was tasked to synthesize the various reforms proposed by the panel of Justices of the Apex Court for easy implementation by the Commission.

Membership of the Committee included representatives of the political parties, governance institutions, Faith-Based Organisations and Civil Society Organisations.

27 ELECTORAL REFORMS



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→ **After 2012 Election Petition:**

All the reforms proposed by the Committee were accepted, except two. These were:

1. That membership of the Inter-Party Advisory Committee (IPAC) should be expanded to include CSOs; and
2. That no voting without biometric verification.

27 ELECTORAL REFORMS



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→ **The Accepted Reforms:**

The 27 reform proposals which were accepted and are being implemented by the EC include the following:

1. Presidential and Parliamentary elections are held in November instead of December. But this has now been rejected by Parliament.
2. Continuous voter registration in addition to periodic registrations.
3. Election Officials & Party Agents will take oaths before a Magistrate or Judicial officer instead of an officer of the Commission.

27 ELECTORAL REFORMS



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→ The Accepted Reforms:

4. IPAC to be institutionalized
5. Use of Biometric Verification Device for exhibition of the Provisional Voters Register.
6. Raised the minimum educational qualification requirements for various levels of election officials.

27 ELECTORAL REFORMS



→ The Accepted Reforms:

7. Improved quality of training of election officials and EC staff.

8. PWDs and vulnerable persons to be given priority at polling stations on Election Day.

9. We have made clear provisions in C.I. 94 regarding processes and procedures to be followed to adjourn polling in the event of a disruption caused by nature or human activity.

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27 ELECTORAL REFORMS



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→ The Accepted Reforms:

10. We have improved the Compensation package for Election officials. We believe this will get them motivated to put in their best for a clean exercise.

11. We will serially number statement of Polls and Declaration of the results sheets for easy referencing.

12. We are replacing the “Strong Room” with a more open, accessible and transparent National Results Collation Centre.

27 ELECTORAL REFORMS



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→ The Accepted Reforms:

13. We are appointing very knowledgeable collation officers for each constituency as a safeguard against collation errors.

14. Electronic voting has been deferred.

15. The C.I 94 has made provisions for election officials to be punished/sanctioned for any breach of the electoral laws.

16. We are working on multiple measures to reduce the incidence of rejected ballots.

27 ELECTORAL REFORMS



for the people

→ The Accepted Reforms:

17. The notice period for the Voter Registration exercise was extended from 14 to 21 days.

18. In compliance with the law, we will give a copy of the Final Certified Register to Registered Political Parties at least 21 days before the elections.

27 ELECTORAL REFORMS



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→ The Accepted Reforms:

19. We have reduced the number of voters per polling station to cut down on queues on election day.

20. We have published an annual calendar of our activities subject to periodic reviews and amendment. This will continue.

21. We will publish a list of all polling stations with their codes and locations not later than 42 days to the elections. But the EC accepted 21 days.

27 ELECTORAL REFORMS



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→ The Accepted Reforms:

22. Returning Officers will give copies of Proxy, Special and Absent Voters lists to Candidates/Parties.

23. Returning Officers will issue copies of collation sheets to Candidates/Agents.

24. We have expanded the list of special voters to include you (accredited media personnel, security personnel and staff of the Electoral Commission.)

27 ELECTORAL REFORMS



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→ The Accepted Reforms:

25. We will publish the Presidential Election Results for each polling station on our website.



MEASURES TO SAFE GUARD THE INTERGRITY OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS

for the people

DELIVERING CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



for the people

THE RETURNING OFFICER

❁ The names and pictures of all Returning Officers will be published by the Commission at least ten days to an election and no later than that.

❁ All political parties contesting the elections will be given a copy of this publication.

POLLING STATIONS

CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



❄️ All designated polling station areas for elections will be published on the Commission's website, copies of which will be given to all political parties at least sixty days before the elections.

❄️ No **new** polling stations may be set up sixty days before an election though the Commission may set up **additional** stations for an electoral area if required.

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PRESIDING OFFICERS

CREDIBLE ELECTIONS




Presiding officers are required to:

 conduct a thorough counting of the votes at their polling station;

 announce the election results at their polling station.

The Commission shall:

 publish the details of all appointed presiding officers and polling assistants at the district office at least ten days before an election and no later than that.

 Supply a copy of the published names and pictures of the presiding officers to all political parties contesting the election

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CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



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POLLING AGENTS

❁ Parliamentary election candidates may appoint one polling agent per polling station in the constituency in which they are contesting.

❁ Presidential election candidates may appoint one polling agent in every polling station nationwide.

❁ Appointments of polling agents are also for the purpose of detecting impersonation and multiple voting to ensure full compliance with the law during elections.

CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



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POLLING HOURS AND ADMISSION TO POLLING STATION

Polling hours on election day are
between 7.00am to 5.00pm



CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



POLLING HOURS AND ADMISSION TO POLLING STATION

❁ the candidate, spouses and their polling or counting agents, election officers, security officers on duty, people authorised by the Commission and people accompanying voters who are visually impaired or physically challenged.

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CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



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KEEPING ORDER AT POLLING STATION

❁ Presiding officers must immediately inform political parties and their representatives of the removal of any of their agents due to disorderly or disruptive behaviour in order for a replacement to be assigned.

CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



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SEALING OF BALLOT BOXES

❁ Presiding officers must do the following before proceeding with the execution of the poll:

❁ Display the empty transparent boxes to everyone present at the polling station to confirm they are empty by way of demonstration.

❁ Ensure that the ballot boxes are closed and securely sealed to prevent any form of tampering.

CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



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SEALING OF BALLOT BOXES

☼ Place the ballot boxes in full view of all present during the receipt of ballot papers.

Polling agents of candidates can also place their seals on the ballot boxes after the Commission's seals have been applied.

CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



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IDENTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION OF VOTERS

- ❁ Polling assistants must scan the barcodes of all voter cards in order to confirm their identities
- ❁ Biometric verification devices will be used to confirm and verify the biometric identity of all voters

CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



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IDENTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION OF VOTERS

❁ In the case whereby a voter's biometric verification fails or cannot be established with the indication of a red light on the device or a "rejected" voice message, polling assistants must:

❁ Immediately inform the agents of all political parties present at the polling station

❁ Complete a manual verification form which is also endorsed by party/ candidate agents present.

VOTING

CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



❁ All voters must cast their vote in the presence of the presiding officer and polling agents in full view of the general public by placing their folded ballot paper in the ballot box before leaving the station.

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CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



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APPOINTMENT OF COUNTING AGENTS AND COUNTING OF VOTES

Counting agents may be appointed by parliamentary election candidates to attend and participate in the counting of votes in the constituency in which they are contesting

Presidential election candidates may appoint a counting agent in every polling station nationwide

CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



APPOINTMENT OF COUNTING AGENTS AND COUNTING OF VOTES

- ❁ Returning officers must ensure that the polling stations in their constituencies are adequately prepared to undertake the counting of votes by counting agents after the closure of polls
- ❁ Notify counting agents of when vote counting will begin ahead of time so they are prepared.

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CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



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RESULT OF ELECTIONS

❁ Immediately after the closure of polls, the presiding officer, in the presence of the candidates or their representatives shall:

- ❁ Open and empty completely all the ballot papers in the ballot boxes
- ❁ Separate the valid ballot papers from the rejected ballot papers in accordance with regulation 39

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RESULT OF ELECTIONS

- ❁ Count the valid ballot papers at the polling station
- ❁ Record the total number of rejected ballots
- ❁ The presiding officer, the candidates or their representatives and the counting agents will then sign a declaration as set out in Form 8 of the schedule.

CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



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RESULT OF ELECTIONS

❁ A candidate or their representative or a counting agent if present at the end of the counting of ballots may request a recount from the presiding officer or recount themselves the ballots for a second time.

CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



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DECISION ON BALLOT PAPERS

❁ The decision of the presiding officer may be reviewed upon petition of the election by the High Court should any questions be raised about a ballot paper.

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DECLARATION AND PUBLICATION OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION RESULTS

❁ Immediately after the submission of results by all stations in a constituency to the returning officer, the returning officer must in the presence of either the candidates or their representatives or a maximum of two counting agents do the following:

❁ Assemble the results from the polling stations without recounting the ballots in the ballot boxes unless there is a challenge by a candidate or a counting agent concerning a specific ballot box

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DECLARATION AND PUBLICATION OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION RESULTS

- Notify the public of the total number of votes cast for each candidate
- Publicly declare the winner with the highest number of votes in a parliamentary election
- Invite each candidate's counting agents to sign the result declaration form, a copy of which must then be posted at the constituency collation centre.

CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



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OFFENCES RELATING TO ELECTIONS

❁ The provisions in relation to election offences specified in the Representation of the People's Act, 1992 (PNDCL 284) apply to these Regulations.

CI 94 currently before Parliament also contains specific offenses with regards to the electoral process, particularly for election officials

PARTNER WITH US



We are confident that the implementation of this comprehensive list of reforms will make the outcome of the 2016 elections more credible and acceptable to all the stakeholders involved.

for the people

PARTNER WITH US



We ask you to partner with us for the delivery of a world-class election for the people of Ghana.

Ghana is counting on you.

We are also counting on you.

for the people



Thank **you!**