



STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NEC

14 October 2005

4:00 pm

PROGRESSIVE RESULTS FROM TALLYING

As of this afternoon 1,177 polling places have reported. A total of 378, 008 votes have been counted and tallied. The recorded turn out for the polling places which have reported amounts to 73%.

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	95,863	26.4
2. ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF	55,179	15.2
3. CHARLES BRUMSKINE	43,295	11.9
4. VARNEY SHERMAN	36,795	10.1
5. WINSTON TUBMAN	35,358	9.7
6. JOSEPH KORTO	23,298	6.4

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

SECURITY

Nothing significant to report.

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

On reports that some candidates in the Bomi senate election were calling for a recount of ballots and were preparing to file a formal request with the NEC, the Chair said once the Commission receives the request it will look into the matter.

Concerning why the tallying is slow in Montserrado County which is considered accessible, the Chair said Montserrado accounts for over 400,000 registered voters, or more than 1/3 of the total number of registered voters in the country; therefore the



Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)



tallying will take some time. She also noted that there are some inaccessible areas in Montserrado. Cllr. Johnson-Morris however said she was satisfied with the overall progress of the tallying process, noting that about 1/3 of the 3,070 polling areas have reported.

Responding to a journalist's question over the reliability of the count results that are being announced on some local radio, the Chair said election results announced by the NEC are the only official results.

Regarding whether those candidates that have obtained the highest votes for a county or electoral district in the Senate or House of Representative race, respectively, in those counties where all tally results have been reported are now winners of those races, the Chair said the Commission cannot at this point declare any winners. She said the tally results are only preliminary, and according to NEC's timeframe the final results of the elections must be announced not later than October 26, 2005. After this, candidates may file complaints within a period of 7 days otherwise the results stand.

On the question of the estimated number of people that actually voted on October 11, out of the 1.3 million registered voters, the Chair said it was difficult to determine this in the absence of the complete statistics. She however said indications are that there was a high turnout.

On whether a ballot that a voter mistakenly places in the wrong ballot box is considered an invalid ballot, the Chair said during the sorting of ballots this ballot is simply placed in the appropriate pile before counting begins. It cannot be determined at this stage whether or not it is an invalid ballot until it is opened up and examined during the counting.

Asked whether a registered voter who did not vote during the first round may vote in the event of a run-off, the Chair said that should be possible as soon as he/she brings his/her registration card.

Responding to a report that some people who registered in one place voted in a different place on polling day, the Chair said that was not possible because their names would not be on the Final Voter Roll for that polling place for which they were not registered. She said only for IDPs was it permissible to vote in a place other than that for which they register to vote.
