



Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)



STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NEC

17 October 2005
7:00 pm

□ STATUS OF RETRIEVAL OF MATERIALS AND TALLYING

Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Kru, Lower Nimba, River Cess, River Gee, Sinoe and Upper Bong have all finalized tallying.

Out of these, the NEC has so far received the Preliminary Declaration of Results from Bomi and Grand Cape Mount. Upper Bong has submitted its Preliminary Declaration to the National Tally Center, which is awaiting the Preliminary Declaration from Lower Bong in order to consolidate the totals from the two offices before forwarding them to the NEC.

Lofa has started tallying the results from the 42 polling places that were retrieved from Kolahun by helicopter today.

□ PROGRESSIVE RESULTS FROM TALLYING

A total of 970,704 votes have been counted and tallied as of this evening. 2,917 polling places or 95% of all polling places for the presidential election, have now reported. The recorded turn out for the polling places which have reported amounts to 74%.

The updates included come from the following counties: Grand Bassa, Grand Geddeh and Montserrado.

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	268, 777	28.8
2. ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF	186, 821	20
3. CHARLES BRUMSKINE	129, 567	13.9
4. WINSTON TUBMAN	89, 436	9.4
5. VARNEY SHERMAN	72, 411	7.8

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

☐ PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RUN-OFF

Looking at the numbers above, and estimating a total turnout of approximately 1 million, which is about 74% of the 1.35 million registered voters, the NEC sees it prudent to begin preparations for a Presidential election run-off. If the final results from tallying confirm this assessment, the run-off election will be held on November 8, 2005.

However, NEC has yet to receive all the Declarations of Preliminary Tally Results from the counties and will then require time to review these before making any formal announcement on the electoral results for the three elections. The procedures in place require that the Board of Commissioners complete a thorough review of the Declarations. The public is advised that this is a process which will require the patience of the electorate as the Board of Commissioners validates the accuracy of the results.
