



**CARE FOR FREE
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PRESS STATEMENT

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THE LOSS OF FIVE BVR LAPTOPS AT EC HEARD QUARTERS NECESSITATE AN URGENT INDEPENDENT SYSTEM AUDIT TO VERIFY THE INTEGRITY OF VOTER DATA STORED

The recent loss of five Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) laptops at the Head Quarters of the Electoral Commission (EC) underscores the urgent need for a thorough and transparent system audit before the commencement of the limited voter registration exercise. Care for Free and Fair Elections Ghana (“CARE” GHANA) calls for an exigent audit to detect any unusual or suspicious activities related to the use of biometric devices, such as unauthorized access attempts or discrepancies in device inventory. This will help assess and mitigate any risk associated with the loss of the BVR laptops and enable the implementation of necessary safeguards to prevent future breaches.

The function of the BVR laptops include capturing and storing biometric data of voters, transfer of voters and deleting voter’s information from a data base. As a result, the audit must focus on verifying the integrity of voter data stored and processed, ensuring that it remains accurate, reliable, and secure. It must also review software integrity, hardware security, data management, and security measures of Ghana’s election infrastructure. Early detection of anomalies allows for timely intervention to prevent potential security breaches, maintain the trustworthiness of the electoral process and prevents data manipulation or tampering.

The enormity associated with the loss of the BVR laptops cannot be trivialized, particularly, if these laptops fall into wrong hands, they could be tampered with or used for fraudulent voter registrations and manipulate voter data.

The BVR laptop is designed to ensure the accuracy and integrity of voter data. Losing these laptops could result in the loss of important voter information, leading to confusion, disputes, and potential inaccuracies in the voters register affecting election outcomes.

“CARE” GHANA urge the Electoral Commission to demonstrate commitment to upholding electoral integrity by facilitating an independent and transparent audit process. Stakeholder involvement and public scrutiny are essential to ensure the credibility and legitimacy of the audit findings. The integrity of our electoral process is sacrosanct and must be protected at all costs. It is incumbent upon the Electoral Commission to act swiftly and decisively to restore public trust and confidence in the processes leading to the 2024 general elections.

Thank you

Signed:

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