



NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Our Ref: *NDC/HQ/1363/02/004*

Your Ref:

P.O.Box AN 5825
Accra - North, Ghana
Tel.: +233 (0) 302 222 265
Email: ndcghhq@gmail.com

21st March, 2019

H.E The President
Jubilee House Kanda
Accra

Your Excellency,

**RE: PROPOSED MEETING OF NDC AND NPP FOR THE DISBANDMENT OF
POLITICAL VIGILANTISM: THE POSITION OF THE NDC**

We thank you for your letter of 14th March, 2019 and for your continued attention to, and willingness to engage on the question of political violence and the protection of our constitution and citizens' rights.

We assure you that the NDC remains committed to pursuing the discussion you initiated in your State of the Nation address in the interest of national peace and prosperity. It is in this spirit that we write.

Engagement with the NPP

We have indeed received a letter from the General Secretary of the NPP requesting that we meet this week to take this discussion forward. We are gratified to note that your Party is interested in the wider participation that we suggested in our correspondence and, presumably, in the possibilities of

external process facilitation that we also proposed. We will happily pursue this with the NPP national executive and put forward in greater detail the broad ideas set out in our last letter to you.

We however request that as President you remain supportive of, if not engaged with, this process. Our thinking has evolved and clarified considerably in the last month. We now define the process we have suggested as a "National Dialogue on Constitutionalism and Non-Violent Social Engagement". We believe this formulation captures the scope of the threat that our nation faces. Organised violence has become prevalent not only in partisan politics (inter and intra-party) but in land and natural resources disputes, chieftaincy disputes, disputes within academic institutions, and even disputes within religious bodies. We can also not exclude the problem of unjustified violence by State agencies such as the Ghana Police Service. It is this larger and intensifying violent culture that threatens our constitutional Republic and not just partisan political violence. We hope that as the first Citizen you will use your position to support and shape this broad national dialogue.

New Legislation

In your Excellency's letter under reference you indicated that you have instructed the Honourable Attorney General to proceed with a legislative response to the "vigilantism" problem. As indicated in our previous letter and again above we believe the problem of political violence requires much more than a law-and-order response. It requires a national dialogue that can generate a renewed commitment to constitutional values and processes. Without prejudice to your prerogatives as President, we think that such a National Dialogue would provide the best opportunity to evaluate the adequacy of our legislation and get broad consensus behind whatever interventions Your Excellency intends. Pending this, we note that the general law empowers you as President to issue an executive instrument proscribing organisations whose operations are inimical to the public interest. We also note that your Excellency as Chair of the National Security Council, can demand that it ceases the unlawful organisation and deployment of armed forces such as we saw in the Ayawaso West Bye- Election. And, of course, Your Excellency can also instruct your

ministerial appointees at the Ministries for National Security and Interior to take steps to disband these forces.

We end by commending again your statesman-like willingness to engage the NDC in this manner and assuring you and the public of our own commitment to respond in the same vein in the national interest. We hope to remain constructive partners in advancing the quest for constitutionalism and peaceful engagement in all areas of national life.

Yours faithfully,



(SAMUEL OFOSU-AMPOFO)
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Cc

1. The National Chairman
New Patriotic Party
2. The Chairman
National Peace Council