



**NATIONAL PEACE
COUNCIL**



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

2020

ERADICATING POLITICAL VIGILANTISM IN GHANA

REPORT ON THE DIALOGUE SESSIONS BETWEEN THE NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS (NDC), AND THE NEW PATRIOTIC PARTY
(NPP) FOR THE ERADICATION OF POLITICAL VIGILANTISM

GP Address: GA 054-9290

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Political violence, perpetrated by party activists, now popularly referred to as ‘vigilantes’ in Ghana’s politics, has been a feature of Ghana’s elections over the years. After an incidence of politically-related violence at the by-election conducted at the Ayawaso West Wuogon Constituency in the Greater Accra Region on January 31st, 2019, the President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, directed the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) to find ways to efface political vigilantism from Ghana. The National Peace Council (NPC) was accepted by both the NDC and the NPP as a credible institution to facilitate the dialogue. Several meetings were hosted by the NPC for the NDC and the NPP and other stakeholders as part of the dialogue process. At these meetings, the NDC and NPP consistently 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 stakeholders in the total eradication of such groups or incidents of vigilantism in the country.

Pursuant to these commitments, the NPC, with input from the parties, designed a strategic plan for the elimination of vigilantism, titled, *Roadmap to Eradicating Political Vigilantism in Ghana*. The Roadmap acknowledges the multidimensional nature of the problem of vigilantism as well as its erasure, and consequently, made specific recommendations not only to political parties, but also to various national institutions on what can or should be done to excise the menace.

This report outlines the processes that led to the creation of the Roadmap and would be a handy reference document for use in any future endeavours of the same calibre. The report is structured into three parts; Part 1 is the Introduction, Part 2 documents the processes employed (titled The Road to Peace), and Part 3 is the Outcome of the Mediation.

To conclude this Executive Summary, the National Peace Council acknowledges with gratitude both financial and technical support received from the Ministry of National Security, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Technical Team for the invaluable support throughout the process.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, directed the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) to find ways to efface political vigilantism from Ghana after an incidence of election-related violence at the by-election conducted at the Ayawaso West Wuogon Constituency in the Greater Accra Region on January 31st, 2019. The National Peace Council (NPC) was accepted by both the NDC and the NPP as a credible institution to facilitate a dialogue aimed at ending political vigilantism in Ghana. Several meetings were hosted by the NPC for the NDC, the NPP and other stakeholders as part of the dialogue process. At these meetings, the NDC and NPP consistently 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 stakeholders in the total eradication of such groups or incidents of vigilantism in the country.

In pursuit of initiating a dialogue between the two political parties, NPC Board, held an emergency meeting on March 5, 2019, to design and agree on the modalities for the dialogue to eradicate the vigilante menace. The Board proposed a mediation committee chaired by Most Rev Prof Emmanuel Asante to facilitate the dialogues, and a technical support team to assist the committee. The Mediation committee consisted of:

- Maulvi Mohammed Bin Salih
- Nana Dr. S.K.B Asante
- Mr. Shaibu Abubakar
- Apostle Prof. Opoku Onyinah
- Archbishop Nicholas Duncan Williams
- Nana Agyakuma Difie II

The Technical support team to assist the Mediation Committee consisted:

- Dr Ama Hammond – Univ of Ghana, School of Law
- Dr Patrick Osei Kufuor of the University of Cape Coast
- Nana Aborampah Mensah of Centre for Democratic Development
- George Amoh, Ag Executive Secretary of the NPC
- Representatives of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).
- Some state agencies namely NCCE, CHRAJ, and the EC.



Group photo of some members of the NPC Board and Technical Support Team



Most Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Asante, Board Chairman, National Peace Council in a chat with Dr. Bossman Asare, Deputy EC Chairman at a technical team meeting.

1.2 Contextual Analysis of Political Vigilantism in Ghana

Although Ghana is a democratic country, the conduct of elections has been characterized in some cases by sporadic violence. The violence has often been orchestrated by political parties' supporters notably pro-NDC and pro-NPP activists. The activities of these activists otherwise known as vigilantes, are allegedly sponsored by some individuals in the political parties for political gains usually at the expense of overreaching national interest, peace and security. Election-related violence and political vigilantism are not peculiar challenges confronting Ghana's democratic experience only. Indeed, post-election violence in countries such as Kenya (2007-2008), La Cote D'Ivoire (2011), and Nigeria (2012) among other countries in Africa have been deadly, resulting in loss of lives and property. Election-related violence and political vigilantism have however, gained notoriety under the Fourth Republic, particularly in bye-election in Ghana.

