



NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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AUTHORSHIP

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL

The NPC is an independent national peace institution established by the Eight Hundred and Eighteenth (818) Act of the Parliament of the Republic of Ghana, named the National Peace Council Act, 2011. The NPC is mandated to develop and facilitate mechanisms for conflict prevention, management, resolution and to build sustainable peace in Ghana, as enshrined in the National Peace Council Act, 2011 (Act 818).

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Additionally, the NPC appreciates the purposeful collaboration with the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), and Ghana Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) which contributed to consolidating the peace in Ghana. Again, the NPC valued its partnership with the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), Office of the National Chief Imam (ONHI), National House of Chiefs (NHCs), National Commission for Civic Education, Electoral Commission (EC), Ghana Police Service, Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons (CSALW), Ghana Journalists Association (GJA), National Media Commission (NMC), Northern Sector Action on Awareness Centre Organisation (NORSAAC), STAR-Ghana Foundation, Ashesi University, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), and Media Foundation for West Africa and the Media (MFWA) which contributed immensely to extend the reach of its programmes to the citizenry.

Further, the NPC is indebted to the Eminent Members of the Governing Board, Executive Secretary, Regional Council Members, Regional Executive Secretaries, Management and Staff for their inimitable sacrifices and dedication to duty to implement the 2020 election-related programmes across the country. Again, the NPC thank all political parties, the electorate, Electoral Commission, Judiciary, Parliament, Traditional and Religious Authorities, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the Media, cross-section of Ghanaians, the Diplomatic Corps and Election Observation Teams for their cooperation and meaningful participation in the 7 December 2020 Presidential and Parliamentary election which contributed to concretise Ghana's democratic gains, peace and development.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

NPC	National Peace Council
GoG	Government of Ghana,
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNOWAS	United Nations Office in West Africa and the Sahel
COMSEC	Commonwealth Secretariat
DANIDA	Danish Embassy
WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
CDD-Ghana)	Centre for Democratic Development
IDEG	Istitute of Democratic Governance
NHCs	National House of Chiefs
NCCE	National Commission for Civic Education
RPCs	Regional Peace Councils
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
ESR	Election Situation Room
RERGs	Regional Election Response Groups
PMCs	Peace Mediation Committees
MUSECs	Municipal Security Councils
DISECs	District Security Councils



Message from the Governing Board

With a great pleasure, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thoughts as the current Chairman of the Governing Board of the National Peace Council (NPC) on the 2020 Annual Report. The NPC was established by the National Peace Council Act, 2011 (Act 818) with the objective to prevent, manage, resolve conflicts and to build sustainable peace in the country.

The year under review witnessed the inauguration of the current 13-member Board by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo-Dankwa Akufo Addo on 10 November, 2020. The Governing Board assumed its role at the time when the entire world was grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, of which Ghana was not an exception, and in the run-up to the 7 December 2020 presidential and parliamentary elections. The dedication and varied experiences of the Eminent Members of the Governing Board, Management and Staff at the National Secretariat and Regional Offices propelled the National Peace Council to meet the demands of the times.

Aside the impact of COVID-19 on the administrative work of the NPC, the Council found innovative ways of dealing with political vigilantism and the tensions associated with 7 December elections. As part of efforts to ensuring that vigilante groups were nonexistent throughout the electioneering and beyond, the NPC embarked on a nationwide advocacy on the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, 2019 (Act 999), the Roadmap and Code of Conduct to sensitise varied stakeholders including the political parties to comply with the processes of disbanding vigilante groups associated with the parties.

With the generous support of Government of Ghana (GoG), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Danish Embassy (DANIDA), and Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSEC), the NPC contributed to the peaceful conduct of 2020 elections. Again, our heartfelt gratitude goes to the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of National Security for their timely support and interventions. Additionally, the NPC collaborated with a number of organisations to manage, analyse, mitigate and respond to potential threats to the December 2020 elections. These included the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), the Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), the Office of National Chief Imam (ONCI), the National House of Chiefs (NHCs), the Institute of Democratic Governance (IDEG), the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), the National Cadet Corps, the Electoral Commission (EC), the Ghana Police Service (GPS), political parties, among others. I express my deepest appreciation to our partners who provided timely and unmatched support to enable the National Peace Council carried out various programmes and activities in 2020.

The 7 December 2020 election did not escape some controversies. Regrettably, the election recorded sporadic violence that led to the death of six persons and destruction of properties notably in Techiman South, Savelugu, Ablekuma Central, Odododiodio and Ewutu Senya East Constituencies. One life lost was too many for a growing democracy such as Ghana, which has been widely celebrated in the Global Peace Index and in the comity of nations. The National

Peace Council is of the greatest view that the Ghana Police Service will investigate the alleged crimes and prosecute the perpetrators to serve as deterrent to the conduct of future elections in Ghana.



Rev. Dr Ernest Adu-Gyamfi
Chairman, Governing Board,
National Peace Council



Pictures of the Governing Board of National Peace Council



The Innauguration of the Governing Board of the National Peace Council by His Excellency Nana Addo- Dankwa Akufo Addo



Management Report

In 2020, the Management of the NPC at the National Secretariat undertook a number of strategic decisions and actions which led to the achievement of modest gains. Administratively, the NPC established two new Regional Peace Councils (RPCs), that is, the Ahafo and Savannah Regional Peace Councils. This increased the number of RPCs to 12 and two District offices. A Gender-Desk was created at the National Secretariat responsible for integrating gender equality and social inclusion in the planning and execution of programmes and activities of the NPC. Again, 20 new staff were recruited to augment the staff strength of the NPC. Further, a new office space was allocated to the National Secretariat, and 2021-2025 strategic Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) was formulated.

Towards a peaceful 7 December 2020 elections, the NPC carried out a number of shuttle diplomacy, consultation and briefings which contributed to sustaining peace and security. This achievement had a significant cascading effect on Ghana's efforts towards achieving Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which envisages peaceful, inclusive and just societies in all countries. The national advocacy programmes and sensitisation on the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, 2019 (Act 999), the Roadmap and the Code of Conduct yielded positive results towards the eradication of political vigilantism associated with electoral politics in Ghana.

Going forward, the NPC has identified four thematic areas it is poised to achieve in order to consolidate the gains made over the years. The NPC envisages to tackle political polarisation, establish a Peace Fund, increase public education on its mandate and legitimacy, and establish Early Warning and Response Mechanisms at the national and sub-national levels for better coordination and response to peacebuilding in Ghana.



Mr. George Amoh
Executive Secretary
National Peace Council

Organisational Profile

The NPC is an independent national peace institution established by the Eight Hundred and Eighteenth (818) Act of the Parliament of the Republic of Ghana, named the National Peace Council Act, 2011. The NPC is mandated to develop and facilitate mechanisms for conflict prevention, management, resolution and to build sustainable peace in Ghana, as enshrined in the National Peace Council Act, 2011 (Act 818).

Again, the Act establishes a Governing Board comprising 13 eminent persons appointed by the President of the Republic of Ghana for a four-year renewable term. Further, the President appoints the Executive Secretary through the Public Services Commission. The programmes and activities of NPC are coordinated by Technical Staff at the National Secretariat, head office, Accra.

There are 12 Regional Peace Councils as of 2020 each headed by Regional Executive Secretary. The RPCs are made up of 13 Council Members, appointed by the Governing Board in consultation with the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC). The regions are: Greater Accra, Central, Western, Eastern, Volta, Ashanti, Bono, Ahafo, Northern, Upper West, Upper East, and Savannah. In addition, the NPC is operational in two Districts, that is, Winneba and Nadowli Kaleo. The members of the District Peace Councils are appointed by the Governing Board in consultation with the District Assemblies.

Vision

The National Peace Council's vision is to have a country characterized by a dynamic environment where people can engage in their lawful activities confident that the institutions, mechanisms, and capacities for mediating differences and grievances are effective and responsive.

Mission

The National Peace Council will facilitate the development of mechanisms for cooperation among all relevant stakeholders in peace building in Ghana by promoting cooperative problem-solving to conflicts and by institutionalising the processes of response to conflicts to produce outcomes that lead to conflict transformation, social, political and religious reconciliation and transformative dialogues.

Core Values

The core values of the National Peace Council include:

·Tolerance ·Trust-Building ·Dialogue ·Diversity ·Inclusiveness ·Integrity



Objectives

The objective of the National Peace Council is to facilitate and develop mechanisms for conflict prevention, management, resolution and to build sustainable peace in the country.

