



Press Release

For Immediate Release

3rd December 2024

GII, GACC AND CDD-GHANA CONDEMN THE FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF ELECTORAL LAWS BY POLITICAL PARTIES

The Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) and the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) have observed with grave concerns the flagrant violation of Sections 33 and 34 of the Representation of the People Law, 1992 (PNDCL 284) by the two leading political parties (NDC and NPP) and condemn the conduct of sharing cooked food, bags of rice and cooking oil to prospective voters without any equivocation.

Section 33 of the Representation of the People Law, 1992 (PNDCL 284) forbids the payment of money or giving of gifts in the form of an inducement to a voter or the receiving of same by a voter.

Section 34 of the Representation of the People Law, 1992 (PNDCL 284) makes it an electoral offence of treating, if a person corruptly either themselves or through another person, before, during or after an election gives or provides or pays wholly or in part the expenses of giving or providing meat, drink, entertainment or provision to or for any person;

- I. for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or another person to vote or refrain from voting; or
- II. on account of that person or another person having voted or refrained from voting or being about to vote or refrain from voting; or
- III. if he corruptly accepts or takes any meat, drink, entertainment or provision offered in the circumstances and for the purposes mentioned in paragraph (a) of this section.

These laws notwithstanding, evidence gathered from media reports shows representatives of the two leading political parties openly treating prospective voters in several constituencies. Mention can be made of;

1. Okaikoi South—It is alleged that NDC's Ernest Adomako offered electorates chickens, money, and bags of rice (posted on social media on 1 December 2024).

2. In Ayawaso West Wuogon, NPP's Lydia Alhassan reportedly distributed oil and bags of rice to Legon security guards (posted on social media on 27 November 2024).
3. Various reports also alleged that packs of food were distributed to voters in queues during special voting on the 2nd December by the incumbent MP of Ayawaso West Wuogon (posted on social media on 2nd December 2024)

While there is the need for investigations by the competent authorities to establish the validity of the allegations and media reports it is important to alert the political parties involved and the general public that these perceived violations when substantiated will undermine the principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability essential for a free and fair elections.

It is instructive to caution the political parties involved that Ghanaians are watching with bated breath which one of them will cry foul if the outcome of the elections does not go their way since they are both dabbling in activities that are undermining the integrity of the election. As the saying goes “he who comes to equity must come with clean hands” or in other words “a person who claims equity must be free from any taint of fraud with respect to that claim”

We, call on Law Enforcement Agencies to investigate the videos in the public space and swiftly ensure those found culpable are made to face the law. A swift and transparent investigation into the cases of vote buying and treating reported by the media will be an important component of expanding Ghana’s democratic credentials as well as enhancing the confidence reposed in the electoral processes of our country.

Our three organisations also call on the media, faith-based organisations and the larger civil society to intensify voter education campaigns, raising awareness of the implications of electoral corruption to the electoral outcomes and the peace and stability of Ghana.

We further call on political parties and candidates to publicly distance themselves from corrupt practices and demonstrate a commitment to ethical standards relative to the 2024 elections. We wish to reiterate that GII and its partners, GACC and CDD-Ghana, are currently carrying out a large-scale monitoring exercise to capture instances of electoral corruption, vote buying, Abuse of state resources and campaign financing. The findings of this exercise will form the basis for our advocacy for reforming campaign and political financing in Ghana.

We urge all citizens to exercise their rights to vote responsibly, reject inducements, and hold political actors accountable. It will take the collective responsibility of all Ghanaians to safeguard the stability and development of our nation and so do your part by rejecting corruption.

Issued by:

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