



A REPORT ON THE ENGAGEMENTS WITH POLITICAL PARTIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS ON THE MENACE OF POLITICAL PARTY VIGILANTISM

CONTENTS

	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
1.0	INTRODUCTION	7
2.0	OBJECTIVES OF THE ENGAGEMENTS	9
3.0.	NCCE'S MESSAGE TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND STAKEHOLDERS	10
4.0.	SUMMARIES OF OUTCOMES OF THE ENGAGEMENTS	12
4.1.	PARTIES WITHOUT REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT	13
4.2.	THE NEW PATRIOTIC PARTY (NPP)	15
4.3.	THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS (NDC)	17
4.4.	THE GHANA POLICE SERVICE	19
4.5.	THE NATIONAL THE PEACE COUNCIL	21
4.6.	THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS (TUC)	23
4.7.	THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CHIEF IMAM	25
4.8.	THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT	27
4.9.	THE JUDICIARY	29
4.10.	THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, 'JIC')	31
4.11.	THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF GHANA	32
4.12	THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE (CHRAJ)	34
4.0	OBSERVATIONS	36
5.0	RECOMMENDATIONS/ROADMAP	39
	<i>IMMEDIATE</i>	39
	<i>SHORT TERM</i>	39
	<i>MEDIUM TERM</i>	40
	<i>LONG TERM</i>	41
6.0	CONCLUSION	42
	APPENDIX 1:	44
	APPENDIX 2:	47
	APPENDIX 3:	57

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Political party vigilantes in this context, refers to lawless bands of individuals affiliated to political parties. Their activities are characterised by acts of violence before, during and after public elections. It includes forcibly ejecting officials of previous administration from their official residence and offices accompanied sometimes by physical assault, as well as engaging in seizures of public property and assets in the custody of public officials in an uncoordinated manner. The political party vigilantism has been an aberration in Ghana's politics and a retrogression in her democratic journey. Ordinarily, vigilantism (vigilance) has positive connotations such as being watchful, alert, observant and cautious. However, in Ghanaian parlance, vigilantism refers to political party affiliated violence. Over the years, the level of violence that has become the hallmark of the activities of party vigilante groups during each phase of the electoral cycle has increased since Ghana's transition to constitutional rule in 1992. One recent case in point is the violent occurrences during the by-election held at the Ayawaso West Wuogon Constituency which triggered the setting up of a Presidential Commission of Inquiry whose Terms of Reference (TOR) included:

- To make a full, faithful and impartial enquiry into the circumstances of, and establish the facts leading to, the events and associated violence during the Ayawaso West Wuogon by-election.
- To identify any person responsible for or who has been involved in the events, the associated violence and injuries.

- To enquire into any matter which it considers incidental or reasonably related to the causes of the events and the associated violence and injuries.
- To submit within one month its report to the President, giving reasons for its findings and recommendations, including appropriate sanctions, if any.

The shooting incident that took place at the Ashanti Regional Office of the major opposition party which resulted in the death of one party faithful is, also, a fresh case in point.

Similarly worrying, is the fact that the political parties seem to have lost control over the vigilante groups and for that matter, the groups have in recent incidents turned inward attacking their own party members. At Tafo-Pankrono for instance, a New Patriotic Party (‘NPP’) affiliated vigilante group attacked a sitting NPP Member of Parliament at a constituency meeting. The shooting incident at the National Democratic Congress (‘NDC’) Ashanti Regional Office cited above was purportedly carried out by some members of a vigilante group affiliated to the NDC. These negative occurrences dovetail into the findings of the research report by the Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) which, among other things, revealed (63%) of Ghanaians regard the operations and activities of political party vigilante groups as a threat to democracy and a risk to the country.

The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) has consistently condemned these violent incidents in press conferences and press statements in reaction to these violent occurrences. The stakeholder engagements, which are the focus of this report, were triggered by the recurrence of vigilante violence despite NCCE’s persistent condemnation of the activities of vigilante groups and

the endorsements of these negative acts by political parties and politicians. It is pertinent to note that the Ayawaso West Wuogon by-election incident occurred during these stakeholder engagements. The engagements were, among other things, to:

- collate diverse perspectives on the factors that trigger vigilante violence.
- gain insights from political parties on reasons why they form and maintain vigilante groups.
- gather stakeholder opinion on the best ways to curb the activities of the vigilante groups.
- solicit stakeholder support for a national coalition to mount pressure on political parties to disband their vigilante groups.

The call to disband is the first step in a complex roadmap to uproot the scourge of vigilantism. The consultations revealed that a multi-faceted or broad-based stakeholder engagement to address this scourge was a necessary requisite to finding a lasting solution to the negative phenomenon. The roadmap which may be immediate, short, medium and long term includes the relentless drive of law enforcement agencies to prosecute cases, mete out stiffer punishment to perpetrators, constitutional amendments, revised code of conduct for political parties and rigorous civic education.

This report captures the outcomes of the stakeholder engagements that the NCCE carried out between October, 2018 and February, 2019. In all, twelve (12) major stakeholders including political parties were consulted. Time and resource constraints did not afford NCCE the opportunity to consult more stakeholders. This notwithstanding, NCCE believes that the views of other stakeholders are equally

pertinent to resolving the menace of vigilantism. The NCCE is hopeful that the proposed national summit would afford these other important stakeholders the platform to proffer their views and recommendations.

The engagements point to factors such as unemployment and vulnerability of the youth, the desire to settle past political scores, mutual mistrust between the two major political parties, lack of confidence in the Ghana Police Service and other security agencies, and the desire by political parties to win power at all possible cost as some causes of vigilante activities. Stakeholders recommended, inter alia, that the NCCE holds a national summit, the outcome of which should provide a comprehensive roadmap for dealing with the vigilante menace. The cumulative adverse effect of vigilante activities includes the fact that their violent acts are a dent on the integrity of the electoral processes. Beyond that, their activities are in total disregard for the rule of law. These groups cause physical harm to innocent victims, and in many instances abuse human rights such as the freedom of movement, and access to justice. In fact, innocent people have lost their lives, some have been maimed, and some have been displaced from their places of residence because of the politically motivated violence by vigilante groups. . These violent acts have a negative consequence on the image of the country among the international and domestic business community and affect international investor confidence in Ghana as a safe destination for business. In the midst of regional vulnerability to terrorism, vigilante activities could escalate into a more dangerous violent conflict.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the unflinching support by the media, security experts, and civil society groups in the fight to uproot this canker in our body politic.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The use of political thugs and their associated use of violence in Ghana dates back to the period immediately before independence. Over the years, the level of violence that characterises the activities of political party vigilante groups during each phase of the electoral cycle has increased. Instead of the positive use of internal party security arrangements, these groups over the years have metamorphosed into trained armed groups that present a potential threat to the peace, security, and stability of the entire country. Vigilante groups, particularly those belonging to the newly elected government have over the years taken the laws of the country into their own hands, forcibly ejected officials of previous administration from their office and official residence and physically assaulted them. Vigilante groups have also engaged in the seizure of public property and assets in the custody of public officials in an uncoordinated and often violent manner.

The NCCE has been very vociferous in the fight against the existence and operations of vigilante groups. The Commission has held several press conferences and issued press statements which condemn these acts including the disturbance and the near lynching of the Member of Parliament of Tafo Pankrono during a NPP Constituency meeting, the proclamation by the General Secretary of the leading opposition party to the effect that his party would inaugurate several vigilante groups as part of preparations toward the 2020 general elections, the violence during the Ayawaso West Wuogon by-election and the recent shootings that resulted in the death of a party faithful of the

main opposition party in Kumasi. The NCCE continuously uses both traditional media- radio and TV- as well as social media to amplify the condemnations. As part of the response to the clarion call by several stakeholders on the need to arrest the violence by political parties' vigilante groups, the NCCE carried out a series of stakeholder engagements which sought views on ways to curb vigilante activities and political party related violence. Among the key stakeholders who were engaged were the representatives of political parties without representation in parliament viz. the Convention People's Party (CPP), Great Consolidated Popular Party (GCPP), Liberal Party of Ghana, People's National Convention (PNC), Democratic People's Party (DPP), and the All People's Congress (APC). The New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC) were met separately at their respective national headquarters. Other stakeholders the NCCE engaged were the Inspector General of Police (IGP) with the Ghana Police Service Administration, the National Peace Council (NPC), the Trades Union Congress (TUC), the Office of the National Chief Imam (ONCI), the Speaker of Parliament, the Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana, the Joint Intelligence Committee of the National Security Committee, the Christian Council of Ghana, and the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice. All these stakeholders (including the two major political parties-even though reluctantly) have decried the negative effects of the violence by vigilante groups on the image of our country, Ghana. This report captures the issues that emerged from these engagements.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE ENGAGEMENTS

The objectives of the engagements were, among other things, to:

- Collate stakeholder perspectives on the factors that trigger vigilante violence.
- Seek insights from political parties on reasons why they form and maintain vigilante groups.
- Gather stakeholder opinion on the best ways to curb the activities of the vigilante groups.
- Solicit stakeholder support for a national coalition that could mount pressure on political parties to disband their vigilante groups.

