

1. INTRODUCTION

In the face of advancing ICT and emerging challenges in voter registration the Commission has taken the bold decision to replace the current voters' register with a biometric register for subsequent elections.

2. WHAT IS BIOMETRIC VOTER REGISTRATION

Biometric voter registration involves the use of biometric technology in voter registration. Biometric technology is the use of computers, fingerprint scanners and digital cameras to capture the bio-data of applicants. Fingerprints are unique to every individual and it is these unique features and other details that are stored in the computer from which the voters register is produced.

As done in previous registrations all applicants must be physically present at designated registration centres (regular polling stations) to be registered as voters.

3. WHY BIOMETRIC VOTER REGISTRATION

The old method of registering voters did not have inbuilt mechanism for detecting multiple registrations and therefore there were instances where some unscrupulous individuals registered more than once. Biometric technology will make the detection and removal of multiple registrations from the system possible. With this a more accurate and reliable register will be produced for the elections.

4. IMPLICATIONS OF REPLACEMENT OF THE EXISTING VOTERS REGISTER

The upcoming registration exercise will result in the compilation of an entirely new voters register that will replace the existing voters register and all previous voter I.D cards. Every registered voter must therefore be registered anew. Those who have now turned 18 years are also eligible to register as voters.

5. WHO QUALIFIES TO REGISTER AS A VOTER

Only Ghanaian citizens who are;

- ❖ 18 years or above
- ❖ of a sound mind
- ❖ resident or ordinarily resident in an electoral area or are permitted by law to register in an electoral area
- ❖ not prohibited by any law in force from registering as a voter are qualified to register as voters.

6. WHEN WILL REGISTRATION TAKE PLACE

The Commission will announce the date for the commencement of the registration exercise in the media and by local announcements.

7. WHERE WILL REGISTRATION TAKE PLACE

Registration of voters will take place at all registration centres (polling stations) throughout the country. You are expected to apply for registration in person at a registration centre (polling station) in the electoral area where you live. Remember that your registration centre will be your polling station on election day.

8. HOW WILL REGISTRATION BE DONE

The biometric voter registration will be done in clusters simultaneously in all regions across the country. This means that a team of registration officials with a set of equipment (kit) will be assigned to a number of polling stations in an electoral area. The team will operate in a registration centre (polling station) for a period of 10 days and move to another registration centre (polling station) within the cluster for another 10 days. The team will spend 10 days in each registration centre (polling station) until all registration centres (polling stations) in the electoral area are covered.

Electoral areas that are large and have more polling stations will have two or more registration teams.

You can see from this arrangement that there is no need to worry if the registration team is not at your polling station at the start of the exercise. You will eventually have your turn.

9. TIME FOR REGISTRATION

Registration will start at 7.00am and end at 6.00pm each day of the registration period, including Saturdays and Sundays.

10. MOP-UP

There will not be extension of registration in any registration centre after the 10 days allowed. There will however be a limited period for mopping-up.

Mopping-up may entail traveling in some cases. You need not bring that burden upon yourself, so take advantage of the 10 days that the team will be at your registration centre or polling station to register as a voter.

11. THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

A. Registration will start at 7.00am and end at 6.00pm each day of the registration period, including Saturdays and Sundays.

As an applicant you must be physically present at the registration centre to provide the following information to the Registration Officer;

- ❖ name
- ❖ date of birth
- ❖ age
- ❖ sex
- ❖ residential address/house number of your

present abode.

- ❖ names of parents (dead or alive)
- ❖ home town/ residential address in home town if different from present abode
- ❖ district where hometown is located.

B. ELECTRONIC CAPTURE OF FINGERPRINTS

The fingerprints of all your ten fingers will be electronically captured using a fingerprint scanner. The four fingerprints on the right hand will be captured first followed by the left hand and finally the two thumbprints.

C. PHOTO TAKING

In addition to taking your fingerprints, your photograph will also be taken on the spot. This photograph will be printed on your voter ID card and the voters register.

D. ISSUANCE OF VOTER I.D CARDS

Unless your application for registration as a voter is challenged, you will be issued with a voter ID card at the point of registration. Please wait for your I.D card before you leave the registration centre. If your application for registration as a voter is challenged you will be issued with a voter I.D card only if you are cleared by the District Registration Review Committee (DRRC) set up in every district to investigate and determine the challenges.