Functions

The functions of the National Peace Council as stipulated in the Act 2011, (Act 888) are:

- a) harmonise and co-ordinate conflict prevention, management, resolution and build sustainable peace through net-working and co-ordination,
- b) strengthen capacities for conflict prevention, management, resolution and sustainable peace in the country including but not limited to chiefs, women, youth groups and community organisations,
- c) increase awareness on the use of non-violent strategies to prevent, manage and resolve conflict and build sustainable peace in the country,
- d) facilitate the amicable resolution of conflict through mediation and other processes including indigenous mechanisms for conflict resolution and peacebuilding,
- e) promote understanding of the values of diversity, trust, tolerance, confidence building, negotiation, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation,
- f) co-ordinate and supervise the work of the Regional and District Peace Councils,
- g) facilitate the implementation of agreements and resolutions reached between parties in conflict,
- h) make recommendations to the Government and other stakeholders on actions to promote trust and confidence between and among groups, and
- i) perform any other function which is ancillary to its object.

Executive Summary

The 2020 annual report covers five programmatic areas of the NPC. These are Human Resources and Administrative, Conflict Resolution Management, Capacity Development and Outreach, Research Monitoring and Evaluation, and Finance. These Departments design and implement programmes and activities of the NPC. Again, the report gives information on the key programmes implemented by the 12 Regional Peace Councils in 2020.

On 10 November, 2020, the Rev. Dr. Ernest Ady-Gyamfi-led Governing Board which replaced the Most Rev. Professor Emmanuel Asante-led Governing Board was inaugurated into office by His Excellency, Nana Addo-Dankwa Akuffo-Addo. The new board was the third since the establishment of the National Peace Council by the Act 2011, (Act 818). Gender representation on the Governing Board has increased from one on the previous Boards to three on the current Board.

In year under review, the NPC extended its physical presence to two regions, that is, the establishment of Ahafo Regional Peace Council and Savannah Regional Peace Council. This brought the RPCs to 12 and two district offices. The Council Members for the two RPCs were constituted and inaugurated.

Again, in 2020, a Gender-Desk was established at the head office responsible for promoting and mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion in the design and implementation of programme and activities of the NPC. Further, 20 new staff were recruited to augment the staff strength of the NPC bringing the total to 51 in 2020.

With the support of the Government of Ghana and the Danish Embassy (DANIDA), the NPC carried out advocacy to sensitise the public on political tolerance, peacebuilding and sustainable peace. The programmes contributed to ensuring that peace prevailed before, during and after the 7 December, 2020 presidential and parliamentary elections. The advocacy focused on the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, 2019, (Act 999), the Road map, and Code of Code to eradicating political vigilantism. Close to 1,5000 citizens were directly sensitised, and an estimated three million people were indirectly reached through traditional media—radio, television, and new media—Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and WhatsApp.

The NPC employed preventive measures, including shuttle diplomacy, public fora, stakeholder engagements, and consultations which contributed to peaceful election on 7 December 2020. Again, the NPC partnered with other state and non-state actors to implement its election-related programmes. For example, it collaborated with the WANEP to set up the Election Situation Room (ESR) to observe, mitigate and resolve election-related violence to the December 2020 election. Again, it collaborated with the CDD-Ghana to establish 16 Peace Mediation Committees (PMCs) at the districts and constituency levels to promote peace before, during and after the 2020 elections.



On 4 December 2020, the NPC partnered with the Office of the National Chief Imam, National House of Chiefs, and the Institute for Democratic Governance to organise the 3rd High-Level Presidential Election Peace Pact (PEPP) at the Movenpick Hotel in Accra under the theme: "Strengthening Ghana's Democratic Stability, Peace and National Unity." The PEPP was signed between the NPP and the NDC presidential candidates to take a stand against violence, impunity and injustice.

During the year under review, the NPC received support from a number of development partners to implement peace-related interventions aimed at peaceful election in December, 2020. The partnerships contributed to enhance the visibility of NPC's programmes at the national and sub-national levels. The following projects were executed:

- a) community advocacy on the Vigilantism and Related Offence Act, 2019, (Act 999), the Road map, and the Code of Conduct supported by the Government of Ghana, and Danida,
- b) monitored the implementation of the Code of Conduct to eradicate political vigilantism. The project was supported by NORSAAC,
- c) sensitised the youth as Peace Ambassadors for conflict prevention in collaboration with the Ashesi University with the support of the Commonwealth Secretariat,
- d) organised two national stakeholders' dialogues for peaceful election, with the support of UNOWAS and UNDP,
- e) established the Peace Mediation Committees in hotspot constituencies in collaboration with CDD-Ghana,
- f) developed a draft framework that would proscribe intemperate language in Ghana in collaboration with NMC with the support of Danida,
- g) in partnership with WANEP established the National and Regional Election Response Groups (NERGs), Regional Election Response Groups (RERGs), and Election Situation Rooms (ESRs) as early warning mechanisms for analysing, mitigating and managing election-related violence,
- h) commemorated the International Day of Peace in collaboration UNDP and CJA, and
- i) supported the National Youth Authority to produce a Youth Peace Charter.

Key Results in 2020

Administration and Human Resource

The following key results were achieved under Administration and Human Resource:

Functional departments and units established. These were (i) Administration and Human Resource (ii) Conflict Management and Resolution (iii) Capacity Development and Outreach (iv) Research, Monitoring and Evaluation, (v) Finance, (vi) Public Relations Unit, and (vii) the Gender Desk

Relocation of the NPC to No. 8 Ringway Estates, Osu, Accra

Expansion of the Regional Offices of the Peace Council from 9 to 12 Staff strength increased from 23 to 51 in 2020

Development of 2021-2025 strategic Medium Term Development Plan

Conflict Prevention, Resolution and Management

Key achievement included:

Contributed to the resolution of long-standing disputes such as the Bawku Conflict, Dagbon Chieftaincy dispute, Agogo Fulani impasse, Alavanyo–Nkonya land disputes and Bimbila disputes

Formation of Bawku Inter-ethnic Peace Committee and the Insider Mediation at Alavanyo and Nkonya to consolidate the peace in the communities.

Mediation in the religious conflict between Muslims and Christians in Tafo

Mediation in the conflict at Sankore in the Bono East Region



Election Security

The following key achievement were recorded:

- Shuttle diplomacy and stakeholders' consultation contributed to sustaining peace during the 7 December 2020 presidential and parliamentary elections
- Sensitisation of citizens on the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, 2019 (Act, 999), the Roadmap, Code of Conduct aimed at eradicating political vigilantism
- Facilitated the signing of 2020 Presidential Election Peace Pact in partnership with key state and non-state actors to commit presidential candidates to peaceful election

Capacity Development and Outreach

The following result were achieved:

- Capacity building programmes organised at various levels for staff and Peace Actors.
- Sensitisation of citizens on peacebuilding and conflict management mechanisms contributed to peaceful coexistence and political tolerance
- Enhanced visibility of the mandate of the NPC through stakeholder dialogues and community fora

Research and Publications

The NPC carried out a number of research and publications which include:

- Dialogue on resolving political vigilantism
- Baseline report on the role of civil society in conflict prevention, particularly at the level of participation of women and youth
- Doing mediation: a guide for practitioners
- Stakeholders' dialogue on promoting peaceful 2020 general election (southern zone)
- Stakeholders' dialogue on promoting peaceful 2020 general election (northern zone)
- Training Manuals



THE NATIONAL OUTLOOK

1. ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCE

1.1 Administration

1.1.1 Relocation of Head Office and Creation of Additional Regional Peace Councils

In 2020, the Government allocated to the NPC a new head Office accommodation located at No. 8 Ringway Estates, Osu, Accra. However, the office requires refurbishment and expansion. Again, the NPC opened two Regional Peace Councils, that is, Ahafo Regional Peace Council and Savannah Regional Peace Council bringing the total regional offices to 12 and two District offices.

The Asunafo North District Office was upgraded to a regional status, following the creation of additional six new regions in 2018 of which Ahafo Region was part. The Council Members for the two regions were constituted and inaugurated. The creation of the two new offices were part of the strategic plan of the NPC to have offices in all the 16 Regions in Ghana.



Mrs. Rita Benewah Yali
Deputy Director,
Administration & Human
Resource

1.1.2 Appointment and Inauguration of a new Governing Board

A 13-Member Governing Board was reconstituted and inaugurated on 10 November, 2020. This was in line with the corporate governance and effective delivering of the mandate of the NPC. Female representation on the Governing Board increased from one to three, representing 23% women representation. The 13 Council Members for each of the two newly regions, that is, Ahafo Regional Peace Council and Savannah Regional Peace Councils were inaugurated in October and November 2020 respectively.

1.1.3 Confirmation of the Executive Secretary

The Ag. Executive Secretary was confirmed as the substantive Executive Secretary of the NPC effective October 2020.

1.1.4 Gender Unit

In 2020, the NPC established the Gender Unit, not only because of the directives from the Ministry of Interior but in fulfilment of its strategic direction as contained in the Strategic Plan 2020-2024. An interim Gender Desk Representative was appointed at the Head Office for this purpose. The Gender Unit is leading the formulation and development of strategies for gender mainstreaming in planning, designing, and implementation of programmes and activities of the NPC.



