



Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO)

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PRELIMINARY REPORT (II) ON THE ON-GOING BIOMETRIC VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE BY THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO) continues to observe the on-going Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) Exercise being conducted by the Electoral Commission of Ghana (EC) across the country. CODEO has one observer each in 100 randomly and purposively selected constituencies spread across all regions in the country. For each Phase of the registration exercise, CODEO observers have been following and observing 100 selected registration centers. CODEO has earlier shared its first preliminary report on the BVR exercise at the end of Phase One of the exercise. This second report contains preliminary findings on Phases Two and Three of the registration exercise which were conducted from July 6 through to July 17, 2020. During these two Phases, CODEO observed a total of eight days – July 6th, 7th, 10th and 11th for Phase Two, and July 12th, 13th, 16th and 17th for Phase Three (i.e. the first and last two days of Phases Two and Three). CODEO observers observed a total of 200 registration centers (i.e. 100 centers per Phase) where they were stationed and observed the exercise. At the end of these two Phases, a total of 775 of an expected 800 daily observation reports were successfully submitted by the observers. Below are the key highlights from analyses of the information submitted by observers.

Findings

Analyses of observer reports indicate that the registration exercise was generally conducted in accordance with relevant electoral rules and regulations. There were however, some recorded challenges relating to various aspects of the process, including the performance of BVR kits; the availability of hand washing facilities; observance of COVID-19 health and safety protocols; and the conduct of stakeholders including political party agents, registration officials and registration applicants; among others. CODEO highlights the key findings below with the objective of activating the responsiveness of the EC, the Election Security Taskforce and indeed, all stakeholders, to these challenges and to further improve the conduct and security of the registration processes.

Registration Processes

- While majority of registration centers started daily registration on time, CODEO noted that there was a decline in the percentage of registration centers that were opened by 7:15AM as compared to Phase One, from **66% to 58%**. In particular, on Day 1 of Phase three (July 12, 2020), a number of registration centers opened late (in some cases after 12PM) either due to the late arrival of BVR kits and/or challenges associated with activation of BVR kits. Examples of some of the affected centers included Ntonso Grace House, Ahwiaa Zongo in Kwabere East in the Ashanti region, D/A Prim School, Yabraso in Tain in the Bono region, and L/A Prim School and Adaklu-Torda in Adaklu in the Volta region. The EC in [a press statement](#) acknowledged the delays in the start of the registration exercise on July 12, 2020 and promised to make up for the time lost at the affected registration centers.
- There were stationed uniform personnel at 71% of observed centers, a slight decline

compared to 79% in the centers observed in Phase One.

- About 12% of registration centers observed in the two phases were found not to be accessible to persons with mobility challenges and the elderly.
- Registration forms were available in most cases (99%).
- In 11% of cases, registration centers encountered challenges with the performance of the registration kits, resulting in the suspension of the exercise at many of the affected centers. The most reported cases of malfunction related to laptops and fingerprint scanners while printers and cameras reported a few challenges. In most instances, the issue of equipment malfunction was resolved/fixed for the process to continue.
- At several registration centers, political party agents continued to collect voter ID card details and contact information from newly-registered persons. In a few cases, this generated heated verbal exchanges between registered persons and some party agents, similar to what was reported in Phase One of the exercise.
- In 21% of cases, some persons stationed themselves around registration centers and looked out to guarantee for people. Observers reported a few instances where some registered persons attempted to guarantee for persons suspected to be ineligible for registration. For example, at a registration center (Central Mosque, Medie) in Amasaman in the Greater Accra region, two registered voters filled a guarantee form for one person who attempted to register but upon interrogation by the Registration Officer, allegedly admitted to being a non-Ghanaian from Burkina Faso and subsequently absconded.
- Observers reported on the unauthorized presence of some individuals at approximately 15% of cases.
- At a few centers (3%), some party agents tried to prevent some applicants from registering without filling a Challenge Form.
- Observers indicated that at some registration centers, officials ended daily registration much earlier than the stipulated closing time of 6:00PM. Observers reported of instances where registration officials refused or were reluctant to register applicants even before 5:00PM. For instance, at the SDA Primary School-Osiem in Abuakwa North in the Eastern region, registration officials did not want to register the about 20 persons who had showed up to register in the morning of the last day of Phase Three (July 17th, 2020). The registration officials advised applicants to rather wait for the next phase of the exercise, which according to them, was going to take place in the same vicinity. The situation caused some commotion between the officials at the center and some registration applicants.
- A few of the observed centers recorded some incidents of confusion, chaos and/or violence, relating to queuing at registration centers and other factors. For instance, on July 13, 2020 at a registration center (Temp Booth, Jana Mosque) in Nanton in the Northern Region, a fight broke out between some natives and some other persons who were alleged to have come from outside the community to register. This halted the registration process for close to half an hour before registration resumed at about 1:50PM when calm was restored.

COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols

- While COVID-19 related health and safety protocols were observed in majority of cases, there continued to be some challenges in other instances. The two-meter social distance between applicants in a queue as instructed by the EC was observed in most (74%) but not in some cases (26%). This is a slight improvement in the situation compared to Phase One, as reported in our first report (where social distancing could not be enforced in 28% of cases).
- The wiping of fingerprint scanners after use by each applicant was also not fully adhered to at many registration centers. Observers reported that the scanning devices were wiped all the time only in 38% of the cases. It was mostly done ‘often’ (34%) or ‘sometimes’ (24%). In few instances (4%) the devices were ‘never’ wiped. There were also reported shortages of sanitizing/handwashing facilities in a few instances (5%).
- Observers noted that temperature checks were not strictly conducted in about 25% of cases. CODEO observers also reported on the breakdown of temperature guns at some registration centers. Some of the centers affected included the Beat 9 Border Post, Aflao in Ketu South in the Volta region, CSD Office-Boso Odumase in Abuakwa North in the Eastern region, M/A Primary School-Mfuom in Upper Denkyira East in the Central Region, and Market Square-Ellonyi No.1 in Jomoro in the Western region. In a few cases, registration was put on-hold due to this challenge while in other cases, the exercise proceeded without temperature checks.

Conclusion

- CODEO strongly condemns all reported incidents of violence at registration centers including the latest development in the Awutu Senya East Constituency on Monday, July 20, 2020 as well as the violent incident at Banda constituency which resulted in the unfortunate loss of the life of one person. CODEO urges the security agencies to step up efforts to bring all perpetrators of violence to book as soon as possible to serve as a deterrence to others. CODEO urges all political parties, particularly the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC) to check the conduct of their agents deployed in registration centers and all persons acting on their behalf. CODEO further reminds the security agencies that failure to act on such violent incidents will send a wrong signal to criminals and make mockery of the new law on vigilantism.
- CODEO also condemns the presence of all unauthorized presence of persons at registration centers. CODEO reminds the general public that according to the registration rules, no person is supposed to be present at a registration center unless that person is a registration official, an accredited part agent.
- CODEO also entreats registered voters to guarantee for only persons who they are sure to be eligible for registration under the laws of Ghana.
- While CODEO commends registration officials for generally conducting themselves well, the Coalition also urges all registration officials to be diligent in their work, including ensuring that all registration rules and regulations are applied.
- CODEO commends the EC for responding to some of the issues raised in the Coalition’s earlier report, including [cautioning political parties and their agents](#) against collecting

information about voters and warning people against indulging in ‘contract’ guaranteeing.’ Given that some people continue to indulge in these practices, CODEO further entreats the EC and Election Security Task Force to ensure that people are held to account upon violation of election rules. CODEO commends some registration officers for ensuring that political party agents at their registration centers comply with the EC’s directives.

