

NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION  
9<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SINKOR  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

# VOTER REGISTRATION REGULATIONS

**Approved on August 25, 2010**  
**Amended on February 28, 2011**

## Table of Contents

### Part I General

1. Citation
2. Definitions

### Part II Registration

3. Dates of Registration of all eligible Liberian voters in Liberia
4. Adjustment of dates for registration exercise
5. Eligibility criteria for registration
6. Requirements for registration
7. Registration center
8. Prohibition against multiple registration
9. Internally displaced persons
10. Special Provision for returnees
11. Accreditation of political party representatives
12. Duties and obligations of political party representatives
13. Domestic and international observers
14. Security officials
15. Restrictions on political activities and material near registration centers
16. Registration officials
17. Powers of Registration
18. Rejection of application for registration
19. Appeal against rejection of application
20. Registration roll
21. Exhibition of provisional registration roll
22. Claims and objections during the exhibition of the provisional Registration roll
23. Statement of claims and objections
24. Time for making claims and objections
25. Determination of claims for inclusion and correction
26. Determination of objections

### Part III. Appeals

27. Appeals to the Commission
28. Appeals to Supreme Court

### Part IV Registration Roll

29. Certificate of the registration roll
30. Publication of certified registration roll
31. Copies of the certified registration roll
32. Publication of documents
33. Misnomer

### Annex

- Sample voter's card

## PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, Article 89 of the January 6, 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia established the Elections Commission as autonomous public Commission;

WHEREAS, Chapter 2 Section 9, (h & u) of the 1986 Elections Law empowers Elections Commission to formulate and enforce electoral guidelines;

WHEREAS, the National Elections Commission recognizes the vital need for an accurate and comprehensive register of eligible Liberian voters, and the need to prepare such a register in a transparent and expedient manner;

### **NOW THEREFORE:**

The National Elections Commission hereby promulgates, pursuant to Chapter 3 sub-chapter B Section 3.10 of the New Elections Law of 1986, the following regulations:

## **Part I. GENERAL**

### **1. Citation**

These Regulations may be cited as the Voter Registration Regulations.

### **2. Definitions**

(1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) "Registration Exercise" means the registration and exhibition activities as well as the determination of claims and objections.
- (b) "The Commission" means the National Elections Commission
- (c) "The Law" means the New Elections Law of 1986;
- (d) "The Magistrate of Elections" means the election official defined as such in the law and appointed for a particular area or county;
- (e) "The Reform Law" means the Electoral Reform Law of 2004;
- (f) "Polling place" means a place in which voters cast their votes during an election, designated by the Commission as such to serve a voting precinct;
- (g) "Registrar" means the person appointed by the Commission who will manage and be responsible for the activities of a team of registration officials at a registration center.

(2) A reference in these Regulations to a Regulation shall be construed as a reference to a provision contained in these Regulations.

## **Part II: REGISTRATION**

### **3. Dates of registration of all eligible Liberian voters in Liberia**

There shall be a registration of all eligible Liberians from period beginning 10 January through 6 February 2011. There will be no registration outside of Liberia.

### **4. Adjustment of dates for registration exercise**

If required due to exceptional or unforeseen circumstances, the Commission may decide to adjust the dates for the conduct of the registration exercise.

### **5. Eligibility criteria for registration**

Every citizen of Liberia who has attained the age of eighteen (18) or older and has not been judicially declared to be incompetent, or of unsound mind or who has not been disenfranchised as a result of conviction of an infamous crime will be eligible to register between 10 January and 6 February 2011.