1.1.5 Health and Safety

Ghana like other countries globally was hit by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. As per government directive, the NPC put in place the following measures to enhance the safety of staff and visitors:

- briefing on the COVID-19 Protocols circulation of educational materials and leaflets
- provision of running water, soap and hand sanitizers for personal hygiene
- observation of physical/social distancing by working remotely and running a shift system, and
- provision of masks to all staff at the national, regional and district Offices.

1.2 Human Resource

1.2.1 Recruitment

In September, 2019, the Ministry of Finance issued a financial clearance through the Ministry of Interior to the National Peace Council to recruit additional staff. Subsequently, in March 2020, 20 staff were recruited bringing the total to 51, representing 55.5% increase in staff strength of NPC on its payroll. The newly recruits comprise: 4 Deputy Directors, 2 Principal Programme Managers, 6 Administrative Managers, 5 Programme Managers, 1 ICT Manager, 1 Senior Driver and 1 Labourer. Additionally, 2 security guards were employed on casual basis in October and November, 2020.

1.2.1 Orientation of New Staff

As has been the practice of the NPC, and in line with the Public Services Commission regulations, the newly employed staff were orientated on the laws and regulations of the Public Service and the mandate of the NPC. The orientation was facilitated by the Public Services Commission, and the National Peace Council.

1.2.2 Capacity Development

In 2020, two staff were trained at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) on strategic leadership programme. Again, two members of the Governing Board were trained at the same institution on strategic context of defence management. Further, on 4 November, 2020, 21 staff from the Head office were trained by the Security Governance Initiative (SGI) Masterclass at the National Security Institute. In November, 2020, the Electoral Commission trained the Governing Board, Regional Peace Councils and staff on election observation and monitoring. Finally, in December, staff at the head office were trained on the Public Service Commission's performance appraisal processes.

1.2.3 Retirement

In 2020, one senior staff, who was heading the Central Region Office retired from the NPC.

1.2.4 Resignation

Three staff from the Greater Accra Peace Council, Savannah Regional Peace Council and Western Regional Peace Council who were Senior Programmes Manager, Principal Programmes Manager and Administrative Manager respectively resigned from the NPC.

1.2.5 Postings

In 2020, four postings were made. These were Mr. Henry Attoh Okai, Senior Programmes Manager at the Head Office was posted to the Greater Accra Regional Office as the acting head. Similarly, Messers Charles Ohene Amoh, Clifford Tampuori and Kennedy Atiibo were assigned to the Central Regional office, Savannah Regional office and Ahafo Regional office respectively as acting heads. Mr. Charles Amoh until his posting was the District Executive Secretary for the Efutu Municipality, Mr. Clifford Tampuori, the District Executive Secretary for Nadowli-Kaleo Municipality, and Mr. Kennedy Atiibo, the District Executive Secretary for Asunafo North Municipality. Their posting was in line with internal capacity building and staff upgrading.

1.3 Submission of Human Resources Documentations to the Public Services Commission

The success of every organisation depends on the outlay of designations, responsibilities, authority and command, as well as welfare and motivation. In line with this, the NPC developed Human Resource Compensation Policy for the attention of the Public Services Commission. The draft document is at various levels of completion. These includes:

- Scheme of Service—a guide for the placement of the NPC staff, progression and career development
- Conditions of Service which spells out the benefits and employee/employer obligations
- Welfare Scheme which provides for motivation of employees, and workplace cohesion.

The NPC has followed due process and submitted the Scheme of Service and the Conditions of Service to the Public Services Commission for review and approval.





1.4 Public Relations and Communications Unit

The Public Relations and Communication Unit was instrumental in enhancing the image of the NPC. The Unit led the strategic direction in engaging the media, both traditional and new media to communicate the Council's programmes and activities to the public. Social media handles were created for the NPC. Specifically, Facebook subscribers increased from 979 in January to 2000 in December, 2020. Over the same period Twitter followers increased from 22 to 337, Instagram followers increased from zero to 10 and YouTube Channel from zero to 13.

Other activities spearheaded by the Unit were drafting of press releases, press statements, information, education and communication materials and mobilising the media to participate in the programmes and activities of the NPC, whose publications contributed to enhance the mandate of the NPC.

The NPC upgraded its websites recorded 11,900 visitors during the year. The Unit aided the NPC in utilising innovative communications tools such as Zoom in the midst of COVID-19 to reach out to audience particularly on 2020 election-related programmes. The social media campaign dubbed "Speak Peace Campaign" was largely patronised by the citizens. Further, the Unit compiled and broadcast peace messages featuring key personalities on television and radio, communicating to Ghanaians the need for peaceful and credible election in 2020.

To enhance corporate communications, the Public Relation Unit created corporate emails for all staff. This is also in line with government policy to standardise official use of corporate emails for communication among staff of government institutions. Again, identification cards were issued to the staff of NPC.

1.5 Board and Committee Meetings

Article 6 of the National Peace Council Act, 2011, (Act 818) mandates the Governing Board to meet at least once every three months to dispatch business of the Council. During the year under the review, the Governing Board fulfilled all the statutory requirement of meeting to formulate policies to advance the mandate of the NPC.

2. CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION

2.1 Establishment of Peace Mediation Committees

The NPC in collaboration with the CDD-Ghana established Peace Mediation Committees (PMCs) in 16 constituencies/districts of Ghana. The PMCs were formed under the project "Community Capacity for Conflict Management at District Level." The PMCs were established to augment the responsibility of the NPC to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts in the communities. Cumulatively, the PMCs reached out to 26,695 citizens in 16 constituencies/districts made up of 14,670 males representing 55% and 12,025 females representing 45%. The PMCs undertook a total of 255 community outreach programmes and 98 radio



Frank Wilson Bodza
Deputy Director,
Conflict Management &
Resolution



and television programmes.

2.1.2 Key Responsibility of the PMCs

The PMCs were empowered to carry out the following activities in the communities:

- a) identify potential threats to election peace and provide early responses by working closely with the Municipal Security Committees (MUSECs), the District Security Committees (DISECs), and the Regional Peace Councils,
- b) collaborate with Regional Election Early Warning and Response Groups (REEWARGs) to enhance conflict management and mitigation in the communities,
- c) identify and monitor nascent activities of political vigilantism, and where identified, engaged security agencies to address the situation,
- d) enjoin communities to embrace non-violence mechanisms for resolving conflicts,
- e) encourage citizens to be responsible and moderate in post-election jubilation; so that the peace in the community could not be disturbed, and
- f) carry out targeted peace education programmes at churches, mosques, Tv and radio stations.

2.3 Observation of the 2020 new Voters Registration Exercise

The NPC monitored the 2020 new Voters Registration Exercise in selected registration centres across the country. The 38 days national Voters Registration Exercise began in 30 June 2020 by the Electoral Commission. The compilation of a new Voters Register by the Electoral Commission was met with resistance by some political parties and civil society organisations. This was an issue of grave national concern. It is therefore refreshing that the Electoral Commission was able to scale the challenge.

Generally, the conduct of the Voters' Registration Exercise was peaceful. Majority of the Registration Centres monitored by the NPC conducted themselves in civility and in accordance with laid down procedures as provided by the Electoral Commission. The NPC lauded the platform, "Let the Citizens Know" initiated by the Electoral Commission to update Ghanaians on the registration exercise. This largely contributed to enhance citizen access to information, and transparency about the registration.

However, the NPC noted some bottlenecks which confronted a few of the Registration Centres. The NPC was concerned about the incidences of violence in some Registration Centres in the following areas, namely, Ejura-Sekyere-Odumase and Asawase Constituencies in the Ashanti Region, Kasoa and Ajumako-Enyan-Essiam Constituencies in the Central Region, Asutifi South and Tano South Constituencies in the Ahafo Region, Dormaa West and Banda Constituencies in the Bono Region, Ho West Constituency in the Volta Region, and Fadama and New Town in the Greater Accra Region. The NPC's reports confirmed that clashes between the supporters of the NPP and the NDC unfortunately led to shootings and machete wounds on some identified party activists resulting in some arrest of persons who allegedly committed these

crimes.

Through press releases, the NPC condemned all incidents of confusion, violence, and shooting which characterised the Voters Registration. It enjoined the Ghana Police Service to arrest and investigate any persons whose actions and inactions contributed to derail the new Voters Registration exercise.