3.0. NCCE'S MESSAGE TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

The leadership of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), at all the visits, explained to the stakeholders that the activities of political party vigilante groups are a daunting challenge that continue to undermine Ghana's electoral process with far-reaching consequences on Ghana's democratic gains. Vigilante or politically related violence has fuelled polarisation in Ghana's body politic and undermined the nation's drive towards democratic maturity. Various election observers, in the aftermath of the 2016 elections, expressed grave concern about the proliferation of the activities of vigilante groups and faulted the two major political parties, the NPP and NDC as being culpable for creating and / or sponsoring such dangerous party vigilante groups in Ghana. Beyond the 2016 General Elections, there have been several disturbances, in addition to the ones cited earlier in this report, by these political vigilante groups. For instance, in 2017 some members of the Delta Force (an NPP affiliated vigilante group) attacked a Kumasi Circuit Court and in total disregard for the rule of law freed 13 members of their group who were facing charges for causing disturbances at the Ashanti Regional Coordinating Council. They vandalized some court properties and almost assaulted the Judge, Mary Senkyere . Additionally, in April 2017, over 200 members of the Delta Force attacked the Ashanti Regional Security Coordinator (Mr. George Agyei) and chased him out of his office stating that he was 'not part of the struggle' to win power from the NDC during the general elections in December . Similarly, following the electoral victory of the NDC in the 2008 elections, their vigilante groups "captured" and forcibly occupied several government buildings. They evicted the occupants

and took over their positions and jobs. Several revenue generating facilities such as public toilets and tollbooths taken over by the foot soldiers of the NPP in 2001 were avenged by the NDC in 2009. In April 2013, after the 2012 elections, some NDC foot soldiers numbering about 50 on motorbikes stormed the NDC's Ashanti Regional Office during a meeting to vehemently resist the appointment of Mr. Kojo Bonsu as the Kumasi Metropolitan Chief Executives (MCE). They allegedly accused the regional executives of influencing the nomination of Mr. Kojo Bonsu who was not known to the party foot soldiers. These cyclical acts of vigilante vandalism are extremely dangerous to national cohesion and could have major consequences of violent conflict and confrontations which could be a recipe for democratic relapse. While the existence of such groups requires effective civic and public education engagements with all spectra of the citizens of Ghana, there is also the need to engage major stakeholders to gather broad based perspectives and form a formidable coalition to find a lasting solution to the menace. As the 2020 general elections draw close, there are warning signs that vigilante activities are a big risk factor. Indeed, high ranking police officers including the IGP have variously stated that unless the vigilante menace is uprooted the 2020 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections could be very bloody. The NCCE as an institution mandated by the 1992 Constitution to work towards sustaining Ghana's democracy deems it fit to engage key stakeholders which include political parties to speak to the issue and explore strategies to address it before it degenerates into chaos and political instability.

4.0. SUMMARIES OF OUTCOMES OF THE ENGAGEMENTS

The NCCE engaged twelve (12) major stakeholders including almost all the registered political parties in the country. The institutions and organisations other than political parties mostly have mandates that border on the sustenance and consolidation of tenets of democracy, as well as maintaining law and order in the country. The main issues that emerged at the various consultations are summarized in the following sections .

4.1. PARTIES WITHOUT REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT

Seven political parties without representation in parliament viz. the Convention People's Party (CPP), People's National Convention (PNC), the Democratic People's Party (DPP), Great Consolidated People's Party (GCPP), the National Democratic Party (NDP), Liberal Party of Ghana (LPG) and the All People's Congress (APC) attended the first in the series of the stakeholder meeting on 30th October, 2018 at the Lower Conference Room of the NCCE headquarters. The main issues that emerged from the meeting with these parties are as follows:

- The appointment process of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and the heads of other security agencies render them ineffective in dealing with the vigilante menace.
- The insatiable desire of leadership of the two major political parties to win power at all cost, hence resorting to using the youth groups to intimidate their opponents to achieve this desire.
- There are kingpins in the NDC and NPP who allegedly resource and sponsor these violent groups and therefore these groups perceive their “services” as a means of income.
- The deepening culture of verbal violence in the media contributes to vigilante activities.
- The “Winner-Takes-All” syndrome associated with 1992 Constitution and the current system of governance.

They, therefore, recommended that:

- The two major parties (NDC & NPP) are the main perpetrators of vigilantism, therefore, they should be called upon to disband these illegal groups.
- There should be public naming and shaming of political parties whose members cause mayhem at any point of the electoral cycle.
- The NCCE should facilitate a dialogue process with the two major political parties and bring pressure to bear on them to disband their respective vigilante groups.
- The NCCE in collaboration with the National Peace Council (NPC) should organise a national summit the outcome of which should culminate into a roadmap to deal with the menace.
- The 1992 Constitution should be amended to redress the “Winner-Takes-All” system of governance
- His Excellency the President of the Republic should trigger the necessary administrative and legal processes for the implementation of the roadmap.



4.2. THE NEW PATRIOTIC PARTY (NPP)

The engagement with the national leadership of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) took place on 31st October, 2018 at the Headquarters of the party located at Asylum Down, Accra. The leadership of the NPP, led by the General Secretary, Mr. John Boadu proffered the following issues as the party's position on the vigilante menace:

- Nothing stops the Ghana Police Service from doing their work since the current President who is part of the leadership of the NPP has constantly called on the security agencies to deal with the perpetrators of violence whenever vigilante groups disturb the peace of the country.
- The party agreed in principle that there are youth groups that offer security at some of the party's functions to protect them.
- They expressed worry about the inability of the police to offer the NPP adequate security protection anytime the party was under attack.
- Over the years, members of the party have been victims of electoral violence by the rival political party, therefore, the presence of the vigilante groups is for self-protection.
- The NPP is ready to do away with the services of the vigilante groups if the NDC shows commitment to discontinue the use of their party affiliated vigilante groups.
- The party promised its readiness to dialogue with all stakeholders to curb the activities of vigilantes.
- Vigilantism is a drain on the financial resources of the party.

The NPP made the following recommendations:

- Called on the NCCE to intensify civic education to reorient the citizens against acts of violence.
- Vigilante activities border on criminalities, therefore, the police and the judiciary should ensure perpetrators are prosecuted.
- Called for a common platform for political parties and other stakeholders to discuss and come out with a resolution on ways to end vigilantism.



4.3. THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS (NDC)

On 6th November, 2018, the NCCE team met the leadership of the NDC led by Mr. Lee Ocran (deceased) at the party's headquarters at Adabraka, Accra. The NDC team raised the following concerns at the meeting:

- As the party in opposition, they held the considered view that they have not been treated fairly by the security agencies in the aftermath of the 2016 general elections when some of their supporters were allegedly beaten up and driven away from their places of employment when they lost power to the current government.
- The proclamation by the party to members to form several vigilante groups in battle readiness for the 2020 general elections is for self-defence.
- The Azorka Boys is an ad-hoc group loyal to Chief Azorka.
- NDC does not have trained groups.
- The party assured its commitment to any process or activities that are geared towards finding solutions to the menace.
- The party was ready to disband its groups if their opponents will do the same.

They NDC made the following recommendations:

- A dialogue among major stakeholders to devise ways to curb the vigilante menace.
- Constitutional and legal changes to ensure the independence and secure tenure of heads of security agencies.
- Review the composition of the Police Council to safeguard against partisanship in police recruits.



