



Election Situation Room (ESR)

A Coordinated Election Observation Platform for the 2024 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in Ghana

Opening of Polls Statement

Background

As part of the initiatives for **monitoring, analysing and mitigating electoral violence** as well as contributing to a **peaceful and credible election**, WANEP and the National Peace Council and their partners have deployed 510 accredited observers across all the regions. Out of the 510 observers, 370 (72.55%) are males and 140 (27.45%) are females. The Election Situation Room (ESR) is supported by the European Union and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and with complementary funding from the Governments of Sweden, Austria and the United Kingdom. The Election Situation Room (ESR) monitors, reports, analyses, and facilitates responses to violent threats to the peaceful conduct of the Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

The summary of observations at the opening of polls is presented in this press release as follows:

THE OPENING OF POLLING STATIONS

Reports received from the observers indicate:

- i. As of 10:25 am, 300 observers had reported on the opening of the polls across the nation. Of these, 63% indicated that the polls opened on time, while 37% said the polls were unable to open at 7:00 am. Those that could not open at 7:00 am opened between 7:20 and 9:50 am. For example, in Oti Region, the DA Primary School Ofosu 2 (Polling Station Code: L072602B) opened at 9:30 am.
- ii. Despite some polling stations being unable to open on time, most EC officials observed all laid-out electoral procedures outlined by law. These include the presence of all polling officials and the display of empty ballot boxes in front of voters.
- iii. A good representation of females were present at polling stations, either as EC officials or party agents. It was also reported by the joint observer teams that consideration was given to persons with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant and lactating mothers.

As the polls opened, many polling stations recorded an average of 53 voters in queues in the observed constituencies. There was a reported presence of domestic observers at the polling stations, mainly from CODEO, NPC, NCCE, CHRAJ, National Catholic Secretariat, WANEP, IDEG as well as observers from AU and ECOWAS Observer Missions.

The

INCIDENTS

The incident report shows the following:

Technical incidents:

- In the Assemblies of God polling station (Code: H010304A), in the Abromem electoral area in Asunafo South Constituency in Ahafo region, a former DCE is alleged to be moving around the polling station accompanied by five (5) police officers with face masks and guns.
- In the Ho Polytechnic Ho Have 2 (Code: D121207), at the Bosontoe electoral area in the Ho Central constituency, a voter was caught taking a shot of his ballot paper after voting. A security Officer deleted the pictures and returned the phone to the voter.
- At the D/A Primary School Polling Station (code L071101B) in the Dabiase electoral area in the Nkwanta South Constituency, an Assembly woman was seen observing and communicating with the voters before they cast their votes. This caused some misunderstanding among the voters. Although the presiding officer asked her to leave, she insisted on staying.
- At Presbyterian Upper Primary School Polling Station (Code: F357601) at the Effiduase Asokore Constituency in the Ashanti Region, an NDC representative alleges that a known NPP member had transported an EC ballot issuer to vote in another polling station. The NDC representative insists he could not tell what transpired during the transportation and refused to allow the ballot issuer to work. This has been resolved by re-assigning the ballot issuer to a different task.

Security incidents

- At the Mur-Fatawu polling station (code R111007) in West Natinga, within the Bawku Central constituency in the Upper East Region, the NDC Polling Agents were reportedly absent earlier due to threats of possible attacks linked to the Bawku conflict. However, the NDC party agents arrived following the arrival of security officers at the polling station and polls began around 9:40 am. Additional information indicated that voters have refused to vote in the Parliamentary Elections claiming that both candidates are from one ethnic group
- At the Manga Electoral area (Code: R150501B) in the Binduri constituency of the Upper East Region, gunmen are reported to be threatening people not to vote for the NPP unless they want to die. On 3rd December, they fired warning shots in the community, and this was repeated on the 5th of December at 9:00 pm.
- At Joan Preparatory School, Pepease Villa 1 (code B120508) in the Awutu Senya East Constituency of the Central Region, an NPP party agent wanted to sit closer to the EC officer (voter register verification officer) but he was asked to go back yet he refused. The Security personnel present resolved this by allocating a place for all party agents to sit till the close of the polls.
- At the GES Viepe-Tokor polling station (code D031403) in the Ketu South Constituency in the Volta Region, an NPP agent blocked the route to the voting area with a plastic chair and



was confronted by a voter, and this led to verbal exchanges. The matter was resolved by the security officers using dialogue.

