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CODEO'S STATEMENT ON THE OFFICIAL 2012 PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS

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INTRODUCTION

The Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO) conducted Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) as part of its overall effort to observe the 2012 elections, as it had done in the 2008 polls. The PVT exercise was conducted to help scientifically and independently verify the accuracy of the official result of the presidential election declared by the Electoral Commission. The exercise was also intended to help confirm that the official results of the presidential polls truly reflect the will of the Ghanaian people. **As at 9:00pm on Saturday December 08, 2012**, CODEO was in a position to verify the official results upon announcement by the Electoral Commission.

Based on the findings of the PVT, CODEO can confidently assure all political contestants and the public that the official results announced by the Election Commission accurately reflect the ballots cast by voters at all the Electoral Commission designated polling stations over the two days of voting.

PVT METHODOLOGY:

The PVT is an advanced and scientific election observation technique that enables election observers stationed at polling stations to record and transmit, in real-time, information about the conduct of the opening of the polls, voting and official vote count processes to a central election observation point using text messaging. This technique has been used successfully around the world, including Ghana in 2008, to promote electoral integrity and help defend the rights of citizens to vote and to protect such rights when exercised. The first PVT was conducted in the Philippines in 1986. In Africa, the PVT methodology has been successfully used in Madagascar, Malawi, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Unlike an exit poll, PVT Observers do not ask voters about the choices they made at the polls to predict the outcome of an election. Rather, PVT Observers simply record the official vote count or figures announced by election officials at **polling stations** and rapidly transmit this information to an observation center via coded text message to estimate election results. In other words, **CODEO PVT data is collected directly from polling stations as oppose to media houses which report results from collation centers.**

FINDINGS FROM PVT:

The findings presented in this statement are based on information received from **1,492** PVT Observers located in all the **275** constituencies by **9:00pm** on **Saturday 08 December 2012**. All PVT data was thoroughly checked for accuracy and internal consistency. A total of 635,014 Ghanaians cast their ballots at the 1,492 sampled PVT polling stations. Each of the eight Presidential Candidates received the following percentage of the valid vote cast as compared to the PVT estimates:

Table 3: PVT Estimates and Official Results of the December 7, 2012 Presidential Election

Candidate	Party	Official Results	PVT Estimate	PVT Margin of Error	PVT Confidence Range
John Dramani Mahama	NDC	50.70%	51.38%	±1.33%	50.05% – 52.71%
Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo	NPP	47.74%	47.17%	±1.35%	45.82% – 48.52%
Dr. Paa Kwesi Nduom	PPP	0.59%	0.53%	±0.04%	0.49% – 0.57%
Henry Herbert Lartey	GCPP	0.35%	0.34%	±0.02%	0.32% – 0.36%
Ayariga Hassan	PNC	0.22%	0.18%	±0.03%	0.15% – 0.21%
Michael Abu Sakara Foster	CPP	0.18%	0.18%	±0.02%	0.16% – 0.20%
Jacob Osei Yeboah	Independent	0.14%	0.13%	±0.02%	0.11% – 0.15%
Akwasi Addai Odike	UFP	0.08%	0.08%	±0.01%	0.07% – 0.09%

Note: PVT estimate range is based on a 95% confidence level

- The PVT estimate of a voter turnout of **78.68%**, with a margin of error **0.58%**, is close to the official figure of **79.43%**.
- The PVT estimate of rejected ballots is **1.65%**, with a margin of error of **0.09%**, is also quite close to the Electoral Commission's figure of **2.2%**.

CONCLUSIONS

CODEO can confidently confirm that the results of its PVT are consistent with the official presidential results announced by the Electoral Commission. The PVT data's rank order of the presidential candidates in terms of their share of the votes is similar to the official EC results.

It should be noted, however, that because the PVT data is based on a sample of polling stations, the PVT results may not necessarily perfectly match the official results; but it should fall within a range of values statistically estimated from the PVT data. A concern would have been raised if any of the official results were to fall significantly outside the PVT estimated range. Clearly, this is generally not the case for the official results of the 2012 presidential polls.

This gives CODEO the confidence that the results of the 2012 presidential polls declared by the Electoral Commission are generally an accurate reflection of how Ghanaians voted in the December, 7 polls. Accordingly, CODEO advises the presidential election contestants and their supporters as well as the general public to place confidence in the Electoral Commission's official presidential election results.

CODEO also calls on all political contestants and their supporters to respect the will of the Ghanaian people and to accept the results of the 2012 presidential elections in good faith.

CODEO further commends the mature behavior of the Ghanaian electorate in remaining calm and peaceful throughout the voting, counting and collating processes.

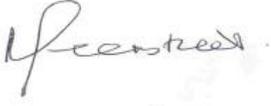
CODEO, however, urges the EC to publish the election results of all polling stations in the country for the sake of transparency and verification.

