



## STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NEC

12 October 2005  
11:00 am

The process is continuing as scheduled.

### COUNTING AND TALLYING

As of today, the progress on counting and tallying is as follows:

#### REGION 1

- **Upper Montserado:** Tallying started at 9:35 am.
- **Lower Montserrado:** Counting and retrieval of materials from voting precincts was on-going throughout the night. Tallying will start this afternoon since materials are still being delivered.
- **Margibi:** Counting completed in all and tallying has started. 10 out of the 237 polling places have been tallied
- **Grand Bassa:** All counting finished in all easily accessible areas. Awaiting materials from two inaccessible areas in Buchanan. Tallying will soon start.

#### REGION 2

- **Grand Cape Mount:** Awaiting materials from counting.
- **Gbarpolu:** Counting has finalized and tallying begun. 7 out of 61 polling places been tallied.
- **Lofa:** Awaiting materials from counting.
- **Bomi:** 2/3 of results received and tallying has started.

#### REGION 3

- **Upper and Lower Bong:** Counting finalized at 4am and tallying has started.
- **Lower Nimba:** Counting just finalized.
- **Grand Geddeh:** Tallying has started.
- **Upper Nimba:** Tallying has started.

#### REGION 4

- All reporting centers have begun tallying.
- **Maryland:** 6 out of the 106 polling places had already been tallied by 10am.
- **Grand Kru:** The county mainly inaccessible areas and therefore tallying has not yet started.



Republic of Liberia  
**National Elections Commission (NEC)**



## **INACCESSIBLE AREAS**

For the inaccessible areas in regions 2 and 4, flights have gone out to collect information from 15 out of the 129 voting precincts that need helicopter retrieval of materials. These 15 voting precincts are in Gbarpolu, River Gee, and Grand Kru. We will have information from the results of this retrieval by the 8pm press conference.

After the counting of ballots is completed at a given place, a signed copy of the results for that polling place will be displayed there in plain view. Thereafter, the results and other materials are delivered to the County Magistrate Offices or other assigned facilities where tallying will take place.

While the results from polling places are being compiled, the NEC will not announce results for each individual polling place. Public and media can already see figures at the individual polling places, but must keep in mind that these figures only represent that particular place. Please be reminded that there are 3,070 polling places from which results must be compiled. Information announced at Press conferences will be the progressive tallied information from each county.

## **□ TALLYING PROCESS**

Following the counting of ballots at each of the 3,070 polling places, the Records of the Count Forms are being transported under security by LNP, UNMIL CivPol and UNMIL Military to the County Electoral Offices, where the tallying process is now beginning at the Tally centers designated by the NEC. Data will be entered both manually and electronically.

The NEC County Electoral Office will post progressive tally results (along with the Record of the Count Forms) outside Tally Centers. The NEC will hold regular press conferences to present on the preliminary results. Once the results are finalized at the county, a copy of the Declaration of Preliminary Results will also be posted for public viewing. The signed Declaration (for each of the 15 counties) will be sent to the National Tally Center to create a national total. The results from the 15 counties will be checked and compiled and forwarded to the NEC Board of Commissioners.

The entire process is expected to take 3 to 7 days, depending on the county. To ensure transparency, accredited domestic and international observers, party representatives, and media may witness the Tallying.

The National Elections Commission wishes to remind all political parties and independent candidates as well as national and international observers to send their accredited representatives and observers to the Unity Conference Center near Virginia, Montserrado County, to monitor and observe the collation or tally process of election results from all voting or polling centers within Montserrado County.



## **☐ COMPLAINTS**

Any complaints regarding polling or counting irregularities with the county Magistrate are to be filed with the magistrate within 24 hours following the event, and submitted no later than 72 hours with NEC Legal office. We have so far had no filing of complaints.

## **☐ SECURITY**

We have been notified by Security that the situation is generally calm, with no incidents to report.

## **☐ TRANSPARENCY**

Observers and Party representatives have been observing the various stages of the election and we are expecting them to begin issuing their assessments of the process towards the end of the day. However, the bulk of these preliminary evaluations will come out tomorrow.

## **☐ SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

In response to a question on the outcome of the two polling centers which opened late in Maryland and Lofa yesterday, the NEC Chair stated that the polling staff were assisted with helicopter to the locations, but found only one person was in line to vote. The other voters for the polling places were not there.

Asked whether the NEC would release any results today, the NEC Chair replied that one county had already completed the tally by Wednesday and that the Commission hoped that by the 8:00pm conference, a preliminary report will be available.

As an answer to a question on how the ballots from inaccessible areas will be transported to Monrovia, the NEC Chair reminded the press that ballots are not taken to Monrovia for counting. She explained that the NEC Head quarters in Monrovia will be receiving results and information from the Magistrates, not the polling materials.

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