

**STATEMENT BY CLLR. JEROME G. KORKOYA  
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION (NEC)  
AT PROGRAM MARKING THE CERTIFICATION OF WINNERS OF THE  
2017 PRESIDENTIAL AND REPRESENTATIVE ELECTIONS  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018  
JAMES M. FROMAYA CONFERENCE HALL**

Address the Audience

Let me begin by giving thanks to the Almighty God for his profound graces and blessings which have brought us thus far. Permit me to join the Co-Chair to welcome you all to this program marking the certification of winners of the 2017 Presidential and Representative Elections.

The Commission is exceedingly glad for the trend our democracy is taking judging from the massive turn out of registered voters during the October 10 Elections and the peaceful atmosphere that characterized the conduct of those elections. The NEC cannot shy away from the experience of the post October 10 Elections when citizens who felt aggrieved during the elections went to court following the announcement of the results to seek redress for their grievances. The Commission is also glad that respect for the rule of law is taking roots in our country. Whatever the outcome of those challenges were, the most important lesson one can draw from that experience is that Liberians are rapidly learning to be respectful of the rule of law.

As required by law, we are gathered here today to perform one of the cardinal functions of the National Elections Commission; to confer legitimacy on Mr. President Elect, Madam Vice President Elect and members of the House of Representatives Elect, as winners of the October 10, 2017 Elections and the Presidential Runoff Election held on December 26, 2017, by issuing to them certificates in testimony of the will of the Liberian people. The certificates we are about to present to you does not only represent conferral of legitimacy- to pronounce you to the world as the duly elected officials but

also an embodiment of the power, trust and aspiration reposed in you by your various constituents and the people of Liberia as a whole. When the majority of voters who turned out to vote in the October 10 Elections and the Runoff Election of December 26, 2017 selected you on the ballot, they did so considering you as the best candidates to lead our nation for the next six years; to meet their aspirations and fulfill their hopes. This certificate therefore constitutes your sufficient authority to perform the functions for which you were elected. You cannot and should not disappoint the trust of the people.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, since the December 26, 2017 elections, the NEC has received words of commendation from Liberians and foreigners alike for successfully and peacefully conducting the Runoff Election.

The success would not have been possible without the support of the Government of Liberia. For this the Commission is grateful to Her Excellency, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for leading the first democratic transition of authority from one elected government to another in 73 years. We want to thank the Finance Minister, Mr. Boima Kamara, and his team for all the help they gave the Commission. During the course of our interaction, Mr. Kamara has come across as a very kind public servant. We are grateful to you Mr. Minister, as we pray that you continue in this manner.

The Commission also wishes to acknowledged, with profound gratitude, the support it received from its international partners, including USAID, UNMIL, EU, UNDP ECOWAS, AU, and IFES during the conduct of the 2017 Elections.

In addition to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, the Commission received tremendous support from a number of institutions including the Governance Commission (GC) and the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA). Commissioner General Mrs. Elfrieda S. Tamba, within the scope of the law allowed us to bring in elections materials without offsetting tight schedules. We are grateful for your kind assistance to the Commission. We are also grateful to Dr. Amos C. Sawyer and the GC for helping the NEC in this endeavor. To the Inspector General of Police, the Commissioner

General of the Immigration Service, and all security forces we say a big thank you for the quality of services rendered the Commission.

Our thanks also to the Inter-Religious Council, our local stakeholders including the ECC, LEON, and the media particularly KMTV Liberia for their coverage of the process which provided a platform for the Liberian people to see the activities unfold in real time.

We thank the political parties that contested these elections for their cooperation throughout the process. Most importantly, we want to thank the Liberian people for the matured manner in which they conducted themselves throughout the electoral process.

All of what was achieved could not have happened without the sacrifices, commitment, and dedication of the technical and support staff of the NEC for which we are extremely thankful.

The power that has been entrusted to you by the people comes with great deal of expectation and responsibility. Expectation to change their living conditions by the laws you make and the programs you undertake. Responsibility in the sense that each passing day you need to keep reminded that there are people out there who are counting on you to move their lives forward. You cannot afford to betray their trust.

Having said that we will now proceed with the certification program. The representatives elect will be certificated by the oversight commissioners of their counties beginning with the Co-Chairman, Cllr. Sarah M. Toe.