### **6. Requirements for registration**

- (1) Where the Registrar is satisfied that an applicant meets the legal criteria for registration, the Registrar shall register the applicant and issue a voter's card.
- (2) Where the Registrar is not satisfied that an applicant meets the legal criteria for registration, the Registrar shall request proof of eligibility.
- (3) Proof of eligibility shall include any of the following:
  - (a) The sworn testimony of two other registered voters who shall appear in person before the Registrar and confirm the applicant's eligibility to register; or
  - (b) Confirmation by a Liberian traditional leader who is also a registered voter shall appear in person before the Registrar and confirm the applicant's eligibility to register; or
  - (c) A valid Liberian Passport; or
  - (d) A certificate of naturalization; or
  - (e) A birth certificate; or
  - (f) A certificate of renunciation of citizenship of another county; or
  - (g) A 2005 voter registration card

## **7. Registration centers**

- (1) The Commission may establish registration centers wherever it deems necessary that are accessible to all, especially those with disabilities are free from intimidation and located in politically neutral areas.
- (2) Not later than four (4) weeks before the first day of registration, the Commission shall publish the list of the locations of the place of registration centers.

## **8. Prohibition against multiple registration**

A person shall be registered at one registration center only and shall not register more than once in any given registration center.

## **9. Accreditation of political party representatives**

- (1) Every registered political party shall be entitled to nominate not more than two representatives at every registration center and at the Magistrate's office during the period of determination of objection.
- (2) Only one representative from each political party shall be allowed inside the registration center at a time and at the office of the Magistrate during the period of determination of objection.
- (3) Each political party may nominate its representatives and shall submit same fifteen (15) days before the commencement of the registration exercise.
- (4) Every accredited political party representative shall sign a pledge to respect and uphold the code of conduct for political parties.

- (5) The Commission Head office or the Magistrate of Elections shall issue the representatives with accreditation cards.
- (6) The Magistrate of Elections shall inform the Commission in writing of all the names of political party representatives accredited in their respective counties and magisterial areas.
- (7) A registered political party may at any time and with written notice to the Magistrate of Elections or the Head office, revoke the nomination of any its representatives and replace that person with another.

## **12. Duties and obligations of political party representatives**

1. Every political party representative duly accredited may monitor the registration exercise carried out by the registration officials at the registration center or office of the Magistrate of Elections for which he or she is accredited.
2. Political party representatives shall not interfere with the registration exercise at a registration center except as provided for in these regulations.
3. The Registrar may, notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary contained in these regulations, order any political party representative to leave the registration center until such time as the political party representative complies with his/her duties and obligations pursuant to these regulations.
4. Political Party representatives in a registration center shall not make any remark or act in any manner that seeks to dissuade others from registering while at the voter registration center.
5. Political party representative shall not display anything which identifies him/her as a representative of a particular political party except the NEC accreditation card.
6. Every political party representative shall display the accreditation card issued to him/her by the NEC. If required, the Registration Officer may request the representative to produce an additional identity.

## **13. Domestic and International Observers**

Observers duly accredited by the Commission may observe the registration exercise at registration centers and during the determination of claims and objections at the office of the Magistrate of Elections. Observers shall be governed by guidelines and code of conduct issued by the Commission.

## **14. Assigned Security Personnel**

Assigned Police officers and other security officials shall be permitted to enter or remain in a registration center only if requested by the Registrar to do so. While in the registration center or office of the Magistrate, security officials shall be subject to the instruction of the Registrar or Magistrate.

#### **15. Restrictions on political activities and materials near registration Centers**

Distribution or posting of political materials inside registration centers or within two hundred (200) yards of the registration center shall be prohibited. No political or propaganda debates shall be allowed inside the registration centers or within two hundred (200) yards of the registration center.

#### **16. Registration officials**

- (a) The Commission shall, in appointing registration officials pursuant to Chapter 2 sub-chapter D Section 2.29 of the 1986 Elections law, ensure that every person takes and signs an oath or affirmation in the prescribed form to faithfully perform the duties imposed under the Law without partiality, fear, favour or affection.
- (b) No person who is a political party official or representative, a candidate for election, a member of the National Legislature, or an executive appointee, shall be appointed as a registration official.
- (c) No person shall be appointed as a registration official if he or she has not completed a course of training to the satisfaction of the Commission.

