

NEC Launches National Civic/Voter Education Toolkit for Liberia



Chairman Korkoya launches the CVE Toolkit



Cross section of Civil Society actors at the occasion



Cross section of religious leaders at the occasion

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has launched the National Civic and Voter Education Toolkit of Liberia.

The CVE Toolkit was launched Monday, August 31, 2015 at a ceremony held at the headquarters of the Commission in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

The Chairman of the NEC at the ceremony said the Commission will shortly engage the Ministry of Education for the development of a Democracy and Elections package that would be taught in secondary schools in Liberia under the Citizenship Education Component of the revised national curriculum.

He said the CVE Section of the Commission is currently working out details of the engagement which will consider the input of all stakeholders in the electoral process.

“In essence, this undertaking by the Commission reaffirms its commitment and determination to apply all of the best practices that will further deepen the understanding of voters and candidates in order to encourage greater participation in all aspects of the electoral process. In particular, the development of this important instrument could not have come at a better time than now when the Commission is preparing for the conduct of a possible referendum in 2016 and the Legislative and Presidential Elections in 2017,” Chairman Korkoya intimated

The Chairman expressed delight over the accentuation of the role of political parties in CVE delivery as well as the reflection of the interest of minority groups, the physically challenged, the media, civil society and religious groups, women and youth groups as well as local and traditional leaders in the CVE Toolkit.

“In an effort to ensure scrupulous implementation and to engender national ownership of the Toolkit, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the Commission will shortly embark on strings of regional discussions with all stakeholders in order to roll out the Toolkit. These nation-wide public engagements will create a platform for stakeholders to fully understand the steps and procedures in planning, designing and implementing CVE programs as well as reporting methods as required by the Toolkit. This initiative is also part of the support from the European Union (EU) through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for which the Commission remains grateful,” he concluded.

The Toolkit is a comprehensive package of information and items that provide a standard for the effective dissemination of electoral messages with the aim of ensuring equitable and increased participation in elections.

Consistent with the Commission’s integrated CVE Program, the Toolkit seeks to address messaging and outreach gaps that have long existed within the overall CVE mechanism.

The strategy will guide all actors (Individuals and institutions) involved with CVE programs in the country in planning, designing and conducting all Civic and Voter Education activities in keeping with the procedures established in the toolkit.

The development of the Toolkit was driven by an in-depth study commissioned by the NEC in 2014 which revealed that one of the surest ways to improve the electoral process and encourage greater participation is through an enhanced and sustainable CVE exercise.

The Toolkit is divided into seven parts called ‘CHAPTERS’. Among other things, these chapters provide strategies that explain the rationale for the toolkit, the design and use of CVE messages and the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders. Other areas covered by these chapters include strategies for mainstreaming gender in elections, directly engaging the physically challenged, minority groups and the general public through outreach.