4.4. THE GHANA POLICE SERVICE

The NCCE engaged the Ghana Police Service. The Police Officers Management and Advisory Board (POMAB) led by the IGP met at the Ghana Police Service Headquarters, Cantonments, Accra, on the 7th of November, 2018. At that meeting, the NCCE informed the IGP of the seeming lack of confidence in the police service as an institution mandated to ensure the internal security of the country as well as maintaining law and order. Other stakeholders which had been consulted by the NCCE had expressed misgivings on the ability of the police to deal with the vigilante menace head-on. The IGP and other high-ranking members of the police administration stated their views on the menace as follows:

- The Police Administration observed that the police had taken swift action whenever the activities of vigilante group resulted in destruction and physical harm to any citizen.
- The police, however, explained that they could only go as far as the laws of Ghana allow them i.e. arraigning the vigilantes or political thugs before the court of law. Beyond that, they have no power to disband vigilante groups, and that they could only take action when the actions of the thugs border on criminalities.
- The police bemoaned the fact that in instances when they presented some of the vigilante thugs before the court, the thugs were given lenient sentences by the judge.
- In their considered view, it was hypocritical for the political parties to justify the formation of vigilante groups because of their mistrust for the police.

- Constitutionally, policy guiding police operations and administration emanate from the Police Council which is constituted by the President and as a result the perceived political intrusion is deepened.
- The police agreed that the NCCE and the police administration should put a joint working group together to undertake further works on the process of dealing with the vigilante menace.

The following measures were recommended by the POMAB:

- The judiciary should not deal leniently with vigilante suspects presented by the police for trial.
- The police service should be adequately resourced with modern policing equipment
- Reinforced previous suggestion for a common stakeholder dialogue/platform to discuss ways to deal with vigilantism dispassionately.



4.5. THE NATIONAL THE PEACE COUNCIL

Subsequent to the meeting with the police, the NCCE consulted with the National Peace Council (NPC) as one of the major stakeholders in the country's democratic architecture. Their engagement took place at the headquarters of NPC, Ridge, Accra, on 12th November, 2018. The NPC, under the Chairmanship of Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Asante, expressed the concerns listed below as the Council's observations on vigilante threats:

- The political parties make unrealistic promises to the youth in the quest to win power and these youth engage in acts of vandalism when these promises are not fulfilled.
- The result of these unfulfilled promises is the internal feud in which vigilante groups go after the leadership and appointees of their own parties.
- The NPC held the view that the best way to deal with vigilante activities is job creation as implemented under the Nkrumah regime with National Brigade and the Veranda Boys who were employed in the state farms.
- NPC requested NCCE to give them a slot on the consultation team so that their representative could attend subsequent meetings with the remaining stakeholders.
- The participants attributed the phenomenon to the Winner-Takes-All governance system as evidenced in the 1992 Constitution as a major reason why parties engage vigilante groups.

- The NPC decried the intrusions in recruitment processes in the Ghana Police Service whereby unqualified political party supporters are employed in the Ghana Police Service without adherence to properly laid down processes on scrutinizing potential recruits. This has led to undesirable elements in the police service without the requisite mindset as law enforcement officers.

Recommendations by the NPC include:

- Skills development and apprenticeships for members of these vigilante groups as part of the ways to effectively re-integrate them in the larger society.
- Small Arms Commission should play a lead role in the process of disarming vigilante groups.
- Collaboration between NPC and NCCCE to create a platform for a national dialogue to end vigilantism.



4.6. THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS (TUC)

The NCCE leadership also engaged with the top management of the TUC at the Trades Union Congress House, Accra on Monday 20th November, 2018, to deliberate on the rising incidence of vigilante activities in the country. The TUC team was led by the General Secretary, Dr. Yaw Baah. After congratulating the NCCE on its role in contributing to ensure the sustenance of the Fourth Republican Constitution beyond 25 years, the longest in the country's political history, the TUC laid bare their members' concerns on the problem of political party violence. He reiterated that trade unions do not thrive in a non-democratic country and therefore, it was in the interest of the TUC to speak up against any acts that undermine or threaten Ghana's democracy. Summary of TUC concerns are listed as follows:

- Violent activities associated with the operations of vigilante groups disturb the peaceful working environment which is a pre-requisite for high labour productivity.
- The acts of violence by vigilante groups undermine state security and lower investor confidence in Ghana, a country which had gained the accolade as an oasis of peace and political stability in a sub-region that is ravaged by election disputes and political violence.
- Cumulative effect of the aforementioned factors weakens the membership base and the objectives of the Union because investors may withdraw their operations from Ghana.
- The TUC pledged its full support to the course of the NCCE to eliminate vigilantism from the Ghanaian political space.

- TUC will train its members at the Regional level to speak against vigilantism.
- The Union urged the NCCE to lead in the public awareness campaigns against vigilantism.
- Political parties should desist from raising hopes of the youth and making promises that cannot be fulfilled.

The TUC recommended measures such as:

- Sustained public education and engagements on the negative effects of vigilantism as critical to the success of the fight against the menace.
- NCCE taking advantage of the TUC meetings at the regional and district branch levels to emphasize public awareness on the negative effects of vigilantism.
- Urged the NCCE to train TUC executives who will in turn use the Union's platforms to campaign against vigilantism.



4.7. THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CHIEF IMAM

This engagement took place on 21st November, 2018, at Fadama with the members of the Advisory Board led by the Chief Imam, Sheikh Nuhu Sharubutu. During the interaction, the Chief Imam stated emphatically his stance against any action that begets violence and called on political parties to stop preying on the young people from the Muslim communities as tools for perpetrating violent activities. During the engagement, the members of the Chief Imam Advisory Council shared the following views:

- The Advisory Council was of the opinion that the members of the vigilante groups are mostly drawn from the Zongo communities of the country and this was of grave concern to the Chief Imam.
- The political parties exploit the social plight (unemployment) of Zongo youth and recruit them into the vigilante groups with the promise of finding them jobs when the party wins power.
- Economic factors such as unemployment play a critical role in the rising incidence of vigilantism
- The impact of the media through positive journalism was important to influence vigilantism.

The Advisory Council made the following recommendations:

- The NCCE should intensify public education on the negative effects of vigilante activities in the Zongos as part of efforts to discourage the youth from joining such groups

- The youth in the Zongos should be targeted for skills training and development to provide them with employable skills to reduce their vulnerability.
- The independence of key institutions such as the Ghana Police Service, especially the office of the Inspector General of Police (IGP); the Auditor General (AG); Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO); National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and the Electoral Commission (EC) should be strengthened in order to sustain democratic stability.
- The media should intensify the fight against vigilantism and make it a core element in their corporate social responsibility.



4.8. THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

The NCCE held the stakeholder engagement with the office of the Speaker of Parliament on 29th November, 2018, at Parliament House, Accra. Due to the unavailability of the Speaker on that day, the First Deputy Speaker, Hon. Joe Osei Owusu met and held discussions with the NCCE team. Other members of the parliamentary leadership who were present were the 1st Deputy Majority Chief Whip, Hon. Mathew Nyindam and the 2nd Deputy Majority Chief Whip, Hon. Moses Anim. The First Deputy Speaker explained that even though no member of the minority party was present at that meeting, he knew that their position on political vigilante violence is not different from that of the majority. The First Deputy Speaker commended the NCCE for the enormous work the district officers are doing in his constituency. On the specific issues of political vigilantism, the Deputy Speaker made the observations below:

- The actions of vigilante groups undermine the work of Parliament since they act contrary to the laws that Parliament makes.
- To the leadership of Parliament, the groups that parade themselves as vigilantes are a bunch of lawless youth who must be made to face the full rigours of the law
- Vigilante activities are purely criminal acts that should be taken out of the ambit of politics and be seen and dealt with according to the rule of law.

Recommendations that emanated from the meeting with the Office of the Speaker were:

- NCCE should educate the media to be circumspect in their reportage on vigilantism.
- Called for sanctions against media houses who sensationalise and exaggerate their reportage on the activities of vigilante groups.
- Depoliticise vigilantism because their actions are purely criminal.



4.9. THE JUDICIARY

The Chief Justice on behalf of the Judiciary received the NCCE team on 17th December, 2018, at the Conference room of the Judicial Service. As a precursor to stating the judiciary's position and observation on the rising incidence of political violence, the Chief Justice explained how her work with the United Nations afforded her the opportunity to investigate similar incidents of politically related violence in the Central Africa Republic. She expressed Ghana's potential vulnerability to insurgents if vigilantism was not curbed in our body politic Below is the summary of the major concerns raised by the Judiciary:

- There are too many private security companies in the country and the implication is that with a little spark the vigilantes could form an alliance with them and that could threaten the security of the country.
- The NCCE and the Judicial Service have a common role to play in sustaining Ghana's democracy.
- The Chief Justice's office will empower the courts to apply maximum sanctions to offences.
- Acts of vigilantism if not curbed may nurture an arms trade in Ghana that will worsen the acquisition of illegal arms and threaten political stability.

Her Ladyship suggested:

- Effective border controls as a measure to reduce the smuggling of arms from neighbouring countries.
- Stiffer enforcement of the laws and regulations on the private security companies.