#### **17. Powers of the Registrar**

- (1) The Registrar shall keep order at the registration center by regulating the number of applicants to be admitted at a time and excluding all other persons except other registration officials, political party representatives, observers and other such officials as authorized by the Commission.
- (2) The Registrar may order any person on the basis of breach of any provision of these Regulations to leave the registration center and shall, when he/she makes such an order, make a written report to the Magistrate of Elections.
- (3) Any person who fails to leave the registration center when so ordered in accordance with these regulations shall be deemed to have committed an offence and may, by order of the Registrar, be removed by the assigned security from the registration center.
- (4) The Registrar may take such steps as are deemed necessary for the protection of anyone in the registration center to stop or prevent any violence or disturbance therein.

- (5) The Powers conferred by this section shall as far as possible not be exercised to prevent a qualified applicant from having an opportunity to register.

## **18. Rejection of Application for Registration**

- (1) Where the Registrar is not satisfied that the applicant meets the legal requirements for registration, he/she shall issue to the applicant a notice of rejection in the prescribed form stating the reasons for rejection.
- (2) The Registrar shall maintain a record showing the names and other particulars of every applicant whose application for registration has been rejected by him/her.

## **19. Appeal Against Rejection of Application**

- (1) Throughout the registration period, the Registrar shall publicize the manner in which, and the time within which, appeals against rejections may be made.
- (2) Any person who is aggrieved by a decision of the Registrar not to be registered may appeal to the Magistrate of Elections concerned before the three day determination period of 29 January to 1 February 2011.
- (3) The Magistrate of Elections shall determine whether or not the appeal has any merit during the determination period of 29 January to 1 February 2011.
- (4) If the Magistrate of Elections determines that the appeal has merit, a voter's card will be issued in the prescribed form (Annex 1).
- (5) A record will be kept of all appeals that are rejected by the Magistrate of Elections.
- (6) The results of the determination of all appeals shall be posted at both the registration center and the office of the Magistrate of Elections concerned.
- (7) Any person who wishes to appeal the decision of the Elections Magistrate may make an appeal to the Board of Commissioners within 3 days.
- (8) Any person aggrieved of a decision by the Commission may appeal the matter to the Supreme Court not later than seven (7) days after the decision is rendered, whose decision shall be final.

## **20. Registration Roll**

The registration roll shall be prepared in separate parts for each polling place. The record in the registration roll prepared for each polling place shall include the voter identification number, name, age, sex and photograph of the person whose name appears.



## **21. Exhibition of Provisional Registration Roll**

- (1) The Provisional registration roll shall be exhibited at the registration centers between 4 April - 10 April 2011.
- (2) The Magistrate of Elections shall not later than seven days before the first day of exhibition of the provisional registration roll publish a notice in the prescribed form specifying the period and location of the Exhibition.

## **22. Claims and objections during the exhibition of the provisional registration Roll**

- (1) Only those with valid voter's cards may make claims for inclusion or correction during the Exhibition period.
- (2) Only those with valid voter's cards or those eligible to register may make an objection to inclusion during the Exhibition period.
- (3) All claims or objections shall be made on the forms prescribed by the Commission.

## **23. Statement of Claims and Objections**

A statement of claims and objections shall be made available for inspection at the Exhibition center.

## **24. Time for making claims and objections**

A claim or objection in respect of the provisional registration roll can be made only during the Exhibition period Declared by NEC. *[Amended in 2011]*

## **25. Determination of claims for inclusion and correction**

- (1) The determination of claims for inclusion and correction shall be made by the Registrar at the time the claim is made.
- (2) If the Registrar determines that the claim for inclusion or correction is valid, such determination shall be transmitted to the Magistrate of Elections who will send the decision to the Data Center for inclusion or correction.
- (3) If the Registrar determines that the claim for inclusion or correction is invalid, the decision should be posted at the Exhibition center during the Exhibition period.

