

**PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY MEMBERS OF CSO PLATFORM ON GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE NORTHERN  
REGION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES**

Ghana's Democracy has been upheld and admired by the international community through the country's ability to institute acts and policies such as the local Government Act, 1993 (Act 462), which directs and guide the core of democracy (decentralization). Part I, Section 5 of the local Government Act, 1993 (Act 462), sub-section 3 clearly indicates that "Elections to the District Assemblies shall be held once every four years except that such elections and elections to Parliament shall be held at least six months apart". Such elections are to pave way for composition of assemblies as spelt out in section 5 (Id) of the same act that "one person from each electoral area within the District elected by universal adult suffrage" to which the 1992 constitution of Ghana indicates that all persons of 18 years and above have the right to vote and be voted for irrespective of sex, religion or ethnicity.

Ghana Statistical Service has always provided the "male-female population dichotomy" in Ghana's population census since 1960 with females within the ages of 15-54 years always exceeding that of males of an average of 1.56% difference. In a country where democracy is strongly rooted and governing parties are based on a majority of +1 beyond 50%, then the majority in decision making spaces should have been women. Unfortunate, history is yet to be recorded where there has been at least 20% women representation in decision making spaces. Interesting is the replication of this abysmal women representation in the local governance structure through the District Level Elections.

- ❖ In the history of local government elections in Ghana, the numbers of elected women have never exceeded 10.5%. Although there are improvement in the number of women elected in District level election since 1994 from 2.9% to 4.5% in 1998, 7.4% in 2002, 10.1% in 2006 and 9.4% in 2010 (WILDAF, 2010) these increment in reality might not be felt as electoral areas have increased overtime with the population of eligible women increasing beyond that of men.
- ❖ In the 3 Northern regions of Ghana, the regional statistics has not been any different from the national figures; **in 1998, Northern Region recorded 2.3% of elected assembly members who were women and dropped to 1.3% in 2002 with a significant increase to 8% in 2006 and a reduction to 3.1% in the 2010 district level election. In the upper East Region**
- ❖ In the just ended 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2015 District Level Elections, available data shows low number of elected women in the assemblies as there is a woeful **18 elected women in Northern Region out of 705 elected member, 7 in Upper East Region out of 376 elected members and 9 in the Upper West out of 293 elected members**
- ❖ This implies that there are **2.6%, 3.5% and 3.1% of women representation in the elected assembly membership of Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions** respectively.
- ❖ More worrying is the fact that the very few women elected are from **only 10 districts out of 26 districts in the Northern Region, 7 districts out of 13 in the Upper east region and 6 districts out of the 11 districts in the Upper West Region.**
- ❖ Although southern Ghana has had an upper hand in terms of elected women in assembly elections, the picture has never been satisfying and Ghana is likely to record once again an abysmal number of elected women in the district assemblies.

For the fear of elected assembly persons lacking the technical capacity in governing the assemblies, section 5 (Id) of the Local government Act, 1993 (Act 462) clearly states as part of the composition of district assemblies that **“any other persons not exceeding thirty percent of the total membership of the Assembly appointed by the President in consultation with the traditional authorities and any other interest groups in the district”**. The president as referred to in this provision as per Ghana’s Multi-party system shall be a head of a political party who by virtue of the universal sovereign system is the sitting president.

Since the December 2012 elections, the President of Ghana is the head of National Democratic Congress (NDC). The NDC 2012 manifesto dubbed **“Advancing the Better Ghana Agenda”** clearly indicated under its plans on women’s empowerment that **“The next NDC government will continue to make progress on this commitment with the ultimate goal of attaining 40% women’s representation in all public appointments and at the Party’s Conferences and Congresses”**. This was backed with a clear strategy of **“Amendment of the Local Government Act 1993, Act 462 to reserve 40% of the President’s appointees to the MMDAs to women”**

These provisions in the Manifesto of the ruling NDC has demonstrated the position of the current President in ensuring that the abysmal number of women in our MMDAs are increased to reflect the true picture of democracy in the operation of the Local Governance System.

**We the members of the CSO Platform on Good Governance in Northern Region urge all citizens of Ghana to join hands in drawing the attention of His Excellency President John Dramani Mahama as a president with strong respect for the Local Governance System to ensure the full adherence to the Local Government Act 1993, Act 462 as well as the 2012 Manifesto of the ruling NDC to ensure that 40% of the 30% of government appointees to MMDAs are women. We recommend that;**

- 1. The president through Regional Coordinating Councils appoints 40% of the 30% of government appointees to MMDAs as women.**
- 2. Clear strategies and timelines be given on how the ruling party will ensure the “Amendment of the Local Government Act 1993, Act 462 to reserve 40% of the President’s appointees to the MMDAs to women”**

Signed:

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2015

*On behalf of Members of CSOs Platform on Good Governance in Northern Region*

**Alhassan Mohammed Awal**

(Platform Coordinator)

**APPENDIX****ELECTED WOMEN IN NORTHERN REGION**

# of districts	DISTRICT NAME	ELECTORAL AREA	NAME OF CANDIDATE
1	SAWLA/TUNA/KALBA	NAKWABI	SARAH KUNYANGNA
2	CENTRAL GONJA	BUIPE	EWURCHE BARICHISU MANKIR
		KABILPE	GBANKULSO SOPHIA
		JABLIPE	SEIDU ALICE
3	NANUMBA NORTH	PUSUGA	ADU ZINA
4	CHEREPONI	WAKU/NABONI	BICHESO MOAKE COMFORT
5	KARAGA	NANGUN	ALHASSAN HAWA TAMBO
		BINDULI	MARIAMA ADAM
		GUNAAYILI	YUSSIF SAFURA
6	SAVELUGU/NANTON	JEGUN	ABDUL RAHAMAN ZENABU
7	SAGNARIGU	WURISHIE/ EDUCATION RIDGE	YAKUBU RIHINATU BINT ABUKARI
		SAGNARIGU	ISSAH ZELIA
8	TOLON	DIMABI	ABUKARI AZUMI
		WANTUGU	MAHAMA MEMUNA
9	WEST MAMPRUSI	LOAGRI/KUKUA	AZARA NANTOMAH
		FUNGU	ABUDU LARIBA Z.
		WULUGU	MEMUMA SANDOW
10	MAMPRUGU/MOAGDURI	KUNKWA NO. 1	MARY ATIIM

**DISTRICTS IN NORTHERN REGION WITHOUT AN APPOINTED WOMAN**

1	BOLE
2	WEST GONJA
3	NORTH GONJA
4	EAST GONJA
5	KPANDAI
6	NANUMBA SOUTH
7	ZABZUGU
8	TATALE/SANUGLI
9	YENDI
10	MION
11	SABOBA
12	GUSHEIGU
13	TAMALE
14	MAMPRUGU/MOAGDURI
15	EAST MAMPRUSI
16	BUNKPURUGU/YUNYOO