4.10. THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, 'JIC')

The NCCE met the Joint Intelligence Committee of the National Security on 22nd January, 2019. The meeting took place at the Conference Room of the National Security. The Deputy National Security Coordinator who was also the chairman for the JIC stated that the vigilante menace has become an albatross around the neck of the nation. From the perspective of the National Security Council, the factors that trigger vigilantism are as follows:

- The mutual mistrust between the two major political parties in the country which stems from the way they treat the security agencies when their party is in power haunts them when they lose power and therefore form parallel security apparatus for their protection.
- Youth unemployment as a major factor that pushes young persons into joining vigilante groups.
- Lack of security of tenure and the mode of appointment and/or the removal process of the Heads of Security Agencies makes them vulnerable to the influence and victimisation by politicians and prevents them from acting independently.

The Committee recommended:

- A revision of LI 1571 which regulates the operations of private security agencies so that the vigilante activities can be regulated if they are to be made to stay.
- The Criminal Justice System must be reviewed so that more deterrent sentences are meted out to perpetrators.
- An audit of cases on the incidence, effects, and prosecution of cases on vigilantism to put in perspective loopholes to be addressed.

4.11. THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF GHANA

Subsequent to the meeting with the National Security, the NCCE engaged the leadership of the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG) on 23rd January, 2019. The Chairman of (CCG), Rev. Dr. Cyril Fayose, commended the NCCE for taking the right step to rid the country of the vigilante scourge. Stating the factors that contribute to the increase in the incidence of vigilantism, the Chairman of CCG also outlined some of the factors that account for the existence of such groups and the steps the CCG will take to augment the efforts of the NCCE in dealing with the activities of the vigilante groups:

- Economic factors encourage vigilantism, especially youth unemployment.
- Ghana needs to address the issues of parenting, socialisation, and streetism to the fourth generation.
- The inaction of police until prompted by the Government.
- The culture of impunity by ruling parties.
- The CCG is ready to offer their pulpits as platforms to appeal to the conscience of the people especially those engaged in acts of politically related violence or vigilantism.

Recommendations from the CCG were:

- The need for engagement of bodybuilding groups which are also sources for vigilante recruitment.
- Improve the independence of all institutions
- Public service holders, especially, heads of security agencies must be more assertive in discharging their mandate.
- The CCG should incorporate the campaign against vigilantism in their annual calendar and request all member churches to include such campaigns in their activities.



4.12 THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE (CHRAJ)

The Commissioner of CHRAJ, Mr. Joseph Whittal and his team hosted the NCCE team led by the Chairman, Ms. Josephine Nkrumah at the headquarters of CHRAJ on 19th February, 2019. The meeting was held at the conference room of the host institution. The under-listed recommendations emerged from the meeting:

- The selection and appointment of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) should be non-partisan and independent.
- The IGP should have security of tenure of office so that he/she can discharge their duties without fear.
- The secure seven (7) year tenure of office for the office of the Special Prosecutor could be applied to the appointment and security of tenure of the IGP.
- Public servants appointed by politicians should not shirk their responsibility because they could be victimised but should live up to the national interest by discharging their duties without fear of victimisation.
- Senior public officers should be emboldened by article 191 of the 1992 Constitution that states that *“A member of the public services shall not be -*

(a) victimized or discriminated against for having discharged his duties faithfully in accordance with this Constitution; or

(b) dismissed or removed from office or reduced in rank or otherwise punished without just cause.”



4.0 OBSERVATIONS

From the consultative meetings held with the major stakeholders and the issues that emanated from the various discussions, the National Commission for Civic Education made the following observations:

- Most of the stakeholders consulted made a strong request to the NCCE to organise a national dialogue/summit to solicit broader stakeholder views that should serve as a roadmap to dealing with the vigilante menace.
- The continuous mutual suspicion between the two dominant parties which culminates in the lack of trust for the security and law enforcement agencies is a major reason why these political parties resort to vigilante groups for protection.
- In addition to the claim by the two political parties that their respective vigilante groups are for self-protection, the NCCE is of the view that the festering animosity and rancour that characterise the electoral competition between the two parties creates an environment for vigilante groups for vengeance and retaliation of purported acts of violence their members might have suffered from the opposing political party.
- The major motivation for young persons who join these thug groups is the desire to gain employment. Therefore, violence has become a major commodity for sale. However, the politicians are exploiting the unfortunate socio-economic hardships of the youth by giving them unachievable electoral promises that push them to go any length to secure victory for the pay-masters' political party.

- The perceived lack of independence of the heads of the security agencies such as the Ghana Police Service and the National Security stemming from the mode of appointment, and the lack of secure tenure of office become compelling factors that erode the independence of such officers.
- Most of the stakeholders consulted cited the “Winner-Takes-All” framework of governance in the 1992 Constitution that gives absolute political power to the elected political party to appoint, dismiss, and offer government contracts, as a major factor that makes elections in Ghana a do-or-die affair between the two leading political parties of the country. Hence, the involvement of these anti-social groups into the electoral activities of the nation to the detriment of our democratic culture.
- There was a unanimous call from all the stakeholders that were consulted, including the leadership of the two major political parties (even though reluctantly), for unconditional disbandment of political party vigilante groups as the first step to dealing with the menace of political violence in Ghana.
- Some stakeholders expressed worry over the extent to which the media exaggerate and sensationalise issues relating to vigilante violence. Sensational media reportage is partly to blame for reprisal attacks and retaliation.
- The individual engagements afforded candour in the expression of concerns and reservations which was a key objective of the Commission.

- Although various stakeholders have called for the disbandment of the vigilante groups, there are complexities that need to be addressed:
 - Some of the vigilante groups are not necessarily affiliated to any of the political parties, they exist as ad-hoc groups without any organisational structures. They operate undercover and only come out to carry out their violent activities when they are hired to do so.
 - The disarming of these groups after disbandment, and their reintegration into society are key to finding lasting solutions to the menace.



5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS/ROADMAP

The NCCE, judging from the above observations, recommends and proposes the following immediate, short, medium and long term measures as a tentative roadmap to deal with the vigilante menace:

IMMEDIATE

- The two major political parties should heed to the call from the Ghanaian public and the international community for unconditional disbandment of the various vigilante groups.
- Small Arms and Light Weapons Commission should be resourced to embark on a special exercise aimed at retrieving illegal arms in the hands of the vigilante groups.
- The two major political parties should identify and engage the kingpins in their respective parties who sponsor these thugs to withdraw their support to the vigilante groups and channel such support into gainful trade or employment of members of these groups.

SHORT TERM

- The police and the judiciary should arrest and prosecute perpetrators of political violence.
- The National Peace Council in collaboration with political parties must identify and register members of the vigilante groups for the purposes of reintegration / settlement.

- There should be targeted and intensive education by the NCCE in collaboration with civil society organization and the media in the Zongo communities which are potential sources for recruitment into vigilante groups.
- Targeted engagement with bodybuilding groups which are also sources for vigilante recruitment
- The CCG should incorporate the campaign against vigilantism in their annual calendar and request all member churches to include such campaigns in their activities.
- NCCE should be adequately resourced to perform its constitutional mandate more effectively.
- The Electoral Commission and relevant stakeholders should revive the Political Parties Code of Conduct with focus on the fight against vigilantism.
- Adequate resource allocation to the Ghana Police Service.
- The media should intensify and sustain the fight against vigilantism and make it a core element in their corporate social responsibility.

MEDIUM TERM

- Upon disbandment, there should be skills development and apprenticeships for members of these vigilante groups as part of the ways to effectively re-integrate them in the larger society.
- Constitutional reforms to address the Winner Takes All system of governance.
- Constitutional reforms to address security of tenure of the IGP and other heads of security agencies.

- Review the composition of the Police Council to safeguard against partisanship in police recruits.
- The Judiciary should empower the courts to apply maximum sentencing to political violence related offences. National Security in collaboration with the Small Arms and Light Weapons Commission should effectively coordinate border controls as a measure to reduce the smuggling of arms from neighbouring countries.