- CODEO urges all eligible persons who are yet to register to familiarise themselves with the movement plan of the EC for their area to inform their participation in the exercise. The crowding at some registration centers, particularly in the initial days of each phase is avoidable if people can re-schedule their registration plans as the exercise takes place over a period of six days at each center.

CODEO is continuing with observation of the remaining phases of the exercise and will keep informing the public about its findings.

CODEO acknowledges the support of the STAR-Ghana Foundation for the observation of the BVR exercise.

Signed:
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National Coordinator

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**APPENDIX: LIST OF REGISTRATION CENTERS OBSERVED BY CODEO
IN PHASE TWO**

S/N	Region	Constituency	Polling Station
1.	Central	Mfantseman	Catholic Prim Sch - Nkwanta
2.	Central	Ajumako Enyan Esiam	JHS, Ofabir
3.	Central	Awutu Senya West	Papa Kyikyibi'S Hse Alata Senya
4.	Central	Awutu Senya East	Psalms Of Victory Academy 1
5.	Central	Asikuma/Odoben/Brakwa	Meth Prim Sch Brakwa
6.	Central	Twifo Atti Morkwa	Methodist Primary School Agona
7.	Greater Accra	Weija / Gbawe	Goil Filling Station, New Weija
8.	Greater Accra	Amasaman	M/A Prim Sch Nsakina
9.	Greater Accra	Madina	Presby Church Madina Zongo No.1 (3)
10.	Greater Accra	Ayawaso West Wuogon	University Staff Village Prim School, Legon
11.	Greater Accra	Okaikwei South	Kaneshie 1 and 4 Prim. Sch. (6) Kaneshie
12.	Greater Accra	Ablekuma Central	Church of Pentecost Assembly 2, Mataheko
13.	Greater Accra	Korle Klottey	Blogodo Garden (1)
14.	Greater Accra	Krowor	King David School, Nungua
15.	Greater Accra	Ningo Prampram	D/A Basic B, Prampram
16.	Greater Accra	Sege	D/C Primary Goi Central 1
17.	Greater Accra	Ada	D/C Primary Ocanseykope
18.	Volta	Ketu South	Beat 9 Border Post, Aflao
19.	Volta	Akatsi North	D A Prim Sch Kpeduhoe
20.	Volta	North Tongu	Meth. Prim Sch., Juapong
21.	Volta	Adaklu	J H S Adaklu Waya Gbogame 2
22.	Volta	Ho Central	E P J S S 'A' Ho-Kpodzi
23.	Volta	Ho West	E P Prim Sch Saviefe-Agorkpo
24.	Volta	Afadjato South	E P Prim Sch Agbesia
25.	Eastern	Suhum	D/A Prim Sch Zorh
26.	Eastern	Akim Oda	Ridge JHS Akim Oda
27.	Eastern	Achiase	CMB Shed Ahuntem
28.	Eastern	Ofoase/Ayirebi	CMB Shed Nsuase Anyinase
29.	Eastern	Abuakwa South	Presby Prim Sch Apapam
30.	Eastern	Abuakwa North	CSD Office, Boso Odumase
31.	Eastern	Nkawkaw	M A Prim Sch Kwamang
32.	Eastern	Mpraeso	Obo Presby JHS
33.	Eastern	Afram Plains South	D/A Prim Sch Krachie
34.	Ashanti	New Edubiase	Community Centre Amudurase 2
35.	Ashanti	Adansi Asokwa	Market Square Fumso 2
36.	Ashanti	Obuasi West	Bus Stop Tiny Rowland
37.	Ashanti	Atwima Nwabiagya North	Meth Prim Tabiri
38.	Ashanti	Suame	Angel Educational Complex Abuohia
39.	Ashanti	Oforikrom	Security Services Knust

