

ADA EAST DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

P. O. Box 28
Ada Foah
November 6, 2017

HIS EXCELLENCY
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
FLAGSTAFF HOUSE
ACCRA

ADA EAST DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE ELECTION PETITION

INTRODUCTION

In the spirit of jealously guarding and protecting our young democracy and the 1992 constitution of the Republic of Ghana, we, the undersigned members of the Ada East District Assembly, desire to register our strong protest against the disputable and unconstitutional declaration by the Electoral Commission during the process of the confirmation or otherwise of His Excellency the President's nominee for District Chief Executive of the Ada East District Assembly on Friday, November 3, 2017. This piece catalogues the events that transpired before, during and after the voting process.

BEFORE VOTING

1. There were heavily built (macho) men dressed in black suits and trousers purporting to be National Security personnel, who paraded themselves around the premises of the voting centre. Undoubtedly, their presence there was engineered specifically to intimidate and unlawfully pressure Assembly members to cast their ballots in a particular manner, against all known election principles of a democracy in general and of our constitution in particular.
2. The security services, that is, District Police Commander, BNI and Fire Service, attempted to coerce the Presiding Member (P.M.) to change the venue chosen for the confirmation vote, for reasons best known to themselves. Under our rules, the security forces have no business instructing the District Assembly to conduct its business at a particular location. Upon notification by the Assembly of the location of a particular business, their mandate is to provide security to life and property at the specified location. Therefore the attempts by the security forces to dictate the venue of the business of the Assembly constituted a clear violation of the invitation orders. It was also an affront to our democracy that the Police allowed foreign elements to invade the premises meant for the vote when the invitations sent out to notify the relevant stakeholders indicated that attendance was strictly by invitation.
3. The so-called National Security personnel threatened several members of the media and impeded their coverage and transmission of the proceedings, all in an attempt to prevent transparency of the process. Certainly, this development raised tensions amongst the people present and there were several spats between members of the media, the people gathered and these security personnel. Indeed, a Joy FM reporter was allegedly detained for a period of time on account of his protestations against the brutality of these so-called security forces.

4. The District Police Officer blatantly refused the humble and lawful request of the PM to escort the unaccredited individuals out of the hall in order to allow for a peaceful and transparent voting process.
5. The Deputy Regional Minister, Hon. Elizabeth Sackey, moved a motion that the venue for the elections be changed. Her motion was overruled on the grounds that she was an ex-officio member and therefore could not move a motion under article 242 of the 1992 constitution. The PM indicated that it was his prerogative under article 244 clause 3(a) of the 1992 constitution to summon such meetings.
6. The purported National Security personnel eventually moved out of the hall under the insistence of the PM. The police assured the members that they would not allow any uninvited individual into the hall. This assurance was taken by the assembly members in good faith.
7. The ballot box was then duly inspected. Members, however, could not obtain the seal numbers.

DURING VOTING

1. The Electoral Commission supervised voting by a roll call. All 36 members of the assembly were present and voted.
2. After the thirty-sixth assembly member cast the ballot, the PM asked that Hon. Noah Dogah and Hon. Ebenezer Kojo Ocansey show up as agents of the assembly members, whilst the nominee also presents her agents. This call by the PM is in accordance with well-known practice, natural justice and democratic principles of transparency.
3. Unfortunately, to the complete astonishment of the members, this move was turned down by the Regional Electoral Officer, insisting that only agents of the nominee be present. His order was naturally objected to by members of the Assembly.

AFTER VOTING

1. Following the events described and the commotion that ensued, the so-called National Security men somehow broke through the chain of armed police officers purportedly guarding the hall and succeeded in snatching the ballot box.
2. Lights in the room were immediately turned off, as can be seen from various videos of the incident circulating social media circles and websites such as that of Ghana Web for example. Clearly, the shutting down of electricity was orchestrated to prevent the media from covering and revealing to the outside world, the flawed and shambolic proceedings.
3. The purported personnel of the National Security, perceived as members of the vigilante group known as Invisible Forces, were the same ones that invaded the room and snatched the ballot box away in the midst of several policemen who totally abdicated their duties on the day and brought their uniforms into disrepute.

