

## **Tech Powered Early Warning System for Ghana Elections 2016 Introduction:**

As Ghana prepares for the seventh successive general elections under the Fourth Republic on November 7, 2016, Ghanaians are only preoccupied with one thing; the peaceful outcome of the polls, especially after the outcome of the 2012 elections had to be settled at the Supreme Court of Ghana. It is therefore feared that this election would be fiercely contested. To ensure peaceful polls on November 7, civil society has already begun peace campaigns in its bid to ensuring that the country emerges from the elections unscathed and remains a beacon of democracy in the region. **Penplusbytes**, through the *Tech Powered Early Warning System for Ghana Elections 2016*; an National Endowment for Democracy (NED) funded project, seeks to contribute to peaceful 2016 elections.

### **Project Objectives:**

- To advocate for issue-based elections through political campaign fact-checking.
- To promote peaceful, transparent and credible elections in Ghana through election related social media trend monitoring and information sharing.

### **Project Activities:**

In furtherance of these objectives, Penplusbytes will:

- advocate for issue-based, peaceful, and transparent elections in Ghana through political campaign fact-checking by social media information monitoring and sharing via newsletters and social media accounts.
- establish a Social Media Tracking Center (SMTC) that will employ Aggie, social media monitoring software to detect election irregularities, logistics problems, fraud, and potential violence reported on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Ushahidi, SMS and Google+.
- share real-time incident reports with the Electoral Commission, National Elections Security Task Force (NESTF), Ghana Police, and other Election Management bodies
- provide 24-hour social media coverage during the elections using social media monitors, supervisors, verifiers, and analysts.

### **Evaluation Plan:**

- Penplusbytes will do frequent assessment or evaluation of its methodology and staff and record the number of incidents and reports produced and shared and the response of key institutions to the issues as they arise to ensure peaceful, transparent, and credible the elections were based on social media reporting.

### **Organizational Background:**

- Penplusbytes, a network of African media organizations and journalists employs ICTs to advance quality journalism for government accountability over the past 15 years.