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PRESS RELEASE:

THE 2020 ELECTIONS AND ITS IMPLICATION FOR PEACE

The Department of Peace Studies examined issues that are likely to determine the outcome of the 2020 Elections and its implication for peace in Ghana. In order to address the objectives of the study, we randomly sampled a total of 1,584 respondents from the sixteen regions of Ghana. Fieldwork was carried out between 14th and 24th November, 2020.

The following are the key findings from the study:

- The three most important issues that are likely to determine the outcome of the 2020 elections are:
 1. Good policies that translate into development outcomes such as roads, education and health.
 2. Intensive campaigning with a clear message
 3. Fulfillment of campaign promises
- The Table below provides the regional distributions of the key issues likely to determine the outcome of the elections.

Region	Key Voting issues
Western North	Good policies and fulfilment of promises
Western Region	Good policies
Volta	Intensive campaign
Greater Accra	Good policies and intensive campaign
Eastern	Intensive campaign
Central	Good policies
Ashanti	Good policies
Northern	Good policies
Upper East Region	Good policies and fulfilment of promises
Upper West	Good policies and intensive campaign
Oti	Good policies
Ahafo	Good policies
Bono	Good policies
Bono East	Good policies
Savanah	Good policies and the charisma of the leader

- For the newly created regions, people are focused on development outcomes as reasons for voting

Violence during and after the Elections

- Majority of Ghanaians (more than 76%) do not anticipate any violence during the election. However, in areas that recorded incidence of violence/disturbances during the voter registration exercise, residents anticipate some level of disturbances/violence - Damango, Karaga, Bunkrungu, Odododiodio, Banda, Kasoa and Ketu South.
- Majority of Ghanaians (81.2%) do not anticipate any violence after the results are announced because Ghanaians are peace-loving, they trust the security agencies and there has been intensive peace education and messaging.

Covid 19 pandemic and election 2020

- Covid 19 will not have any major effect on voter turnout because voters would observe the established protocols

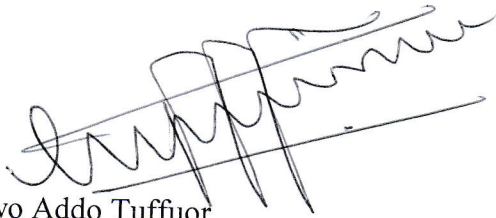
Deepening Democratic culture in Ghana

- Ghanaians think that we can deepen democratic culture through:
 1. Civic education
 2. Peace education
 3. Credible Elections
 4. Respect for human rights
- Ghanaians generally have trust in democracy.

Recommendations

- Political parties must focus their campaigns on policy issues that lead to tangible development outcomes
- Although Ghanaians are of the view that the election will generally be peaceful and that the security agencies are up to the task, the security agencies must maintain a peaceful atmosphere for the election and pay attention to the hot spots.

Thank you



Dr. Kwadwo Addo Tuffuor

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