Hi Paul, Ghana

No voting system is perfect. In elections today vote are counted using manual voting systems. Such voting systems have produced result changing errors through problems with hardware, software, and procedures. Errors can also occur in hand counting of ballots or in the compiling of results. Even serious error can go undetected if results are not audited effectively.

Well-designed and properly performed post-election audits can significantly mitigate the threat of error, and should be considered integral to any vote counting system. A post-election audit in this document refers to hand-counting votes on paper records and comparing those counts to the corresponding vote counts originally reported, as a check on the accuracy of election results, and resolving discrepancies using accurate hand counts of the paper records as the benchmark. Such audits are arguably the most economical component of a quality voting system, adding a very small cost for a large set of benefits.

The benefits of such audits include:

• Revealing when recounts are necessary to verify election outcomes

• Finding error whether accidental or intentional

• Deterring fraud

• Providing for continuous improvement in the conduct of elections

• Promoting public confidence in elections

Risk-limiting audits have a large, predetermined minimum chance of leading to a full recount whenever a full recount would show a different outcome. (Correct preliminary outcomes are never overturned). After any audit, this chance should be calculated and published as part of the audit results to promote continuous improvement. However, in this case it is important to ensure that participants can exercise their right to seek legal remedy, i.e. they must be informed of the place and time of audit and the outcome of the audit.

THANK YOU

PAUL GODDEY GABALH