Increasingly, this negative political behaviour presents enormous threats to Ghana's democratic credentials, peace and security. The threats are recognised by both state and non-state actors. For example, the Government Coordinated Programme for Economic and Social Policies (2017–2024), in addressing the country's safety and security issues, reiterates that the:

“current threats to peace and security in Ghana are violent crimes such as armed robbery, tribal and chieftaincy conflicts, terrorism, vigilantism and electoral violence. The sophisticated nature of crime today requires a well-equipped security service with the capacity to act faster than the perpetrators. Current concerns for the security services include inadequate and poor-quality equipment, politicization of the security services, insufficient personnel, and weak collaboration among agencies”

Addressing this menace would require a reasoned-solution from all stakeholders. This makes the intervention by NPC imperative in leading a national dialogue to eliminating political vigilantism from political mobilisation and activism in Ghana. Per its constitutional mandate, Act 818 (2011), NPC was required to bring on board expertise to mediate, dialogue and lead the process of enjoining NDC and NPP to chart a course that will result into total eradication of political vigilantism in Ghana..

1.3 Aims & Objectives of the Dialogue

The purpose of the dialogues was to reach a voluntary consensus on eradicating vigilante activities from the Ghanaian electoral politics. In furtherance of this aim, the NPC set out the following objectives for itself:

- i. Identify the various shapes and types of vigilante groups in the country
- ii. Initiate proposals for the consideration of the parties
- iii. Facilitate the setting up of acceptable ground rules to guide the dialogue/mediation
- iv. Facilitate acceptable dates for engagements
- v. Invite participants and convene meetings, dialogues, and other interventions
- vi. Request to attend the proceedings, individuals and institutions who may have privileged information or assistance to give to the Council
- vii. Raise the required, technical and logistical support for the mediation

2.0 THE ROAD TO PEACE

2.1 Dialogue Sessions

On the road to peace, the NPC held five dialogues with the NPP and the NDC. These dialogues took place on April 9, 2019; April 29, 2019; May 27 & 28, 2019; June 25, 2019 and November 7, 2019. Three, out of these engagements produced separate communiques which indicated without doubt the preparedness, of the political parties to support efforts to deal once and for all, with the vigilante problem. (*copies of the communiques are attached hereto in appendix 2*). The dialogues were held both within and outside of Accra.



Group photo of representatives of NDC, NPP, CSOs and NPC Board after one of the Dialogues Sessions held at Peduase Valley Resort



Archbishop Nicholas Duncan Williams and Most Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Asante discussing an issue during a dialogue session.



Mr. Samuel Ofose Ampofo, Chairman of NDC and Mr. Freddie Blay, Chairman of NPP



Most Rev. Prof Emmanuel Asante having a discussion with Mr. John Boadu, Mr. George Amoh and Nana S.K.B. Asante.



A section of the NPC Eminent Members in one of the Dialogue sessions held at Peduase

2.2 Facilitation

NPC used Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms suitable for addressing the issues relating to violence in the country. The mechanisms included, but not limited to, developing a workable structure intended to fully address the issues. The Council proceeded as follows:

- Created a suitable Terms of Reference (ToR) for the dialogue/mediation committee.
- Dialogued with both parties at venues acceptable to both the NPP and NDC
- Ended with a Presentation of the Roadmap to share with the public the outcomes of the dialogues and the roadmap for addressing the issues.

The political parties also had roles to play in the dialogue process. It was agreed that;

- i. Each party would provide seven persons each to represent them in the Dialogue/mediation processes as spokespersons.
- ii. Any persons representing them at a mediation session are able to make final and conclusive decisions.
- iii. Each party must be willing to provide all relevant information that the Council may require in the processes.

