



GHANA SCOUT ASSOCIATION (GSA) NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

PRESS RELEASE

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SCOUTS AND OTHER YOUTH ORGANISATIONS CALL FOR PEACEFUL POST ELECTION COMMUNITIES IN GHANA

The 2012 Presidential and Parliamentary elections held on the 7 & 8TH December 2012, across the length and breadth of the Country was conducted in a peaceful manner however the resultant declaration of the winner of the presidential election by the Electoral commission has left the people of Ghana with some notably disturbing incidents.

Whiles those declared winners by the Electoral Commission are celebrating; the main opposition party is contesting the declaration of the Electoral commission and seeking redress using the system of the Judiciary service.

It is obvious that the past two weeks has seen some pockets of violence in parts of the country.

What is worrying in these situations are the tensions that are developing and the fact that some party foot soldiers are allegedly taking matters into their own hands and harming innocent civilians who are going about their normal businesses.

To maintain the peace we enjoyed in the country prior to the elections, we believe that as much as those declared winners by the electoral commission should jubilate, they should do it in moderation without any form of provocation.

Those who have issues with the way the elections were conducted and therefore the results especially the main opposition party's supporters should exercise maximum restraint since their leaders have indicated that they are heading to court to seek redress.

Any form of violence will definitely not augur well for us. In our view as scouts, it is crucial that we allow the 'structures' to work. We have only one Ghana.

Our interest as Scouts and other youth organisations is to promote the development agenda of the country where opportunities and avenues are created specifically for young people to have jobs, create better lives for themselves and their families and to build the country we so much cherish and love.

How can we achieve this if there is no peace for people to move about freely to work? We have heard of countless experiences of electoral, tribal and civil strife from many countries in the sub-region and beyond.

It is our hope that we all adhere to the several peace calls from civil society groups, the national peace council, Students, the Kumasi peace declaration and several more approaches all of which were to ensure that the elections were held in peace and their aftermaths are still peaceful for the country to develop as one people?

As we go through this important transition, we are further challenged to educate young people through informal peer –to-peer means to be principal agents in their personal developments and societies while encouraging adult leaders (volunteers) to broaden their knowledge base by taking advantage of today's technological advancement instead of being used as agents of violence.

Since scouts (young males and females) are part of communities, there has been the urgent need for a collaborative effort by partners such as other youth organisations, religious bodies, individuals (including former scouts), civil society organisations, institutions and companies to work hand in hand with us so that together we can develop especially young people of Ghana into responsible adults in an atmosphere of peace.

It is however crucial to note that our aspirations cannot be met if the enabling stable atmosphere is non-existent.

May I remind you all that in the event of any mishaps now it is the youth, our dear children, our future leaders who will bear the brunt most.

I hereby take this opportunity to appeal to leaders of all political parties in Ghana including our religious bodies, the National Peace Council and others to help ensure the peaceful co-existence of all.

I further appeal to all and sundry to eschew personality attacks, violence and rather dwell on issues that will develop our dear nation Ghana.

The Ghana Scout Association are **MESSENGERS OF PEACE** and in collaboration with other youth organisations wish on this occasion to declare its preparedness to support the youth of this country to promote peace and to do amazing things in our communities to help create a better world.

From January to March next year, there shall be series of workshops, seminars and activities across the country to making sure we the youth play our part to ensuring that there is peace for us to develop ourselves and our country.

"Try to leave this world a little better than you found it and, when your turn comes to die, you can die happy feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best"

Lord Baden-Powell
Founder of Scouting

Thank you.
Gregory Yaw Manful,
Chief Commissioner-Ghana Scout Association

