



Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)



PRESS BRIEFING NOTES

Monday, 11 September 2006

TALKING POINTS
HON. JAMES M. FROMAYAN
CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION

☐ BY-ELECTION RUN-OFF IN DISTRICT #2 MARGIBI IS TOMORROW

The By-election Run-Off in District #2, Margibi County is tomorrow, September 12. It is expected that 24,539 registered voters will turn out in large numbers to freely elect a candidate of their choice. Two candidates are taking part in the By-election Run-off. They are: Ben A. Fofana of the Unity Party (UP) and Kollie Sorsor Jallah of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC).

The By-election Run-off is being held because none of the previous four candidates in the first round on August 29 obtained an absolute majority (or 50% +1 vote) of the valid votes cast, as required by Article 83(b) of the Liberian Constitution, thus necessitating a run-off election to determine a winner.

The two candidates contesting in the Run-off obtained the highest number of votes in the first round.

☐ LOGISTICAL PREPARATIONS FINALIZED

Logistical preparations for the By-election Run-off for District #2, Margibi are being finalized. NEC logistics staff and Margibi County team have transported polling materials from NEC Headquarters to the NEC County Magistrate Office in Kakata, Margibi. Deployment of electoral materials to all polling centers began yesterday and will end early tomorrow morning in time for the Run-off.

28,300 ballots papers for the Run-off have been delivered to the county and are being distributed to the 26 Voting Precincts and 53 Polling Places. The polls will open at 8 a.m. and close at 6 p.m.

☐ POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ENDS

The NEC reminds candidates in the Margibi District #2 By-election Run-off that the official campaign period, which began on September 1 closed at

midnight yesterday, September 10. No Campaigning is allowed today and tomorrow and no party t-shirts, posters or flyers are to be displayed.

☐ LAST TRAINING OF POLLING STAFF

The NEC Training Department, with support from the Training Unit of UNMIL Electoral Division, completed the training for a total of 106 presiding and Identification Officers who are conducting training for 167 Queue Controllers, Ballot Paper Issuers, and Inkers who will all take up assignments at the 53 Polling Places on tomorrow.

☐ NEC CONCLUDES CIVIC/VOTER EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

It is one day to the Margibi District #2 By-Election Run-off, and NEC is wrapping up its civic voter education activities in the district. NEC expresses its gratitude to the Civic/Voter Education Team, the UNMIL PI Community Outreach, UNMIL Radio, Radio Kakata, Y-Echo and Peace FM, for their diligent work in creating messages and the radio stations for airing same.

The Commission also extends special gratitude to our international partners – UNMIL Electoral, UNDP, IFES and IRI for their support to the process.

On Saturday, September 9, the two candidates participated in a debate arranged by IRI and were able to present their respective political platforms to the electorate.

☐ TRANSPARENCY

NEC encourages civil society organizations, international and local observer groups, and the media to observe the By-Election Run-off in Margibi District #2 tomorrow. The Commission hopes that accredited observers from NAYMOTE, WIPNET, JPC and LCC as well as agents from the contesting parties will observe the process as in the first round. NEC emphasizes that the observation of the By-election Run-off is important and helps to enhance the transparency of the process.

☐ SECURITY

Security for the By-election Run-off is being coordinated with UNMIL, LNP and the local administration of Margibi at both headquarters and in the county. The same number of LNP Officers (62) used in the first round, backed by their UNMIL counterparts, will be deployed in District #2 to ensure that the process passes orderly and peacefully.

□ ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

Press Conferences for the announcement of the results of the By-election Run-off will be held at the NEC Media Center in Monrovia as follows: On September 13, two press conferences will be held at 12 noon and 5 p.m. The final official results of the By-election Run-off will be announced September 14 at 4 p.m.

□ MOTIVATIONAL REMARKS

Another important moment has come for the people of District #2 in Margibi County. Tuesday, September 12, 2006 is the By-election Run-off in your district.

Once again, you the 24,539 registered voters of Margibi District #2 have the chance to decide the future of this district. You have yet another opportunity to exercise your democratic right by voting in a By-election Run-off to choose a candidate that will represent your district in the House of Representatives.

This By-election Run-off is yours, and only you can make that important decision. Remember that every single vote is important. Your one vote can determine which candidate becomes the Representative of District #2 in the House of Representatives. As a registered voter, make sure to vote in tomorrow's By-election Run-off and decide which of the two candidates will represent you. If you did not vote in the first round on August 29, you still have a chance to be heard by voting in the run-off on September 12.

Please make the sacrifice even if you have to walk long distances to cast your ballot. Do not let this opportunity pass you by; it is your right and your civic duty to vote for a candidate of your choice. This is the last chance to make your voice heard, so do not stay away and depend on other people to decide for you.

In order to vote tomorrow, please bring along your voter registration card. Without a valid voter registration card, you cannot vote. You will go to the same place you voted during the first round on August 29. Blind and illiterate voters may bring along a friend or relative to help them in marking their ballot for the candidate of their choice.

Again, please remember that your choice in this By-election Run-off will determine your district's future. Therefore, you must come out in large numbers and vote wisely.

Rain or shine, please turn out tomorrow, September 12 and vote for the best candidate to represent District #2, Margibi.

I Thank You!