CODEO reiterates its earlier call for the need of our political parties, their leaders and the entire political class to take adequate measures to bridge political polarization that characterized the 2012 election campaign, especially between the NDC and the NPP, and reduce the tendency for winner takes all politics. We need this for the sake of peace, unity, good governance and sustained socio-economic development.

On behalf of the Advisory Board of CODEO and all its member organizations, we would like to thank the thousands of Ghanaians across the country that volunteered to be nonpartisan observers and worked tirelessly to protect the integrity of the December 7, 2012 polls.

In this election, it is Ghana and Ghanaians who have WON. It is not an exclusive victory for any political party or candidate.

GOD BLESS OUR HOME LAND GHANA

Signed:  

Professor Miranda Greenstreet and Justice VCRAC Crabbe,
Joint Chairpersons
(For and on Behalf of the Advisory Board)
CODEO Secretariat, 10 December, 2012

**ANNEX:
THE CODEO PARALLEL VOTE TABULATION (PVT)**

A PVT involves deploying trained accredited observers to a nationally representative sample of polling stations to collect data on the conduct of the voting and counting process as well as to record the official vote count for the polling stations.

The PVT sample: The CODEO 2012 PVT involved a nationally representative sample of 1,500 polling stations drawn from the official list of polling stations provided by the Electoral Commission. The sample contains polling stations in all the 275 constituencies from the ten regions of the country. To ensure representativeness, the sample was stratified by region and constituency.

At the regional level, the percentage shares of regions in the total number of polling stations in the country were used to distribute the 1,500 PVT polling stations across the regions. This level of stratification ensured that the percentage share of sampled polling stations in any region matches closely with the percentage share of that region in the total number of polling stations in the country. As depicted in Table 1 below, 1,136 polling stations representing 4.4% of all polling stations in the country are located in the Upper East Region. In the PVT sample, 66 polling stations also constituting 4.4% of the 1,500 PVT polling stations are located in the Upper East Region.

Table 1: Distribution of Sampled Polling Stations by Region					
	No. of Constituencies	No. of Polling Stations	% Share in National Total	Allocated PVT Polling Stations	% Share in Sample Total
Western	26	2,618	10.1	151	10.1
Central	23	2,193	8.4	126	8.4
Greater Accra	34	4,115	15.8	237	15.8
Volta	26	2,282	8.8	132	8.8
Eastern	33	2,962	11.4	171	11.4
Ashanti	47	4,630	17.8	267	17.8
Brong Ahafo	29	2,740	10.5	158	10.5
Northern	31	2,386	9.2	138	9.2
Upper East	15	1,136	4.4	66	4.4
Upper West	11	941	3.6	54	3.6
Total	275	26,003	100.0	1,500	100.0

The constituency level stratification also ensured that the number of polling stations allocated to any region is shared across all constituencies within that region according to their percentage share in the regional total of polling stations. Thus, the percentage share of sampled polling stations in any constituency matches closely with the percentage share of that constituency in the total polling stations in the region as presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Distribution of Sampled Polling Stations by Constituency for Upper East Region				
	No. of Polling Stations	% Share in Regional Total	Allocated PVT Polling Stations	% Share in Sample Total
Builsa South	52	4.6	3	4.6
Builsa North	71	6.3	4	6.3
Navrongo Central	116	10.2	7	10.2
Chiana/Paga	95	8.4	6	8.4
Bolgatanga Central	119	10.5	7	10.5
Bolgatanga East	20	1.8	1	1.8
Bongo	94	8.3	5	8.3
Talensi	74	6.5	4	6.5
Nabdram	41	3.6	2	3.6
Zebilla	106	9.3	6	9.3
Binduri	83	7.3	5	7.3
Bawku Central	102	9.0	6	9.0
Pusiga	63	5.5	4	5.5
Garu	66	5.8	4	5.8
Tempane	34	3.0	2	3.0
Total	1,136	100.0	66	100.0

Data gathering by PVT observers: Data for the PVT was collected by 1,500 observers, which comprised the most qualified, reliable and experienced of the 4500-strong CODEO observer network. Each CODEO observer received extensive training and was provided with a manual detailing their role and responsibilities as observers, and particularly the “dos” and “don’ts” of a CODEO observer. At the end of the training, all CODEO Observers signed an undertaking to be neutral and non-partisan in their work. Furthermore, a full simulation exercise was conducted for all aspects of the communication system ahead of election-day (on the 3rd and 5th of December). As part of this exercise, all CODEO observers sent text messages to the CODEO Observation Center at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC).

CODEO PVT Observers sent reports from their assigned polling stations using specially formatted text messages. These were received directly into the computer database at the CODEO Observation Center. Upon receipt of PVT text messages, CODEO Data Entry Clerks at the Observation Center called observers to confirm the information received.

Prior to the election-day, CODEO organized a familiarization tour of the Observation Center for members of the public, including the media following the pre-election media briefing at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC).