



**REPORT ON THE ASSIN NORTH CONSTITUENCY
PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION HELD ON
TUESDAY, 27TH JUNE, 2023.**

JUNE, 2023.

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

There was a legal contest against the qualification of Mr. James Gyakyé Quayeson, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) parliamentary candidate for the Assin North Parliamentary election who emerged winner of the 7th December, 2020 parliamentary election. This contest led to the court invalidating the election of Mr. Quayeson which led to a declaration by the speaker of parliament to the effect that the seat is vacant. The electoral commission hence conducted a by-election in the Assin-North Constituency on the 27th day of June, 2023 to select a member of parliament to represent the people of Assin North in the Parliament of Ghana.

The by-election was contested by three candidates from the New Patriotic Party (NPP), the Liberal Party of Ghana (LPG) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC). The Candidates were: Charles Opoku, Mrs. Bernice Enyonam Sefenu and James Gyakyé Quayeson respectively.

The National Peace Council being a key stakeholder in the electoral process in Ghana having regard to the contentious and acrimonious nature of the party-political contest selected 8 persons made up of Officers from the Head office, Council members and Officers from the Central Regional Peace Council to observe the by-election.

GOAL

The NPC team of observers focused on assessing the peaceful conduct of the election considering the triggers of conflict, security presence, activities of hooligans and other factors relative to the peaceful conduct of the election.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BY-ELECTION

The elections began on the scheduled time of 7am at almost all the 99 polling stations in the constituency. The NPC team were put into three sub-teams. The teams visited polling stations in the following towns and villages within the constituency:

- Bereku - 4 polling stations.
- Dansame - 4 polling stations.
- Prasu - 3 polling stations.
- Asempanaye - 4 polling stations.
- Akonfodi - 3 polling stations.

OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS

The election was generally peaceful in all the 99 polling stations within the constituency except some few isolated instances of reported violent clashes in some places in the constituency however all such clashes occurred outside the polling stations and did not escalate due to the timely intervention of the Police.

There was high Police presence at all polling stations and within the constituency. The team saw at least 1 of the police officers at each polling station with a body camera and there were police drones hovering at some polling stations during the elections.

Top police officers of the rank of Commissioners were seen on the ground ensuring that there was peace at the polling station and in the constituency.

The election was extensively covered by the media, the team sighted the following media houses within the constituency:

- Class Media Group
- Multimedia Group
- Atinka Media
- Angel Broadcasting Network
- Otec FM
- Media General
- Kingdom Media
- Metro TV
- Despite Media
- Asaase Radio

Some of the down sides of the election was the visible presence of some well-built persons believed to be hoodlums, although the team did not see them causing trouble or intimidating electorates or anyone however, there were reports of clashes between the NDC and NPP hoodlums at Assin Prasu.

The team had prior to the report seen the National Youth Organizer of the NDC, Mr. George Opare Addo at the Police mobile Clinic located at the entrance of Assin State College receiving treatment on his arm. Mr. Opare Addo was mentioned as one of the injured persons from the clash.

The team hence followed up to the Police mobile clinic to ascertain some information on the clash as well as the injury of Mr. Opare Addo. The Medical Officer in charge, informed the team that Mr. Opare Addo visited their clinic and was treated for scratch of his arm.

The team also, as a follow-up to the reported clash, went to a location at Assin Bereku which was the command centre for the NDC to see four (4) vehicles (3 Toyota Land Cruisers and 1 Toyota Fortuner) that were allegedly destroyed in the clash by the NPP hoodlums. The team also went to Assin Prasu where the

clash is alleged to have occurred and saw a white mahindra pick up the tyres of which was reported to have been stabbed allegedly by an NPP hoodlum, the white mahindra is reported to belong to the personal assistant of Mr. Quayeson, the NDC candidate. At the time of the team's visit to Assin Prasu, the tyres of the mahindra were being changed.

The team also observed some campaign activities around polling stations during the election, the presence of party banners, flags and other paraphernalia hanging around polling stations within the constituency.

The location of the media operations centre at Assin Bereku was very close to the polling station causing the crowding up of many people close to the polling station.

CONCLUSION

The polls ended at 5pm, the ballots were sorted and counted peacefully at all the polling stations and the results were sent to the collation centre peacefully and the Electoral Commission announced the certified results at 9:50 pm.

The certified results are: Charles Opoku got 12,630 representing 42.15% of the valid votes cast, Bernice Sefenu Enyonam got 87 votes representing 0.29% and James Gyakye Quayeson also got 17,245 votes, representing 57.56%. In view of this results, the returning officer declared James Gyakye Quayeson, the winner of the election.