2.4 The 3rd High-Level Presidential Election Peace Pact (PEPP)

On 4 December 2020, the NPC in collaboration with the National Chief Imam, the National House of Chiefs, and the Institute of Democratic Governance facilitated the signing of the 3rd Presidential Election Peace Pact with the flagbearers of the NPP and the NDC. The concept of PEPP originated from the NPC under the Chairmanship of Most Rev. Professor Emmanuel Asante, and under the patronage of Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, King of Ashanti Kingdom in 2012, with IDEG, engaged as a technical adviser to the implementation of the project. The PEPP was witnessed by key sponsors and august personalities with Nana Dr Susubribi Krobea Paramount Chief of Asokore Mampong, and an eminent member of the Governing Board of the NPC participated significantly in the drafting of the text for the 2012 and 2020 Declarations. The PEPP commit political parties' leaders to take a stand against violence and foster peaceful conduct of party followers before, during and after elections. Additionally, it commits the leaders to adopt judicial adjudication should there be dispute over the official presidential results.

The uniqueness of the 2020 PEPP was the addition of the His Eminence, Sheikh Osman Nuhu Sharubutu, the National Chief Imam of the Republic of Ghana. The 2020 PEPP was scheduled at a time the two major co-conveners, the National Peace Council and National House of Chiefs were undergoing transitions, therefore, the presence of the National Chief Imam who is revered by both the NPP and the NDC gave acceptable and balanced ambiance to the ceremony.

The 2020 PEPP was signed by the Flagbearers of the NDC, H.E. John Dramani Mahama and the Flagbearer of NPP, H.E. Nana Addo-Dankwa Akufo Addo who was the incumbent President, and supervised by the Chief Justice of Ghana, Justice Kwasi Anin-Yeboah. Again, the ceremony was witnessed by the former President of Liberia, Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Further, there were representations by the ECOWAS Election Observer Mission, African Union Elections Observer Mission, and the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel represented by H. E. Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas. Also there were other high profile office holders from Parliament, Ghana Police Service, National House of Chiefs, Religious Bodies, Eminent Members of the Governing Board of NPC, Political Parties, and other state and non-state institutions participated in the signing ceremony. Again, there were representations from the youth and women groups, Trade Unions, development and governance experts, private sector, media, Diplomatic Corps, among others.



2.5 Reflections on 2020 Peace and Security Actions

The mandate of the NPC is to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts and sustain the peace of the country. This understanding was apt and reflected in the work of the NPC in the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of 2020 elections and peacebuilding programmes.

Strategically, the NPC employed preventive and shuttle diplomacy to engage key stakeholders including political parties, the Electoral Management Body, traditional leaders, Members of Parliament, the youth and community leaders who have influence on the elections to prevent conflict and where possible resolve disputes.

In addition, the NPC employed advocacy as a tool to sensitise the public particularly on the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, 2019, (999), the Roadmap and Code of Conduct.

The 12 Regional Peace Council Offices and the 2 Districts Offices led mediation processes at the community level to resolve violence and other sources of threats to the 7 December 2020 election. The mediation processes focused on addressing chieftaincy, land, and communal violence. For example, in the Ahafo Region, land and chieftaincy disputes constitute 81% of conflict burden. However, in terms of cost and security burden, political conflicts posed greatest concern.

Further, the NPC engaged the media both traditional and new to reach out to the public, through press releases and communiques urging them to embrace greater political tolerance and peaceful co-existence.

3. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH

3.1 Roadmap to Eradicating Vigilantism

In 2019, the NPC led a dialogue between the NDC and the NPP aimed at eliminating political vigilantism in Ghana. The dialogue was necessitated by the by-election violence that broke out at the Ayawaso West Wuogon Constituency on 31 January, 2019. Key deliverables from the dialogue were: 1) a strategic plan titled “The Roadmap to Eradicating Political Vigilantism in Ghana,” and 2) Code of Conduct which would guide political behaviour and ensure compliance by the political parties to eradicate political vigilantism.

From April to November 2019, the NPC held five different dialogues with the NPP and the NDC on the Roadmap. At these meetings, the NDC and the NPP pledged to: (1) disband vigilante groups operating for political purposes, (2) prohibit the ownership, hiring, or utilisation of such groups by the political parties or members thereof, and (3) cooperate with state agencies and



Mrs. Janet Sarney- Kuma
Director, Capacity
Development and
Outreach

stakeholders in the total eradication of such groups or incidents of vigilantism in Ghana. On 4 February 2020, the NPP signed the Roadmap and Code of Conduct, and the NDC signed on 19 June 2020.

The dialogue contributed to the passage of Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, 2019 (Act 999) by the Parliament of Ghana. From August to November, 2020, with the support of the Government of Ghana and Danish Embassy (Danida), the NPC carried out community sensitisation in 124 constituencies/districts to educate the citizens on the Vigilantism Act, the Roadmap, and the Code of Conduct. The participants were also sensitised on Early Warning Signs (EWSs) of election violence and enjoined to alert key stakeholders, particularly the police to prevent possible threats to peace and security in the communities.

The community advocacy drew participants from the political parties, Ghana Police Service, Ghana Immigration Service, National Intelligence Bureau (NIB), and other security agencies. Additional participants were drawn from the Metropolitan Municipality and District Assemblies, “known leaders of political vigilante groups”, NCCE, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), traditional authorities, non-governmental organisations, youth groups, women groups, media, among other actors.



3.2 Dialogue with Youth Peace Ambassadors for Conflict Prevention During 2020 Election

The Commonwealth Secretariat sponsored the programme dubbed “Youth Peace Ambassadors for Conflict Prevention Before, During and After the 7 December, 2020 Election.” The NPC implemented the programme in collaboration with the Ashesi University, Accra. The programme was implemented across 20 hotspot constituencies of Ghana. It was facilitated by two consultants—Dr Enyonam Canice Kudonoo, Senior Lecturer at the Ashesi University, and Mr. Frank Okyere, Head of Programmes, Peace Support Operations, at KAIPTC, Accra.

The rationale for the programme was based on continuous assessment of the political terrain by the NPC and identification of potential hotspots across the country which demanded intensified peace campaign and advocacies ahead of the 2020 election. The campaign sought to:

- improve awareness for peaceful co-existence through the creation of a culture of tolerance, and unity in diversity for sustainable development,
- draw conclusions based on critical analysis of situations, weighing the pros and cons before responding rather than just reacting to issues on impulse,



- create awareness on the Vigilantism Act, Roadmap and Code of Conduct which would place them in a better position to act as ambassadors of peace in their communities, and
- sensitise the youth on the principles of dialogue and other non-violent mechanisms for preventing election violence, conflict and building consensus in the communities.

The two-day programme in each of the constituency mobilised a cross-section of youth from various organisations and associations. Ten programmes were held for 327 youth representing 218 males (67%) and 109 females (33%). The programme contributed to building skills and knowledge of the youth and creation of a network of Peace Activists and Ambassadors who continued to engage stakeholders to promote peaceful election on 7 December, 2020.

3.3 Celebration of International Day of Peace

On 21 September 2020, the NPC celebrated the International Day of Peace under the theme “Shaping Peace Together.” The International Day of Peace was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981. In 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted for the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire. The NPC annually responds to the call by the United Nations to honour a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace. The International Day of Peace falls within the mandate of the NPC. It is celebrated annually to contribute to building a culture of peace globally. The NPC collaborated with the Ghana Journalists Association and UNDP to celebrate the 2020 International Day of Peace at the Ghana International Press Centre. The youth was the focus of the celebrations.

3.4 Partnership with National Youth Authority to Develop Youth Peace Charter

The National Youth Authority (NYA) requested the support of the NPC to develop a National Youth Peace Charter. The NPC provided technical support to the NYA throughout the process. The initial draft contained 5 sub-headings and 17 articles. This draft was presented to a technical group for inputs. A technical workshop was subsequently organised after the first draft of the Charter providing opportunity for youth-focused groups and political party youth wings (NPP, NDC, CPP and PNC) to peer-review the draft document. This was followed by a validation workshop that involved a larger group. Over one hundred young people from the civil society, political parties, and young entrepreneurs participated in the programme. The final National Youth Charter had 8 sub-headings and 33 articles.

3.4.1 The African Youth Day (Youth Dialogue Session)

The day was observed on 31 October 2020. At this session the leaders of about 50 youth groups from all over Ghana signed onto the National Youth Peace Charter. The outgoing Chairman of the NPC, Most Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Asante delivered an exposé on the theme: “Peaceful Ghana: The Rhetoric, Realities and the Youth Factor.”



3.4.2 Lessons Learnt

The following lessons were documented:

- The programme helped the youth to exhibit talents by making valuable contributions to the Youth Peace Charter.
- The youth exhibited positive mindset to deal with the negative perceptions of youth involvement in electoral violence.
- The youth were poised for ambassadorial role as contribution to peaceful election in 2020.



4. RESEARCH, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

4.1 Beyond the Signing: Monitoring the Code of Conduct to Eradicating Political Vigilantism

Designed by the NPC, the Code of Conduct represented a consensus reached between the NDC and the NPP to eradicate political vigilantism which is inimical to Ghana's democratic maturity. The Code of Conduct contains 10 main provisions to be implemented by the political parties.



