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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LINSOD URGES THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION TO INSTIL CONFIDENCE IN VOTE TRANSFER EXERCISE BY ALLOWING POLITICAL PARTIES TO MONITOR THE EXERCISE**

1. We, Lawyers in Search of Democracy (LINSOD), feel obligated to once again join the voices of reason to call on the Electoral Commission to, as a matter of urgency, allow the major stakeholders in our electoral process, and particularly, the upcoming 2024 general election, being the political parties, to monitor the ongoing voter transfer exercise in all the constituency offices of the Electoral Commission nationwide.
2. For us, since no law, and none of the Electoral Commission's Constitutional Instruments, bars or prohibits agents of political parties from monitoring the exercise of voter transfers, and cognizant of the current volatile and highly suspicious political environment, with the reputation of even the Electoral Commission itself in question, it is no-brainer that the best means of protecting the integrity of the voter-transfer exercise is to open up the process for close monitoring, not only by the major political parties, but also by independent election watchers.
3. We therefore find it ridiculous that the Electoral Commission has directed its Regional Directors to ensure that the District Officials shall bar agents of political parties from monitoring the process, and they have cited violence at some of the centers as the cause for the decision.
4. Already, we are aware of the news in the national media that voters are being transported from all parts of the country to other parts, ostensibly,

to transfer their votes to different constituencies for ulterior motives — to boost the electoral fortunes of certain parliamentary candidates. The National Democratic Congress (NDC) has accused the New Patriotic Party (NPP) of engaging in the said activities, which are viewed as illegal vote transfers for purposes of gerrymandering. The Flagbearer of the NDC, H.E. John Dramani Mahama complains that the decision of the Commission points to its avowed determination to aid the ruling NPP in stealing the outcome of the 2024 elections. Many independent political commentators have begun to describe the decision of the Commission as outrageous and calling on it to rescind it. In the midst of all of these, the Commission remains adamant, and casting further doubt on its neutrality and fairness in conducting the upcoming general elections in the manner Ghanaians shall have trust and confidence in.

5. In line with our vision to promote better democracy in Ghana, we find it essential to advise the Electoral Commission to reconsider its decision of barring political parties from monitoring the voter transfer exercise. This prohibition is not the best remedy for the pockets of violence in certain district centers. We have the police at the centers to maintain peace and order during the exercise, and they must be made to perform their duties.
  
6. A refusal by the Commission to rescind its decision shall be ample evidence for even us that the Commission may be in cahoots with the ruling NPP to rig the general elections. We hope this is not true.

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Signed:

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