- iv. The National Peace Council may conduct the dialogue/mediation in private with any of the political parties, in consultation with the other party, having regard to the nature and circumstances of the matters in difference or in dispute, and arrange meetings at times and places to suit the parties.
- v. The parties will co-operate in good-faith with the National Peace Council in implementing the agreed procedures.
- vi. The National Peace Council may conduct joint and or separate meetings with any or all of the parties at any time during the dialogue/mediation processes.

2.3 Analysis: Discussions and Key Outcomes

The first two engagements (dialogues) took place on April 9 and April 29 2019. These two meetings were pivotal in the fact that they helped lay out the foundations for future engagements and ultimately the Roadmap.

April 9 & 29, 2019 Meetings

The April 9 dialogue led to all parties agreeing to engage in deliberations aimed at;

- Disbanding vigilante groups operating within political parties or for political purposes
- Prohibiting the ownership, hiring, or utilization of such groups by the political parties or members
- Cooperating with state agencies and stakeholders in the total eradication of such groups or incidence of vigilantism.

The April 29 dialogue's key outcome was that the parties agreed that some key stakeholders should be permitted to participate in the dialogue processes. These stakeholders should be drawn from Civil Society Organizations, Religious Bodies, and the Security Agencies.

May 27 & 28 Meetings

The May 27 & 28 meetings formed the core dialogues that built on the foundations laid at the June 9 and 29 meetings. Here, the political parties and other important stakeholders made presentations addressing various issues. Below are some of the presentations that were made on the day;

- **ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL**
Most Rev. Emmanuel Asante, Chairman of the National Peace Council, read a speech on behalf of the Council. He welcomed all stakeholders and congratulated the National

Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) for the progress they had made towards eliminating political vigilantism in Ghana. He explained that politically related violence or political vigilantism had become a grave security concern in Ghana. He emphasized that politics should not lead to the creation of systems and structures that have the potential to destroy the peace and harmony that Ghana has earned for itself, and further stressed that competition for political office should be based, especially, on a desire to manage resources for socioeconomic development. He said political parties owed it to Ghanaians to desist from acts that undermine Ghana's democracy and rather resolve to settle differences with open-mindedness and respect for one another. He explained that the dialogue had to produce concrete results, some of which could enable parliament to fine-tune the Vigilantism and Related Offences bill, 2019.



Most Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Asante speaking at the dialogue session on 27th May, 2019.

- REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING/DIALOGUE

He reiterated the commitment made by the two parties to disband their vigilante groups, prohibit the utilisation of such groups, and cooperate with state agencies and stakeholders to eliminate vigilantism. He explained that in view of the many pronouncements made by

the general public denouncing politically related violence, there was no option but to derive from the dialogue, workable solutions to the incidence of political vigilantism in Ghana.



Nana S.K.B Asante making a comment at the dialogue session on 27th May, 2019.

- PRESENTATION BY THE CENTRE FOR DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT (CDD-GHANA)

Nana Aborampah Mensah, representing the CDD-Ghana, delivered a paper based on fieldwork undertaken by his outfit. Titled “*Dealing with the Vigilante Menace*”, the paper traced the escalating levels of politically related violence. He revealed that one of the main causes of vigilantism was mistrust among the parties and mistrust of the police. Among many findings, the CDD found that vigilantism is a profession, and hence emphasized the need for a more holistic approach to solving the problem. He concluded by saying that even though most Ghanaians disapproved of the activities of vigilante groups, there seemed to be a high demand for their services. He called on the police to make a genuine commitment to dealing with political vigilantism and stressed the need for the government to ensure that vigilantes are punished irrespective of their political affiliations.



Nana Aborampah Mensah making a presentation at the dialogue session on 27th May, 2019 on behalf of CDD.

- **PRESENTATION BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE**

The Deputy IGP, James Oppong Boanuh, representing the Inspector General of Police (IGP) presented a paper titled “*Vigilantism in Ghana: Challenges of vigilantism to Law Enforcement*”. Essentially, he said the police recognized that vigilantism was a serious threat to National security, and if left unpunished, had the potential to erode the trust of Ghanaians in the criminal justice system, and ultimately, undermine the rule of law. He urged all Ghanaians to collaborate to support those at the forefront of the justice system to work competently. He said the laws of Ghana, particularly the provisions of Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29) which deal with acts of violence, were not deterrent enough to discourage political vigilantism. Referring to the role of the police in managing politically related violence, Mr. James Oppong Boanuh explained that retraining the police to enhance its capacity to respond constructively to such violence was very important. He also pointed out that the police must remain impartial to restore and boost public confidence in the organisation. He further admonished Ghanaians to be more patriotic and to put the welfare of the nation before political party interests.



