

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A PEACE DIALOGUE AND
STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH APRIL, 2020
BY THE ASUTIFI SOUTH DISTRICT SECURITY COUNCIL (DISEC) AND NANANOM
UNDER THE FACILITATION OF BONO AHAFO REGIONAL PEACE COUNCILS**

The Bono and Ahafo Regional Peace Councils in collaboration with the Asutifi South District Security Council (DISEC), Nananom and other stakeholders had an in-depth discussions of electoral/political violence and its threat to the peace, security and development of the district and region at large, on Monday, 29th June, 2020.

Participants at the meeting recognized that peace is a pre-requisite for development of the district and the region but which has always been under threat in the build-up to every general election since 2004. This meeting was therefore necessary for stakeholders to discuss dispassionately the mainly conflictual issues and to proactively strategize on how to deal with them to ensure election 2020, and its related activities come off peacefully.

Presentations were made by both parliamentary candidates of the New Patriotic Party and National Democratic Congress; it was identified that the desire to win elections by all means against the backdrop of a winner takes all system and the over commercialization of our democratic processes are the main causes of electoral or political violence in the constituency: which usually manifest in and during the following forms and occasions.

- Voters registration and transfer periods during which non-constituents are allegedly brought into the constituency to give undue political advantage to one over the other.
- Intemperate language on radios and other media.
- Violent attacks on political opponents/violent intimidations
- Ineffective enforcement of electoral rules and regulations.
- Lack of professionalism from some electoral officials.
- Political and traditional interference to law enforcement

Upon much deliberation we (DISEC, Nananom, Political Party leadership) under the facilitation of the Bono and Ahafo Regional Peace Councils unanimously and vehemently

detest and reject electoral/political violence and their resultant consequences on the beauty and benefits of our democracy as it threatens our peace and security which directly and indirectly affects development. We (DISEC, Nnanom, political party leadership) under the facilitation of the Bono and Ahafo Regional Peace Councils hereby undertake to do the following:

- i. Political parties shall desist from busing people in groups from within and without the constituency to registration and voting centers in manners that results into violence. Legitimate electorates must be allowed to exercise their civic responsibility independently and freely.
- ii. No Political Party group under any guise shall be allowed to perform any role relating to elections which the laws of Ghana do not allow them to play.
- iii. All electoral, Laws, rules and regulations shall be strictly enforced without fear and favour by the Electoral Commission and security agencies.
- iv. All political parties shall adhere to all the electoral Laws, rules and regulations from the Electoral Commission and act accordingly.
- v. The Electoral Commission shall make available enough “challenge forms” and other required logistics during voters’ registration and transfer exercises.
- vi. There shall be mass public education on the various electoral laws and procedures with regards to voters’ registration, transfers and voting. Political parties should educate their followers as well.
- vii. All Information Centers within the district must desist from empaneling political or partisan programs since they do not have legal backing to do so.
- viii. The Security Agencies especially the Police must be given the free hand to investigate and prosecute all violent electoral crimes without any interference from political parties or Nananom.
- ix. Electoral officials/enumerators and party agents shall be properly recruited and trained to be more professional.
- x. Immediate formation of Election Security Taskforce and Inter-Party Dialogue Committee are activated and functional.
- xi. In conclusion, the consequence of failure to adhere to the above shall be strictly punished and where necessary, named and shamed.

The meeting appreciated the efforts of all stakeholders and participants for finding time to be part of the discussion and their meaningful contribution as well. The Asutifi South District Assembly, is also commended for its pro-activeness in tackling the issue of electoral violence and for seeking expertise and technical support from the Regional Peace Council as facilitators.

Signed by:

PARTY LEADERSHIP ...

a) NDC..... ASSABIL DONKOR BENJAMIN

Name: [Signature]

Position: CHAIRMAN

Date: 29/02/2020

b) NPP..... F. Mark Frimpong

Name: [Signature]

Position: Chairman

Date: 29-06-2020

c) District Security Council (DISEC) Chairman..... [Signature]
Hon. DCE

WITNESSED BY:

BONO & AHAFO REGIONAL PEACE COUNCILS..... [Signature]
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (BONO REGION)

NANA HWIDIEM OMANHENE..... [Signature]
OSUODUMGYA BARIMA APEADWAA BOAFO