

INTER-PARTY DIALOGUE COMMITTEE MEETING.

The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) organized an Inter-Party Dialogue Committee meeting on 11th September, 2024 aimed at fostering collaboration and dialogue among political parties and other stakeholders in preparation for the upcoming elections scheduled for 7th December, 2024. The meeting provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss key election issues, share strategies for promoting peaceful and fair elections, and enhance public participation in the electoral process.



The primary objectives of the meeting were:

- To facilitate open dialogue among political parties to ensure a mutual understanding of electoral processes.
- To discuss strategies for maintaining peace and order during the elections.
- To identify potential areas of conflict and establish mechanisms for conflict resolution.
- To enhance civic education initiatives ahead of the elections to ensure informed voting.

The meeting commenced with a welcome address from the Chairperson, Apostle Micheal Osei who emphasized the importance of cooperation among political parties in fostering a peaceful electoral environment. The chairperson stressed that constructive dialogue is crucial for the integrity of the electoral process.



Following the opening remarks, the District Director for NCCE presented its framework for voter education, which aims to equip citizens with knowledge about money in politics, dis information, and mis information during elections. The presentation highlighted the role of money in politics for power and vote and disseminating propaganda information to voter.

After the NCCE Director, the District Police Commander educated stakeholders on the Public Order Act. He made it known that the Act is about holding Special Events like installation of chiefs and political activities (Campaigns, elections and etc) and with this Act, the police command are served letters by event organisers not less than 5 days to a special event to enable the police to conduct an investigation in order for a peaceful event or advice to the organisers whether to postpone the event or not.



The Last Speaker for the day was the District Electoral Officer who spoke about electoral violence and how to prevent or avoid them. Potential flashpoints of electoral violence were identified, with proposals for inter-party agreements to discourage inflammatory rhetoric and divisive campaigning. He also raised concerns about maintaining the integrity of the electoral process, including transparent vote counting and the role of election observers

The committee discussed practical strategies for preventing and resolving conflicts during the electoral period, including:

- Establishing a hotline for reporting electoral disputes.
- Creating a committee to oversee the election process.
- Engaging local leaders and community influencers in peacebuilding efforts.



The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the commitment to work towards peaceful elections. Participants agreed to:

- Develop a road map for joint voter education efforts.
- Schedule follow-up meetings to assess progress and adjust strategies as necessary.
- Establish a platform for continuous dialogue during the pre-election period.

Based on the discussions, the following recommendations were made:

1. **Enhanced Collaboration:** Political parties should commit to regular dialogues to foster trust and transparency in the electoral process.
2. **Strengthening Civic Education:** Political parties must play an active role in educating their constituents about the voting process to increase turnout.
3. **Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms:** Rely on the independent bodies to monitor election activities and report on any irregularities.
4. **Peace Initiatives:** Initiatives targeting youth engagement in peaceful dialogue should be prioritized to deter violence.