40.	Ashanti	Afigya Kwabre South	R/C Prim Sch 2 Nkukua Buoho
41.	Ashanti	Asawase	Theocracy Church Parkoso
42.	Ashanti	Nsuta/Kwamang/Beposo	Presby Prim. Sch, Anansu
43.	Ashanti	Ejura Sekyedumase	L/A Prim Sch, Aframso
44.	Ashanti	Afigya Sekyere East	S D A Primary School Afamanso 1
45.	Ashanti	Ahafo Ano North	D/A Prim Sch Achina
46.	Western North	Bodi	D/C Prim Yayaso 1
47.	Western North	Bia West	D C Prim Sch Yerepemso
48.	Western North	Bia East	D.C Primary School, Asemnyinakrom
49.	Ahafo	Asutifi North	Kodiwohia D.A Basic Settlement Phase 1
50.	Ahafo	Tano South	Meth Upper Pri Sch Old Bronsankro
51.	Bono	Dormaa Central	Cont Sch Dormaa-Ahenkro
52.	Bono	Berekum East	R/C Church Kutre No 1
53.	Bono	Jaman South	Christ The Answer Church
54.	Bono	Jaman North	R/C Lower Pri Sch Nsonsomea
55.	Bono	Banda	Presby Prim Sch -Makala
56.	Bono	Tain	Menji Market Menji
57.	Bono East	Techiman	Tamale Station Techiman
58.	Bono East	Nkoranza North	Presby Junior Highi Sch Asekye
59.	Bono East	Nkoranza South	R/C Prim Sch. Lower Kissiman
60.	Bono East	Sene West	Presby Prim Sch Akenten
61.	Oti	Buem	D/A Prim Sch Atwereboana
62.	Oti	Krachi-Nchumuru	D/ A J H S Banda
63.	Northern	Saboba	L/A Prim Sch Kugnani
64.	Northern	Savelugu	Limayili, Savelugu
65.	Northern	Nanton	L A Prim Sch Tampion (A)
66.	Northern	Tamale	I' Line Mosque Aboabo
67.	Northern	Kumbungu	Community Centre Gumo
68.	Savannah	Bole/Bamboi	L/A Prim. Sch. Kakiasi
69.	Savannah	Sawla Tuna Kalba	L.A Prim Sch Tuna
70.	Savannah	Salaga North	L/A Prim Sch Gbun
71.	Upper West	Wa East	Sombisi Primary School
72.	Upper West	Nadowli/Kaleo	Cath Prim Sch Kaleo
73.	Upper West	Jirapa	Temp Booth Piiyiri
74.	Upper West	Nandom	Temp Booth Daagagn
75.	Upper West	Sissala West	Jawia J H S
76.	Upper West	Sissala East	Kassana Prim School
77.	North East	Bunkpurugu	L A Primary School Binde
78.	North East	Yunyoo	L A Prim Sch Namongo
79.	Upper East	Builsa North	Zundem Primary Sch.
80.	Upper East	Kassena/Nankana West	I C T Centre Babile
81.	Upper East	Bolgatanga Central	Kotokoli Zongo Bolga
82.	Upper East	Bongo	Anafobisi Primary School
83.	Upper East	Bawku	Bawku Methodist Prim Sch
84.	Upper East	Binduri	Manga Prim School

85.	Ashanti	Bosomtwe	ST Michael Technical/Vocational
86.	Ashanti	Kwabre East	M A Primary school kenyase
87.	Ashanti	Kwadaso	Later Day Saint Church Asuoyeboa
88.	Ashanti	Sekyere Afram Plains	Bosomfuor L/A Primary School
89.	Eastern	Lower Manya Krobo	Krobo Girls SHS
90.	Eastern	Upper West Akim	African Faith Terbutunacle Adeiso
91.	Northern	Yendi	Nurul Saedia No 2 Primary School
92.	Upper East	Talensi	Sakpare Tengre Clinic
93.	Volta	Central Tongu	D.A JHS Avakpedome
94.	Central	Upper Denkyira East	Anglican Church, Dunkwa
95.	Western	Jomoro	Old Local Council Office Bonyere
96.	Western	Takoradi	Army Ranch Baracks 3
97.	Western	Effia /Kwesimintim	Mt Olivet Church Lagos Town
98.	Western	Mpohor	Anglican Church Adum Bansa
99.	Western	Prestea Huni-Valley	Funeral Grounds Appiatse
100.	Western	Amenfi West	D C Prim Sch Yirase