The IGP. James Oppong Boanuh (Right), Madam Josephine Nkrumah, Chairperson of NCCE (middle) and Nana Teiba Chinbuah (left), Head of Democratic Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster of the UNDP at the dialogue session.

- ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE (IDEG)

Dr. Emmanuel Akwetey, on behalf of the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), indicated that vigilantism is against the values of democracy. He pointed out that political parties had to restore the police to its “rightful position” by allowing it to work proficiently and by refraining from using vigilantes for their security needs. He reasoned that when ‘existential rights’ are threatened, democratic rights are relegated to the background. He explained that people are driven to vigilantism when they feel excluded and that sometimes, people will fight violently to change systems that exclude them. He said equality before the law was yet to be fully embraced in Ghana. He noted, however, that the presentations made by the preceding stakeholders did not address the underlying causes of vigilantism and that until the causes are discovered and dealt with, vigilantism will

continue. He concluded by saying that the power to take Ghana back to a truly democratic culture lies with political parties.



Mr. Kojo Impraim of the GJA and Dr. Emmanuel Akwetey of the IDEG in a discussion in one of the dialogue sessions.

- **PRESENTATION BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS (NDC)**

The National Democratic Congress, represented by Mr. Nana Ato Dadzie, presented a paper titled “*Electoral violence and insecurity: A threat to Ghana’s Democracy, Peace and Stability.*” Basically, the paper was a recollection of statements against vigilantism made in the past by public figures. Mr. Dadzie enlightened that, vigilantism is a real threat and must be contended with before it spirals out of control. He indicated that there was a perception of state-sponsored vigilantism in Ghana. He also said that even though the Deputy IGP, in his address, bemoaned the low penal sanctions attached to the provisions applicable to politically related violence in Act 29, the NDC was yet to see any prosecutions of offenders. In response to a question by Nana Dr. SKB Asante regarding the meaning of state-sponsored vigilantism, Mr. Ato Dadzie explained that the National Security outfit by article 83 of the 1992 Constitution, was not the operational arm of the police, consequently, for the outfit to publicly operate as such during the Ayawaso West Wuogon by-elections,

as revealed during the Short Commission hearings, was against the constitution and questionable.

Mr. Segbefia, also representing the NDC, noted that the presentations made did not provide solutions to vigilantism, and in addition, focused on political vigilantism and not vigilantism generally. Pointing out that vigilantism is a source of livelihood for some people, Mr. Segbefia advocated a more comprehensive solution to the problem. He said persons caught acting as vigilantes had to be prosecuted in order to send an unequivocal message to the public that vigilantism will not be tolerated and offenders will not be protected. He expressed the opinion that there was an obvious reluctance to prosecute offenders and insisted that it was imperative at some point to put patriotism above party politics. He said the NDC did not agree that the penal sanctions attached to provisions in question in Act 29 were low because there are other offences in Act 29 that are felonies, and under which offenders could be prosecuted. He pointed out that there was a perception that some of the security agencies have been infiltrated by vigilantes, a perception is borne out by evidence presented to the Emile Short commission of inquiry, established by the President to investigate the incidents of violence that characterised the Ayawaso West Wuogon by-elections. He said he suspected the Short Report had answers to a number of nagging questions about vigilantes and their activities.