Kojo Impraim
Deputy Director, Research
Monitoring & Evaluation

At the national level, the NPC in collaboration with civil society receives and address complaints of breaches of the Code of Conduct. At the regional and district level, the Inter-Party Dialogue Committees collaborate with the NPC to receive and address complaints of breaches of the Code. In furtherance of this, the NPC with the support of NORSAC, on 3 August, 2020 inaugurated a Monitoring Committee to monitor the implementation of the Code of Conduct. The overall mandate of the Monitoring Committee was to follow up and ensure compliance of the Code of Conduct by the political parties. This contributed to peaceful 7 December 2020 elections.

4.2 National Stakeholders' Dialogue for Peaceful 2020 Election

The NPC partnered with the UNOWAS and the UNDP, Ghana to organise two stakeholders' dialogue which contributed to the peaceful conduct of the 7 December 2020 election. The first stakeholders' dialogue was held on 26 December, 2020 at Kumasi for the Southern Cluster which comprising (Ashanti, Bono, Bono East, Ahafo, Western, Western North, Central, Eastern, and Greater Accra Regions); and the second dialogue was held on 1 December, 2020 at Tamale for the Northern Cluster comprising (Northern, Upper East, Upper West, Savannah, North East and Oti Regions).

The forum mobilised a cross-section of stakeholders to build consensus for peaceful and credible 2020 election. Both Tamale and Kumasi national dialogues were attended by high profile personalities including His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOWAS; Mr. Charles Abani, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ghana; Ms. Silke Hollander, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP, Ghana; and Ambassador Baaba Gana Wakil, Resident Representative of Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) in Ghana. Other dignitaries were Hon. Simon Osei Mensah, Ashanti Regional Minister; Hon. Salifu Saeed, Northern Regional Minister; Nana Effah Apenteng II, the Paramount Chief of Bompata and Ghana's former Diplomat to the United Nations; Zangbalun Yakubu II, Chief of Zangbalun Traditional Area; Most Rev. Prof Emmanuel Asante, former Board Chairman of NPC; Rev Dr Ernest Adu-Gyamfi, current Board Chairman of the NPC; Very Rev. Fr. Matthew Yitierih, VICAR General, Tamale Archdiocese; and eminent members of the Governing Board of the NPC. Additionally, the Regional Council Members, Executive Secretary and Regional Executives Secretaries, Management and Staff of the NPC

participated in the dialogue.

Institutional representatives for the dialogues were drawn from the EC, the Ghana Police Service, NCCE, CHRAJ, the Judicial Service, political parties, traditional and religious organisations, CSOs, GJA, public and private media houses, women and youth groups, academia, Trade Union Congress (TUC), Ghana Federation of Disability Organisation (GFD), Ghana Private Road Transport Union (GPRTU), Tertiary Education and Students' Confederacy (TECON), Tertiary Institution Network (TEIN), and the Diplomatic Corps.

The National Stakeholders' Dialogues offered opportunity to other participants who raised pertinent issues on ensuring peaceful and credible 2020 elections. Among these were:

- A call on the NPC to launch a Peace Fund to contribute to peacebuilding in Ghana,
- It was observed that inter-sectoral collaboration among state institutions such as the EC, NCCE, and CHRAJ was low. Therefore, these state institutions were enveloped to collaborate to ensure harmony and reduce duplication of voter educational messaging,
- The creation of sustainable job opportunities was suggested as one of the ways to deal with political party vigilantism,
- Political parties that may be aggrieved with the outcome of the elections were admonished to use the courts to settle electoral disputes and not result to violent protests, and
- It was recommended that government and development partners continue to support the NPC to raise additional funding to organise future dialogue in all the 16 Regional capitals of Ghana.

4.3 National and Regional Election Response Groups

The NPC in partnership with the WANEP established and coordinated the National Election Response Group (NERG) in Accra, and three satellite Regional Election Response Groups (RERGs) in Kumasi in the Ashanti Region, Tamale in the Northern Region and Ho in the Volta Region. The activities of the NERGs were coordinated in Accra in the Greater Accra Region co-chaired by the NPC and the NCCE. Again, the NPC in partnership with the WANEP and the NCCE established and coordinated Election Situation Room (ESR) in Accra and three regional ERSs clusters in Kumasi, Tamale and Ho for election monitoring and observation.

The NERG and the RERG engaged in shuttle diplomacy, consultation and engagement with key stakeholders notably the political parties, Electoral Commission, Ghana Police Service, and the media on election security. For example, the NREG facilitated an interface engagement involving senior journalists and the EC to discuss pertinent issues relating to the new Voters Register and credibility of the 7 December 2020 election at the Best Western Premier Hotel, Accra.



4.4 Development of a Framework on Intemperate Language

Hate speech generally fuels political polarisation, political intolerance, and incite electoral violence. Against this background, the NPC in collaboration with the NMC produced draft guidelines that will facilitate the production of legal framework on hate speech and guide journalistic standard and political behaviour. The project on the intemperate language was sponsored by the Danish Embassy.

The guidelines offer opportunities and constraints to electoral politics in Ghana. The lack of policy framework on hate speech provided opportunity to the NPC to develop an outline which will guide legislation from short to medium term. The guidelines when completed will serve as a checklist that will assist the media and regulatory bodies such as the NMC and professional association such as the GJA, Private Newspaper Publishers Association of Ghana (PRINPAG), and Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association (GIBA) to identify and condemn intemperate language in order to maintain a highly journalistic standard.

The NPC organised validation workshop on 21 October 2020 at the Coconut Groove Regency Hotel, Accra which offered a multi-stakeholder platform to review the draft guidelines. Twenty-three participants attended the validation workshop. This was made up of 15 males and eight females. The institutional representation were the Governing Board and Technical staff of the NPC and the NMC, the GJA, the CIBA, and the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA). Other professionals were lawyers, political scientists, gender activists and journalists. The validation workshop helped to fine-tune the draft document. A proposed Expert Team was charged with the responsibility to finalise the guidelines.

4.5 Research and Publications

The NPC carried out a number of research and publications which include:

- Electronic Conflict Map
- Dialogue on resolving the political vigilantism
- Baseline report on the role of civil society in conflict prevention, particularly at the level of participation of women and youth.
- Doing mediation: a guide for practitioners
- Stakeholder dialogue on promoting peaceful 2020 general election (southern zone)
- stakeholder dialogue on promoting peaceful 2020 general election (northern zone)
- Training Manuals



5.FUNDING AND FINANCE

5.1 Government of Ghana funds to the NPC

Generally, Government of Ghana's subvention to the NPC is divided into three, namely Compensation, Goods and Services, and Capital Expenditure (Capex). In 2020, the NPC was allocated funds under Compensation, and Goods and Services only.

The annual allocation for the year was GH¢1,400,000.00. However, fund allocated to the NPC was not adequate for its work at the national, regional and district levels. Again, the number of regions increased from 9 to 12, which comes with additional financial demands and responsibilities.



Gabriel Andoh
Chief Accountant

5.2 Partnership and other Sources of Funding

The NPC established a good working relationship with development partners and stakeholders. This led to additional technical, financial, and logistical support received from partners. These included the United Nations Development Programme, the Danish International Development Agency, United Nations Offices for West Africa and the Sahel, and the Commonwealth Secretariat. The NPC also collaborated with a number of local and international non-governmental organisations to implement key election-related programmes. These were WANEP, CDD-Ghana, IDEG, and NORSAAC/STAR-Ghana Foundation. The support from these partners complemented subventions from the Government of Ghana to the NPC which extended the reach of its programmes to constituencies at the national and sub-national levels.



THE REGIONAL OUTLOOK

SUMMARY OF KEY PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED

6. AHAFO REGIONAL PEACE COUNCIL



Kennedy Attibo
Regional Executive
Secretary

6.1 Dispute Resolution

6.1.1 Golden Team and Ata-Ne-Ata dispute

The Ahafo Regional Peace Council (ARPC) intervened in a conflict between a mining company Golden Team Mining Company and Ata-ne-Ata community in the Asutifi South District. The dispute started in the second quarter of 2020 following the death of a community member in a water body within the concession of the company. After retrieval of the body, the youth of the community attacked, vandalised and looted property of the company.

The police restored law and order, however; crime investigation was ongoing at the time of reporting. The case has been managed to a large extent by preventing further escalation. The ARPC is still conducting analysis of the situation aiming to facilitating a dialogue and reconciliation between the parties. The two sides are cooperating and the Council is confident of a successful mediation in 2021.

6.1.2 Tipokrom Chieftaincy/Land Dispute

The ARPC mediated in the chieftaincy/land dispute in Tipokrom. The mediation stalled following the demise of one of the parties. A new chief was installed and he has indicated his readiness to cooperate with the ARPC to resolve the dispute.