LIST OF CENTERS OBSERVED IN PHASE THREE

S/N	Region	Constituency	Polling Station
101.	Central	Mfantseman	Post Office Anomabo
102.	Central	Ajumako Enyan Esiam	S C M B Cocoa Shed Esiam
103.	Central	Awutu Senya West	D/A Prim Sch Ahintia
104.	Central	Awutu Senya East	King DaviS Spot
105.	Central	Asikuma/Odoben/Brakwa	Ahmd JSS Sch Bedum
106.	Central	Twifo Atti Morkwa	State Hall Mampong (1)
107.	Central	Upper Denkyira East	M/A Prim Sch Mfuom
108.	Greater Accra	Amasaman	Central Mosque Medie
109.	Greater Accra	Madina	Faith Comm. Sch. Madina Zongo No.2
110.	Greater Accra	Ayawaso West Wuogon	Dzorwulu Primary School
111.	Greater Accra	Okaikwei South	Datus Montessori Creche (2), Bubiashie
112.	Greater Accra	Korle Klottey	Khiriyatul Islamic Prim Sch
113.	Greater Accra	Krowor	Presby Sec Sch Nungua
114.	Greater Accra	Ningo Prampram	D/C Prim Sch 4 New Ningo
115.	Greater Accra	Sege	J H S, Korluedor
116.	Greater Accra	Ada	Kasseh J H S 1
117.	Volta	Ketu South	L/A J H S Nogokpo
118.	Volta	Akatsi North	D A Prim Sch Ave-Havi
119.	Volta	Central Tongu	E P Primary School Mafi-Avedo
120.	Volta	North Tongu	E.P Prim Sch. Torgorme
121.	Volta	Adaklu	L/A Prim Sch Adaklu-Torda
122.	Volta	Ho Central	L/A Prim Sch Sokode-Gbogame
123.	Volta	Ho West	Co-Op Centre Dzolo Gbogame
124.	Volta	Afadjato South	L/A Prim Sch Akusame
125.	Eastern	Lower Manya Krobo	Otalanya

