



PRESS BRIEFING NOTES

Monday, February 28, 2011 @ 11:00AM

Talking Points
Cllr. Elizabeth J. Nelson
Co-chair of the National Elections Commission

Members of the Media:

- Chairman Fromayan ends Assessment visits to Eight Counties**

I wish to share with you that Chairman Fromayan is back in the capital after completing a weeklong visit to eight of the 15 counties. The visit took him to Grand Bassa, Rivercess, Sinoe, River Gee, Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Bong and Margibi Counties. The assessment was for the Chairman in line with his duty to appreciate and get a first hand impression of the status of the NEC facilities. The trip was also meant to establish the degree of confidence that the NEC has the requisite structures to allow us proceed with various activities that are scheduled to take place in the coming weeks and months.

With crucial exercises such as the exhibition, delineation of electoral districts and the national referendum on the ascendancy, the Chairman wanted to know where the gaps are and where challenges exist to assist with the current phase of our planning and to be able to put issues in the proper context as far as the physical conditions of our electoral infrastructure, especially the completion of our warehouse and county offices is concerned. So far, NEC is on course and we are happy with what is taking place in those parts of the country – in other words, the Commission is doing well in terms of maintaining a strong presence across the country.

- 1,779,187 OMR FORMS PROCESSED**

NEC wishes to report that the IT Section has received a total of 1,779,187 forms; out of which it has processed and archived 1,476, 484. The analysis of the number of registrants thus far shows that there are 757, 604 male registrants or 51%, while females registrants are 718,880 or 49%.

18 years old registrants' account for 73,519 Average age is 36.

The IT Data Center of NEC is gradually winding down on the processing of OMR forms. The Commission expects the process to be completed by the end of this week to allow for the production of the Provisional Registration Roll (PRR) and ultimately pave the way for the EXHIBITION of the voters' list at the 1780 registration centers beginning April 7 to April 11, 2011 when it will be the time for the names of persons who registered to be displayed to allow them:

- a. To check for their names on the list and their particulars to see if they are correct; and
- b. To see if other names of individuals on the list are not qualified to register because they are under 18 years; are not citizens of Liberia or are deceased.

- **NATIONAL REFERENDUM**

Ladies and gentlemen of the Press, the Commission is in full readiness to kick off the Referendum. A critical first step of any electoral process is the formulation of the legal framework. Towards this end, the Commission is today publishing the Regulations and guidelines for the national referendum.

Immediately following this, there will be consultations across the country with key stakeholders and the formal launch of the process on March 15, 2011 and the subsequent issuance of the Writ of Referendum. The launch of a massive national awareness strategy designed to permeate the entire landscape with messages about the referendum will proceed thereafter.

In consideration of these upcoming events, the National Elections Commission today enlists the media as partners in this endeavor and will be counting on you to let the word go forth that come August 23, 2011 there will be a referendum which will give Liberians an opportunity to discuss the four issues and later decide a way forward for the country through a YES or NO vote.

THANK YOU