

POLITICAL PARTIES CODE OF CONDUCT 2008

A Publication of The Institute of Economic Affairs / GPPP

**IEA
Ghana**

TABLE OF CONTENT

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ	1
PREAMBLE	7
DEMOCRATIC IMPERATIVES	8
CAMPAIGNING	10
OUT-OF-CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES	14
ELECTIONS	15
ENFORCEMENT	18
IMPLEMENTATION	19
INTERPRETATION	20

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF A TWO-DAY WORKSHOP TO REVIEW THE POLITICAL PARTIES CODE OF CONDUCT, 2004

DATE: FRIDAY 2ND- SUNDAY 4TH MAY 2008
VENUE: LITTLE ACRE, HOTEL, ABURI

Preamble

We the representatives of political parties in Ghana, at our meeting at Little Acre Hotel, Aburi, 2-4 May 2008, to review the *Political Parties Code of Conduct 2004* and discuss pertinent issues towards election 2008 at the instance of The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA Ghana), under the auspices of The IEA/NIMD Ghana Political Parties Programme (GPPP) and under the chairmanship of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE);

Convinced that while the *Political Parties Code of Conduct 2004* has served the country reasonably well in the areas of facilitating the cooperation between political parties and the EC in resolving election related disputes, assisting the law enforcement agencies in reducing election-related violence and educating the general public, its enforcement mechanisms should be further developed and strengthened;

Determined to use the lessons learned from past elections to improve the processes of the forthcoming 2008 general elections;

Persuaded that equal access to state resources including the state-owned media for electioneering purposes go a long way in ensuring free and fair elections;

Acknowledging that all other stakeholders whose activities affect elections must take purposeful steps towards self-regulation;

Believing that the sources of election related violence include manipulation of the process, intimidation, delay in the release of electoral results and abuse of incumbency;

Recognizing that the application of laws, rules and regulations regarding the participation of public servants in the electoral process must be enforced fairly;

Concerned by the need for public officials and political appointees to act impartially to enhance the conduct of free and fair elections;

Acknowledging that acts of intimidation, lack of transparency and abuse of incumbency in the election process can combine to derail the gains already made in the democratization process of the country;

Convinced that Ghanaians have every opportunity to further develop the gains already made in the country's democratization process;

Agree as follows:

- 1) That the national enforcement body established under the Political Parties Code of Conduct 2004, should be activated and replicated at the regional and district levels.
- 2) That an Inter-Party Monitoring Committee designed to monitor and report breaches of the Code should be set up and operationalized under the national enforcement body;
- 3) That political parties and politicians must refrain from making inflammatory statements to avoid stirring up passions and generating public disaffection;

- 4) That public institutions especially law enforcement agencies should be strengthened by way of providing them with equipment, training and adequate funding to enable them discharge their duties effectively and professionally;
- 5) That for Election 2008, the government should establish a Security Task Force; this task force should work closely with the EC at the national, regional and district levels in dealing with election-related issues;
- 6) That the NCCE must be well resourced to undertake civic education on election related responsibilities of Ghanaians.
- 7) That it is necessary for the Electoral Commission to educate the law enforcement agencies about their expected role during elections;
- 8) That people in the public service who desire to run for political office on the ticket of any political party, without being required to resign from office under the Constitution, should be able to do so without any fear, threat of victimization or intimidation;
- 9) That we urge the Judiciary to take steps to resolve election-related cases expeditiously;
- 10) That the use of law enforcement agencies and private security groups to intimidate electoral competitors and the electorate must cease;
- 11) That elections provide a test for social cohesion which implies that all stakeholders ought to work together towards achieving peaceful elections;
- 12) That while Ghana is making significant progress in its electoral processes, all stakeholders must, nevertheless, work together to ensure that what has been achieved is further deepened.

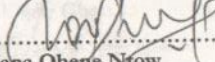
13) That political parties must work to build confidence and trust among themselves to serve as the basis for enforcement of the Code.

