The NCCE Greater Accra Regional Office, on the 10th of February, 2016, educated drivers of the Private Road Transport Association (PROTAO) at Kokomlemle in Accra on the need for political tolerance before, during and after the 2016 general elections. Mr. Sulemana Bayensi and Mr. Albert Odoi Anim both PCEOs facilitated the programme.

Mr. Sulemana Bayensi in a statement said that elections was one of the key components of our democratic dispensation since it enables citizens to exercise their franchise by electing leaders to govern them. He encouraged drivers to be more tolerant and to respect the opinions of everyone during discussions of national interest. He cited examples of countries that had been torn apart due to political intolerance. Mr. Bayensi advised drivers to desist from:

- Removing and destroying banners, flags and posters of other opponents
- The use of provocative language against opponents during party rallies and meetings
- Transporting armed supporters to their opponents' camps to destroy their items.
- Teasing opponents who lose elections.

Mr. Bayensi urged the drivers to be ambassadors of peace in their homes, workplaces and the society in general for a peaceful free and fair elections before, during and after the general elections.
The NCCE Ga West Municipal office organized a community durbar to enhance community involvement in the local government system. The durbar which was supported by the European Union (EU) focused on promoting community participation in the local government units at the grassroots level. The programme was attended by chiefs and elders of Asofan and Ofankor, the Presiding member of the Amasaman Municipal Assembly, Assembly and Unit Committee members, Opinion leaders, Faith-Based Organizations, Youth/Women’s groups and other identifiable bodies.

The Municipal Director of NCCE, Mr. Robert Anas-Okoe pointed out the need for traditional leaders and Unit committee members to lead the people to initiate their own projects which would be incorporated into the Municipal Assembly’s strategic plans. He further sensitized the participants on the role and structures of the local government system. He said the local government system was considered very important as it was to bridge the gap between political and administrative relations and the citizenry. He noted that the contributions of the Presiding Member, Members of Parliament, Municipal Chief Executives was key to the development of the local communities.

Mr. Robert Anas - Okoe Municipal Director
Mr. Robert Anas - Okoe Municipal Director
Mrs. Joyce Afutu, NCCE Director of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Department disclosed in an interview with Ghanaian times that, the Commission’s outlined activities for the 2016 general elections would focus on political tolerance. The Director expressed worry about how people were more concerned about their rights whiles neglecting their duties towards national development. She also stressed that, the NCCE was doing everything possible to sensitize Ghanaians on the democratic process. Mrs. Afutu stated that, the introduction of the Electronic constitution game in the second cycle schools was helping the students to study the constitution and know their rights and duties as citizens of the country.
EASTERN REGION LAUNCHES MAIDEN EDITION OF E-CONSTITUTION GAME COMPETITION

The maiden edition of the E-Constitution Game competition was held at the Assembly Hall of Pope John Senior High School and Minor Seminary (POJOSS), Koforidua on January 6, 2016. The theme for the competition was “Ambassadors for peace in 2016 and beyond”. Five Senior High Schools participated in the competition.

A comprehensive training programme was organised and delivered by the regional office for the selected schools. The main purpose was to expose students to the game and prepare them for the actual competition. A total of 100 students were trained on the concept, rules and regulations on the E-Constitution. After the training, contestants were made to rehearse on the game before the actual competition.

The competition was chaired by Mr. Rexford Kofi Agyarkwa, Deputy Regional Director of the Ghana Education Service (GES). He encouraged the students to increase their knowledge on the Constitution through the game. The Assistant Headmaster of POJOSS, Mr. Joseph Owusu stated that such educative programmes should be organised periodically and therefore urged the students to take the game seriously. He added that the absence of Aburi Girls SHS was due to the final funeral rite of Okuapemhene, Oseadeeyo Addo Dankwa III.

The Regional Director of NCCE, Mr Alex Sackey in a brief address said the E-Constitution Game was an innovation of existing models and Eastern Region was the first to host it. Mr. Sackey reminded the students of how important it was as future leaders to support the democratic process. The Deputy Chairman of NCCE, Ms Josephine Nkrumah explained that the game aimed at building knowledge and understanding of the constitution. She further encouraged the students to be good citizens, law abiding and to participate in communal activities.

Mr. Zakaria Katugu and Mr John Doe, the quiz masters, took the students through the rules and regulations of the E-constitution game, entreated the contestants to be focused and understand the game as that would give them a better chance to win the competition.

Nine (9) Senior High Schools each represented by four contestants participated in the four-round competition. The competition ended with Attafuah SHS who took the (1) first position, Asamankese SHS (2) second position, Kade SecTech (3) third position, Islamic Girls SHS (4) fourth position, Krobo Girls SHS (5) fifth position, Nkwatia presby SHS (6) sixth position, Pope John SHS (7) seventh position, Oforipanyin SHS (8) eighth position and Yilo Krobo (9) Ninth position.

The Attafuah SHS which won the competition received an HP Desktop computer. The rest of the schools were presented with NCCE-branded T-shirts and copies of the 1992 constitution.

