



**23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2020**

## **COMMUNIQUE**

This Communique was adopted at the 2020 Annual Review meeting of the Management and Commission of NCCE. The pertinent issues on COVID-19 protocols, the 2020 General Election and the emergence of secessionism were given topmost attention.

### **COVID-19**

The Commission noted that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage the world with high disease burdens and mortalities. Thankfully, the destruction is not dire in Africa as compared to other continents. The NCCE reiterates the following:

1. The disease still exists and the rise in COVID-19 cases necessitate the need for all Ghanaians to respect health and safety protocols on COVID-19 particularly as we celebrate Christmas and New Year.
2. New strains of COVID-19 indicate a faster spread, causing harm and leading to extended lockdowns in some countries. It is the collective responsibility of all Ghanaians to remain vigilant in our national effort to contain the spread of the disease.
3. Even though many people have recovered from the COVID-19 disease, the long-term effects post recovery are still unknown.
4. Leaders at all levels – political, religious, social- are admonished to lead by example in respecting the COVID-19 protocols and call on their followers to do same.
5. Law enforcement agencies should implement the laws on the COVID-19 protocols and restrictions notably the wearing of nose masks correctly, the ban on social activities on beaches and night clubs as well as social distancing especially, as we approach the Christmas Season.
6. NCCE expresses its sincere gratitude to the Presidency, COVID-19 National Trust Fund, COVID-19 Private Sector Fund, Ministry of Health, Church of Pentecost, OXFAM, the ONE GHANA MOVEMENT, the Ghana Psychological Association, Ghana Health Service, Law Class of 1993, CAMFED and YINSON Company Ltd for their diverse support to the Commission on COVID-19 awareness creation which contributed to the containment in infection rates.

## **AFTERMATH OF 2020 GENERAL ELECTION**

The NCCE notes that the voting process of the just ended Presidential and Parliamentary elections were largely peaceful, except for isolated incidence of violence in some parts of the country and polling stations. The NCCE however expresses grave concern over the recurring demonstrations across the country, which are sometimes characterized by violent clashes between the Ghana Police Service and Military on one hand and supporters of the NDC following the rejection of the election results. The NCCE urges all aggrieved political parties:

1. While exercising all lawful options for redress, aggrieved political parties should admonish their followers to desist in engaging in acts that heighten tension and threaten the peace and stability of the country.

## **BUILDING NATIONAL COHESION AND CONSENSUS**

The equal representation of the two dominant parties in our parliament demands consensus building for our national development. The NCCE wishes to re-echo the aspirations of Ghanaians as expressed in our elections, which include the fact that no single political party has absolute support from the electorate. Now more than ever, there is the need for consensus building on key national development issues. The Commission reiterates that:

1. There is need for consensus building on key national development issues and therefore urges all political actors to contribute their quota to national cohesion as a driver for development.
2. The NCCE regrets the emergence of secessionism and reminds all citizens that Ghana remains a unitary republic. We therefore call on every Ghanaian to strive to build cohesion at all levels of society.
3. NCCE draws the attention of Government and political parties that it has grassroots structures such as the Inter-Party Dialogue Committees, the Political Parties' Youth Activists' Platform which, if resourced properly, could be used as avenues for discussing pertinent national issues, enhancing national cohesion and consensus building.
4. NCCE calls on all state institutions to play their roles objectively and dispassionately to ensure that Ghana maintains its record as the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) most peaceful country in sub-Saharan Africa (Global Peace Index, 2020).

## **GOD BLESS OUR HOMELAND GHANA**