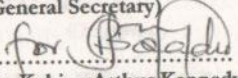
After a thorough and intensive deliberation, we the representatives of The New Patriotic Party (NPP), The National Democratic Congress (NDC), The People's National Convention (PNC), The Convention People's Party (CPP), The Democratic Freedom Party (DFP), The Ghana National Party (GNP), The EGLE Party, The United Renaissance Party (URP) and The United Love Party (ULP) do hereby resolve that:

1. The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) is authorised to process and publish The Political Parties Code of Conduct 2008.
2. The Electoral Commission (EC), The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), in collaboration with the Inter-Party Advisory Committee (IPAC) should inaugurate, publicise and disseminate The Political Parties Code of Conduct, 2008 to Citizens, Institutions and Civil Society Organisations in Ghana.

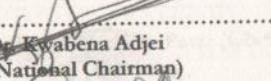
Wherefore, we the undersigned have set our hands hereunder:

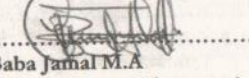
1. New Patriotic Party (NPP)


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Nana Ohene Ntow
(General Secretary)



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Dr. Kobina Arthur Kennedy
(Chair, Communications Committee)

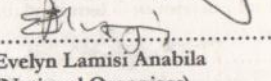
2. National Democratic Congress (NDC)

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.....
Dr. Kwabena Adjei
(National Chairman)~~

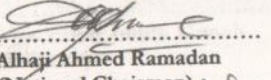
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.....
Baba Jamal M.A.
(Deputy General Secretary)~~


3. Convention People's Party (CPP)

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Mr. Kobina Greenstreet
(General Secretary)~~

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Evelyn Lamisi Anabila
(National Organiser)~~

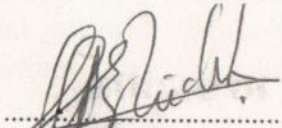
4. People's National Convention (PNC)

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.....
Alhaji Ahmed Ramadan
(National Chairman)~~

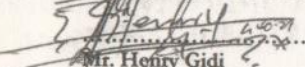
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.....
Abrahams Kabah H.
(First Deputy General Secretary)~~

5. Democratic Freedom Party (DFP)

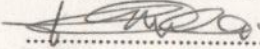
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.....
Mr. Kwaku Baah
(National Chairman)~~


.....
Mr. Bede Ziedeng
(General Secretary)

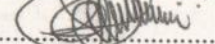
6. Every Ghanaian Living Everywhere (EGLE)


.....
Mr. Henry Gidi
(Interim Chairman)

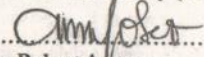
7. United Renaissance Party (URP)


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Rev. Sampson Sadjie
(National Organiser)

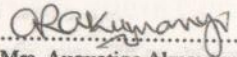
8. Ghana National Party (GNP)



.....
Mr. Eric Mensah Sarpong
(Deputy Gen Secretary)

9. United Love Party (ULP)

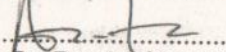

.....
Mr. Robert Apanu
Acting General Secretary

10. National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE)


.....
Mrs. Augustina Akumanyi
(Deputy Chairman)


.....
Mrs. Fanny Judith Kumah
(Director)

11. The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) Ghana


.....
Brig Gen Francis A. Agyemfra (rtd)
(Senior Fellow)

PREAMBLE

The roots of a thriving democracy are to be found in peace, stability, law and order as well as compliance by all stakeholders with well-defined electoral laws and codes. Equally vital is equality of political opportunities for all political parties facilitated by the existence of a level playing field to promote free, fair and credible elections and the acceptance of results. Recognizing that tolerance and pluralism are necessary for an effective democracy, and determined to realise the objective of a model democracy and to consolidate democratic governance in our homeland, weary of the unacceptable conduct of some of our members in the past, we, the Political Parties of Ghana, do collectively and voluntarily adopt for ourselves, and the people of Ghana, the Code embodied herein to guide our activities and aid the establishment of genuine democracy in our country.

We hereby pledge to one another and to the people of Ghana to promote and apply the Code set out below, directing our members, officials and candidates of their obligations under the Code. We also undertake to acknowledge the authority of the Electoral Commission in regard to the exercise of its statutory and constitutional power and to promote and facilitate the Commission's mandate.