Mr Agyarkwa, in his closing remarks, applauded all the contestants and encouraged them to be motivated by participating in the game. He added that GES would readily support educative programmes like the E-constitution game in order to promote knowledge of the Constitution among students.
Mr. Samuel Akuamoah, the Deputy Chairman for NCCE has advised political parties and their supporters to stop the politics of insults. He expressed worry at the disparaging remarks made against political opponents just to defame them in the public eye. He said, that could stifle the nation’s multiparty democracy and be a catalyst for trouble.

Mr. Akuamoah spoke at a community durbar held at Abuakwa in the Atwima-Nwantiagya District as part of intensified efforts by the Commission to reduce tension ahead of the November 7, general elections. The programme organised with the support of the European Union (EU) brought together chiefs, assembly members, unit committee members, religious and other opinion leaders, teachers, market women, youth groups and representatives of trader’s associations. Mr. Akuamoah called for responsible conduct, decency and decorum and urged Ghanaians to work together to create a healthy political environment to sustain the country’s democracy.

Alhaji Alhassan Yakubu, the Ashanti Regional Director of the NCCE, appealed for increased support to enable it carry out its constitutional mandate effectively. He commended the EU, for assisting the Commission to educate the citizenry on their civic rights and responsibilities.

Mr. Emmanuel Antwi, a District Director of the Commission, underlined the need for cooperation and understanding between the assembly members and unit committees to tackle the needs of the communities. The Deputy District Coordinator Director, Mr. Kaleem Abdallah Adam, however discouraged chiefs and other opinion leaders from setting sexual abuse and other criminal cases out of courts.

The NCCE Volta Regional Director, Mr. Keneth Kponor has called on the newly elected assembly members to regularly consult their electorates for their contributions before assembly meetings. He said, that would engender greater cooperation and understanding from the electorates in the discharge of their duties and to rekindle community participation of local government units. Mr. Kponor made this known during a community sensitization durbar held at Hlevi, in the south Tongu District of the Volta Region.

The programme, sponsored by the European Union (EU), was to create the platform for all stakeholders to meet and educate the citizenry on the inter-relationship between unit committees and assembly members. According to Mr.Keponor, “the participation of the people was the key success of any democratic dispensation hence the need to involve the electorates in the decision making processes”. He explained that, NCCE’s theme “MY GHANA: THE POWER OF ONE” which focused on the power of the individual to effect change would serve as the guideline for its education outreach programmes in 2016.

The South Tongu District Director Mr. Oral-Robert Amenyo who spoke on the topic “The local Government Concept in Ghana,” urged community members as well as assembly/unit committee members to patronize NCCE programmes which would enable them to express their opinions, present ideas and demand accountability from duty bearers. He said, the Commission would soon roll out a comprehensive outreach programmes to engage the people on the upcoming 2016 general elections on topical issues including debates and discussions on political tolerance, peace building and conflict management.

The Assembly Member of Hlevi/Toklokpo electoral area, Mr. Innocent Gbedzi, mentioned financial constraints as a stumbling block in the discharge of their duties. He said there was the need to consider remunerating The Assembly Members since they use their personal earnings to carry out public work, which he said...
NCCE ENGAGES STAKEHOLDERS ON CONFLICT MANAGEMENT IN FLASH POINT AREAS

The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) as part of its outlined activities for the year is undertaking Peace Building engagements in 11 communities across the country between 22nd February and 5th March, 2016. The activities are expected to help minimise conflicts in flashpoint areas to create the necessary environment for democratic governance to thrive.

Peace is seen as a necessary basis for active participation of the entire citizenry in the democratic process. Conflict and the absence of peace therefore limit the ability of citizens who live in these areas to exercise their democratic rights as well as go about their day-to-day activities peacefully.

The activities would bring together stakeholders on conflict resolution towards national peace, to improve unity and harmony in the beneficiary communities. It would target flashpoint areas or potential trouble spots across the country to stem the tide of any potential violent conflict or its recurrence. This is critical in ensuring that the electioneering process towards the 2016 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections take place within an atmosphere of peace. These activities would emphasise the need for communities to resort to lawful means in resolving and managing conflicts.

The NCCE is collaborating with the National Peace Council and the Small Arms Commission in the implementation of the activities and they are being supported by the European Union to help deepen and consolidate Ghana's democracy.

Beneficiary communities include Alavanyo Kpeme and Nkonya Ahenkro in the Volta Region; Tamale, Bunkpurugu and Yendi in the Northern Region; Akwatia in the Eastern Region; Bolgatanga and Bawku in the Upper East Region; Kukuom in the Brong-Ahafo Region; Nandom in the Upper West Region and Old Tafo in the Ashanti Region.

was affecting them financially.

He urged the electorates to know that their work was voluntary and sacrificial and that they should desist from making unnecessary demands on them. Mr. Gbedzi appealed to the government, law makers and district assemblies to consider resourcing assembly and unit committee members to perform their duties to give true meaning to the local government system in Ghana.