Media Fact-checking

1. Claim: X user@StatsGH shared a video alleging people resisted security manipulation at the Aflao border.

Verdict: Misleading - while the border is closed, leaving some Ghanaians stranded between Ghana-Togo borders, there is no evidence of resistance to security manipulation.

2. Claim: Vehicle, en route Hohoe Constituency, allegedly impounded with fake ballot papers.

Verdict: Misleading - Sources from the Police indicate that the vehicle in question was transporting EC Officials and directional materials, including unactivated BVDs. However, the EC stated that the Officials should have transported the items in official Vehicles.

Responses

The ESR Decision Room has since the beginning of polls been engaging the EC, the National Election Security Taskforce and other relevant stakeholders on these incidents leading to the resolution of some of the incidents while others are ongoing.

Recommendations

1. The National Election Security Taskforce is encouraged increase security presence in all the affected areas to maintain law and order to allow the voting process to proceed unhindered.
2. We encourage all registered voters to go out and vote before the close of polls

The ESR, will continue to monitor the voting process and give updates in collaboration with stakeholders.

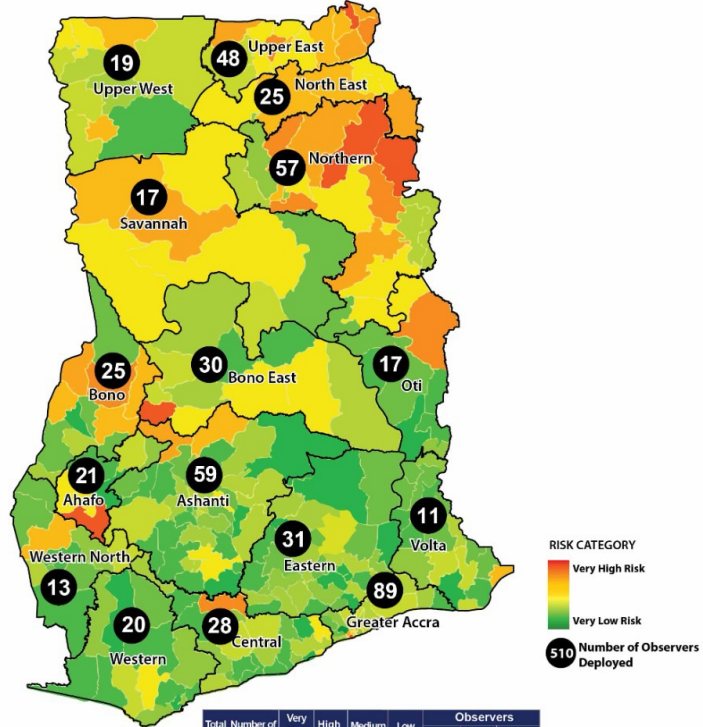
May God bless Ghana and make our nation great and strong.

Made in Accra, 7th December 2024
The Election Situation Room



Ghana, General Elections 2024

Deployment plan for 510 observers by WANEP / NPC in Hotspot Constituencies



	Total Number of Constituencies	Risk Category				Observers		Total
		Very High Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk	WANEP	NPC	
1 AHAFO REGION	6	1	1	2	2	9	12	21
2 ASHANTI REGION	47	4	2	23	18	40	19	59
3 BONO EAST REGION	11	1	2	6	2	15	15	30
4 BONO REGION	12	3	2	5	2	17	8	25
5 CENTRAL REGION	23	1	2	11	9	19	9	28
6 EASTERN REGION	33	0	0	17	16	17	14	31
7 GREATER ACCRA REGION	34	5	3	23	3	49	40	89
8 NORTH EAST REGION	6	3	3	0	0	12	13	25
9 NORTHERN REGION	18	9	4	5	0	46	11	57
10 OTI REGION	9	1	1	2	5	8	9	17
11 SAVANNA REGION	7	2	3	1	1	11	6	17
12 UPPER EAST REGION	15	8	3	4	0	38	10	48
13 UPPER WEST REGION	11	0	2	8	1	12	7	19
14 VOLTA REGION	16	1	9	8	0	11	0	11
15 WESTERN NORTH REGION	9	0	1	3	5	5	8	13
16 WESTERN REGION	17	0	2	6	9	10	10	20
	276	39	40	124	73	319	191	510

