



# GHANA BAR ASSOCIATION

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## GHANA BAR ASSOCIATION'S STATEMENT ON ATTACKS ON THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF GHANA

The Ghana Bar Association (GBA) has read with great concern and disquiet, the insulting comments directed at the person of the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission, Mrs. Charlotte Osei by Kennedy Agyapong, MP.

The GBA finds the comments distasteful, offensive, abusive and derogatory, not only to or of Mrs. Osei, but also to women in general. Any impression that women who ascend to high office in the country do not do so on merit and merit alone, but on other grounds, should not be countenanced from any quarters, especially from persons who hold high office themselves and are presumed to know better.

We are of the view that public officers and persons occupying positions of trust can and should be subjected to criticism. However, the criticisms must have proper and relevant bases and foundations, not merely demeaning and debasing. Thus, while the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission is not above criticism, it is extremely unfair to subject her to such scurrilous abuse and slanderous personal attacks.

Ghana has made considerable progress with respect to the efforts to eliminate discrimination against persons on grounds of gender, among others, and to create equal opportunities for all. It is not in the interest of our country for these gains to be derailed or eroded, and for females to be compelled to shun accepting to serve in high office for fear of being subjected to such insults and abuse.

We therefore wish to condemn in the strongest terms possible the disparaging comments made regarding the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission. We find it unacceptable that any person, not least a person who holds such high office, should be subjected to such insults.

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