6.1.3 Drowaakrom Vigilante Attack

In July 2020, there was a thuggery attack of one community, Drowaakrom in the Asunafo South District resulting in the injury and displacement of persons and destruction of properties. The ARPC visited the affected community and assessed the situation. It presented a report to the District Security Community.

6.1.4 Communal and Election-related Violence

In 2020, the ARPC recorded 10 violent incidents in the region. Five of them were election-related, four were communal relating to natural resources, and one was criminal assassination. Land, natural resources and chieftaincy are major sources of threat to peace, even though the region is generally peaceful.

6.2 Election-related Activities

The ARPC observed the new Voters Registration exercise and the 7 December 2020 election. Through the support of the National Secretariat, the ARPC created awareness on the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, (Act, 999) using workshops, community fora and media advocacies. Again, the ARPC partnered with the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) and Local Council of Churches (LCC) to carry peace campaigns through peace walks and football matches.

7. ASHANTI REGIONAL PEACE COUNCIL



**Rev. Emmanuel Badu
Amoah**
Regional Executive Secretary

7.1 Dispute Resolution

a) From January to July, 2020, the Ashanti Regional Peace Council (ARPC) Mediation Committee and the Adansiman Progressive Association (APA) engaged the following royal families to resolve chieftaincy disputes: the Gyaasehene (the Regent Chief of Amankyim Akrofuom, Royal Asakyire family at Akrokyere, Royal family of Ayaase, and the Royal family of Bodwesango in the Adansi Traditional area.

b) The Standing Committee of the ARPC had an emergency meeting on 11 May, 2020 to respond to the petition received on the location of Atwima Kwanwoma District Health Directorate in Foase.

c) On 3 July 2020, the ARPC carried out preliminary investigations at Agogo in the Asante Akyim North District following the clashes between supporters of two parliamentary aspirants of the NPP in the community.

d) The ARPC collaborated with the Regional Coordinating Council and Regional Security Committee (REGSEC) to mediate the impasse that occurred at Kumasi Abattoir during the process of installing the new Chief Butcher after the demise of the Chief Butcher (Alhaji Bawa Musah Tanko). A memorandum of understanding was signed.

7.2 Election-related Activities

a) In July, 2020, the ARPC observed the Voters Registration Exercise at Asawase, Ejura Sekyere Odumasi, New Edubiase, and Sekyere Afram Plains (Drobonso). It also interacted with the leaders of political parties in these communities.

b) On 30th July, 2020, the Mediation Committee of ARPC had an engagement between the NPP and the NDC in the Ejura Sekyere Odumasi Constituency. The leaders of both parties signed a memorandum of understanding to show commitment to peace.

c) On 24 August, 2020, the Mediation Committee of the ARPC engaged the NPP and the NDC in the Asawase Constituency. The mediation was led by the Chairman of the Regional Peace Council Rt. Rev. Christopher Nyarko Andam and the former Chairman of the Governing Board of NPC, Most Rev. Prof Emmanuel Asante. A memorandum of understanding was signed by the leaders of the NPP and the NDC to show commitment to peace.

d) From July to October, 2020 the ARPC held advocacy workshops to create awareness on the



eradication of political vigilantism in communities such as Kumasi, Ejisu, Mampong, Obuasi and Offinso. Communique were issued at the end of the advocacies.

e) In November, 2020, the ARPC organised a dialogue with the youth in selected hotspots in Ahafo Ano North and Tapa Districts in the Ashanti Region on conflict prevention mechanisms.

f) The ARPC collaborated with the Ashanti Regional Cadet Corps to organise “Youth Peace Durbar” which contributed to peaceful 7 December, 2020 election. In November, the ARPC collaborated with the International Foundation for Students and Youth Development (IFSJD) to organise training programme for youth in selected communities in Ejisu Municipal and Tafo-Pankrono District Assembly. The focus of the training was on the Vigilantism Act and promotion of political tolerance and peace in the region.

g) In November, 2020, the ARPC collaborated with the Kumasi Diocese of the Methodist Church to hold a Peace Summit at Bantama to sensitise the church on peaceful 2020 election.

h) In November, 2020, the ARPC collaborated with the UNDP, National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons, NCCE, and National Kidz Peace Campaigns to organise workshop at Sekyere Afram Plains (Drobonso), Bekwai Municipality and Kumasi to sensitise political parties’ youth on conflict prevention and greater political tolerance.

7.3 Lessons

- Communication among the Ashanti Regional Peace Council, Regional Coordinating Council, Regional Security Committee, NCCE, media, and other stakeholders has been effective. This has contributed to effective information sharing on issues that threaten sustainable peace in the Ashanti Region.

- A good number of people have come to know about the work of National Peace Council in the Region, however there is still the need to intensify awareness creation and peace education programme in the region.

8. BONO REGIONAL PEACE COUNCIL



8.1 Key Programmes Implemented

a) On 19th February, 2020, the Regional Minister of Bono referred the impasse between the Berekum Municipality Assembly, and the Berekum Traditional Council and Berekum Citizens Association to the Regional Peace Council to facilitate out of court settlement. After series of engagements the parties softened their positions. The Berekum Municipality Assembly agreed to withdraw the lawsuit from the Court. On 2 December, 2020 the



**Suallah Abdallah
Quandah**
Regional Executive
Secretary

parties smoked the peace pipe and agreed to dialogue to be facilitated by the National Peace Council.

b) On 15 April, 2020, the Asutifi-South District Assembly organised a peace dialogue and stakeholders' consultative meeting, facilitated by the Bono Regional Peace Council. The meeting reconciled the two major political parties in the district, that is, the NPP and the NDC after series of clashes in the constituency following the alleged bussing of some people from other constituencies to give one political party a numerical advantage over another during the new Voters Registration exercise.

c) On the 9 July, 2020 the Bono Regional Peace Council (BRPC) participated in a training workshop organised by the Ghana Refugee Board in collaboration with the UNCHR Field Office. The BRPC facilitated modules on camp management and how to manage conflicts. Twenty-four participants made up of 14 males and 10 females were trained.

9. CENTRAL REGIONAL PEACE COUNCIL



Charles Ohene Amoh
Regional Executive
Secretary

9.1 Administrative Issues

Central region operates two offices, that is the Central Regional Peace Council (CRPC), and Effutu Municipal Peace Council (EMP) at Winneba. The Regional Executive Secretary Mr. Sulley Sumani, retired in April 2020. Mr. Charles Ohene-Amoh, who was the District Executive Secretary at Effutu Municipal Peace Council was assigned to act as the Regional Executive Secretary for Central Region, and Ms. Elizabeth Boduwah was assigned to head the Effutu Municipality Peace Council

9.2 Dispute Resolution

9.2.1 Effutu Chieftaincy Conflict Mediation

The Central Regional Peace Council, and Effutu Municipal Peace Council are mediating in the Effutu chieftaincy dispute. The work started in 2018. It is one of the prolonged chieftaincy conflicts in Ghana. The annual recurrence of this conflict particularly prior to or during the celebration of the Aboakyire festival poses danger.

In 2020, the Central Regional Peace Council held two meetings with the core stakeholders, the Otuano Royal family, Tumpa Anona Royal family, Effutu Consultative Committee, opinion leaders of Effutu and Effutu Municipality Assembly. At the last meeting held in September, 2020, the Otuano Royal Family informed the mediation committee of its withdrawal from the process, because the Tumpa Anona Family has sent the case to the Central Regional House of Chiefs. The outbreak of Covid-19 with its protocols such as ban on meetings, conferences and other social gatherings greatly affected the mediation process.



9.2.2 Election-related Activities

a) In November, 2019, the CRPC collaborated with the Canadian Funds for Local Initiative to organise a two-day training workshop to equip political and civil society leaders with skills and knowledge in conflict prevention and resolution.

b) In July, 2020, the CRPC with the support of Government of Ghana and Danish Embassy (Danida) through the head office organised a two-day advocacy workshop on Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, (Act 999) at Sasakawa Centre, UCC. Participants were drawn from the political parties, traditional and religious leaders, faith-based and civil society organisations, youth and women's groups, public organisations and the media.

c) The CRPC participated in a number of workshops, engagements, and observed the new Voters Registration Exercise, and the 2020 election.

10. EASTERN REGIONAL REPORT



Albert Prince Koomson
Regional Executive
Secretary

10.1 Key Programmes Implemented

The Eastern Regional Peace Council (ERPC) held all quarterly and two emergency committee meeting to address a number of issues which contributed to reducing violence in the region during the 7 December, 2020.