The NDC Team in one of the dialogue sessions held at Peduase

- **PRESENTATION BY THE NEW PATRIOTIC PARTY (NPP)**

Mr. John Boadu, speaking on behalf of the NPP, seemed to blame the police for the increase in politically related violence. He narrated different instances at Tema, Talensi and Chereponi where police officers appeared reluctant or unable to protect civilians for fear of heavily built and armed political vigilantes. He maintained that, at least, his government (the NPP) had demonstrated the political will to deal with the menace by setting up the Emile Short commission of inquiry. He expressed surprise and satisfaction at the commitment shown by the NDC in eradicating vigilantism. He said his party was willing to abide by the ground rules agreed upon by the meeting and not to do anything that would undermine them. He said the NPP was willing to contribute to refining the Vigilantism and Related Offences bill and to sensitizing their members/followers to the dangers of vigilantism. He restated said his party was willing to commit to ending vigilantism, ensuring the disbandment of vigilante groups, guaranteeing an incident-free 2020 election and making Ghana a global example of a functioning democracy.

Mr. Yaw Buaben Asamoah, also representing the NPP, said vigilantism is not new in Ghana. He said vigilantism is a culture in Ghana's politics and that the NDC regimes witnessed

many forms of abuses. Seemingly responding to the allegation of state-sponsored vigilantism, he said the NDC had in the past, recruited its members into the security agencies, and cautioned the NDC to desist from ‘victimising’ the NPP just because the latter is in power. He said that President of the Republic had vowed to stop vigilantism and had taken tangible steps, such as establishing the Emile Short Commission of inquiry and introducing the Vigilantism and Related Offences bill, to end vigilantism in Ghana. Replying to accounts of acts of violence ostensibly perpetrated by the NPP, Mr. Buaben Asamoah warned that the dialogue could be curtailed by shortsighted historical accounts of abuses. He said that the professional capacity of the Police had to be enhanced in order to guarantee the effective prosecution of violators of the law. He said the party in power, especially, had to take a definite stand against vigilantism and to make it clear to Ghanaians that vigilantism would not be countenanced.



The NPP Team in one of the dialogue sessions at Peduase.

- **STATEMENT BY THE GHANA CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE**

Father Lazarus commended the parties, the government and the NPC on their commitment to eradicating vigilantism in Ghana. Condemning vigilantism, he explained that it

undermines the rule of law. Father Lazarus dwelt extensively on the causes of vigilantism and possible solutions. He explained the importance of finding economic activities for the unemployed, especially the youth who engage in political vigilantism as a source of income. He said there was the need to find social activities for the youth who see their involvement in political vigilantism as defining and giving meaning to their lives (power, esteem, prestige and a sense of belonging). He expressed the view that Ghana is a deeply unequal society and insisted on the creation of mechanisms to promote even distribution of resources to give everyone a fair level of economic security. He also indicated that the “winner takes all” syndrome in Ghana’s political system must be addressed to deal with vigilantism. He maintained that there should be decisive actions against corruption, and further pointed out that, the police must be well-resourced and insulated from party politics.