LONG TERM

- In the long term, there should be legal and constitutional reforms that could ensure independence in the appointment process of the heads of security agencies. This could strengthen the hands of such appointees to discharge their duties without any fear of victimisation.
- Government through the Ministry for Zongo Development should develop robust employment strategies to deal with the unemployment situation in the Zongos.
- A comprehensive job creation policy that addresses youth unemployment at all levels.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The stakeholders' engagements created an amiable platform on which citizens openly and frankly decried the existence of vigilante groups. The NCCE ascertained factors such as unemployment and the vulnerability of the youth, the desire to settle political scores between the two main political parties, and the unrelenting desire by political parties to win power as some causes of vigilante activities. It further observed the animosity and rancour that characterise the electoral competition between the two main political parties as a factor that encourages the creation and sponsoring of these vigilante groups for vengeance and retaliation. Again, the “Winner-Takes-All” phenomenon which gives total power to the political party that wins an election is a factor that makes elections in Ghana extremely competitive between the two leading political parties of the country and motivates the rise in vigilante activities during every phase of the electoral cycle.

The monetisation of politics in our democratic culture has contributed in no small measure in festering the scourge of political vigilantism. The demand and supply of violence as a commodity in our political space has further heightened the menace of vigilantism.

As a country, we should pay heed to the concerns raised by the international community regarding vigilantism and its erosion of our democratic gains. Ghana is touted as a beacon of democracy in Africa, however, risks such as activities of political parties' vigilante groups, as well as the weak institutional

capacity to deal with them require effective peacebuilding mechanisms to ensure sustainable democratic stability. The unfortunate violent activities of political party vigilante groups seem to have a cascading effect on other comparatively violent activities associated with illegal mining (galamsey) and land protection by illegal “Land Guards”. A worrying trend worth mentioning is the fact that most of the violent and terrorist groups on the African continent such as Boko Haram, Al-Shabab and other armed groups in the Central African Republic started as vigilante groups linked to political parties, ethnic and religious groups. Therefore, peacebuilding activities should emphasise civic education and engagements as a strategy for securing a robust electoral process and enhancing social cohesion at the religious and ethnic levels. Efforts at sustainable peacebuilding should be intrinsically linked with broader citizens’ participation in the political space. Women’s and youth representation and participation in political decision making, for instance, are critical to stemming the tide of violence in the political activities of the country. More so, it is important to stress that as beneficiaries of a stable and peaceful democratic state, corporate entities should give support to activities focusing on ending the menace of vigilantism. Invariably, businesses thrive better in a stable and peaceful democratic environment culminating in economic empowerment through gainful employment.

Further, community ownership of the process to re-orient the youth against vigilante activities and the need for sustainable civic education at the grassroots level are critical to ending the menace of vigilantism. By and large, securing sustainable peaceful democratic society through effective civic education is the collective responsibility of every citizen.

APPENDIX 1: PRESS RELEASES



1st October, 2018

POLITICAL PARTY VIGILANTES HAVE NO SPACE IN GHANA'S DEMOCRATIC CULTURE

The National Commission for Civic Education, NCCCE, expresses its repulsion at coordinated reports by self-styled leaders of the vigilante group, Delta Force associated with the ruling political party, NPP, who have struck again. This time, the act of vigilanteism occurred in the Talo Pankrom Constituency where the Member of Parliament for the constituency, Honorable Dr. Akrom Osei was meeting constituency executives. The meeting was disrupted by Delta Force vigilantes whom who threatened the NPP and executive positions. Delta Force has become notorious for the use of force and violence and road blockage for law and order.

The Commission has repeatedly expressed its revulsion at political party vigilantes, particularly of the two major political parties who take the law into their hands and cause social disharmony. After 23 years of democratic governance, it is unacceptable for any group of persons to commit such acts that undermine the rule of law and democracy.

NCCCE reiterates that political party vigilantes have no place or space in our democratic culture. Leadership of the NPP owes accountability to the people of Ghana that the law applies equally to all by actively pursuing security agencies and the judiciary to swiftly and accurately prosecute vigilante groups.

The NCCCE holds the conventional view that the appropriate remedy with which Delta Force vigilantes were handled when they struck a law court to free their fellow perpetrators has further emboldened them to continue to act with such impunity.

The NCCCE will not rest until random, sense and senseless vigilantes and all acts of lawlessness because of the risk it poses to the country's democracy, stability, social security, revenue confidence and peaceful co-existence of all Ghanaian amongst other factors.

This is a national crisis. The security agencies must begin investigations into the venue location and bring the delinquent to book. Political party officials must also call their members to order and ensure that no individual or group of persons can hold the country to ransom under the power of political party vigilantes. Political party leaders must personally attend in Ghanaian that they respect the rule of law. They must show commitment to peace and national stability by disbanding immediately all vigilante groups within their rank and file. Enough of the lip service to rule of law. We Ghanaians demand that laws and institutions must be allowed to work without fear or favour. Let the laws work.

Further the KPM must reinforce NCCCE's call for disbanding these illegal militant groups by effectively proscribing their activities. It is by so doing that a clear warning and leaving signal will be sent to others who are contemplating undertaking similar negative acts. The National Security Minister, National Security Advisor, Ghana Police Service and all security agencies must work together to restore the confidence of Ghanaian in security and law enforcement agencies.

Finally, we call on all Political Parties, National Peace Council, the Christian Council of Ghana, National Catholic Bishops' Conference, Office of the National Chief Imam, the Ghanaian Muslim Mission, Civil Society Organizations, academics, the media, traditional rulers and all law abiding citizens of Ghana irrespective of political party affiliation, vices, religion or social standing to collectively raise their voices in condemnation of these activities.

God Bless our homelands Ghana

SIGNED

JOSEPHINE NKUMAH (MS) CHAIRMAN



2nd November, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCCCE CONDEMNS VIGILANTE ATTACKS IN SOUTHERN GHANA

The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCCE) condemns in no uncertain terms recent attacks by political thugs in the Northern Region following the disruption of a meeting by the regional branch of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) in a suburb of Tamale. These groups reported as Aljazeera Boys and Alam Boys are reported to be affiliated to the NDC and said to be representatives of the Northern Regional Secretary and Chairman of the NDC respectively.

Vigilantes which was hitherto active during election seasons has gradually metamorphosed into a permanent national security threat. The so-called vigilante groups are illegal cells of political thugs whose activities, if not halted, threaten the peace and security of innocent Ghanaian, ultimately destroying Ghana's Democracy. Such groups are unconstitutional, unlawful and serve as an ugly threat to Ghana's Democracy.

The Commission commends the police for its swift moves to arrest these violent elements and arranges swift and professional investigations in this regard. Further, NCCCE expresses its confidence in the Judiciary in ensuring that maximum sentence would always be handed down to these political thugs in no order to nip their destructive activities in the bud.

The Commission continues to call on the leadership of the NDC to take steps to immediately disband any vigilante groups affiliated to the party.

Further, we call on members of these illegal cells to reform themselves into peaceful voluntary groups to support community development.

The Commission proscribes the operations of these political thugs as a national crisis and calls on Parliament to join in the crusade to terminate this political cancer in Ghana as a matter of urgency.

The Commission shall relentlessly name and shame any political party that engages in, sponsors, uses, trains or funds political thugs. NCCCE has begun a process of engaging with political parties, security agencies and civil society to urgently address this threat to our democracy and assure the people of Ghana that it is committed to eradicating acts of political thugs from all aspects of life in Ghana.



Joyce Akoto (Mrs.)

(Director, Communications & Corporate Affairs)



11th January, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GHANA'S DEMOCRACY UNDER THREAT WITH THE EXISTENCE OF POLITICAL PARTY THUGS

The National Commission for Civic Education, NCCCE, condemns in no uncertain terms reports of violent attacks and abductions at the by-elections at the Agapee West Wangan Constituency in Ahafo. The Commission is appalled by the development at the Agapee West Wangan by-election and condemns the NDC and NPP to respect the voting rights of citizens.

The NCCCE has consistently campaigned against the operations of political party thugs in Ghana. The Commission's earlier pronouncements on the danger that illegal militias pose to our democracy cannot be overemphasized. Regrettably the NCCCE has observed the growing trend of use of violence that is becoming a trend of our by-elections and calls for immediate action to curb the menace in its bud.

It is unfortunate that political parties especially the NPP and the NDC have continually disavowed existing political thugs but these groups continue to provide their services that hitherto, might to be provided by the traditional security institutions. The NCCCE vehemently urges our legislators and voters to state flat whether their groups ever allegiance to the NPP or the NDC, political party vigilantes must not be allowed any space to operate in our democracy.

The Commission reiterates and reminds political parties and political actors that party thugs pose a national threat to our democracy and the police will call the operations of these groups in the bud, the better for us as a society. As a society we must be worried that these developments are dangerous signs ahead of 2020 general elections. The NPP and NDC cannot hold their party to a constant intimidating voters and citizens with their political party facilities during election seasons for their political interest.

We call for robust strong arrests and convictions at large and urge the security agencies to pattern their duties by maintaining law and order without any bias.