4. An attempt by the PM to stop these men from snatching the box saw him brutalized and severely assaulted and the police looking on unperturbed.
5. It was all of these occurrences which resulted in needless anarchy that also led to the snatching away of the ballot box without the accredited agents guarding the box.
6. Several other assembly members who were perceived to have voted 'N0' were also met with brutalities by these men.
7. This situation dispersed the assembly members from the hall.
8. After about forty-five minutes, the EC officer, in a police van, approached the PM, with two other assembly members, requesting that he comes to supervise the sorting out and counting of the ballots. The PM, however, declined on the grounds that the box was tampered with.
9. It was, however, established that the EC officer went ahead to conduct the sorting and counting of the ballots in the absence of the agents and some other assembly members, hence the PM's refusal to sign the declaration form.
10. This notwithstanding, The EC officer pronounced that the nominee secured some 27 votes out of the 36 votes cast.

CONCLUSION

We would like to state in no uncertain terms that the declaration by the EC that the nominee is validly elected is fraudulent, condemnable and highly unacceptable since we the undersigned (numbering 17) can state unequivocally that we did not vote to approve the District Chief Executive nominee, and this Declaration cannot lawfully validate her securing a two-third majority vote of members of the assembly. Therefore, we appeal to the President and Members of Council of State to completely disregard the said declaration since it did not reflect what genuinely transpired in the voting process. The shameful incident undermines the democratic ideals that we embrace as a people and the worthy fact that we pride ourselves as the beacon of democracy in the sub-region.

We also hereby posit that **HON. SARAH DUGBAKIE POBEE** is not to be sworn-in as the duly elected District Chief Executive of the Ada East District Assembly. In the coming days, we shall take concrete steps to safeguard and protect the sanctity of our electoral process, electoral laws and of our Constitution.

May God bless the people of Ada East, and may God bless the people of Ghana.

Thank you.



Hon. Simon Korblah Arthur
Presiding Member

Cc:

The Member of Council of State
Greater Accra Region
Accra

The Minister of Local Government
Accra

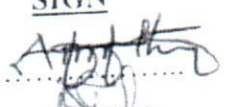

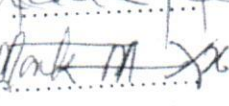
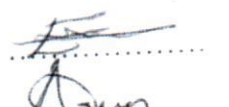
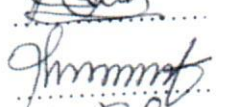

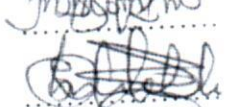

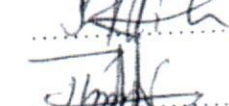
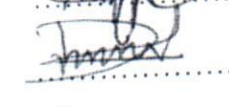






The Greater Accra Regional Minister
Accra

The Chairperson
Electoral Commission of Ghana
Accra

The Regional Police Commander
Tema Region
Tema

The Paramount Chief
Ada Traditional Council
Big-Ada

LIST OF AGRIEVED MEMBERS OF ADA EAST DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ELECTORAL AREA</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>SIGN</u>
1.	ARTHUR SIMON KORBLAH	KASSEH	0243263088	
2.	DOGAH NOAH	TAMATOKU	0246482760	
3.	AHUAHE GEORGE	BEDEKU	0540853250	
4.	AYIKU MARK MEN SAH	AMLAKPO	0247267369	
5.	AKPO EBENEZER OFOE	KUDZRAGBE	0243752903	
6.	AKWADA HENERY	LUHUESE	0243376322	
7.	DOSOO CHRIS KABU	LOMOBIAWE	0240697969	
8.	APPIAH WILLIAM	PEDIATORKOPE	0546110228	
9.	JUMPAH THOMAS KATEY	KABIAYUMU	0244965449	
10.	OBODAI MOSES	PUTE	0245990158	
11.	SAPPOR SAMUEL NARH	ALAVANYO	0243352006	
12.	KUBI JOHN	ANYAKPOR/ADEDETSEKOPE	0242646463	
13.	OCANSEY EBENEZER KOJO	OCANSEYKOPE	0242655720	
14.	DZEAGU CHARLES	FUTUENYA	0242757432	
15.	AMARTEY AHENEY	FOAHWEM	0244973107	
16.	ADJAKPA DANIEL	AFLIVE	0246481462	
17.	KWAKUNAKA ALBERT	AZIZANYA	0240824704	