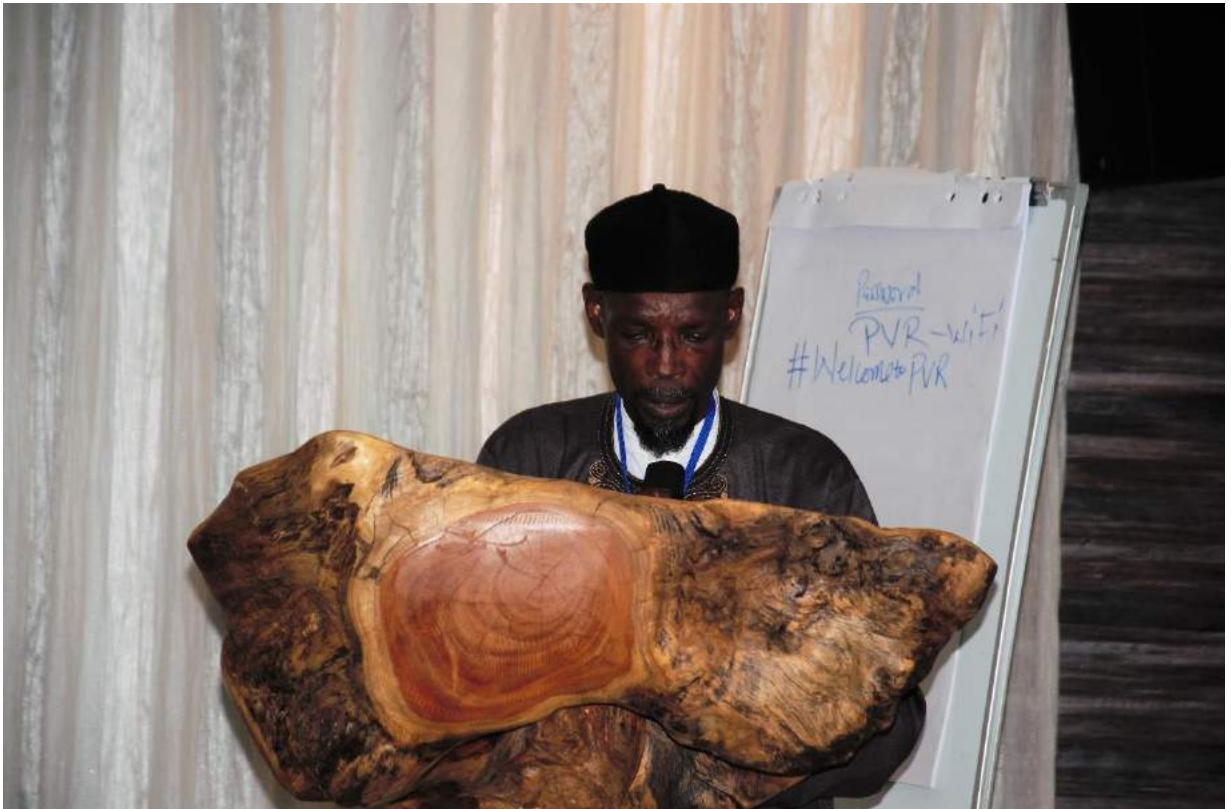


A section of Clergy and CSO in one of the dialogue sessions in Peduase

- PRESENTATION BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CHIEF IMAM

Sheikh Aremeyaw, on behalf of the Chief Imam, presented a paper titled “*Reflections on the Search for a Sustainable Solutions to the Menace of Vigilantism*”. He said vigilantism was a source of national concern as it posed a serious threat to the security of the country. He said that among other threats, it disrupted democratic progress and national

development. He explained that the use of vigilantes by the elite was a serious problem because the credibility of any election depends on a process that is considered free, peaceful, fair and transparent. To eradicate vigilantism, he suggested the promotion of an independent police service, the effective education of citizens on the dangers of vigilantism, expeditious prosecution of perpetrators of politically related violence, a well-trained police force and a genuine commitment to peace by the political parties.



Sheikh Armiyawo Shaibu speaking at the dialogue session on 27th May, 2019.

- PRESENTATION BY THE GHANA-INDIA KOFI ANNAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN ICT

Dr. Kwesi Aning presented a paper titled *“The Scars of Vigilantism: A Legal or Political Question”*. He acknowledged the rising spate of political party vigilantism but admitted that it has always been a characteristic of the political culture of Ghana. He traced the primary cause of vigilantism to what he termed: “political patronage and the culture of rent-seeking.” He said uncontrolled vigilantism could potentially create serious security problems for Ghana and underscored the need to pay closer heed to ‘organised’ approaches to violence and ultimately, security concerns.



Prof. Kwesi Aning of KAIPTC at one of the dialogue sessions in Peduase

The May 27 & 28 meetings ended with a communique in which it was agreed that the National Peace Council with the support of technical experts, and with input from the two political parties (NDC & NPP), will present a working document on a roadmap for the consideration of the parties, taking into account the reports submitted by the various stakeholders within a period of four (4) weeks.

June 20, 2019 Meeting

A fourth meeting took place on June 20th 2019. At this meeting a Draft Roadmap was presented by the Peace Council, but after some hours of dialoguing, the NDC especially felt that the parties were not given enough time to make input into the Draft Roadmap. After some deliberation, it was agreed to give two weeks to both the NDC and the NPP to submit their final input into the Draft Roadmap and the Code of Conduct to the Peace Council. By July 15, both parties had submitted their inputs for consideration in the Roadmap.

November 7, 2019 Meeting

The NDC and NPP were invited to another dialogue, which took place in Peduase Resort, to consider the input that they have made through the submission of additional papers. In that meeting however, the NDC could not attend as scheduled. They informed the NPC through their Director of Communication, that the key persons who represent the party at the dialogues will be attending to an invitation by the Court in a matter filed against the Chairman of the Party, Hon Ofosu Ampofo.