The NCCCE calls on the Inspector General of Police and the National Security to fully investigate the violence that happened at the Agapee West Wangan constituency and the perpetrators ought to face the full rigors of the law.

It will be extremely difficult for us as a nation to quench a fire of a national violent unrest once it gets started. The time to act is now. We invite all Ghanaian to join the campaign to stop political party vigilantes and the use of thugs in the democratic space of Ghana.

Long Live Ghana!

Long Live Our Democracy!


SAMUEL ANARE AKUMADJAR (MR.)
(DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, OPERATIONS)



1st March, 2019

PRESS RELEASE

NCCE WELCOMES POSITIVE OUTLOOK FOR RESOLVING POLITICAL PARTY VIGILANTISM

The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) welcomes the preparedness of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) to submit to calls by Ghanaians to end the scourge of Political Party Vigilantism in Ghana's democracy. The Commission calls on all well-meaning Ghanaians to rally behind the efforts of State Institutions and Civil Society Organisations to finding a lasting solution to this matter.

The Commission therefore calls on politicians and political parties to act in good faith in seeking national interest above partisan interest. The NCCE, with support of Ghanaians is committed to playing a pivotal role in stamping out political violence and nurturing governance on the tenets of democracy for the collective benefit of Ghanaians and nation building. In this regard, the Commission after multiple stakeholder engagements is poised to facilitate a process of dialogue among the parties and relevant stakeholders to find a lasting solution to the menace of political violence and associated party militia activity.

However, the NCCE also expresses concern about an audio tape circulating in the media purported to be the voice of the Chairman of the National Democratic Congress (NDC). In the said tape, the Chairman is alleged to have made statements at a meeting that have the potential to threaten the security of individuals, the State, our elections and Ghana's democracy.

The Commission unequivocally condemns the contents of the tape. The NCCE reminds the NDC and all political parties to conduct their activities in accordance with the tenets of the 1992 Constitution and the law. Unguarded utterances that have the potential to create fear and panic should be condemned in no uncertain terms by all and not be allowed to fester in Ghana's democracy.

The NCCE notes the swiftness with which the Ghana Police Service has invited the NDC Chairman for questioning. We urge the Ghana Police Service to expedite investigations to ascertain the veracity of the matter. Also, we are confident that the police is working unobtrusively to conclude investigations on the NDC Ashanti Regional shooting incident.

The Commission reiterates the need for political parties and all Ghanaians to uphold the rule of law, respect the rights of all citizens and work towards safeguarding the peace, security and stability of Ghana's Constitutional democracy.

God Bless Our Homeland Ghana and Make Our Nation Great and Strong.

Samuel Asare Akumamok (Mr.)
(Deputy Chairman, Operations)



PRESS CONFERENCE ADDRESSED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NCCE, MR. JOSEPHINE ANUMUABON TO THE TOPIC: POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN LIGHTING OUR MATURING DEMOCRACY ON 28th FEBRUARY 2013 AT THE HEAD OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION.

The country witnessed another fatal incident three days ago involving an alleged vigilante group called the 'Hawks' in Kumasi in the Ashanti Region. The 'Hawks' alleged to be allied to the biggest opposition party the National Democratic Congress, NDC, clashed with a supposed task force of the party last Monday at the Regional party office. The said incident saw one person dead and another seriously injured. It is important to note again that, these thugs have turned inward and attacked their own, clearly a manifestation that these groups can no longer be controlled by their affiliated political parties.

We take the opportunity to communicate with the bereaved family of the late Wans Aidoo and urge them to exercise restraint while the Police carries out their investigation.

The NCCE maintains its condemnation of any political violence by thugs styled as vigilante groups and therefore unanimously condemns this latest incident in the strongest terms. Indeed, the Commission reiterates that activities of political thugs whenever it occurs ugly lead to its spine in our democracy. These acts are a warning sign of political instability, eroding the pillars of democracy and threatening peace in our country.

The NCCE will continue to condemn, name and shame all political parties who endorse, support, sponsor and/or identify themselves with any of these groups and these groups are disbanded in word and in deed. The rhetoric must stop and we must see clear commitment by political parties to disband these groups in the interest of peace and stability in Ghana.

The Commission has consistently and repeatedly stated political actors and political leaders on the dangers these thugs pose to the security of our country. It is regrettable to note that despite these repeated calls political leaders and politicians of influence continue to downplay the NCCE's warnings and that of other concerned institutions and personalities to end political party vigilanteism but rather make pronouncements that further embolden these violent groups who are merely used to fulfil the parochial and political interest of politicians.

Every citizen of Ghana has the right to security as enshrined under the provisions of human rights in our 1992 Constitution and the Commission holds the view that the activities of these political hoodlums backed, endorsed or sponsored by political parties are an abuse of our rights. Active citizenship cannot be exercised in meaningful ways if people fear for their safety.

The NCCE calls on all Ghanaians, business entities, religious groups, media, trades union, academics, students, civil society organisations, leaders of all institutions including right thinking politicians to rise up and speak against political parties and political leaders with political party affiliated thugs or groups attached to them. We cannot continue along the same path and pay lip service to housing vigilante groups in the country.

We should be relentless in our condemnation of this conduct that threatens the integrity of our democracy and peace as a country. Positively will judge us if we fail to arrest the scourge of political violence that has received international attention through the UNDP in relation to violence that occurred during the Agyemang West Wagan by-election. As the Interior Minister stated yesterday, these incidents should serve as a wake-up call to ban all party vigilantes in the country. The need to master the political will or courage to have a go at vigilantes, is now.

The NCCE has been following proceedings at the ongoing investigations of the Enufo Short Commission of Inquiry into the Agyemang West Wagan by-election. The NCCE anticipates

that the recommendations by the Commission will strengthen and empower security agencies to operate optimally. We call on our security agencies to work collectively to foster confidence of the citizenship in our security forces.

The NCCE also notes with comfort and indeed commends the Ghana Police for the swift response by the Police to mount a search for identified thugs who carried out that dastardly act in Kumasi at the NDC regional office and calls on the Police to bring perpetrators to book without fear or favour.

Politicians are citizens first before anything else and must begin to respect the peace and security that the 1992 Constitution guarantees every citizen. Politicians must stop endorsing political thugs and leave issues of security to the security services.

As we approach the 2013 General Election, we should with renewed urgency commit to a process that averts political violence and deepens the rule of law, empowers security agencies and assures the people of Ghana of our collective peace and stability for sustaining our democracy. We urge our President, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo to continue to play his lead role in this fight to stamp out political violence under his watch as a legacy to the people of Ghana.

God Bless Our Hallowed Ghana and Make Our Nation Great and Strong.

APPENDIX 2:

LISTS OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE VARIOUS CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

POLITICAL PARTIES WITHOUT REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT

POLITICAL PARTY/INSTITUTION	REPRESENTATIVES	DESIGNATION
People's National Convention (PNC)	Anbataayela Bernard Mornah	National Chairman
Great Consolidated Popular Party (GCPP)	John Amokoh	Vice Secretary
Liberal Party of Ghana (LPG)	Jerry Owusu	Executive Member
Great Consolidated People's Party (GCPP)	George Amoah	Organiser
People's National Convention (PNC)	Desmond T. Ntow	Vice Secretary
Democratic People's Party (DPP)	T.N. Ward- Brew	National Chairman
Democratic People's Party (DPP)	Nana Yaw	Organiser
National Democratic Party (NDP)	Mohammed Frimpong	General Secretary
National Democratic Party (NDP)	Sarah Doe	Executive Member

National Democratic Party (NDP)	J. A. Mensah	Executive Member
Convention People's Party (CPP)	Osofo Dankama Quarm	Communication Committee
All People's Congress (APC)	Mordecai Thiombiaw	Communication Officer
All People's Congress (APC)	Alhassa S. Abu	General Secretary
Democratic People's Party (DPP)	Martin Asamoah	National Organiser
Democratic People's Party (DPP)	Christabel Kankam	General Secretary
Convention People's Party (CPP)	Rodaine I. Ayarna	1 st National Vice Chairperson

NEW PATRIOTIC PARTY (NPP)

REPRESENTATIVES	DESIGNATION
Eric Nana Ntori	Director, IT
Emmanuel Attafuah Danso	Director of International Affairs
Evans Nimako	Director of Elections
Collins N. Nuamah	Director of Finance & Administration
Michael Omani Wadie	3 rd Vice Chairman
Sammi Awuku	National Organizer
John Boadu	General Secretary
Kwadwo Afari Rita Talata Asobayiri	1st Vice Chairperson
Iddi Muhayi – Deen	Special Asst. Gen. Secretary
Nii Laryea Squire	-