DEMOCRATIC IMPERATIVES

1. Democracy is promoted within a legal context underpinned by fairness, rule of law, freedom to express divergent opinions and equality of opportunity. Consequently, all Political Parties shall at all times uphold rules, freedoms and rights of Citizens, as enshrined in the Constitution. All Parties shall recognize at all times that sovereignty resides in the people of Ghana.
2. Political Parties shall observe all rules and regulations relating to the conduct of elections and the maintenance of public order.
3. Political Parties shall have the right to put their views to the electorate without hindrance. Consequently, all Political Parties hereby undertake to refrain from hampering the rights of other Political Parties to put their views to the electorate and not to hinder freedom of access by other Political Parties to potential voters, but to enhance and promote genuine national debate on matters of vital interest.
4. Political Parties shall publicly and without reservation condemn all forms of intimidation and political violence irrespective of the perpetrators. Accordingly, all Political Parties renounce violence and pledge not to indulge in violence and intimidation of any kind.

5. There shall be equal access to the State media, and no Political Party shall prevent the State-owned electronic and print media from giving equal access to the other Political Parties as a way of dominating the Media to the detriment of all others.
6. Political Parties shall at all times avoid defamatory, inflammatory and foul language in all forms. Provocative, derogatory and insulting attacks on other Parties and personalities by way of communication, verbal or non-verbal, shall be avoided at all times.

CAMPAIGNING

1. During campaigning, all Political Parties and election officials shall adhere to existing electoral and civil laws as well as the provisions of the Criminal Code, 1960 (Act 29).
2. Political Parties, candidates, agents and Party workers shall not obstruct, disrupt, break up or cause to be broken up, meetings or rallies organised by other Political Parties and candidates; nor should they interrupt or prevent speeches and the distribution of handbills, leaflets, and the pasting of posters by other Parties and candidates.
3. Political Parties, their members and agents must not destroy, remove, deface or in any way tamper with paraphernalia, logos, symbols, handbills and publicity materials of other Parties.
4. Political Parties, their members and agents shall desist from the carrying of arms and offensive weapons and the display of same, and shall extend co-operation to the law enforcement agencies, particularly for the purpose of recovery of illegal arms.
5. No Political Party shall take any initiative for the release of any person arrested for carrying offensive weapons during campaigning and elections and on no account should any Party initiate extra legal measures for the release of such persons from lawful custody.

6. Political Parties, their members, agents and supporters should adhere to the Public Order Act, 1994 (Act 491). In this regard, Party officials shall co-ordinate their campaign activities in such a way that no two Political Parties shall hold public meetings or rallies in the same locality on the same day, if such meetings or rallies are likely to be so close to each other that a possibility of creating conflict arises.
7. Where dates, venues and timing for any of the above activities clash, representatives of the Parties involved shall in collaboration with the Police meet in a cordial manner to resolve issues without resorting to violence.
8. Political Parties shall ensure that they keep State business separate from Party business. No Political Party shall use government vehicles and other State property for electioneering campaigns or other Party business. However, the use of one motor vehicle assigned to a public officer for his or her personal use shall, if used for electioneering campaign or other party business, not be regarded as misuse of a public resource.
9. Political Parties, candidates, Party members, agents and Party workers shall avoid all activities constituting electoral offences such as offering gifts and gratification or inducing other persons to stand or not to stand as candidates, to withdraw or not to withdraw their candidature as well as the bribing of voters and officials and Party agents and canvassing within the

precincts of polling stations on polling day and refrain from holding public meetings within 48 hours of the polls.

10. No Political Party, members and agents or candidates shall resort to the use of abusive or inflammatory language or incitement; and specifically, all Political Parties and members shall refrain from incitement to hatred on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, creed, sect or any other criteria.
11. Political Parties undertake to be non-offensive and in this regard, to erect non-offensive banners, placards, advertisement and notices and to promote campaigns by lawful means only. Political Parties shall also refrain from publishing offensive literature and campaign material and may express divergent opinions in a peaceful and persuasive manner.
12. Political Parties shall in the course of campaigning avoid plagiarizing the symbols, slogans and paraphernalia of other Parties for legal or illegal activities and refrain from impeding the rights of access of other Political Parties for purposes of voter education, fund-raising, canvassing, campaigning, soliciting of support and dissemination of campaign messages by peaceful means.
13. In the spirit of the present Code, the Political Parties shall enjoin all political appointees to work during campaigns in a spirit that fosters equity and fairness.

