



**CARE FOR FREE
AND FAIR ELECTIONS
GHANA**
"CARE" - GHANA



+233 (0) 55 902 6124
+233 (0) 27 300 9907



info@careghana.com



Box AB 392,
Abeka Lap

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS STATEMENT

7th September, 2023

**CARE GHANA CALLS FOR INCLUSSIVENESS AND EQUALL OPPORTUNITY IN THE
UPCOMING VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE**

The decision by the Electoral Commission to limit voter registration exercise to only its district offices is discriminatory and does not afford universal and equal opportunity to all qualified voters. This will erect an unfair obstacle and disenfranchise citizens since most district offices of the EC are located remotely and most would-be qualified voters may not be able to access. Limiting voter registration to few registration centers without establishing any objective and reasonable reason for the restriction is unfortunate. This is the most obvious form of interference which will disenfranchise many eligible voters. It will deny documentation to some qualified voters and prevent their ability to exercise their franchise. The EC's decision is in sharp contrast with the 1992 constitution and other international and regional legal documents such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Though the 1992 constitution establishes the independence of the Commission and the mandate to formulate regulations for the conduct of elections. Article 42 of the 1992 constitution states, "Every Citizen of Ghana of eighteen years of age, or above, and of sound mind is entitled to be registered as a voter and has the right to vote in every public elections and referenda." This implies that, a decision, law or regulation should not purport to curtail the rights of a citizen to be registered and participate in a public elections. Participation in elections is a right to participate in the establishment of government through a free and fair electoral processes and elections. Also, Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that, "The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage."

Voter registration at only districts offices of the EC before the commencement of a district assembly elections demonstrate the lack of understanding to the importance of decentralization and participatory democracy. This comes to question the Electoral Commission's commitment towards Ghana's Democracy and inclusive governance.

It is important to emphasize that, when analyzing a state's democratic system, the most important question asked is whether it affords universal and equal opportunity for all qualified voters. The EC's decision can be a possible cause of frustration among the electorates and worsen the already diminishing enthusiasm experience in Ghana's Assembly elections. It is important to emphasize that, elections are the foundation of democracy therefore, policies that promote broad access and inclusiveness should be prioritized.

We therefore urge the Electoral Commission to be responsive and take active measures to facilitate inclusiveness in the voter registration exercise and ensure that all qualified voters are able to register.

Thank you

Sign

David Kumi Addo
Executive Director ("CARE" GHANA)
Tel: 0559026124/0273009907
Website: careghana.com
Email: info@careghana.com