

# **ETHICS, CODE AND CONDUCT FOR ELECTION OBSERVER**

## **Domestic, International Observers and Media**

Observers help to ensure that the elections are conducted with high degrees of transparency and credibility.

- I. Mass media are close partners in AKISIEC's efforts to disseminate timely and accurate information to voters, as well as relevant and effective messages to the population based on principles of fairness and equality.
- II. Domestic, international, and media observers who possess the official AKISIEC accreditation must be granted unrestricted access to the polling unit and collation centers to perform their respective tasks.
- III. When overcrowding impedes the smooth flow of the polling process or the transparent conduct of the counting activities, the Collation officer or PO may decide to limit the number of observers and media representatives to be simultaneously present at the collation center and polling unit respectively by alternating their presence.
- IV. Observers and media are not allowed to wear the badge or symbol of any political party or hold media interviews within the Polling Unit.

## **Rights of Observers/Media**

Observers have the following rights:

1. Observe all stages of the voting and counting processes, except voter's thumb printing their ballot.
2. Cover the voting and counting processes.
3. Speak to the PO or other Polling Unit Officials; ask professional questions, without disrupting their work.
4. Draw to the attention of the PO any irregularity they have observed.
5. Take pictures at the polling units and collation centers, except when a voter is thumb printing.

## **Responsibilities of Observers/Media**

Observers and the Media have the following responsibilities:

- I. Always display the AKISIEC Accreditation badge.
- II. Behave appropriately during the polling, counting, and collation processes. Be neutral and non-partisan.
- III. Not to interfere with or influence voters.
- IV. Not to intimidate any election officials.
- V. Not to touch or handle any election materials, including ballot papers and the Register of Voters.
- VI. Not to conduct interviews in the Polling Unit.
- VII. Abide by any decision made by the Presiding Officer.