Upon some consultations among the Eminent Members present, the Board decided to continue the meeting. The Chairman, Most Rev Prof Emmanuel Asante, then opened the meeting, by stressing the need to build consensus on the Roadmap for effective implementation. When discussion on the Roadmap started, the NPP had very few comments to make on the revised Roadmap. The concern that the NPP raised regarding the inclusion of some portions of the Justice Emil Short's Committee's Report on the Ayawaso West Wuogon bye-election in January 2019, was addressed. The meeting which lasted for barely two hours was concluded with the assurance that the Council will still expect submission from the NDC to bring closure to the dialogue.

3.0 OUTCOME OF THE DIALOGUE

3.1 The Roadmap

All the above efforts culminated in the creation of a document to guide behaviour with regards to political vigilantism in Ghana. The document was titled “*Roadmap and Code of Conduct for the Eradication of Political Vigilantism in Ghana*”. The Roadmap set out the norms and principles adopted to guide the elimination of politically related violence or vigilantism and to contribute to securing sustainable peace in Ghana.

The roadmap acknowledges the multidimensional nature of the problem of vigilantism as well as its eradication, and consequently, made recommendations not only to political parties, but also to various national institutions on what can be done to efface vigilantism. The roadmap also emphasized why the recommendations must be carried out and the sequence in which they must be carried out. However, the roadmap is not an implementation plan, and accordingly, does not describe how the proposed recommendations must be executed by the various institutions. Nevertheless, the NPC advised the implementing institutions in question to develop action plans to implement the recommendations made. Additionally, the NPC committed to working with the organisations to develop and execute their action plans.

3.2 Lessons Learnt

In the course of facilitating the process towards the creation of the Roadmap and Code of Conduct, the National Peace Council picked up lessons that are documented here for learning and to help other such institutions that may want to engage in such a process.

First, the National Peace Council learned the value of impartially carrying the political parties along. The NPC did this by consulting the parties at every step of the process. Most importantly, the NPC got the parties buy-in in the creation of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the whole process. This ensured that even in difficult times of disagreement, the parties continued to stay at the mediation table.

Also, the NPC learned the value in having a strong technical team to support the mediation efforts. The technical team’s knowledge came in handy in the production of research to support the mediation, and the drafting of all necessary documents including papers and communiques. The

presence of the technical committee also allowed the Mediation Committee the needed latitude to concentrate on their core mandate. This led to the successful mediation, as evidenced by the signed Roadmap and Code of Conduct.

Another learning point from the dialogue is the need for the appointment of the heads of National Security institutions, particularly, the Police Service and the Armed Forces, to have their independence and a tenure of office in order to carry on their mandate with effectiveness and professionalism devoid of intimidation and fear.

The dialogue has proven that Ghana has the resilience to overcome potential issue that can divide the country such as the vigilante malaise. Besides, the leadership of the two main political parties in Ghana, the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC), in the dialogue have demonstrated, that despite our differences as people, our leaders are able to sit together and take decisions of national interest when the necessary environment is provided.

Additionally, through the dialogue it has been learnt that with the requisite support the national peace infrastructure can be responsive to emerging threats to national peace and stability. It's for example the first time the National Peace Council, facilitated a dialogue of high political interest, and consequences like the eradication of politically motivated vigilante activities. It has given the National Peace Council the leverage for engagement in similar threats to peace and security in the country.

Lastly, the mediation process also benefitted from the collaboration with some key national institutions and Civil Society. The participation of CHRAJ, NCCE, EC, Ghana Police Service, Small Arms Commission, KAIPTC and Religious Groups such as Catholic Bishops' Conference, Christian Council, Office of The National Chief Imam, Ghana Pentecostal Council, National Council For Christian and Charismatic Churches, and CSOs such as CDD, WANEP, GJA and IDEG gave the process a strong support and a legitimacy as they served as impartial third parties in the mediation process.