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS (NDC)

POLITICAL PARTY/INSTITUTION	REPRESENTATIVES	DESIGNATION
NDC	Lee Ocran	Nat. Vice Chairman
NDC	Kofi Attor	Director IR
NDC	Bede A. Ziedeng	Acting Director, Elections
NDC	Sophia Karen Ackuaku	Member, FEC
NDC	Kofi Adams	National Organizer
NDC	James Asante	Director of Communications
NDC	K.J. Fonu Kpatakpa	Deputy Nat. Youth Organizer
NDC	Sidii Abubakar Musah	National Youth Organizer

THE GHANA POLICE SERVICE (GPS)

NAME	INSTITUTION	DESIGNATION
Mr. David Asante -Apeatu	Ghana Police Service	IGP
Dr. Akuffo Dampare	GPS	Director, Gen. Welfare
COP Mr. N Kofi Boakye	GPS	Director Gen. Research & Plan.
Mrs. Beatrice Z. Vib-Sanziri	GPS	Director Gen. PPSB
COP Rev. Ampah- Benin	GPS	Director Gen. Special Duties
COP Mr. Ken Yeboah	GPS	Director Gen. Administration
COP Mr. Simon Afeku	GPS	Director Gen. ICT
COP Mr. G.A. Mensah	GPS	Director Gen. Operations
DCOP Mr. S. Monney	GPS	Director Gen. NAPD
COP Mr. Yaagy Akuribah	GPS	Director Gen. National Patrol Dpt

THE NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL (NPC)

NAME	INSTITUTION	DESIGNATION
Prof. Emmanuel Asante	NPC	Chairman
Mr. George Amoh	NPC	Executive Secretary
Sedina Awiah	NPC	-

THE GHANA TRADES UNION CONGRESS (TUC)

NAME	INSTITUTION	DESIGNATION
Dr. Yaw Baah	TUC	General Secretary
Mr Gabriel Donkoh	TUC	Deputy General Secretary

THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CHIEF IMAM

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CHIEF IMAM	
Sheik Nuhu Shaributu	Chief Imam
Alhaji Mammah Gado Mohammed	Chairman of Advisory Board
Sheik Jshaq Abubakar	Vice Chairman
Sheik Armiyao Shuaib	Spokesman of Nat. Chief Imam
Sheik Swalah Abubakar	Member
Dr. Yunus Osman	Member
Chief Soho Bako	Dansoman Muslim Chief
Hajj Abdulatif Abdul-Salam	Protocol Director
Abu-Sidik Yusif Zenuwah	Secretary

Hajj Khuzaima Osman	Personal Secretary to Chief Imam
Sheik Osman Bar	Member

THE LEADERSHIP OF PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT	
Hon. Joe Osei Owusu	First Deputy Speaker
Hon. Matthew Nyindam	1 st Deputy Maj. Chief Whip
Hon. Moses Anim	2 nd Deputy Maj. Chief Whip
Jane Frimpong	Head of 1 st Deputy Speaker's Office

THE CHIEF JUSTICE (CJ)

C. P. Addo	Judicial Secretary
Her Lordship Sophia Akuffo	Chief Justice

THE NATIONAL SECURITY (JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, JIC)

JOINT NATIONAL SECURITY COORDINATION COMMITTEE		
NAME	INST.	DESIGNATION
Mr. Opare Duncan	Nat. Security	Dep. National Security Coordinator
Mr. Christian Kofi Tettey	Nat. Security	Security Liaison Officer Tema Port
Mr. Julius Kuunure	GNFS	Dir. Finance & Administration
Col. I. Amponsah	GAF	DOPINT
Col. G Asiamah (Rtd.)	Nat. Security	Dr/CT
LtCol. AA Gaisie	Nat. Security	SLO-KIA
George Blankson	RD	DDG
DDGP. Sylvester Rabbles	Prisons	Dir/Ops
DCOP George A Mensah	Police	Operations
BRIG GEN M Abdulah	GHQ (JOPS)	DG
Kwaku Domfeh	BNI	D/D
AG. George Tweneboah	CID	D/DG
Seidu Iddrisu	Custom	D/C
Col. M K Opoku	Nat. Security	D/Ops
Agnes Nkansah	Nat. Security	
L.O. Affrifah	GIS	DCG/Ops
Gabriel Nikoi	Nat. Security	

THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF GHANA

Rev. Dr. Cyril G.K. Fayose	General Secretary
Mr. Oheneba Kofi Ntiamoah	Director, Finance & Administration
Joyce Larko Steiner	Director, Programmes & Advocacy

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE (CHRAJ)

NAME	DESIGNATION
Joseph Whittal	Commissioner
Mawutor Fieku	Principal Research Officer
Samuel Abakah	Deputy Chief Accountant
Mawuli Avutor	Deputy Director
Enoch Batsa	Director Finance
Mercy Barns	Deputy Chief Accountant
M. A. Kpakpo Addo	Snr. Prin. Research Officer
D.C. Hammond	Dep. Director
Duke Hammond	Director (Adm)
Mrs. Mercy Andoh	Principal Legal Officer
Dr. Isaac Annan	Director, Human Rights

Bede Tukuu	Prin. Legal Officer
Gifty Awuku	Gen. Services Officer
Vida Akundikiya	Public Education Officer
Elias Z. Mane	IT Officer

APPENDIX 3: ENGAGEMENTS AND THE CONCERNS/OUTCOMES & RECOMMENDATIONS

NO	INSTITUTION	DATE OF ENGAGEMENT	CONCERNS/OUTCOMES	RECOMMENDATIONS
1	Parties without Representation in Parliament	30/10/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The appointment process of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and the heads of other security agencies render them ineffective in dealing with the vigilante menace. The insatiable desire of leadership of the two major political parties to win power at all cost, hence resorting to using the youth groups to intimidate their opponents to achieve this desire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the two major parties (NDC & NPP) are the main perpetrators of vigilantism, they should be called upon to disband these illegal groups.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are kingpins in the NDC and NPP who resource and sponsor these violent groups and therefore these groups perceive their “services” as a means of income. • The deepening culture of verbal violence in the media contributes to vigilante activities. • The “Winner-Takes-All” syndrome associated with 1992 Constitution and the current system of governance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be public naming and shaming of political parties whose members cause mayhem at any point of the electoral cycle. • The NCCE should facilitate a dialogue process with the two major political parties and bring pressure to bear on them to disband their respective vigilante groups. • The NCCE in collaboration with the National Peace Council
--	--	--	---	--

				<p>(NPC) should organise a national summit the outcome of which should culminate into a roadmap to deal with the menace.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1992 Constitution should be amended to redress the “Winner-Takes-All” system of governance. • His Excellency the President of the Republic should trigger the necessary administrative and legal processes for the implementation of the roadmap.
--	--	--	--	---

2.	New Patriotic Party	31/10/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing stops the Ghana Police Service from doing their work since the current President who is part of the leadership of the NPP has constantly called on the security agencies to deal with the perpetrators of violence whenever vigilante groups disturb the peace of the country. • The party agreed in principle that there are youth groups that offer security at some of the party's functions to protect them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Called on the NCCE to do more in civic education to reorient the citizens against acts of violence. • Vigilante activities bother on criminalities, therefore, the police and the judiciary should ensure perpetrators are prosecuted.
----	---------------------	------------	---	---

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed worry about the inability of the police to offer the NPP adequate security protection anytime the party was under attack. • Over the years, members of the party have been victims of electoral violence by the rival political party, therefore, the presence of the vigilante groups is for self-protection. • The NPP is ready to do away with the services of the vigilante groups if the NDC shows commitment to discontinue the use of their party affiliated vigilante groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A common platform for political parties and other stakeholders to discuss and come out with a resolution on ways to end vigilantism.
--	--	--	---	--

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The party promised its readiness to dialogue with all stakeholders to curb the activities of vigilantes. • Vigilantism is a drain on the financial resources of the party. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
--	--	--	---	---

3	National Democratic Congress	06/11/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the party in opposition, they held the considered view that they have not been treated fairly by the security agencies in the aftermath of the 2016 general elections when some of their supporters were allegedly beaten up and driven away from their places of employment when they lost power to the current government. • The proclamation by the party to members to form several vigilante groups in battle readiness for the 2020 general elections is for self-defence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dialogue among major stakeholders to devise ways to curb the vigilante menace. • Constitutional and legal changes to ensure the independence and secure tenure of heads of security agencies. • Review the composition of the Police Council to safeguard against partisanship in police recruits.
---	------------------------------	------------	--	--

