

EMINENT PERSONS GROUP OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN GHANA

A CALL FOR PEACEFUL CAMPAIGNING BY POLITICAL PARTIES

The Eminent Persons Group of Religious Leaders is appalled and concerned about the recent violence shown in pockets of the country during campaign activities of the NDC and NPP. The very recent one is the Odododiodio Constituency, and calls for an immediate cessation of any form of violence by the two leading parties. (NDC and NPP).

The Odododiodio constituency has been noted as a hot spot, but this time more than ever before, the parliamentary candidates of the NPP and NDC should rise above polarization and stand firmly for peace and justice, and the protection of life and property in this period, before, during and after Election 2020. The two candidates in particular should act as statesmen and must rekindle national and international confidence in their intentions.

Now is the time for their leadership and statesmanship to be brought to bear, for the good of the nation and the Odododiodio Constituency. As leaders, they must turn urgently from partisan postures and negotiate in good faith to reach a non-violent election in the constituency.

We call on all Political parties and their activists to respect the Ghana Police Service and other security agents in general as they seek to protect the rights of the citizen. In this election season where demonstrations, walks and other modes of campaigning are on increase, it is important for us to know that we cannot do without the support of the security agents.

While we recognize the challenges in maintaining order, we call on the security forces to employ force only in proportion to the actual threat faced.

We call on the Government to allow the security apparatus and other State institutions to do their work without any interference, thus all who are found culpable of any offence must be punished without any protection from any Political figure.

As religious leaders, we have a leading role to play in ensuring respect for human life and seeking reconciliation between neighbours. This is especially urgent amid ominous signs of targeted hatred and violence in the Odododiodio constituency in recent times. Homes, businesses, public buildings and places of worship must remain safe.

Elections are an essential part of the democratic process and organization, and a means to manage political competition and conflict in a peaceful way. Truly, those who follow the path of peace will be blessed and we as Eminent Persons pledge our support for all those who seek to ensure peace.

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