12. REGISTRATION CHALLENGES

An applicant's registration as a voter may be challenged by anybody who qualifies to be registered as a voter. A challenge on the eligibility of an applicant to register as a voter will not stop him/her from going through the process if he/she insists that he/she is qualified. The applicant will be allowed to go through the process except that he/she will not be issued with a voter I.D card until the challenge is determined by the District Registration Review Committee (DRRC). If an applicant is challenged, both the applicant and the challenger will appear before the DRRC for hearing and determination of the challenge.

13. GROUNDS FOR REGISTRATION CHALLENGE

An applicant's registration may be challenged on the grounds that he/she;

- ❖ is not a citizen of Ghana
- ❖ is a minor (not 18 years)
- ❖ is not of a sound mind
- ❖ is not resident in the electoral area
- ❖ is already registered as a voter
- ❖ is not the person he/she claims to be (impersonation)

- ❖ is prohibited by law from registering as a voter.

14. DISTRICT REGISTRATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRRC)

A District Registration Review Committee will be set up in every district to investigate and determine registration challenges in the respective districts. An applicant or challenger who is not satisfied with the decision of the DRRC may appeal to the Chief Registration Review Officer who is a High Court Judge in the region for a review of that decision.

15. CUSTODY OF YOUR VOTER I.D CARD

The voter I.D card is issued primarily for voting. Keep it safely because you will need it for voting. Do not surrender your I.D card to anybody demanding it unless required by law. You may lose your vote by so doing.

16. WHAT YOU SHOULD NOT DO

Do not do any of the following: they constitute unlawful acts punishable by imprisonment;

- ❖ do not register or attempt to register as a voter if you are not qualified.
- ❖ do not register or attempt to register more than once whether at the same registration centre or any other centre.
- ❖ do not register or attempt to register as a voter in the name of another person, dead or alive.
- ❖ do not by force or threat of force, physical or spiritual, prevent somebody from exercising his right to register as a voter.
- ❖ do not give false information to a registration officer for the purpose of securing registration.
- ❖ do not forge, willfully deface or destroy any official notice, paper or document relating to the registration of voters.
- ❖ do not print any form relating to the registration of voters without authority from the Commission.
- ❖ do not disrupt proceedings at a registration centre or in any way interfere with the work of an official connected with the registration of voters
- ❖ do not bring to the registration centre any electronic device that will interfere with the performance of the registration equipment.

17. VOTER I.D CARD OFFENCES

- ❖ It is an offence for any person to be in possession of

another person's voter ID card without the express consent of that person.

No political party or any other organization shall be in possession of the voter ID card of any of its members or any other person without the express written consent of that member or person.

Any person who finds a lost voter ID card shall surrender it to the district officer of the Commission or a police officer in charge of the nearest police station within 7 days of the find or else be deemed to be in unlawful possession of another person's voter ID card.

- ❖ A police officer to whom a lost voter ID card has been surrendered shall surrender it to the district officer of the Commission within 7 days of it being given to him or else be deemed to be in unlawful possession of another person's voter ID card.

18. PENALTY FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF ANOTHER PERSON'S VOTER ID CARD

- ❖ Any person convicted of unlawful possession of another person's voter ID card is liable to a fine not exceeding 500 penalty units or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years for each voter ID card held unlawfully.
- ❖ Any political party, organization or group of persons convicted of unlawful possession of a voter I.D card is liable to a fine not exceeding 1000 penalty units for each voter I.D card held unlawfully.

19. GENERAL ADVICE

- ❖ Register in your electoral area at a center close to your residence
- ❖ Keep your voter I.D card safe and neat for voting on Election Day.
- ❖ Avoid multiple registrations, since the biometric voter registration system will expose you and you will be liable for prosecution. Avoid impersonation.
- ❖ If you lose your voter I.D card report promptly to the police.
- ❖ Since only qualified Ghanaian citizens are allowed to register as voters it will be helpful if applicants show one of the following; birth certificate, baptismal card, passport, driver's license, NHIS card, National I.D card or existing voter I.D card.