



EU Election Observation Mission Republic of Ghana 2008



Ghana's presidential run-off open and transparent, despite reports of incidents of violence and disruptions

Accra, 30 December 2008: The European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) concludes that the second round of the presidential election in Ghana held on 28 December 2008 has been conducted in an open, transparent and competitive environment, despite incidents of violence and disruptions of the polling in a limited number of cases.

The EU EOM which deployed on 1 November 2008 observed an electoral campaign in which the two candidates competing in the run-off were able to campaign freely and key international and regional standards for elections were generally met.

On the day of the second round of the presidential election, Ghanaians turned out to vote in large numbers and voted in an orderly manner. Overall, procedures were complied with in almost all polling stations observed and polling staff were committed, largely professional and impartial in all 327 polling stations visited. Incidents of delays in opening of polling stations were fewer than during 7 December 2008 elections, which testifies to the ongoing efforts of the Electoral Commission to improve the organisation of the voting process. Freedom of speech was respected and there were no reports of any incidents affecting the media's freedom to report on the campaign. The media provided a wide range of coverage of the campaigns of the two candidates.

“Despite the heightened tensions and allegations by the political parties, the people of Ghana were able to cast their vote in an environment of transparency. Incidents of violence and attempts to disrupt polling were reported but they should not undermine the overall credibility of the election.” EU Chief Observer Nickolay Mladenov stated.

“The people of Ghana have made their choice and I would like to urge both parties to show leadership and restraint by allowing the Electoral Commission to proceed with the collation of the results. It must be allowed to carry out its work in a peaceful manner. Ghanaians have demonstrated their political maturity through two rounds of voting. We all hope they will remain calm and allow the process to be completed.” concluded Mladenov.

The EU EOM will continue to observe the ongoing counting and consolidation process, and any complaints that may be filed with the relevant authorities. Within two months of the conclusion of the electoral process, the Chief Observer will return to Ghana to present a detailed report on the elections with possible recommendations to the Electoral Commission.

Mathias Eick, Press Officer
EU EOM Ghana 2008
Tel.: 0241407805
Mathias.Eick@eueomghana.org