



**NATIONAL PEACE
COUNCIL**



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TOPIC

**CODE OF CONDUCT TO GUIDE POLITICAL
PARTIES IN THE ERADICATION OF POLITICAL
VIGILANTISM**

INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

The Code of Conduct, was designed by the National Peace Council (NPC), as one of the key deliverables of the dialogue between the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP), and other stakeholders, aimed at eradicating political vigilantism in Ghana.

Primarily, the Code is expected to Guide Behaviour of Political Parties and Political Activists in the conduct of their political activities so that they'll be guided to avoid politically related vigilantism

The Code will also serve as a reference point in ensuring that the Roadmap to eradicate vigilantism is adhered to by all parties.



CONT'D

This Code, is an outcome of a consensus reached between the NPP & NDC that vigilantism is inimical to Ghana's democratic system and must be eradicated

The Code consist of ten (10) key Provisions to Guide Behaviour and a Six (6) key Enforcement mechanisms

The Code is expected to be read as part of the Roadmap for the total eradication of vigilantism, titled, the Roadmap to Eradicating Political Vigilantism in Ghana

PROVISIONS IN THE CODE

1. Parties will publicly denounce any acts of vigilantism, especially where the perpetrators are affiliated or associated with or connected or related to their party.
2. Following the passage of the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, 2019 (Act 999), the parties will engage the leadership of known vigilante groups operating within their parties or for political purposes, and encourage them to disband such groups;

PROVISIONS

3. No party, party member, or candidate for an election will form, operate, support or fund any vigilante group or their activities
4. Parties will discourage the ownership, hiring, or utilization of such groups, or their services by their political parties or members thereof;

PROVISIONS

5. The parties will provide timely, accurate and objective information regarding acts of vigilantism to the police, especially when such information is requested by the police;
6. Parties will not take any initiative in contravention of the law, for the release of any person who is caught armed, or any person who offends the law on elections, electoral campaigns, or commits a governance related offence and is arrested by the police;

PROVISIONS

7. In furtherance of the provisions of the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, 2019 (Act 999), parties will include in their respective codes of conduct, a firm statement prohibiting the formation of vigilante groups, and clearly indicate the sanctions that will be applied to any member who forms, funds, supports or utilizes the services of vigilante groups
8. Parties will act in good faith, as well as maintain honesty and integrity in their dealings with stakeholders and security agencies, towards the total eradication of vigilantism



PROVISION

9. The Code of Conduct will be reviewed periodically, at least, once every four years of its implementation, or upon identification by the parties of any major defects during implementation
10. Parties will educate their members on the requirements of the “Roadmap to Eradicating Political Vigilantism in Ghana,” as well as this Code of Conduct

ENFORCEMENT OF THE CODE

The parties agree to commit resources, personnel, and time to the enforcement of the Code of Conduct. The parties agree to work within the structures proposed below, and through other lawful means to ensure enforcement of this Code of Conduct

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1. At the national level, the NPC, in collaboration with civil society stakeholders, will receive and address complaints of breaches of the Code and may meet the leadership of the NDC and NPP as and when necessary in furtherance of this mandate.
 2. At the regional and district levels, the Inter-Party Dialogue Committees will work with the NPC to receive and address complaints of breaches of the Code;

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3. The parties shall be responsible for the enforcement of the Code of Conduct
 4. Violations of the Code of Conduct shall first be reported to the proposed committees for redress

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5. The proposed Committees shall also monitor compliance with the Code of Conduct by the parties
 6. Notwithstanding the above suggestions (1 to 5), all criminal offences must be reported to the Ghana Police Service



WAY FORWARD

What is it that you and your community can do