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EYE ON WEST AFRICA (October 11 - October 26)

1 message

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Eye on West Africa

41 Days to Ghana's General Election

Historical Context and Trends

Ghana is gearing up for one of its most fiercely contested elections in the Fourth Republic on December 7, 2024. Since the advent of multi-party democracy in 1992, no political party has successfully secured more than two consecutive terms in office, creating a unique backdrop for this election. Over 19 million eligible voters will head to the polls as the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) aims to break the so-called "third-term curse." Meanwhile, the main opposition party, the National Democratic Congress (NDC), led by former President John Mahama, seeks to reclaim power after his defeat in 2016.

Historical Context and Election Trends

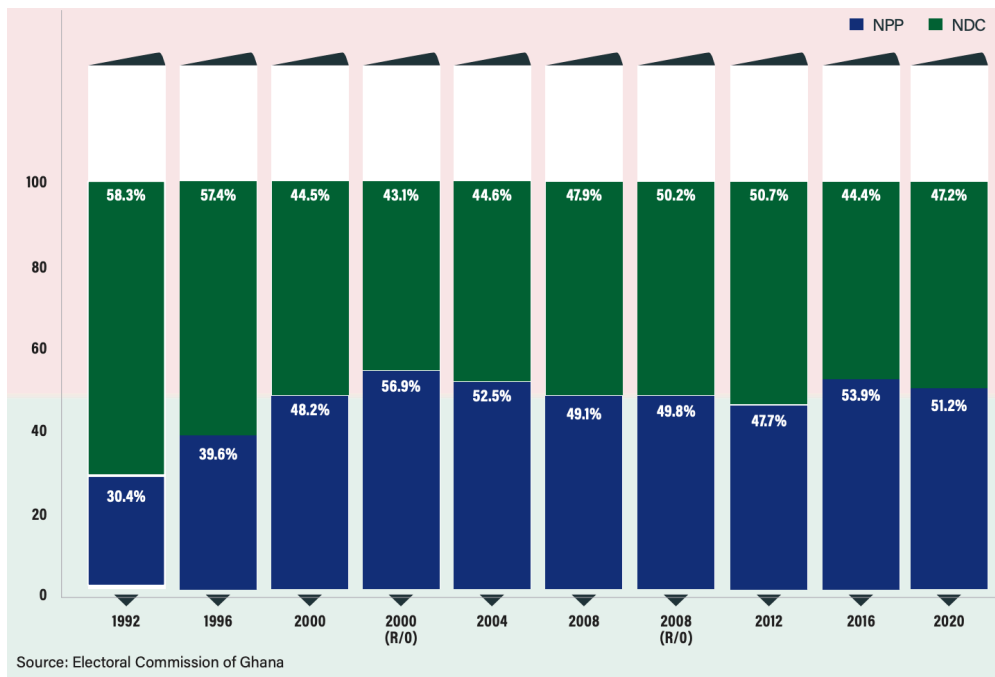
Since 1992, the NPP and NDC have dominated Ghanaian politics, each winning four presidential elections. The NDC initially led the charge, winning the first two elections in 1992 and 1996 under Jerry John Rawlings. However, the NPP, led by John Agyekum Kufuor, broke through in 2000 after a runoff, marking its first victory in the Fourth Republic.

Ghana's Presidential Election Results (1992-2020)

From 1992 to 2020, Ghana has held eight general elections, with the NPP and NDC each claiming victory four times. The NDC's first win in 1992 saw them garner 58.3% of valid votes, but since then, their winning percentage has fallen below 51%. In contrast, the NPP has maintained a stronger position, consistently winning with margins exceeding 51% since their 2000 victory.

The NPP retained power in 2004 but lost to the NDC in 2008 after a runoff. Mahama then secured the presidency for the NDC in 2012, only to be defeated by Nana Akufo-Addo of the NPP in 2016, marking the first instance of an incumbent president losing re-election. The 2016 election recorded the highest margin of victory since 2000, with Akufo-Addo receiving 53.9% of the votes. In the subsequent 2020 election, he was re-elected in the first round with 51.3% of the total votes cast.

As the December 7 elections approach, the stakes are high for both parties, setting the stage for a pivotal moment in Ghana's democratic journey.



Stay tuned for more updates as Ghana prepares for its upcoming general election.

WADEMOS will provide you with the latest news, candidate profiles, and analysis to keep you informed.

Countries in Political Transition

Mali Promotes Military Leaders and Announces \$332 Million Debt Repayment Plan

Mali's transitional president and five other colonels have been promoted to the rank of general "on an exceptional basis"

during a recent Council of Ministers meeting.