3.3 Next Steps

As stated earlier, the National Peace Council envisages roadmap not as an implementation plan and so does not describe how concerned parties should execute the proposed recommendations. The NPC has advised the concerned parties and institutions to develop action plans to implement

the recommendations. The NPC reiterates its commitment to working with these parties to develop and execute their action plans in order to lead to sustainable peace.

NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL
NPP NDC vigilante groups in Ghana

Communiqué:

The National Peace Council met with key members of the two main political parties in Ghana, namely, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP), in response to a call by the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, in his State of the Nation address to eradicate political vigilantism.


After an open and exhaustive deliberation, the parties agreed that vigilantism is inimical to Ghana's democratic system and must be eradicated;

With respect to the immediate focus of the mediation or dialogue, the NDC is of the view that it should be the eradication of "political vigilantism in all its ramifications," while the NPP is of the opinion that the focus should be "political party vigilantism in all its ramifications." Significantly though, both parties agree to engage in deliberations aimed at:


1. Disbanding vigilante groups operating within political parties or for political purposes;
2. Prohibiting the ownership, hiring, or utilization of such groups by the political parties or members thereof;
3. Cooperating with state agencies and stakeholders in the total eradication of such groups or incidence of vigilantism in the country.

It should be noted that the two parties are also committed to exploring other processes in relation to the elimination of vigilantism.

Signed (NDC):


Samuel Ofori-Ampofo
Chairman (NDC)

Signed (NPP):


Freddie Blay
Chairman
N.P.P.

National Peace Council (NPC):



Dated this 9th day of April, 2019.

NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL

Meeting between the National Democratic Congress and the New Patriotic Party on the eradication of vigilantism

Communiqué

The National Peace Council met with key members of the two main political parties in Ghana, namely, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) as part of a process aimed at: (1) disbanding vigilante groups operating within or for political purposes; (2) prohibiting the ownership, hiring, or utilisation of such groups by the political parties or members thereof; (3) cooperating with state agencies and stakeholders in the total eradication of such groups or incidents of vigilantism in the country

After an open and exhaustive deliberation, the parties agreed on the immediate scope of the dialogue. In this regard, the parties agreed to commence a discussion on the elimination of vigilantism with other key stakeholders and experts. These stakeholders shall include representatives of Civil Society Organisations, Security Agencies and Religious Bodies.

Dated this 29th Day of April, 2019.

Name (NDC): S. Ofori-Ampofo Name (NPP): Freddie Riley

Signed (NDC): [Signature] Signed (NPP): [Signature]

Name (NPC): NANA SKB ANATE

Signed (NPC): [Signature]

COMMUNIQUÉ

THE NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL

STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON THE ERADICATION OF POLITICAL VIGILANTISM IN GHANA

On the 27th and 28th of May, 2019, the National Peace Council facilitated a national dialogue, which comprised of representatives of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Religious Organisations and the Security Agencies, to consider practical ways of eradicating political vigilantism in Ghana. The dialogue provided an expert overview of the nature, scope and dangers of political vigilantism, as well as a much-needed forum for the stakeholders to present their perspectives on vigilantism and articulate the challenges they face in their attempt to contend with the phenomenon. Pursuant to the earlier communiqués signed by the parties, aimed at disbanding their vigilante groups, prohibiting the utilisation of such groups, and cooperating with state agencies and stakeholders to eliminate vigilantism in Ghana, the National Democratic Congress and the New Patriotic Party agreed that:

1. The National Peace Council, with the support of technical experts, and with input from the two political parties, will present a working document on a roadmap for the consideration of the parties, taking into account the reports submitted by the various stakeholders at the just ended dialogue on the eradication of political vigilantism. This will be done within a period of four (4) weeks;
2. The draft Code of Conduct designed by the National Peace Council will be considered as one of the deliverables in the preparation of the roadmap.

Name (NDC): S. Ofori-Ampofo Signed (NDC): [Signature]

Name (NPP): Freddy Day Signed (NPP): [Signature]

Name (NPC): NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL Signed (NPC): [Signature]

PICTURE GALLERY

















APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – The Roadmap & Code of Conduct



FINAL 31 JAN 2020
ROADMAP & CODE

Appendix 2 – Communiques

Appendix 3 – Speeches/presentations

Appendix 4 – Participant Lists

Appendix 5 – Picture Gallery