



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

(For immediate Release – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021)

### **POST-ELECTION EVALUATION WORKSHOP: STRENGTHENING SMALLER PARTIES IN MULTIPARTY LOCAL GOVERNANCE – WHICH WAY FORWARD?**

Well-functioning multiparty democracies make room for different political parties, representing different views of the population to compete and win political office. It makes for inclusion and the representation of various groups in a political system. Having a multiparty local government system, therefore, strengthens smaller parties as they have better opportunities to be in government, grow and also represent their constituents.

However, during the last three elections held in the country, small political parties have recorded a significant and continuous decline in votes. The situation if not addressed, has the potential to further weaken Ghana's multiparty democracy. Similarly, it would be recalled that the proposed multiparty local governance reform, which would make local government more inclusive especially for smaller parties, was opposed by these parties.

There is the need to open up spaces in the executive arm of government for multiparty competition in order to create an inclusive and enabling environment for a well-functioning multiparty democracy and developmental governance. This will eliminate the 'winner-takes-all' in the executive arm of government and promote inclusion and participation of smaller parties in governance in Ghana.

Against this background, the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) is organizing a Post-Election Evaluation Workshop with Smaller Political Parties with the theme "**Strengthening smaller parties in Multiparty local governance – which way forward?**" scheduled for **22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021 from 10.00am to 3.00pm**. This workshop will take place at the Mensvic Grand Hotel, East Legon, Accra.

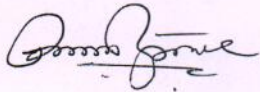
The purpose of the workshop is to evaluate the performance of the smaller parties, the reasons for their abysmal performance in the last election and to understand why the smaller parties campaigned against multiparty local governance reform, which was intended to strengthen them and make them more functional in Ghana's multiparty politics.

The specific objectives are:

- i. To convene the smaller parties to share their experiences and to discuss their poor performance in the 2020 elections;

- ii. To understand the reasons why some smaller parties kicked against multiparty local governance which is intended to strengthen their participation in Ghana's democracy; and
- iii. To discuss the way forward for strengthening smaller parties in Ghana's multiparty democracy

It is hoped that the expected outcome of this workshop will be that smaller political parties identify factors hindering their performance and deliberate on the way forward to strengthen and make them functional participants in Ghana's multiparty democracy. Due to restrictions imposed by Covid-19, this forum is strictly by invitation, but the outcome will be communicated to the public.



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