In conjunction with the promotions, Economy Minister Alousseni Sanou announced a plan to address the country's internal debt by repaying 200 billion CFA francs (approximately \$332 million) until the end of the year.

Speaking on state television, Sanou acknowledged the "increasing challenges we face" but did not disclose the total amount of Mali's internal debt.



Read more [here](#)



Read more [here](#)

Burkina Faso: Médecins Sans Frontières Suspends Activities in Djibo

On October 21, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) announced a temporary suspension of its operations in Djibo, northern Burkina Faso.

This decision comes in response to ongoing security incidents that have targeted health centers, water distribution points, and their facilities, raising significant concerns for the safety of staff and the communities they serve.

Burkina Faso: Military Law Reform and Cultural Attire Initiative in the Judiciary

This week, Burkina Faso's government approved a draft law to improve the General Status of Personnel in the National Armed Forces, addressing issues related to disciplinary sanctions and counter-terrorism efforts.

Additionally, two decrees were adopted allowing judges and clerks to wear courtroom attire made from traditional



Read more [here](#)

Faso Danfani fabric, promoting cultural heritage within the judiciary.

Burkina Faso Arrests 358 for Terrorism-Related Espionage



Burkina Faso's Ministry of Security has announced the arrest of 358 individuals for acts of terrorist-related espionage across the country.

These arrests occurred between September 4 and October 4, 2024.

Read more [here](#)

Niger Bans Food Exports Except to Alliance of Sahel States

President Abdourahamane Tiani has imposed a ban on cereal and other food exports to all countries, except for sales to only member states of the Alliance of Sahel States. This measure aims to "protect the domestic market" and ensure that consumer goods remain accessible to local residents.

Penalties for violations of the ban will include the seizure of shipments and potential criminal charges. Niger plays an important role as a regional supplier of cereals, particularly for neighboring Nigeria.



Read more [here](#)

Regional Peace and Security

Nigeria neutralizes 140 terrorists, armed gang members

Nigeria's military operations have neutralized 140 terrorists from Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), along with armed gang members.

According to Edward Buba, the director of defense media operations, these efforts included capturing 135 individuals and rescuing 76 hostages who were being held for ransom.



Read more [here](#)

Ukraine Denies Allegations of Drone Support to Tuareg Rebels in Mali

Ukraine has denied media reports alleging its involvement in supplying drones to Tuareg rebels in northern Mali, following a claim by the French newspaper Le Monde that Ukrainian drones were being used against the Malian army and Russian Wagner mercenaries.

The Ukrainian foreign ministry strongly rejected these accusations, labeling them as unfounded.

Read more [here](#)



Rule of Law

Ghana's Parliament Adjourned Indefinitely Amid Majority Controversy

On October 21, Speaker of Ghana's Parliament, Alban Bagbin adjourned parliamentary proceedings indefinitely.

This decision followed a tumultuous day in the Chamber, marked by intense disputes between Members of Parliament (MPs) from the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the main opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) over which caucus holds the majority.



Read more [here](#)

Geopolitical Monitor

Burkina Faso, Mali and Others Condemn Terrorist Attack on Turkish Aerospace Industries

Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, along with Ethiopia, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, have condemned the recent terrorist attack on the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) headquarters in Ankara, which resulted in five deaths and 22 injuries.

Burkina Faso's President Capt. Ibrahim Traore denounced the attack, labeling it a "cowardly and barbaric act" aimed at undermining efforts to combat terrorism.



Read more [here](#)

Elsewhere in Africa

Gabon Prepares for November 16 Referendum on New Constitution

Gabon is preparing for a referendum on November 16 regarding a proposed new constitution.

Key features of the proposed constitution include the elimination of the Prime Minister role, the establishment of a 7-year presidential term that can be renewed once, and a requirement that only individuals born to Gabonese parents are eligible for the presidency.

French will remain the official language, and there may be a proposal for mandatory military service for all citizens.



Read more [here](#)



ABOUT EYE ON WEST AFRICA

"Eye on West Africa" is a bi-weekly wrap-up of news-making events and developments affecting democratic governance in the ECOWAS Region.

"Eye on West Africa" is a knowledge product of the Data and Analysis unit of the West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS). WADEMOS is a transnational democracy solidarity network that mobilizes, coordinates, and leverages the collective power of civil society and other pro-democracy actors, resources, and opportunities within the West African Region to advance, defend, and reinvigorate democracy and promote democratic norms and reforms in the sub-region.

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