126.	Eastern	Suhum	Methodist Prim Sch Suhum
127.	Eastern	Upper West Akim	R/C J H S Sukrong-Bethlehem
128.	Eastern	Akim Oda	Funeral Ground old town
129.	Eastern	Achiase	Presby Prim Sch Achiase
130.	Eastern	Abuakwa South	Funeral Grounds, Lartem
131.	Eastern	Abuakwa North	S D A Primary Sch Osiem
132.	Eastern	Nkawkaw	The Point Akuadwoo East
133.	Eastern	Mpraeso	Mpraeso Presby Primary 'B'
134.	Eastern	Afram Plains South	D A Prim Sch Bumpata
135.	Ashanti	New Edubiase	D/A Prim Sch Aworoso
136.	Ashanti	Adansi Asokwa	S D A Prim Sch Bodwesango 1
137.	Ashanti	Obuasi West	Christ Revival Church
138.	Ashanti	Atwima Nwabiagya North	L/A Pri Sch Mfensi
139.	Ashanti	Kwadaso	Roman Catholic Church Kwadaso
140.	Ashanti	Asawase	Bola-Bola Aboabo No.1
141.	Ashanti	Suame	Anomangye M/A School 2
142.	Ashanti	Kwabre East	Ntonso Grace House Ahwiaa Zongo
143.	Ashanti	Sekyere Afram Plains	Temp Booth Sampson
144.	Ashanti	Nsuta/Kwamang/Beposo	D/A Jhs, Atwea
145.	Ashanti	Ejura Sekyedumase	Ejura Community Centre[B1]
146.	Ashanti	Afigya Sekyere East	Adu Sarkodie's Family Compound Konya
147.	Western North	Bodi	D/C Prim Sch Besease
148.	Western North	Bia West	D/C Prim Sch Essam
149.	Western North	Bia East	PBC Cocoa Shed, Jinijnikofi
150.	Ahafo	Asutifi North	R/C Primary School, Kenyasi No. 2
151.	Ahafo	Tano South	Presby Nursery School Techmantia
152.	Bono	Dormaa Central	L/A Prim Sch Masu
153.	Bono	Berekum East	R/C Church Kutre No 1
154.	Bono	Jaman South	Vocational Sch.Kwasibourkrom
155.	Bono	Jaman North	R/C Church Kabile
156.	Bono	Banda	D/A Prim Sch Bongase-Kramoline
157.	Bono	Tain	D/A Prim Sch Yabraso
158.	Bono East	Techiman	Islamic JHS Konimase Techiman
159.	Bono East	Nkoranza North	D/A Prim Sch Boabeng
160.	Bono East	Nkoranza South	R/C Prim Upper Nkwabeng
161.	Bono East	Sene West	Market Place Shafa
162.	Oti	Buem	Trad Council Hall Bodada
163.	Oti	Krachi-Nchumuru	D/A Prim Sch Bora No 2 (B)
164.	Northern	Yendi	Islamic Propagation Prim. Sch.
165.	Northern	Saboba	R/C Prim Sch Nnalog
166.	Northern	Savelugu	Nyetuah Mosque
167.	Northern	Nanton	Temp Booth Jana Mosque
168.	Northern	Kumbungu	Wataniya Islamic Primary School Kumbungu

169.	Savannah	Bole/Bamboi	Methodist Church
170.	Upper West	Wa East	Funsi Primary School
171.	Upper West	Jirapa	Credit Union Office Jirapa
172.	Upper West	Nandom	Temp Booth Kpiyagle
173.	Upper West	Sissala West	Gbarima Prim Sch
174.	Upper West	Sissala East	Temp Booth Nankpawie Prim Sch
175.	North East	Bunkpurugu	L A Prim School Nampaubauk
176.	North East	Yunyoo	Temp Booth Jinwoli
177.	Upper East	Builsa North	Ayieta Jhs
178.	Upper East	Kassena/Nankana West	Primary School L/B,Paga
179.	Upper East	Bongo	Soe Area Council
180.	Upper East	Talensi	Balungu Primary School B
181.	Upper East	Bawku	Baptist Church
182.	Upper East	Binduri	Bakanga Prim Sch
183.	Ashanti	Afigya Kwabre South	VIDASH INT.SCH
184.	Ashanti	Ahafo Ano North	Islamic Mission school
185.	Ashanti	Oforikrom	CHURCH OF PENTECOST SMT 1
186.	Ashanti	Bosomtwi	Jachie D/A JSS (1)2
187.	Eastern	Ofoase/Ayirebi	Police Station, Ayirebi Amanfrom
188.	Greater Accra	Ablekuma Central	CHURCH OF PENTECOST PIWC KANESHIE
189.	Greater Accra	Weija / Gbawe	Mt Carmel Methodist Prim Sch, Oblogo
190.	Northern	Tamale	Police Barracks Mosque
191.	Savannah	Salaga North	KM Model JH SCH
192.	Savannah	Sawla Tuna Kalba	Community Center Daafiel
193.	Upper East	Bolgatanga Central	Preparatory Prim School
194.	Upper West	Nadowli/Kaleo	Sankana lokoro
195.	Western	Mpohor	Old post office -Adum Dominase
196.	Western	Jomoro	Market Square Ellonyi No 1
197.	Western	Takoradi	Go Man Go, Takoradi
198.	Western	Kwesimintim	Takoradi Sec School Anagye
199.	Western	Prestea Huni-Valley	Community Centre Kokoase
200.	Western	Amenfi West	D C Primary Breman