PRESS RELEASE

21, September 2018

The National Elections Commission, (NEC), refutes the Hot Pepper Newspaper publication of Thursday 20 September, 2018, captioned “NEC CONFIRMS PUBLIC SPECULATION” in which the paper stated that the Commission was conducting the two By-Elections due to lack of funding.

The National Elections Commission, therefore wants to clarify that its decision to hold the two By-elections together is not based on ‘lack of funding’ nor is it a confirmation of any speculation.

As a matter of fact, the Government of Liberia has already allotted the total sum of US$1.2 Million, representing cost of the two By-Elections.

The National Elections Commission, (NEC) clarifies that it is economically wise to jointly conduct both the Sinoe County Senatorial By-Election and the Montserrado County District #13 By-Election in order to reduce the cost for both elections.

The joint conduct of these elections was made known to the public during programs marking the issuance of Writs of Elections to the Magistrates of Sinoe and Montserrado Counties by the Chairman of the Commission on Thursday, September 6th, 2018.

The National Elections Commission, (NEC), decision to jointly conduct these election is deemed expedient in that all processes, including procurement of sensitive and non-sensitive elections materials such as Ballot Papers, would all be handled at the same time and within the same period, since doing so would be within the statutory period of 90 days to have these elections conducted.

It can be recalled that the House of Senate and the House of Representatives notices for the Sinoe Senatorial By-Election and the Montserrado, District #13 By-Election
were received by the Commission on September 3\textsuperscript{rd} and August, 23\textsuperscript{rd}, 2018, respectively.

Signed: ______________________

Prince Dunbar

\textit{Acting Communications Director}