The following activities were carried:

a) twenty-six programmes were organised in 17 districts across the region including series of radio engagements. Twenty of the programmes were implemented directly by the ERPC through collaboration with Churches, Mosque, civil society organisations and the media. Six of the programmes were funded through the head office. Most of the programmes were carried out in hotspot communities in the region.

b) the community advocacy focused on the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, (Act, 999), Roadmap and the Code of Conduct to eliminating political vigilantism. It also focused on the role of political parties, youth, religious institutions, media and citizens in ensuring peaceful elections.

c) the ERPC monitored the new Voters Registration and Exhibition exercise, and 7 December 2020 election in 25 districts out of 33 in the region. The electorate were encouraged to obey the electoral rules and regulations. They also enjoined political parties to put Ghana first in order to ensure violence free election.

10.2 Lessons

The following lessons were recorded:

- Intensify public education on the mandate of the NPC through community, religious and



media platforms to increase citizens understanding of conflict prevention, management and resolution.

- Additional staffing is required to support implementation of programmes in the region.
- District Peace Councils should be created in the region for effective implementation of programmes.

11. GREATER ACCRA REGIONAL PEACE COUNCIL



Henry Attoh Okai
Principal Programmes
Manager

11.1 Key Programmes Implemented

- a) The National Secretariat supported the Greater Accra Regional Peace Council (GARPC) to organise a two-day capacity building to increase the voices and inclusion of women and youth in conflict prevention and consensus-building. The programme was organised at Prampram in Ada East Constituency.
- b) The GARPC sensitised on the youth, political parties, and selected churches on the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, 2019 (Act 999), the Roadmap and Code of Conduct. The advocacy was held in Ada, Amasaman, Tema and Obom in the Greater Accra Region.
- c) In October, 2020, the GARPC collaborated with the Accra Diocese of the Methodist Church, Ghana, and NCCE to launch a project dubbed “Methodist Youth Against Vigilantism” (MEYAV). The campaign trained over 400 young people on the need to eschew violence and contribute to peaceful 2020 election.
- d) Having identified Ashiaman and Nima as hotspots in the Greater Accra Region, selected youth in these communities were engaged in a two-day training programme to enhance their understanding on nonviolent elections and peaceful coexistence.
- e) The GARPC in collaboration with the Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons and UNDP embarked on a peace sensitisation outreach in Odododiodioo Constituency under the campaign— “Ballots Without Bullets” to educate the youth on conflict prevention during 2020 election.
- f) The GARPC carried out a number of media education aimed at greater political tolerance.





Fr. Thaddeaus Kuusah
Regional Executive
Secretary

12.1 Dispute Resolution

The Northern Regional Peace Council (NRPC) carried out the following programmes in 2020.

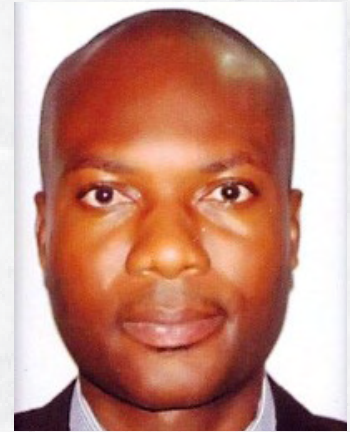
- a) The NRPC undertook preventive measures to mitigate the threats to Dagbon peace. Eleven traditional authorities in different localities were engaged.
- b) The NRPC provided technical support to Dagbon Traditional Council to organise first ever general meetings after Ya-Na Abukari Mahama II assumed in January 2019. The meeting was convened to brainstorm on action plans to sustain peace in Dagbon.
- c) In July 2020, NRPC responded to early warning reports which contributed to preventing tension from erupting into violence in Naduni.
- d) The NRPC provided technical support to the REGSEC, DIASEC and some traditional authorities to manage the Naduni land dispute, Karaga chieftaincy dispute and Yong Dakpemyili chieftaincy conflict. The violent conflicts in three communities (Kpatinga, Karaga and Yong Dakpemyili) led to the destruction of properties such as burning of houses, farm products and loss of lives.
- e) From December 2019 to January 2020, a 3-day trauma healing for conflict-affected persons in Chereponi was organised for 78 citizens (53 females and 25 male) drawn from conflict affected communities in the region. The selected communities were Tinamboni, Nangbong, Tigenga, Tambong, Asare, Nangbong, Laabangani, Kunufor, Adari, Kunkpeni, Kunagiku, Butom, Naburinu, Sunsunga, Sakpagu, Naduni, Nandele, Shidoti, Famisah, Kpantani, Gbalo, Najeri, Sankpang, Nansoni, Nabagani, and Nakpali.

12.2 Election-related Activities

The following activities were implemented:

- a) Formation of District Peace Committees at Kpandai District and Salaga Municipality Assembly to address potential threats to peaceful conduct of election in the communities.
- b) Deployed 75 community early warning monitors to observe the 7 December 2020 presidential and parliamentary elections using a checklist

13. VOLTA REGIONAL PEACE COUNCIL



Dr David Esinu Normanyo
Regional Executive
Secretary

13.1 Addressing Secessionism in the Volta Region

a) The Volta Regional Peace Council (VRPC) coordinated peacebuilding programmes in the Oti Region. The Volta and Oti Regions were relatively peaceful throughout the year 2020. Nevertheless, the activities of the secessionist groups placed a spotlight on the two regions. In an attempt to douse the threats associated with secessionism, the VRPC participated in a high-powered meeting with government officials led by the Minister for National Security Hon. Albert Kan-Dapaah, and presented an analytical report on the situation. Again, the VRPC conducted a number of preventive diplomacy and fact-finding missions in both regions. The secretariat upon the request of the Minister, submitted a proposal for sensitisation campaign in selected communities in the regions.

13.2 Conflict Resolution and Management

b) Four general meetings and two committee meetings were held in 2020. During these meetings, the conflict situation in Volta and Oti Regions were assessed, and strategies devised an attempt to address them.

c) The VRPC monitored the Alavanyo and Nkonya communities and developed a three-year conflict transformation plan aim at sustaining the peace.

d) On 30 June, 2020, the VRPC embarked on a fact-finding mission in Ketu South Municipality following the tension associated with the deployment of military personnel to the Municipality during the new Voter Registration exercise. The Council engaged the Paramount Chief of Aflao, Togbe Amenya Fifi, the Chief Executive Officer of Ketu South Municipality Assembly, the heads of security agencies and other stakeholders. The affected communities were assured of non-threatening environment for the registration process, which proceeded and ended peacefully.

e) The VRPC monitored the new Voter Registration in other communities such as Klave, Kpedze, Shia, Torkokoe, Tanyigbe-Etoe and Akoefe.

f) On 29 June, 2020, the Hon. Regional Minister of Volta referred the Regional Chief Imamship position impasse to the VRPC to facilitate a peaceful resolution. The Council held series of meetings with the factions Alhaji Alfa Anas and Alhaji Muniru Ali Mohammed. The two factions were requested to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to end the impasse, however, one expressed his disapproval of the verdict and therefore, refused to sign the MOU. He has since appealed to the National Chief Imam's verdict.



13.3 Election-related Advocacies

Through the support of head office, VRPC organised advocacies on the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, 2019 (Act 999), Roadmap and Code of Conduct targeting political parties and the youth. The advocacies contributed to peaceful conduct of the 2020 election in the region.

13.4 Challenges

g) Limited office accommodation remained a challenge to the Regional Secretariat. Timely solution to this problem will enhance effective work in the region.

14. SAVANNAH REGIONAL PEACE COUNCIL



14.1 General Conflict Situation in the Region

The Savannah Regional Peace Council (SRPC) initiated mechanisms which contribute to resolving some of the conflict in the region. This included:

- a) Damongo chieftaincy dispute which centres on competition for the skin of Damongo which became vacant after the death of Damongowura Jakpa Tuntumba II.
- b) the Bole chieftaincy dispute seems partially resolved. The dispute started from Mandari skin which became vacant after the promotion of the late Bolewura Mahama Awuladese Pontoprung II from Mandari to Bole. There are other disputes in Mandari, Jentilpe and Kafaba/Kalampor which require attention.

14.2 Challenges

- late inauguration of the 13 Council members affected early and vigorous implementation of 2020 programmes in the region, and
- residential accommodation for staff is a major challenge. This requires timely intervention.



Clifford Tampuori
Regional Executive
Secretary

15. UPPER EAST REGIONAL PEACE COUNCIL



15.1 General conflict Situation in the Region

a) The Upper East Regional Peace Council (UERPC) carried out mediation processes in the following dispute: Kasingo-Logre land dispute, Gaani-Kologo land dispute (Kassena-Nankana Municipality), Doba-Kandiga land dispute, and Bolgatanga Chieftaincy dispute.

b) Skirmishes erupted between two communities, that is, Kandiga and Doba when the former attempted to construct a police post and Community-



Ali Anankpieng
Regional Executive
Secretary

Based Health planning and Service Compound (CHPS) at Akonkongo-Abempengo Electoral Area. The people of Doba resisted the construction of the two facilities. They claimed rightful ownership of the land; yet they were not consulted over the two projects.

c) The issues escalated in April 2020 and 12 houses got blazed and six people reported dead. In December 2020, the conflict escalated again claiming three lives and about 10 houses burnt because of the weak momentum to sustain the mediation process. The UERPC continue to encourage the parties to resort to dialogue in resolving the conflict. It engaged the parties in the Gaani-Kologo and Doba-Kandiga conflict to reach a protocol that would guide farming in the area.

