



Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)



STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NEC

16 October 2005

4:00 pm

□ PROGRESSIVE RESULTS FROM TALLYING

As of this afternoon 2576 polling places have reported. 83.9% of all polling places for presidential election have now reported. We have received additional results from:

- Grand Kru
- Grand Geddeh
- Gbarpolu
- Margibi
- Maryland
- Montserrado

A total of 870,025 votes have been counted and tallied. The recorded turn out for the polling places which have reported amounts to 74.6 % .

In Montserrado, a total of 878 of the 989 polling places for the Presidential Election have reported.

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

CANDIDATE	NUMBER OF VOTES	% PERCENTAGE OF VOTES
1. GEORGE WEAH	251, 489	30
2. ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF	164, 507	19.6
3. CHARLES BRUMSKINE	101, 000	12.1
4. WINSTON TUBMAN	77, 304	9.2
5. VARNEY SHERMAN	69, 077	8.2

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



☐ DECLARATION OF PRELIMINARY RESULTS

To further enhance transparency, the county Declarations of Preliminary Results will be posted on the NEC website.

The public in this way, is able to see the votes received by every candidate, precinct by precinct as well as the signatures of party/candidate representatives that were present and observing the tally at county level.

So far, the NEC has received the Declaration of Preliminary Results from Grand Cape Mount and Bomi Counties.

Once the Board of Commissioners has received the Declarations of Preliminary Results, it will review them, resolve any complaints, and follow the process in place to certify the final results.

☐ DIFFERENCE IN NUMBER OF POLLING PLACES

As explained yesterday, the difference in number of polling places for Montserrado County in the Presidential race (989) and the number of polling places in the Senatorial race (937) comes from the additional polling places provided for those IDPs who had registered to vote in their counties of return but were not repatriated by polling day. These IDPs were given the special provision of still being able to vote for President/Vice-President.

This is not only the case for Montserrado County but also in Bong County where 34 special polling places were set up for IDPs; in Grand Bassa County, 2 special polling places were set up for IDPs; and Margibi County, where 8 special polling places were set up for IDPs.

County	General Polling Places (Voting for President, Senate, House)	Special Polling Places for Non- returned IDP's Registered for County of Origin	Total
		(Voting for President only)	
Bomi	98		98
Bong	309	34	343
Gbarpolu	61		61
Grand Bassa	250	2	252
Grand Cape Mount	82		82
Grand Geddeh	73		73
Grand Kru	47		47
Lofa	215		215
Margibi	229	8	237
Maryland	106		106



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Monterrado	937	52	989
Nimba	411		411
River Cess	42		42
River Gee	47		47
Sinoe	67		67
Total	2974	96	3070

☐ MEDIA VISIT TO THE NATIONAL TALLY CENTRE

The NEC wishes to issue a final invitation for media to visit the National Tally Centre. This visit is scheduled for Monday, October 17 at 5pm. For those media wishing to see the activities taking place at the National Tally Centre, please sign up at the NEC Press Office with Bobby Livingstone 077-203-391 or at the UNMIL Electoral Division Media Office with Catarina Fabiansson 06-428-776.

☐ NEC PRESS CONFERENCES

NEC wishes to remind media that the press conferences tomorrow, Monday, October 17, 2005, will be held at 11am and 7pm.

Starting on Tuesday, NEC will go back to giving its bi-weekly press conferences at 2pm on Tuesdays and Fridays.

☐ SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Responding to the discrepancy between the number of votes counted and tallied, with the number of individuals registered during registration, the NEC Chair responded that the difference could be attributed to the fact that three elections were being counted, and that each person votes for President/Vice president, Senate and House of Representatives thus each registrant has more than one vote each, and in the instance of the Senate election, is entitled to 2 votes.

Answering a question on whether the NEC was taking stock of people who had to travel a long way for the first round, or take time off work, and had complained that they may not be willing to do so for a second round, Cllr Johnson-Morris replied that if that was what voters were saying then it would be realistic to expect a lower turnout for a possible run-off.

Addressing a question on whether the NEC had been negligent in educating Liberians on the voting process, resulting in a high number of invalid votes, Madam Chair responded that voters were faced with a number of challenges such as a high number of candidates



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to choose from, confusion on who to vote for and being unsure of how to correctly mark a ballot. She pointed out that the high turnout indicated that Civic Education was certainly present. This was also evident through the activities she saw conducted by the civic educators in very remote areas during her national tour.

In reference to a question on whether the speedy retrieval of results suggests that the results may be announced soon, and if so when, the Chair replied that the NEC has until October 26 to announce results, but she could not speculate on when the final result will be reported, and therefore when the announcement of that result will happen.

Answering a question on whether the NEC had received any complaints from candidates thus far, the Chair stated that 2 senatorial candidates from Bomi County had filed complaints. The NEC was also attending to reports from observers on the practices of certain poll workers who were alleged to have committed wrong doings in helping disabled voters. She added that the NEC is investigating all complaints and would duly cite the complainants.

Responding to a question on whether the NEC is prepared to conduct a re-count based on the complaints filed thus far, Madam Chair stated that it was imperative to first determine if the complaint held any merit and the NEC would issue a decision based on that outcome. If the complainant was not satisfied with the verdict reached by the Commission, then they could seek redress from the Supreme Court of Liberia.

Asked her opinion on the likelihood of holding a second round in the presidential election judging by the results recorded thus far, the NEC chair replied that she wouldn't make any statements she could not defend in the future and preferred not to make deductions at this stage, but preferred to wait until there was a final outcome to the election.

Referring to a question on whether the decision by the NEC to scale back to two weekly conferences suggested that the NEC expects to have a final result on Tuesday, the NEC Chair said the bulk of results had been announced and there was no longer any need to have three press conferences daily.

Answering a question on concerns raised by Observers in regards to the confusion experienced by people who did not know who to vote for, and whether the commission would consider this feedback if there was a run-off, Madam Chair responded that the NEC is taking note of all the recommendations it has received and will use them as lessons if there is second-round of voting.

Asked whether Political Party and Independent Candidate representatives will be allowed to help voters select a candidate in the second round of voting, Madam Chair responded that representatives should not help voters mark their ballot and that the electorate with disabilities had been told to bring someone to help them. If they did not bring their own assistance, polling staff are the ones who should assist those in need of help. She



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concluded by saying that assistants or polling staff were under no circumstances to influence or choose on behalf of the voters they were helping.