14. In particular, the Political Parties shall, consonant with the spirit of this Code, see to it that public officials and political appointees ensure that no Political Party monopolizes access to public facilities during the campaign.
15. Restrictions on public facilities, where they exist, shall apply to all Political Parties equally and there shall be no monopoly on the use of public resources by any Political Party.
16. Political Parties shall ensure that official events within, are not turned into campaign rallies, particularly to introduce candidates and solicit for votes and that Party paraphernalia, logos, publicity material and insignias are kept out of State functions.
17. The Political Parties agree that subject to District Assembly bye-laws, allocations for billboards and other spaces for political publicity shall be done on an equal basis.

OUT-OF-CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

1. Political Parties shall continue scrupulously to observe all laws and rules so long as they continue to apply outside election and campaign periods.
2. Political Parties shall desist from the use of inflammatory and abusive language, heightening of ethnic and other tensions, personal attacks and acts of violence, either directly by themselves, through leaders, assigns, members, representatives, agents and privies or by proxy.
3. The imperatives for a level playing field and equality of opportunities for all Political Parties shall continue to prevail at all times outside elections and campaigns.
4. Political Parties shall ensure that their agents and officials are sufficiently trained for registration and other exercises.
5. During registration exercises, Party agents may initiate protests and complaints only within such formats and channels as prescribed by the Electoral Commission.
6. Political Parties shall ensure fairness in their activities, moderating such activities in a manner that minimizes tension and avoids misrepresentation.

ELECTIONS

1. Political Parties shall work to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process and shall ensure absolute transparency and honesty before, during, and after polling day transactions.
2. Political Parties, candidates, members and agents participating in polls shall, on polling day, extend full co-operation to election officials in the performance of their legal duties in order to ensure peaceful and orderly polling.
3. Political Parties shall actively discourage members from engaging in multiple voting and other forms of election malpractices such as voting in the name of deceased and absent voters as well as minors and other unqualified persons.
4. No members, officials or agents of Political Parties shall engage in confrontation or open argument with election officials at the polling stations. To this end, any complaint, protest or challenge relating to processes and procedures at a polling station shall either be routed through the Party agent(s) to the Presiding Officer or the Security Officer for resolution. Thereafter an aggrieved Party or person is at liberty to seek redress in the law courts of the State.
5. Political Parties shall on polling day observe rules and regulations restricting the number of individuals with

access to the polling station.

6. Political Parties shall recognize and acknowledge the rights of accredited observers and monitors and other accredited persons for the purpose of entering a polling station or area and observing the conduct of elections.
7. Political Parties recognize that the use of organized and unorganized thugs terrorizes voters and creates tension and an atmosphere of intimidation on polling day. Consequently, all Political Parties shall refrain from the recruitment and deployment of such organized and unorganized individuals on polling day and at all times.
8. Political Parties undertake to work together with the Electoral Commission to create on polling day an atmosphere that is conducive to free and fair voting and to refrain from coercion, threats, fear, intimidation and reprisals.
9. Political Parties shall refrain from fraudulently procuring results and votes by invasion and forcible occupation of polling centres, carrying away or obstruction of ballot boxes and any other unlawful means.
10. Political Parties and candidates undertake to instruct their agents in attendance at polling stations to perform their duties in accordance with the electoral

laws and regulations and to co-operate with election officials for the efficient, transparent and uninterrupted administration of elections.

ENFORCEMENT

1. Political Parties shall in collaboration with the Electoral Commission, National Commission for Civic Education and the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) form a body analogous to the Inter Party Advisory Committee (IPAC) at the National, Regional and Constituency levels for the purpose of investigating complaints raised under the present Code.
2. Where there is a breach of any of the provisions of this Code the Party adversely affected shall, as a first option, report the breach to the offending Party and shall seek to amicably resolve the dispute as between the Political Parties.
3. Where a dispute arising out of a breach of the provisions of this Code is not amicably resolved, it may be reported to the body established under this Code.
4. The body established under this Code shall formulate and cause to be published procedures and a time-frame for the resolution of complaints
5. Subject to the approval of the Political Parties, the body shall also formulate such rules as are necessary to facilitate the taking and presentation of evidence.
6. All complaints are to be investigated promptly.

