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For Immediate Press Release

LSG URGE EC TO CONSIDER UNHOLY STANDS ON THE LIMITED VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE.

The Law Society of Ghana (LSG) expresses deep concern regarding the nationwide difficulties including malfunctioning and non-functioning of equipments deployed by the Electoral Commission in the ongoing Limited Voter Registration Exercise.

The Commission's decision to also restrict the Limited Voter Registration to ONLY District offices and the reported widespread malfunctioning of Registration machines present significant challenges to the integrity and sanctity of the electoral process as a whole.

We believe that a fair and inclusive electoral process is fundamental to the progress of a democratic society, and access to voter registration should be convenient and free from unnecessary and avoidable artificial hindrances.

Limiting Voter Registration to district offices can create barriers, self-inflicting bottlenecks for eligible voters, particularly those residing in remote or underserved areas, making it difficult or near impossible for them to exercise their right to register and vote.

We are also reliably informed and ascertained that in some Constituencies like Ayawaso, Klotey-Korle etc. the EC breached its own CI 91 (as amended by CI 126), and unlawfully directed all prospective applicants to its new Headquarters near the abandoned National Cathedral site. The net effect is that, the EC has converted its own Headquarters into a registration centre instead of allowing the registration to take place in districts and this has further compounded the problems of the people in these areas.

The reported issues of widespread malfunctioning registration machines further exacerbate these concerns. A functioning, effective, accessible and reliable registration system is crucial to ensure that all eligible citizens can register and participate in the electoral process without unnecessary delays or frustrations.

The heavy tropical rains have also exposed the very porous physical arrangements in nearly all the district offices that undertook the registration on day 1 and will continue to be badly

exposed by the vagaries of the weather if certain immediate steps are not considered and/or taken by the EC.

In the light of these developments, the Law Society of Ghana calls upon the EC to as a matter of a national urgency consider the following;

1. *Reevaluate the decision to limit voter registration to district offices and consider alternative methods to ensure wider accessibility to voter registration including but not limited to extending the Limited Voter Registration exercise to all the existing gazetted Registration Centres in all the Electoral Areas in Ghana.*
2. *Immediately address the reported issues of widespread deployment of faulty registration machines promptly and effectively to prevent any disruptions to the registration process.*
3. *Maintain transparency and open communication with the public, political parties, and other stakeholders throughout the registration process to build trust and confidence in the electoral system.*
4. *The EC must consider extending the Limited Voter Registration Exercise to 1 month instead of the declared 3-weeks to afford all-eligible applicants to get their names into the voter register for the December 2023 District Assembly General Elections and the 2024 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections.*

We urge all stakeholders, including the Electoral Commission, political parties, and civil society organizations, to work collaboratively to address these challenges and ensure that the ongoing registration is conducted in a manner that upholds the principles of fairness, transparency, and sanctity of the process.

The Law Society of Ghana remains committed to upholding the rule of law and promoting the integrity of democratic processes in Ghana.

Your sincerely,

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