

## FORUM OF NDC PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANTS

C/O #F417/3 3<sup>rd</sup> Karjaano Street,

South La, Accra.

8 December 2018.

The National Council of Elders,

National Democratic Congress.

Attn: H.E. President Jerry John Rawlings, Chairperson

Your Excellency,

### **Inre: PETITION**

We thank the Council for responding swiftly to our petition, for the frank and informative meeting last Thursday, and for the very constructive media statement issued after the meeting. Your intervention has restored the confidence of many party members in the Council's ability to ensure a free and fair contest.

We understand that the Sub-committee will now report back to Council before further discussions with NEC. In the spirit of engagement so strongly endorsed in your media statement, we would like to present formally the positions we conveyed orally to the Sub-committee and the General Secretary at our meeting and which we would like addressed. We hope this will help to accelerate a resolution of the issues under discussion.

We propose a review of the Guidelines for the Conduct of the Elections as follows;

1. Filing Fees: We think it is extremely important that NDC's filing fees reflect our grassroots social democratic orientation. We also appreciate the Party's difficult financial situation as explained by the General Secretary. We are more than happy to mobilise funds for the Party as follows:

- a. filing fees of GH¢150,000.00 as official and
- b. minimum pledge of GH¢ 50,000.00 each to be redeemed before polling day.

We strongly recommend that NEC considers reducing the filing fees down to the GH¢150,000.00 in consonance with the GH¢ 50,000.00 and GH¢ 100,000.00 in 2012 and 2016 respectively.



2. Primaries Programme: We think it is unfair on voters and candidates not to allow the time required for the interactions that will enable informed choice. We recommend that:

- a. The deadline for filing of nominations be extended to the end of December 2018; and
- b. Polling day be scheduled for the last week of February to allow time for a possible run-off in March - in line with Party practice, which has been to allow 60 to 90 days between submission of nominations and polling.

3. Transparency: We welcome the General Secretary's assurances of NEC's intention to run a free and fair process. Given this intention, there should be no difficulty in providing for this impartiality concretely in the Guidelines. We would like to include provisions such as:

- a. the establishment of a forum for regular and structured interaction between the Elections' Directorate and aspirants or their representatives;
- b. a requirement that NEC publishes and gives copies of the voters' register to the aspirants not less than 60 days prior to the elections;
- c. the issuance of a standard code of conduct of party officials in election's management. The code should include sanctions to party officials who do not meet the standards.
- d. all party executives who have declared support for any candidate (verbally or otherwise or by way of campaign contributions) to recuse themselves from the election management; and
- e. NEC to delegate all electoral management functions to the Election's Directorate to liaise with the National Electoral Commission in line with Article 38 of the Party's constitution.

We recommend strongly that NEC submits to legal advice and bring the Guidelines intra vires by scrapping Section 8(1) (a) which purports to impose a 10-year membership eligibility requirement on aspirants.

We remain available on short notice to meet with Council and deliberate further.

Sincerely,



SIGNED BY

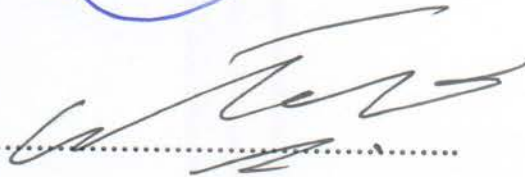
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EKWOW SPIO-GARBRAH.....



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