7. The body, shall give a fair hearing to all Political Parties concerned and may issue sanctions in the form of reprimands and may also take undertakings from the offending Parties.
8. The body established under this Code may publish 'declarations' of findings.
9. The above remedies are without prejudice to the rights of victims to institute criminal or civil action.
10. An Inter-Party Monitoring Committee (IPMC) shall be established to facilitate the enforcement of this Code.
11. For the avoidance of doubt the enforcement mechanism established under this Code shall apply to Political Parties and shall not apply to the State media and District Assembly officials.

IMPLEMENTATION

Every Political Party shall ensure that this Code is made fully known to its members and that it is fully observed. In addition, the Political Parties undertake to publicize the Code to the general public by all means available to them.

INTERPRETATION

In this Code:

'**Body**' refers to the body established under this Code made up of representatives of the Electoral Commission, Political Parties, the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and the Institute of Economic Affairs, including the analogous bodies at the regional and constituency levels.

'**Criminal Code**' means the Criminal Code, 1960 (Act 29) as amended.

'**Electoral Commission**' means the Electoral Commission of Ghana.

'**IEA**' means The Institute of Economic Affairs.

'**IPAC**' means the Inter Party Advisory Committee.

'**Political appointee**' includes Regional Ministers and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives authorities.

'**Political Party**' means a registered Political Party operating under the Political Parties Act, Act 574, 2000 or any other statute for the time being in force.

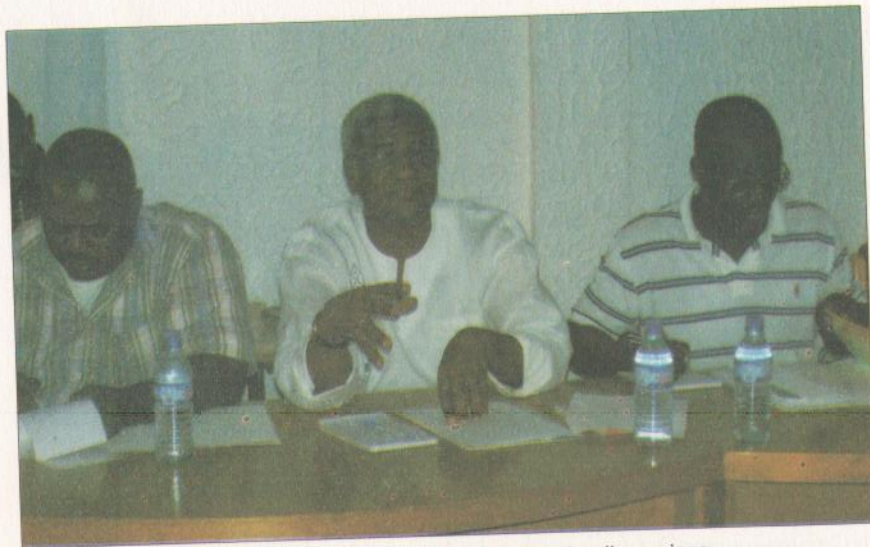
'**The Code**' means the Political Parties Code of 2008.



Nana Ohene-Ntow (second left), General Secretary, NPP, explains his party's position on the code



Left to right:- Professor Wayo Seini, Member, NPP, Mr. Bede Ziedeng, General Secretary DFP and Mr. Kweku Baah, National Chairman, DFP.



A section of the political leaders during the discussions
 Left to right:- Koku Anyidoho, In charge of Communication,
 Atta Mills Campaign Team, Alhaji Ahmed Ramadan,
 National Chairman, PNC, and Nana Ohene-Ntow, General Secretary, NPP.



A section of political party representatives during the meeting



Left to right:- Mr Kwame Ampofo, National Organiser, NDC,
 Baba Jamal (middle), Deputy General Secretary, NDC,
 making a point during the discussions and
 Mr. Abraham Kabbah Deputy General Secretary, PNC.



A group photograph of participants