

## PRESS STATEMENT

### PROFESSIONALISM AND RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT ARE CRITICAL TO PEACEFUL AND CREDIBLE ELECTION 2016

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Released Saturday, December 3, 2016

The Civic Forum Initiative (CFI) and the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) have taken note of developments arising out of the special voting exercise that took place on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016. Like many Ghanaians the CFI and IDEG are concerned that many registered voters including Security personnel who are expected to be deployed on Election Day were unable to cast their votes.

We commend the Electoral Commission (EC), the Political Parties and the top hierarchy of the Ghana Police Service in engaging quickly to address the anomalies that had been identified.

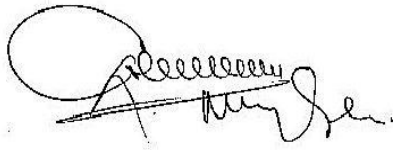
The CFI and IDEG however note with regret the reported altercation between the EC officials and the Security personnel who had gone to vote. A high standard of professionalism and efficiency of EC officials and the Security Agencies are critical in the conduct of peaceful and credible elections.

While it is important that we all remain vigilant, we should also be circumspect in our actions and utterances in order not to raise tension and cause panic and alarm among the electorate. We take this opportunity to remind Political Parties of the Accra Declaration of 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2016 in which they re-affirmed and declared their commitment against Electoral Violence, Impunity and Injustice.

We therefore continue to urge Political Parties, the Media and the general public to be measured and cautious in their reactions to issues.

The CFI and IDEG urge the EC to be proactive and prompt in dealing with issues, continue the dialogue process and liaise with various stake holders.

We also call on the Security Agencies to discharge their duties professionally and in a neutral manner. The CFI and IDEG additionally urge the Security Agencies to revise their deployment plans to get Security personnel on the Special Voters list to their duty posts in time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nii Carl Coleman', with a large, stylized initial 'C' at the beginning.

**MAJOR GENERAL NII CARL COLEMAN (RETIRED)**  
**CHAIRMAN CIVIC FORUM INITIATIVE**