

Letter of Transmittal



Commonwealth Observer Group Ghana Presidential and Parliamentary Elections 7 December 2012

14 December 2012

Dear Secretary-General,

Following your invitation to observe the 7 December 2012 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in Ghana, we have now completed our Final Report and we are pleased to forward it to you with this letter. The 2012 elections were Ghana's 6th elections since the restoration of multi-party democracy in 1992. Freedoms of association and expression are guaranteed in the Constitution of Ghana. The campaign was highly active and generally peaceful, though characterized by a vigorous competition between the two leading parties. There were a number of peace campaigns initiated by various stakeholders and they were effective. However, their perceived need reflects a lingering fear of violence and uncertainty linked to elections in Ghana, which is unfortunate.

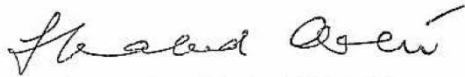
The level of women's participation as candidates, and as representatives, remains very low. The total number of women in the new 275-member parliament is just over 10%. For a country with an increasingly strong democratic reputation, this remains a concern. Stakeholders expressed their confidence in the role and capacity of the Electoral Commission and generally it managed the process well. The undertaking of a constituency demarcation review and a biometric voter registration, both in an electoral year, represented a major effort by the EC.

On the day of the elections, there was a large turnout of voters; the process proceeded as planned in most areas and was largely peaceful, with voters free to express their will. Some problems were noted with the late delivery of materials in some areas and problems with the voter verification machines in some places. This led to delays and uncertainty for affected voters and polling was extended to 8 December in a limited number of polling stations.

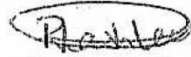
The 2012 elections in Ghana met many of the benchmarks for democratic elections. While aspects of the administrative system and the environment for the polls can still be improved further, these elections were credible. We have offered a number of recommendations to help improve some technical aspects of the process and also the environment in which elections occur, as well as the low level of representation for women in politics in Ghana.

This Group will now depart from Ghana. We would very much like to thank You for this opportunity. It has been a fascinating and rewarding experience for us all. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for all its support to the Observer Group. We hope we have made a contribution to Ghana and the Commonwealth's continuing engagement here.


Hon. Dr. Pakalitha Mosisili, MP
Chairperson



Ambassador Shahed Akhtar



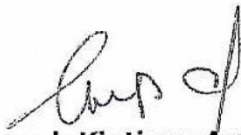
Ms Rochelle Nicola Lashley




Mrs Josephine Amelita Tamai



Thomas Foulds

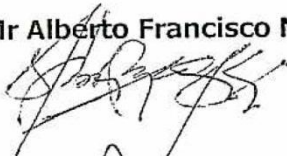


Mr Joseph Kiptiony Arap Misoi

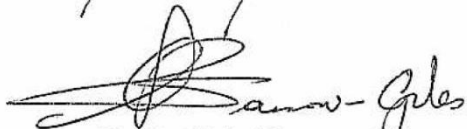


Ms Koki Muli Grignon

Mr Alberto Francisco Manhique



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Mr Vuyisile Sikelela Hlatshwayo



Mrs Priscilla Mulenga Isaac



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