



KUMASI DECLARATION

**Taking A Stand Against Electoral Violence,
Impunity and Injustice In Ghana**



Republic of Ghana

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TAKING A STAND AGAINST

ELECTORAL VIOLENCE, IMPUNITY AND INJUSTICE IN GHANA

1. We, the Presidential Candidates of Ghana's December 2012 elections, having participated in the first high level meeting convened by the National Peace Council and the Manhyia Palace, Kumasi, in order to engage us on reducing recurring violence, impunity and injustice in democratic elections in the country.

2. Conscious of the fact that the high level meeting had taken place close to the presidential and parliamentary elections on December 7, 2012, and in a political and social context in which the public is justifiably concerned about a possible outbreak of some electoral violence during the elections.

3. Recognizing that free, fair and violence free elections depend on political parties providing firm political leadership to the impartial enforcement of the existing electoral laws by state institutions and strengthening the organizational capacities of their political parties to promote their members' compliance with the codes of conduct that they had endorsed, including the deepening of civic education.

4. Responding to the growing public demand for elections-related offences and crimes to be effectively punished through professional investigations leading to fair, timely trials and justice, committed to the importance of manifest nationhood motivating this historic high level meeting, we the candidates for the 2012 presidential elections, conscious of our membership of the community of national leaders and our collective responsibility to uphold the unity, prosperity, security and stability of Ghana as a thriving democratic and peace loving nation declare as follows:

- That it is time to take a definitive stand against electoral violence, impunity and injustice in our beloved nation Ghana because these acts are detrimental to the peace, welfare and sustained development of the people of Ghana.

- That electoral violence, impunity and injustice are not challenges whose persistence cannot be effectively stopped through our collective leadership efforts. Therefore, we are committed to leading a national process of reducing their recurrence in the short term, aiming to systematically eradicate them in the medium to long term.



- That ahead of the forthcoming elections on December 7, 2012, we shall forcefully and publicly speak out against all acts of electoral violence, impunity and injustice, whether perpetrated by the members of our political parties or our political rivals, and will seek to collaborate with the Police Service and allied law enforcement agencies to professionally discharge their duties without fear or favour.
- That we shall conduct our political campaigns in such a manner that the ability of the Police or other security agencies to perform their roles and duties in enforcing the law and maintaining law and order will not be hindered whatsoever whether at the polling station, constituency, community, district, regional or national levels.
- That we shall intensify and expand the scope of our civic and elections' education activities such that the awareness and understanding of our members of the relevant electoral laws and the normative codes of conduct will improve. We shall also see to the strengthening of the policy and institutional capacities of our political parties so that internal compliance with the electoral laws and normative codes of conduct ratified by our political parties will be stronger and become widespread.
- That we pledge to hold ourselves mutually accountable as peers, especially, in promoting effective political leadership of the campaign against electoral violence, impunity and injustice.
- That we commend highly the National Peace Council and the Manhyia Palace for taking this bold initiative to convene this historic high-level meeting and similarly commend all the institutions and actors whose hard work and participation demonstrated a strong national desire for the successful consolidation of democratic electoral politics as a norm in sustaining Ghana as a beacon of hope, prosperity and social cohesion.



Adopted in Kumasi on November 27 by 2012 Presidential Candidates:

1. NDC *[Signature]*
2. GCPP *[Signature]*
3. NPP *Nana Osei*
4. PPP *[Signature]*
5. UFP ~~*[Signature]*~~
6. PNC *A. A. [Signature]*
7. CPP *[Signature]*
8. Independent Candidate ~~*[Signature]*~~



Republic of Ghana

Witnessed by:

Mrs Georgina Theodora Wood
The Hon. Lady Chief Justice of Ghana

Most Reverend Professor Emmanuel Asante
Chairman of the National Peace Council

Naa Prof. John S. Nabila,
President of the National House of Chiefs

His Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II
Asantehene, Manhyia Palace