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## Highlights of Findings from the CDD-Ghana Pre-Election Survey (September 28- October 16, 2020)

**October 30, 2020**

### **BACKGROUND**

Initiated in 2016, the CDD-Ghana pre-election survey is aimed at picking early warning signals by tracking citizens' opinion on the overall level of the country's preparedness for elections; public confidence in the competence, integrity and neutrality of election-relevant state and quasi-state bodies; and voter behaviour, expectations, priorities and potential turn-out. The survey also helps isolate and identify voter concerns regarding election security, physical intimidation, violence, and perceived peacefulness of the political environment. With funding support from USAID/Ghana, CDD-Ghana conducted a pre-election survey from September 28 to October 16, 2020.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Every adult citizen had an equal chance of being selected for 2020 pre-election survey. A nationally representative sample of 2,400 adult citizens were randomly. The sample is distributed across regions and urban-rural areas in proportion to their share in the national adult population. Face-to-face interviews were conducted in the language of the respondent's choice (a standard English questionnaire was translated into Twi, Ewe, Ga, Dagbani and Dagaare). Sample size of 2,400 yields a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Fieldwork (or data collection) for the 2020 pre-election survey was conducted from September 28 to October 16, 2020.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FINDINGS**

#### **Overall mood of the electorate**

- Covid-19 has significantly worsened the already difficult economic circumstances of many Ghanaians. Nonetheless, they remain cautiously optimistic about the future.
- Assessments of the performance of the Akufo-Addo/NPP government are broadly positive. They get particularly high grades for their handling of the COVID crisis, electricity, and education. The public is less impressed with the administration's handling of inflation, bridging inequality, and curbing corruption.

**MORE**

- Ghanaians are split on direction of the country. While almost half (47%) say the country is going in the “right direction,” the same proportion say the country is heading in the “wrong direction.”

### **Ghanaian attitudes to elections**

- Ghanaian commitment to the ballot box remains strong, anchored in the belief that elections do matter, and their votes would make a difference.
- They express equally strong commitment to the rule of law, and peaceful means, mainly the use of the courts (instead of violence) to resolve election disputes.
- They put a very high premium on peaceful elections, strongly abhor election violence, and would like to see perpetrators of election violence given jail sentences.

### **With specific reference to the December 2020 polls**

- The public expresses broad confidence in the integrity and competence of the EC and its ability to deliver free and fair Election 2020.
- They deem the EC's level of preparedness, together with other election-related state and non-state agencies (particularly the military and police), adequate. Most importantly, they express broad confidence in the EC and allied bodies' ability to deliver credible Election 2020.
- Levels of trust in the EC and other non-party state and non-state bodies directly and indirectly involved in delivering peaceful elections with credible outcomes are generally high, particularly for the military, police, and media.
- However, there is considerable apprehension about violence by party and candidate supporters. They remain concerned about the activities of party vigilantes – which is underscored by the desire of 8 in 10 respondents in our survey for armed security personnel present at the polling stations.
- Serious concerns remain about the integrity of the vote count and result transmission process. A large minority – more than 4 in 10 – express concerns about the wrong vote tally being announced, and about a third are not confident that their vote would be counted (concerns that are far higher than 2016). This is the likely reason why a substantial majority of respondents want to see independent domestic and international observers present for the polls.

**Outlook for the December 2020 polls**

- It looks like most eligible Ghanaians are registered to vote, and many are planning to vote. Nearly all respondents reported that they are registered to vote; 9 in 10 indicate an intention to vote, and the likelihood of COVID-19 depressing voter turn-out in the December polls is downplayed.
- They deem the election campaigns of the main parties largely issue-based.
- The NPP enjoys a significant advantage (15 percentage points) over the NDC when it comes to public confidence in the ability to deliver on campaign promises.

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