15.1 Election-related Programmes

- Under the auspices of the NCCE, the Upper East Regional and Bolgatanga Municipality Inter-Party Dialogue Committee (IPDC) were reactivated in February 2020 to undertake a number of activities which contributed to peaceful election in 2020. The IPDC issued press statements to defuse tension, carried out media education, and other community sensitisation which contributed to political tolerance and peaceful co-existence.
- The UERPC participated in other activities facilitated by the head office such as the Dialogue session with Youth Ambassadors organised in November 2020 at Bongo and Balsa South constituencies.

5.2 Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE)

- In March, 2020, the UERPC in collaboration with the WANEP and ELVA Organised a focus group discussion (FGD) on preventing/countering violent extremism (P/CVE). The FGD aided in collecting data to develop strategies to prevent violent extremism spillovers from the Sahel to the border regions of Ghana, especially in northern Ghana. The FGD on the P/CVE was based on the possibility of Jihadists to exploit the presence of refugees from Burkina Faso to destabilise Ghana. This was exemplified by about 200 Burkinabe from Zoaga-Zabre in the Northern Province of Burkina Faso fleeing a chieftaincy conflict to seek refuge in Ghana. Again, unbridled exploitation of natural resources is an avenue for criminal and jihadist activities in the region if unchecked.

16. UPPER WEST REGIONAL PEACE COUNCIL



16.1 Conflict Interventions

The year 2020 witnessed some pockets of disputes and conflicts in the Upper West Region which the Regional Peace Council intervened and resolved them. These included the dispute between Nanvilli and Siiro communities over land ownership, which was triggered by felling of trees in Siiro community. This led to cutting off Siiro community from the Nanvilli market which is a major trading centre. Stores of people from Siiro community were locked and market sheds destroyed. The UWRPC intervened and the issues was resolved.



Emmanuel Danyomah
Regional Executive
Secretary



Another land impasse was triggered by the discovery of mineral resources on a parcel of land between Nanvilli and Takpo. The discovery of the mineral resource led to dispute between the communities on the rightful ownership of the land. There were attempts of violent attacks, however; no destructions were recorded. The Regional Minister officially notified the UWRPC to intervene although the Peace Council had already gathered intelligence on the conflict. The dispute was resolved through dialogue which presented to both parties' options and they gladly agreed to. A peace truce was drafted and signed by the stakeholders of both communities to prevent the reoccurrence of the impasse. Another, chieftaincy conflict occurred in Pulima. The UWRPC intervene and the conflict was resolved.

16.2 Meetings, Collaborations and Partnership

The second quarterly meeting of the UWRPC was held on the 3 June, 2020 at the Upper West Regional Secretariat. The meeting discussed the conflicts within the region, the upcoming programme from USAID, 2020 election-related activities, among other administrative issues. The council members were also briefed about the meetings with the Interior of Minister in the region. The third quarterly meeting was held on the 24 September 2020. The house was briefed on activities carried out in the previous quarters. These included the advocacy campaign in Wa, Nadowli and Nandom. Again, the Members of the Council was updated on the mediation that took place in Nadowli which reconciled the impasse between Nanvilli and Takpo communities. The last quarterly council meeting for the year was held on 17 December, 2020. The meeting discussed the conduct of the 2020 elections. At the meeting Council members expressed their desire to meet with the new National Board Chairperson.

Additionally, the council met with the Upper West Queen Mother's Association to enlighten them on the roles of women in fostering and maintaining peace. The UWRPC collaborated with the Queen mother's Association to organise a peace forum at the Nandom traditional area to preach the message of peace prior to the 2020 general election.

16.3 Challenges and Constraints

- a) The UWRPC has only one vehicle which makes it difficult to coordinate both Nadowli office and the region secretariat.
- b) The Nadowli office needs additional office equipment and furniture. The office has no internet facility making it difficult to correspond with the other organisations and the headquarters.

17. WESTERN REGIONAL PEACE COUNCIL



Damien Asobayire
Regional Executive
Secretary

17.1 Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution

a) In 2020, the Western Regional Peace Council (WRPC) allocated a desk to Western North Region to intensify peacebuilding in the region.

b) The WRPC attempted to resolve a chieftaincy dispute between the Chief and Queen Mother of Anyinabrim in the Wassa East District.

c) The Executive Secretary of WRPC who is the representative of the NPC on the REGSEC took part in resolving a dispute between the Regional Chief Imam and his supporters as one faction and the Sekondi Zongo Chief and his supporters as another faction.

17.2 Institutional Collaboration

The WRPC collaborated with the Ghana Refugee Board to train 45 Camp Management Executives of the Apain and Kisan Refugee Camps in the Western Region on conflict prevention, management and resolution. Again, the WRPC collaborated with the Ghana Refugee Board and facilitated a scholarship scheme for two Ivorian Refugee students at the Takoradi Technical University in 2020.

17.3 Election-related Activities

a) The WRPC monitored the new Voters Registration exercise in 75 clusters in six constituencies in the region. Centres monitored were generally peaceful.

b) The WRPC carried out community advocacies using several platforms which contributed to peaceful election in December 2020. Some of these platforms were Churches, Mosques, musical peace concerts, games and peace walks, television and radio station discussions.

c) A two-day dialogue session was organised for 25 youth drawn from selected hotspots from the Essikado-Ketan and Ellembelle constituencies. The dialogue contributed to building their capacities as youth peace ambassadors.

d) The Electoral Commission in the Western Region organised one-day training for staff and council members of the NPC on election observation. They were accredited to observe the 7 December 2020 elections across 208 polling stations in seven constituencies.



18. RESULTS, LESSONS, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

18.1 Key Result

The following results were achieved by the NPC.

The partnerships and collaborations between the NPC and the UNOWAS, the UNDP, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Danish Embassy, NCCE, CDD-Ghana, WANEP, IDEG, NORSAAC, the National House of Chiefs, the Office of the National Chief Imam among others contributed to promoting dialogue, consensus-building and political tolerance towards peace election in December 2020.

18.2 Lessons

- a) Peace is a collective responsibility that needs the support of all stakeholders.
- b) Continuous peace education in schools and communities is required.
- c) There is the need for a broader national conversation on economic governance beyond the election year.
- d) Heavy military presence during the 2020 general elections raised some security concerns.

18.2 Challenges

- a) COVID-19 significantly delayed the implementation of programmes and activities for 2020.
- b) Increase in chieftaincy disputes is a threat to building community resilience and national cohesion.
- c) Inadequate office accommodation, funding and logistics such as vehicles, high grade computers, etc. to the National and Regional Secretariats of the NPC limit the effectiveness in delivery of its mandate.
- d) Lack of funding for monitoring and evaluation of programmes and activities at the national, regional and community levels.
- e) Delay in paying allowances to the Governing Board and the Regional Peace Councils
- f) Compensation and remuneration to technical staff is dolefully inadequate. Current pay structure does not commensurate with the nature of the work, performance, as well as fluid and security risks associated with peacebuilding.



18.3 Recommendations

- a) Government should provide the state-of-the-art office accommodation to the National Peace Council at the head office as well as office expansion at the regional levels.
- b) The Government should equip and enhance administrative capacity of the NPC with the necessary logistics such as vehicles, equipment and robust ICT infrastructure.
- c) The Government and development partners are enjoined to increase financial resources to the NPC to enhance the delivery of its mandate.
- d) Government is urged to ensure prompt payment of allowances to the Governing Board and Regional Council Members.
- e) The Governing Board should initiate measures to address low staff compensation and remuneration to commensurate with technical responsibilities, performance and impact.
- f) The NPC should establish the Peace Fund to support peacebuilding in Ghana.
- g) The Departments of Research, Monitoring and Evaluation and Conflict Management Resolution should be properly resourced to carry out data gathering, research and analysis to inform timely responses to conflicts, decisions policymaking and peacebuilding
- h) The NPC should establish protocols to enhance mediation, conflict resolution and management.
- i) The NPC should strengthen capacity of staff and management on conflict prevention and management.
- j) The Department of Capacity Building and Outreach should be strengthened to carry out advocacy and sensitisation on peacebuilding and sustainable peace.
- k) The NPC should facilitate engagement with political parties and Electoral Commission to strengthen the Inter-Party Advisory Committee (IPAC) processes.
- l) The NPC should strengthen its collaboration with the NCCE, CHRAJ, the Information Services Department, RESEG, DIASEC, Regional Coordination Councils, Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, CSOs, media and academia for peacebuilding.