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Azorka Boys is an ad-hoc group loyal to Chief Azorka. • NDC does not have trained groups. • The party assured its commitment to any process or activities that are geared towards finding solutions to the menace. • The party is ready to disband its groups if their opponents will do the same. 	
4	Ghana Police Service	07/11/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Police Administration observed that the police had taken swift action whenever the activities of vigilante group resulted in destruction and physical harm to any citizen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The judiciary should not deal leniently with vigilante suspects presented by the police for trial.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The police, however, explained that they could only go as far as the laws of Ghana allow them i.e. arraigning the political thugs before the court of law. Beyond that, they have no power to disband vigilante groups, and that they could only take action when the actions of the thugs border on criminalities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The police service should be adequately resourced with modern policing equipment. • Reinforced previous suggestion for a common stakeholder dialogue/platform to discuss ways to deal with vigilantism dispassionately.
--	--	--	---	--

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The police bemoaned the fact that in instances when they presented some of the vigilante thugs before the court, the thugs were given lenient sentences by the judge. • In their considered view, it was hypocritical for the political parties to justify the formation of vigilante groups because of their mistrust for the police. • Constitutionally, policy guiding police operations and administration emanate from the Police Council which is constituted by the 	
--	--	--	--	--

			<p>President and as a result the perceived political intrusion is deepened.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The police agreed that the NCCE and the police administration should put a joint working group together to undertake further works on the process of dealing with the vigilante menace. 	
--	--	--	---	--

5	National Peace Council	12/11/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The political parties make unrealistic promises to the youth in the quest to win power, and these youth engage in acts of vandalism when these promises are not fulfilled. • The NPC held the view that the best way to deal with vigilante activities is job creation as implemented under the Nkrumah regime with National Brigade and the Veranda Boys who were employed in the state farms. • NPC requested NCCE to give them a slot on the consultation team so that their representative could attend 	
---	------------------------	------------	---	--

			<p>subsequent meetings with the remaining stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The participants attributed the phenomenon to the Winner-Takes-All governance system as evidenced in the 1992 Constitution as a major reason why parties engage vigilante groups. • The NPC decried the intrusions in recruitment processes in the Ghana Police Service whereby unqualified political party supporters are employed in the Ghana Police Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills development and apprenticeships for members of these vigilante groups as part of the ways to effectively re-integrate them in the larger society. • Small Arms Commission should play a lead role in the process of disarming vigilante groups.
--	--	--	--	---

			<p>without adherence to properly laid down processes on scrutinising potential recruits. This is leading to undesirable elements in the police service without the requisite mindset as law enforcement officers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration between NPC and NCCE to create a platform for a national dialogue to end vigilantism.
--	--	--	---	---

6	Trades Union Congress	20/11/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent activities associated with the operations of vigilante groups disturb the peaceful working environment which is a pre-requisite for high labour productivity. • The acts of violence by vigilante groups undermine state security and lower investor confidence in Ghana, a country which had gained the accolade as an oasis of peace and political stability in a sub-region that is ravaged by election disputes and political violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained public education and engagements on the negative effects of vigilantism as critical to the success of the fight against the menace. • NCCE takes advantage of the TUC meetings at the regional and district branch levels to emphasis public awareness on the negative effects of vigilantism.
---	-----------------------	------------	--	---

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative effect of the aforementioned factors weakens the membership base and the objectives of the Union because investors may withdrew their operations from Ghana. • The TUC pledged its full support to the course of the NCCE to eliminate vigilantism from the Ghanaian political space. • TUC will train its members at the Regional level to speak against vigilantism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urged the NCCE to train TUC executives who will in turn use the Union's platforms to campaign against vigilantism.
--	--	--	---	--

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Union urged the NCCE to lead in the public awareness campaigns against vigilantism. • Political parties should desist from raising hopes of the youth and making promises that cannot be fulfilled. 	
--	--	--	--	--

7	Office of the National Chief Imam	21/11/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Advisory Council was of the opinion that the members of the vigilante groups are mostly drawn from the Zongo communities of the country and this was of grave concern to the Chief Imam. • The political parties exploit the social plight (unemployment) of Zongo youth and recruit them into the vigilante groups with the promise of finding them jobs when the party wins power. • Economic factors such as unemployment play a critical role in the rising incidence of vigilantism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NCCE should intensify public education on the negative effects of vigilante activities in the Zongos as part of efforts to discourage the youth from joining such groups. • The youth in the Zongos should be targeted for skills training and development to provide them with employable skills to reduce their vulnerability.
---	-----------------------------------	------------	---	---

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of the media through positive journalism was important to influence vigilantism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The independence of key institutions such as the Ghana Police Service, especially the office of the Inspector General of Police (IGP); the Auditor General (AG); Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO); National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and the Electoral Commission (EC) should be strengthened in order to sustain democratic stability.
--	--	--	---	--

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The media should intensify the fight against vigilantism and make it a core element in their corporate social responsibility.
8	Office Speaker of Parliament	29/11/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The actions of vigilante groups undermine the work of parliament since they act contrary to the laws that parliament makes. To the leadership of parliament, the groups that parade themselves as vigilantes are a bunch of lawless youth who must 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Called for sanctions against media houses who sensationalise and exaggerate their reportage on the activities of vigilante groups. Depoliticise vigilantism because their actions are purely criminal.

			<p>be made to face the full rigours of the law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vigilante activities are purely criminal acts that should be taken out of the ambit of politics and be seen and dealt with according to the rule of law. 	
--	--	--	--	--

9	Judiciary	17/12/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are too many private security companies in the country and the implication is that with a little spark the vigilantes could form an alliance with them and that could threaten the security of the country. • The NCCE and the Judicial Service have a common role to play in sustaining Ghana's democracy. • The Chief Justice's office will empower the courts to apply maximum sanctions to offences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective borders controls as a measure to reduce the smuggling of arms from neighbouring countries. • Stiffer enforcement of the laws and regulations on the private security companies
---	-----------	------------	--	---

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts of vigilantism if not curbed may nurture an arms trade that will worsen the acquisition of illegal arms and threaten political stability. 	
10	Joint Intelligence Committee (National Security)	22/01/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mutual mistrust between the two major political parties in the country which stems from the way they treat the security agencies when their party is in power haunts them when they lose power and therefore form parallel security apparatus for their protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A revision of LI 1571 which regulates the operations of private security agencies so that the vigilante activities can be regulated if they are to be made to stay.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth unemployment is a major factor that pushes young persons into joining vigilante groups. • Lack of security of tenure and the mode of appointment and/or the removal process of the Heads of Security Agencies makes them vulnerable to the influence and victimisation by politicians and prevents them from acting independently. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Criminal Justice System must be reviewed so that more deterrent sentences are meted out to perpetrators. • An audit of cases on the incidence, effects, and prosecution of cases on vigilantism to put in perspectives loopholes to be addressed.
--	--	--	---	--

11	Christian Council of Ghana	23/01/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic factors encourage vigilantism, especially youth unemployment. • Ghana needs to address the issues of parenting, socialisation, and streetism to the fourth generation. • The inaction of police until prompted by the government. • Improve the independence of all institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for engagement of bodybuilding groups which are also sources for vigilante recruitment.
----	----------------------------	------------	--	--

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The culture of impunity by ruling parties. • The CCG is ready to offer their pulpits as platforms to appeal to the conscience of the people especially those engaged in acts of politically related violence or vigilantism. • The CCG will incorporate the campaign against vigilantism in their annual calendar and request all member churches to include such campaigns in their activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public service holders, especially, heads of security agencies must be more assertive in discharging their mandate. • The CCG should incorporate the campaign against vigilantism in their annual calendar and request all member churches to include such campaigns in their activities.
--	--	--	--	--

12	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice	19/02/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The selection and appointment of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) should be non-partisan and independent. • Public servants appointed by politicians should not shirk their responsibility because they could be victimised but should live up to the national interest by discharging their duties without fear of victimisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IGP should have security of tenure of office so that he/she can discharge their duties without fear. • The secure seven (7) year tenure of office for the office of the Special Prosecutor could be applied to the appointment and security of tenure of the IGP. • Senior public officers should be emboldened by article 191 of the 1992 Constitution
----	---	------------	--	---

				<p>that states that “A member of the public services shall not be -</p> <p>(a) victimized or discriminated against for having discharged his duties faithfully in accordance with this Constitution; or</p> <p>(b) dismissed or removed from office or reduced in rank or otherwise punished without just cause.”</p>
--	--	--	--	---