



Republic of Liberia
national Elections Commission (NEC)



Saturday, June 26, 2010

NEC Officially Opens Campaign for River Gee District #3 By-election

List of Qualified Candidates to Contest the River Gee County District # 3 By-election

The Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission (NEC) wishes to announce that following the period of nomination and scrutiny of individuals interested in contesting in the River Gee District # 3 By-election, four persons have been duly qualified by the National Elections Commission to contest the July 20, 2010 by-election.

Those certified by the NEC are:

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (1) Christian Snorteh Chea | Unity Party (UP) |
| (2) Francis Saywon Younge, Sr. | Independent |
| (3) Marcus Saylee Quenneh | Independent |
| (4) Philbert G. Toe | Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) |

Objection to Candidates Acceptance

During the period of Objection and Claim, Mr. Belleh C. Doe of Electoral District # 3, JarKarken, River Gee County filed an objection to the acceptance of Mr. Christian S. Chea as a Unity Party's Candidate to contest the July 20, 2010 River Gee, District # 3 by-election.

Mr. Doe indicated in his objection to Mr. Chea's candidacy that up to and including the time of the hearing had not resigned his membership of the opposition Liberty Party. He also alleged that in May 2010, Mr. Chea went to the Liberty Party office in Monrovia for funding so as to sponsor a Liberty Party candidate for the District # 3 By-election, but Mr. Chea was informed by the party that it was not fielding a candidate in the said election.

As required under the law, an Administrative Hearing was conducted by the Legal Section of the NEC. After carefully weighing the merits and demerits of arguments and evidences adduced by the complainant and defendant, the Hearing Officer of the NEC overruled and denied the objection on ground that the only instrument that the Complainant/ Objector presented to substantiate his allegation was a plain unsigned, undated hand written piece of paper which the Hearing Officer said "is not at all relevant to the issue at bar and does not in any way tend to prove the complainant allegation".

The Hearing Officer ruled that Christian Chea is a member of the Unity Party and therefore there is no legal or factual reason to deny him participation in the July 20, 2010 River Gee District # 3 Representative By-election.

Mr. Doe took exception to the ruling of the Hearing officer and announced that he will proceed with his case in accordance with the law. The Hearing Officer granted the exception but said it will not serve as a Stay Order and as such, Mr. Chea can go ahead with his by-election activities.

Political Campaign Officially Opens

In line with the time line for the by-election, the Commission announces that the four candidates contesting the River Gee Electoral District # 3 By-election are duly authorized to begin political campaign as of today, June 26, 2010 and continue until midnight July 18, 2010.

The Commission wishes to admonish the four candidates and their supporters to go about their campaign activities in a peaceful manner.

The NEC further wishes to admonish the four candidates to exhibit the spirit of tolerance and conduct a non-violent political campaign.

We urge you to use the campaign period to market the your ideology and vision for the advancement of the well being of the citizens and residents of River Gee Electoral District # 3 and not to cast aspersion or rain insults on other candidates or each other. To the people of River Gee, we urge you all to go about this campaign in an orderly and peaceful manner.

I Thank You.