

Remarks of President John Mahama's During Visit by 2012 Presidential Aspirants

Wednesday August 21, 2013

Thank you very much Mr. Presidents and let me thank and congratulate you for this noble mission you have undertaken.

Over the last several months we all know what has gone on in our country. Our Supreme Court has been adjudicating probably one of the most important cases it has been confronted with. All of us have contributed our quota to let them do that in an atmosphere of peace and harmony.

They have come, virtually, to the end of the case and they are supposed to deliver the verdict. There have been all kinds of predictions about what could happen in the aftermath of the verdict.

I am an unrepentant optimist and I do not believe that the doomsayers are right. I believe that this country's democracy has come so far and it is strong and I believe that Ghana's democracy will survive the Supreme Court verdict. I have no doubt about that.

I do not believe that there would be a major disturbance of the peace but as President I have asked the security services to prepare the contingency plans so that if there are any cases of disturbance they could be quickly brought under control.

But I do believe that Ghanaians as a people know where we have come from. We have been on this journey since 1992 and we have a supreme law of the land, which is the Constitution. All of us went to a referendum in 1992 and adopted that constitution as the supreme law of the land and so once we did that we agreed that we are going to be guided by the Constitution.

The Supreme Court as a creature of that constitution is the highest court that adjudicates disputes. The judiciary is the final arbiter when we can agree on matters and a matter has been sent to the judiciary and the judiciary is going to give a verdict one way or the other and if they do give that verdict we have all agreed to abide by the constitution so we must necessarily abide by any verdict that is given by the Supreme Court.

But I do understand that any concerns that people have about the disturbance of the peace must be addressed and I think that other issues you have raised in respect of an all inclusive...[pause], an atmosphere where every Ghanaian is able to enjoy the opportunities that the country gives are issues that we must bring into our political discourse.

We have currently a process of a constitutional review and there is an implementation committee and I believe that any review that is done in respect of the constitution must have the objective of creating a situation where we all can feel included in whatever political framework or matter that we are undertaking and so I want to express support for that.

I have always said that we must look at some of these things and at various fora... I have advocated at the senior citizens day that we should take a look at the winner takes all kind of politics and all that. In several circumstances I have said that all Ghanaians have a right to participate in our governance and so you know what my attitude towards it is.

I believe that you all, together with us, will have the same objective of creating a Ghana that we all can be proud of.

I am willing to work with you, I am willing to continue to seek your counsel as I carry the responsibility of guiding this country in the direction that we all want it to go.

Thank you very much for the call and I want to say God bless the venture that you have undertaken and to also say thank you to all the various groups the catholic bishops, the chiefs, recognisable bodies who have all asked Ghanaians to maintain the peace and accept the verdict.

I am sure that Ghanaians have listened and Ghanaians have too much at stake in the destiny of our nation to destroy it at this time.

I believe in Ghana, I believe in peace and God bless you.