

# **ASUTIFI SOUTH CONSTITUENCY (ASC) POLITICAL VIOLENCE**

## **ACTION PLAN FOR 2020 AND BEYOND**

### **THE MAIN PROBLEM:**

Electoral violence has inadvertently become part of the Ghanaian democratic experience, mainly due to the desire of political party leaders to win all elections at all cost; including alleged manipulation of the electoral process wherever and whenever they can. The underlying factor that make political parties desirous to win all elections at all cost is the winner takes all condition attached to the Ghanaian democratic experience. A second underlying factor is the over commercialization of our democratic process, where political leaders or office holders appear to be social entrepreneurs/investors while some electorates have become partners working for the interest of political parties and leaders in return for personal gains (in the form of money, employment and other material gains).

Beside the alleged electoral process manipulation, there is also the use of violence, intimidation, character defamation, lies etc. There are institutional provisions to deal with these challenges but there are always complains emanating from the political actors about the ineffectiveness of the existing institutional provisions.

The Asutifi South constituency is one of the political administrative areas in the Ahafo area where the above situation has generated tension and violence between supporters of NDC and NPP - mainly during election seasons. The situation has persisted since 2004, thus presenting a serious threat to the peace and development of the area.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

To work to ensure the 2020 presidential and parliamentary elections are conducted freely and fairly in the Asutifi South constituency without violence.

## **THE STRATEGY TO BE USED:**

Tackle the situation through collaborative institutional pro-activeness and responsiveness. With this strategy, the following shall be done in a targeted concerted manner to mitigate and resolve the already identified problems/concerns raised by the political actors; all other contingent issues relative to pre and post elections violence will equally be taken care of.

<b>ISSUES</b>	<b>HOW TO DEEAL WITH ISSUES</b>	<b>WHOSE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>COLLABORAT ORS</b>
Importation of alien voters during registration and transfers of voters	* Ban the busing of people from different constituencies ASC. * Strict and firm enforcement of electoral laws and rules	The Electoral Commission, Police and the IPDC	DISEC, Nananom
Intemperate language against other political party members	*Sensor all live political discussion on radio and TV. *Ban all information centers from hosting political discussions	The Police and IPDC	Nananom, NPC
Attack of personality instead of issues	* Strict and firm enforcement of relevant laws. * Name and shame all guilty offenders	IPDC, Police	Nananom, the Media
Violent attacks or intimidation of political opponents	* Strict enforcement of relevant laws. * No interference of any kind should permitted. * Name and shame all political and traditional interference	The Police and the Courts	IPDC, community leaders and NPC, the Media
Election day and post-election violence and intimidation	There should be adequate security deployment to all hot spots	DISEC, NPC	Electoral Commission
Limited knowledge among the electorate of electoral and other legal issues relating to elections	Vigorous public education to be done by relevant institutions	Police, EC, NCCE	Media

## **COLLABORATIVE STRUCTURES TO BE ESTABLISHED TO HELP IMPLEMENT**

### **THE ACTION PLAN.**

There should immediately be established an Inter-Party Dialogue Committee with wide and cross-cutting institutional representation, to work closely with all other relevant institutions for a free, fair and none violent election; the IPDC should meet regularly to handle all election related issues that are none-violent or not criminal. All political violence should be treated as criminal and should therefore be handled by the police and courts without any form of interference from any quarters, unless they (the Police and Courts) decide otherwise.

There should be established, a Political Activity Barometer (PAB), which will monitor, record and report unhealthy and unethical conducts such as intemperate language, violence incitement and incidence etc. Platforms and events to be monitored include political discussions on radio and TV, political party rallies, voter registration and transfer exercises and election day activities. The platform should be jointly hosted by representatives from the following institutions: NPC, ISD, NCCE, the Police and Media. The purpose of PAB is to use the recorded first-hand information to name and shame erring political actors and also hold them accountable where necessary.