



STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NEC

9 November 2005
 8:00 pm

☐ PROGRESSIVE RESULTS FROM TALLYING

1,813, or 59% 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	245 out of 343
Gbarpolu	8 out of 61
Grand Bassa	42 out of 252
Grand Cape Mount	78 out of 82
Grand Gedeh	60 out of 73
Grand Kru	28 out of 47
Lofa	25 out of 215
Margibi	177 out of 237
Maryland	65 out of 106
Montserrado	824 out of 989
Nimba	90 out of 411
River Cess	34 out of 42
River Gee	19 out of 47
Sinoe	20 out of 67

Based on these early partial reports, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has received 293,363 votes corresponding to 56.4 % and George Weah has received 227,244 votes corresponding to 43.6%.

The recorded turn out for the polling places which have reported amounts to 532,815 voters or 62.6 %.

Be reminded that these are partial figures. The NEC will report result 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



☐ COMPLAINTS RELATING TO THE RESULTS

The NEC will hear and investigate complaints filed for the November 8 election according to the procedures in place during the October 11 Elections.

As demonstrated in the case of the Gbarpolu Senate race, if irregularities are detected or brought to our attention, the NEC will investigate them and prosecute, if necessary.

The 1986 Electoral Law states that any Liberian citizen who has observed a violation of the election laws or election regulations may file a complaint within 72 hours (three days) after the incident or event.

These complaints must be filed in writing with the County Electoral Magistrate on a complaint form which can be obtained from the County Electoral Magistrate and the offices of the NEC.

We refer you to the “Frequently Asked Questions on Filing Complaints with the NEC” which was issued and distributed prior to the October 11 Elections and has been available to the public and media since then here at the NEC Media Centre and placed on the NEC website, www.necliberia.org

☐ TRANSPARENCY

We have welcomed the participation of 302 international observers representing 27 organizations and diplomatic missions, the 3,583 domestic observers representing 52 organizations and the 40,000 representatives of the political parties and independent candidates that were accredited to observe the entire polling and counting process. Our reports so far indicate that members of these bodies have been represented at most of the polling and counting places across the country.

As Observer reports are released, the NEC will bring them to your attention, and we will place them on our website.

The NEC continues to carry out its mandate and to ensure that the electoral process is conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner that reflects the will of Liberian



□ SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

On claims by George Weah that NEC polling staff were involved in election irregularities, the Chair said there were procedures in place for filing complaints with the NEC, and the CDC must follow this channel and be able to provide evidence to support their allegations. Answering a question on calls by CDC for her resignation, the Chair said, “They don’t have the standing to ask me to resign; I was not appointed by them.”

Responding to a question on CDC allegation that the Chair made a statement on the day of the elections which undermined voter confidence in their standard bearer, the Chair noted that as a Liberian citizen she has a right to express herself. She said her statement was in response to a question posed by a journalist at the press conference and it was her right to respond accordingly.

Asked whether NEC had received any complaints about the conduct of the Run-Off, the Chair said no formal complaints had been filed with the Commission.

On whether, in the event that a formal complaint is filed, NEC would halt the tallying and announcement of progressive results to hold a hearing into the complaint, the Chair said the procedures were not like that. She said the process will continue while the complaint is been looked into.

The Chair noted that the elections must not be pre-empted. “We must give chance to those who observed the process; the international and domestic observers, party representatives...let’s hear what they have to say about the process.”

Asked about the number of ballots printed and how NEC could account for the ballots, the Chair said 1.7 million presidential ballots were printed for the Run-Off, which was the same number of ballots printed for the first round. She explained that the procedures at the polling place involved reconciliation of the ballots to account for the number of ballots issued and the number used.

On a concern raised by a journalist that there were still invalid ballots papers in the Run-Off despite assurance by NEC that it had stepped up civic education activities for this second round, the Chair noted NEC had done adequate civic education, but it was inevitable that there would be some invalid ballots no matter how much civic education activities NEC carried out. She said even with only two candidates in the race some voters had still wrongly marked the ballot.

On a rumour that NEC was planning to “impose curfew” in Monrovia as a security measure against possible violence in the wake of the announcement of election results, the Chair dismissed the rumours and clarified that it was not in her purview to impose curfew; rather, it was Chairman Bryant who had that authority. She said she had not heard anything about plans to impose curfew.



Republic of Liberia
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Asked what legacy she hopes to leave, the Chair said she wants to leave a legacy of transparency and fairness. “We have been transparent throughout this electoral process. This is consistent with our own character; it’s part of our nature,” She noted.