## **26. Determination of Objections**

- (1) Objections are received at the Exhibition center by the Registrar during the Exhibition period and forwarded to the Magistrate of Elections for determination.

- (2) The determination of objections shall be made by the Magistrate of Elections during the period for the determination declared by NEC. *[Amended in 2011]*
- (3) The Magistrate of Elections shall not later than seven days before the period of determination of objections post a notice stating the period and location.
- (4) If the Magistrate of Elections determines that the objection is not valid, the reasons for the Magistrate's determination shall be made available and recorded in the prescribed form.
- (5) If the Magistrate of Elections determines that the objection is valid, the reasons for the Magistrate's determination shall be recorded in the prescribed form. Such decision shall be posted at the Exhibition center. Moreover, the person whose inclusion is objected to but accepted on appeal to the Board of Commissioners shall be notified by public notice.

#### 26<sup>1</sup>. Card Replacement Period

Voters' Card Replacement shall take place from June 13, 2011 to June 27, 2011 for the voters, who appear on the registration Roll and lost their valid registration cards acquired during the registration period of January 10 to February 12, 2011. *[Amended in 2011]*

### **Part III: APPEALS**

#### **27. Appeals to the Board of Commissioners**

Any person affected by a determination by the Magistrate of Elections may appeal within seven (7) days of the determination to the Board of Commissioners.

#### **28. Appeals to Supreme Court**

Any person affected by a determination of the Commission may appeal the matter to the Supreme Court not later than seven (7) days after the decision is rendered. The decision of the Supreme Court shall be the final.

### **Part IV: REGISTRATION ROLL**

#### **29. Certificate of the Registration Roll**

- (1) The Board of Commissioners shall, after the claims and objections have been determined and alterations made, certify the registration rolls and cause them to be printed and bound separately in respect of each polling place.

- (2) The certified rolls shall be deemed to be the registration rolls for the respective polling places and shall remain in force until rendered invalid by subsequent certified registration rolls.

### **30. Publication of certified Registration Roll**

The Commission shall make a copy of each certified registration roll available to the Magistrate of Elections at his/her office where it shall remain available for inspection.

### **31. Publication of Documents**

- (1) Any failure to publish a document in accordance with these regulations shall not invalidate the document; however, it shall not relieve the appropriate officer from any penalty for such failure.
- (2) Documents shall be made available for inspection, pursuant to these regulations, during ordinary business hours.
- (3) Where a document is made available for inspection, any person may make a copy of, or take extracts from, such document.

### **32. Misnomer**

No misnomer or inaccurate description of any person or place in any notice, registration roll, list of claims or objections, shall prejudice the operation of that document with respect to that person in any case where the description of the person or place is such as to be commonly understood.

These Regulations shall come into effect upon publication by the Commission and shall be binding on all citizens, political parties, political entities, alliances and coalition of Liberia.

### **Amendments and Revisions**

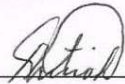
These regulations may be amended or revised at any time and published by the Commission. All amendments and revisions shall become effective upon publication.

DONE UNDER OUR HANDS AND SEAL OF THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS  
COMMISSION (NEC) THIS 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST A.D. 2010

Signed:

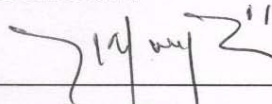
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr. Sarah Jegede

COMMISSIONER



\_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Ansumana F. Kromah

COMMISSIONER



\_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Jonathan K. Weedor

COMMISSIONER



\_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr. Jeanette A. Ebba-Davidson

COMMISSIONER



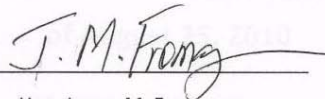
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. David S. Menyongai

COMMISSIONER



\_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr. Elizabeth J. Nelson

CO-CHAIRMAN



\_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. James M. Fromayan

CHAIRMAN