



STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NEC

13 October 2005

4:00 pm

☐ PROGRESSIVE RESULTS FROM TALLYING

362 polling places have reported that 114,800 votes have been counted and tallied. The recorded turn out for the polling places which have reported amounts to 72%.

Candidates receiving more than five percent of the vote based on the polling places which have reported are as follows:

CANDIDATE	% PERCENTAGE OF VOTES
1. GEORGE WEAH	24.1
2. ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF	14.7
3. CHARLES BRUMSKINE	13.9
4. WINSTON TUBMAN	9.7
5. ALHAJI KROMAH	7.5
6. VARNEY SHERMAN	6.8
7. JOSEPH KORTO	5.9
8. ROLAND MASSAQUOI	5.3

Please be advised that detailed reports will be distributed at the end of the press conference.

☐ SECURITY

There are no new incidents to report

☐ NEC GUIDELINES REGARDING TIES

With regard to the question asked at today's 11 am press conference on what would happen in the event that there is a tie for second place, and a run-off is needed because the most voted candidate did not receive more than half the valid votes, the NEC wishes to clarify the following:



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What the NEC would first look at would be the actual number of votes gained by both candidates. As we all know, even though the percentage may be the same, the number may vary. As an example of this, we know that during voter registration the percentage of registrants was that of 50% women registered to vote and 50% men registered to vote, but that in real numbers, 50 more women than men turned out to register.

In the very unlikely event that two candidates would receive the exact same number of votes, the NEC, after consultations with the political parties and candidates through the Inter Party Consultative Committee meetings, decided that a drawing of lots should take place at a public meeting where the Liberian Inter Religious Council and the three candidates would be present.

The names of the candidates participating in drawing lots would be placed in separate envelopes and then placed in a transparent container. The NEC Chair would shake the container and ask a blind person to draw one of the envelopes. This name will be the candidate who would take part in the run-off.

For more details around these procedures, please refer to the NEC decision on our website www.necliberia.org.

□ SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Asked whether she believed that candidates would commit themselves to the process of casting lots as the method of resolving a tied vote, the Chair said she could not be certain how committed the candidates would be to this method, but she emphasized that the procedure was agreed by political parties during an Inter Party Consultative Committee meeting. The Chair noted that this method was suggested by a party representative, not the NEC.

In response to a concern that dissatisfaction by some candidates over this method of resolving a tie could prompt a court action against NEC, the Chair said that in an election anything of such is possible, but she hoped that people would honor the agreements they have reached.

As to whether casting of lots to break a tied vote was “scientific” and “in keeping with international standards”, the Chair stated that this method has been practiced in other countries where democratic elections are held, and it is not unique to Liberia.

Requested to comment on what legacy she hope to leave as Chairman of the NEC, Cllr. Johnson-Morris said she hoped to leave behind a legacy worth emulating. “We have the willpower to do what we have to do...a record of transparency, dedication to the tasks at hand, demonstrated a love for our country,” the Chair pointed out.



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On whether NEC could still announce the final election results by October 26 in view of difficulties surrounding retrieval of tally results from Grand Kru due to its inaccessibility, the Chair stated that the delay over the Grand Kru results would not affect the October 26 deadline, especially since the electorate there is not high in numbers. She disclosed that some results are expected from Grand Kru in time for the 8:00 p.m. press briefing today.

Concerning how prepared NEC and its international partners were for a possible second round in the presidential race if no single candidate obtains 50% plus 1 vote out of the total number of valid votes in the first round, the Chair stated that, as part of its planning, the Commission had made provisions for a possible run-off election. Thus, she noted, the NEC would not be caught off guard if the need for a run-off arose.
