**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST**

**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND LEGAL STUDIES**

**SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS**

**DEPARTMENT OF DATA SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC POLICY**

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**MSc. DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS**

**2024/2025 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**ASSIGNMENT 1**

**COURSE TITLE: DATA CURATION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS**

**COURSE CODE: DMA 820**

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR: RAYMOND ELIKPLIM KOFINTI (PH.D.)**

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**REGISTRATION NUMBER: SE/DMD/24/0016**

**COMMENTARY ON DATA POLICY OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF GHANA**

**ORGANIZATION**: Electoral Commission of Ghana (EC)

**STRUCTURE OF DATA DISSEMINATION**

The Electoral Commission of Ghana disseminates data through a structured, centralized system involving multiple departments:

* ICT Department: Collects and manages electoral data including voter registration, results, and geographic data.
* Research and Monitoring Department: Analyzes data and prepares official reports.
* Public Affairs Department: Responsible for publishing data to the general public and media.

Data dissemination is overseen by the Chairperson and governed by the Public Elections Regulations and internal protocols. Decisions on what data to release are made at the executive level before dissemination.

**FORMAT OF DATA DISSEMINATION**

The Commission shares data in several accessible formats:

* Tabular formats (Excel, CSV, PDF) for registration statistics and election results.
* Visual formats (infographics, charts, and maps) for public education and social media use.
* Hard copies and printed reports for stakeholders including political parties and observers.
* Web-based platforms such as EC’s official website and live election dashboards during national events.

These formats are designed to be both accessible to the public and usable for policy and academic purposes.

**DATA SHARING PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES**

Data sharing at the EC follows strict protocols:

* Legal Compliance: Data release must comply with electoral laws and data protection regulations.
* Stakeholder Briefings: Political parties and observers are briefed prior to public release.
* Approval Chains: All external data sharing requires formal approval from the Commission’s leadership.
* Confidentiality Measures: Sensitive data (e.g., personal voter information) is anonymized or restricted.
* Press Conferences: Official announcements are often used as part of dissemination procedures.

**DATA VISIBILITY (WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES)**

The EC promotes visibility of its data using the following platforms:

* Website: www.ec.gov.gh – hosts voter registration statistics, demarcation maps, and results
* Social media:  
   Twitter/X: @ECGhanaOfficial  
   Facebook: Electoral Commission of Ghana  
   YouTube: EC Ghana Live for broadcasting pressers and events

These platforms ensure that both urban and rural populations stay informed about electoral activities.

**(B) Suggested Improvements to Enhance Data Curation**

**1. Enhancing Structure of Dissemination**

* Develop a National Electoral Data Repository with tiered access levels.
* Establish a Data Curation Unit to oversee long-term preservation and reuse of electoral data.

**2. Improving Format of Dissemination**

* Provide datasets in machine-readable formats such as JSON and XML.
* Add metadata and data dictionaries to enhance usability by researchers and civic tech groups.

**3. Strengthening Data Sharing Protocols**

* Implement automated systems for authorized users (e.g., political parties, researchers) to request and access datasets.
* Use blockchain or logging systems to track access to sensitive electoral data.

**4. Facilitating Data Visibility**

* Launch an Open Data Portal to centralize all electoral data releases.
* Improve social media engagement with interactive visualizations and multilingual summaries.