



Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)



STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NEC

10 November 2005

4:00 pm

☐ PROGRESSIVE RESULTS FROM TALLYING

2, 719, or 88.6% of the 3,070 polling places have reported. Note that the portion of polling places reported varies across the counties.

COUNTY	TOTAL POLLING PLACES REPORTED
Bomi	All 98
Bong	337 out of 343
Gbarpolu	31 Out of 61
Grand Bassa	141 out of 252
Grand Cape Mount	All 82
Grand Gedeh	71 Out of 73
Grand Kru	30 Out of 47
Lofa	68 out of 215
Margibi	232 out of 237
Maryland	101 out of 106
Montserrado	987 out of 989
Nimba	All 411
River Cess	All 42
River Gee	All 47
Sinoe	41 out of 67

Based on these partial reports, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has received 438,513 votes corresponding to 59.2% and George Weah has received 302,595 votes corresponding to 40.8%.

The recorded turn out for the polling places which have reported amounts to 758,987 voters or 60.1%.

Be reminded that these are partial figures. The NEC is reporting results through the press conferences as they arrive at the National Tally Centre from the County Tally Centres.

Please be advised that detailed reports will be distributed at the end of the press conference and will also be posted on the NEC's official website, www.necliberia.org



☐ NEC PROCEDURES FOR COMPLAINTS

The NEC has had since July, detailed regulations and procedures for Complaints and Appeals on matters under its jurisdiction related to the election process. The regulations clearly outline definitions of complaints, parties eligible to file complaints, etc.

These regulations have been placed on NEC's website for public reference; we urge all journalists and interested parties to please access this document on www.necliberia.org. As we mentioned yesterday, a one-page Frequently Asked Questions on how to file complaints is available to the media at our press conferences.

To clarify questions on what will happen once a complaint has been filed, please refer to Section 10 of the procedures which clearly states that once a complaint has been accepted by the NEC, it shall be resolved within seven (7) days unless NEC considers that a hearing is required. After a hearing, a decision shall come from NEC within three (3) days, '...accepting the complaint or rejecting it in whole or part, and ordering whatever remedial action is appropriate'.

Hard copies of Section 10 and 11 of the procedures will be made available to the media at the end of this press conference.

☐ CDC COMPLAINT

In relation to the complaint received from the CDC we have initiated the investigation by gathering the names of the presiding Officers and Poll workers from each of the locations involved and we have sent for the Presiding Officers journal from each of these. These individuals and CDC representatives will be cited to a hearing in accordance with the procedures for complaints outlined earlier.

The hearing will provide CDC with the opportunity to present any and all evidence that they have relating to complaints filed.

☐ SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Asked why procedures had changed for poll workers voting since the October 11 Elections, the Chair explained that during the October 11 Elections it was realized that many voters got frustrated over having to wait so long in the queues while polling staff voted first before attending to them. Thus, this time around NEC instructed polling staff to be the last to cast their vote.



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Asked to say what specific allegations were contained in the CDC complaint, the Chair stated that she had not read the complaint; she said the letter of complaint was in the hands of the Legal Department.

Answering a follow-up question on why she herself has not read the letter of complaint, considering the “gravity of the complaint”, the Chair said in line with NEC procedures, all complaints received are channelled to the Legal Officer and she as Chairman of the Commission does not have to read the text at this stage. She said after the legal team reviews the complaint they forward a report to the Board of Commissioners for their perusal. Cllr. Johnson-Morris clarified that no complaint is more paramount than others; all of them go through the same procedure.

Asked whether the investigation will be concluded before the end of tallying, the Chair said she hoped it will be completed before then. She however reiterated that the procedures provide that in certain instances results from specific areas that are in contention may be quarantined while the investigation is going on, but the rest of the process would be continued.

Responding to a question about whether it was mathematically possible, considering that there were only 11.4 percent of polling places which results have not been reported, for the election to swing in favour of George Weah who is currently trailing Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf by more than 18% of valid votes, the Chair declined to speculate and referred journalists to the statistics released by the Commission.

Asked about the status of the complaint filed by the Liberty Party over the results of the October 11 Elections, the Chair said a ruling on that matter is expected to be out by now. She referred journalists to the NEC Legal Officer for details.

Asked what NEC planned to do about parties that were delinquent in submitting their Campaign Finance Reports, the Chair said NEC had served reminders on those parties that failed to submit their report by the deadline stipulated in the Campaign Finance Regulations. She noted that parties that still did not comply will be penalised in line with the Electoral Law.
