

**Statement by Cllr. Jerome G. Korkoya
Chairman of the National Elections Commission (NEC) at
Program Marking the Certification of the Winner of the
District # 13 Representative By-Election.**

Venue: James M. Fromayan Conference Hall

Date: 3rd, December 2018



NEC Boss Cllr. Korkoya Certificates Representative Elect Edward Papay Flomo.

Madam Co-Chair and Members of the Board of Commissioners of NEC;
Representative Elect, Edward Papay Flomo;
Members of other political parties present;
International Partners of the Commission;
Members of the Fourth Estate;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

I want to join Commissioner Davidatte Browne Lansanah to welcome you to the Headquarters of the National Elections Commission and to this Certification Program. I am humble and honored to be performing this task on behalf of the Commission.

- I. As you all are aware, the Montserrado County District #13 Representative and Sinoe County Senatorial By-elections were conducted on the same day, November 20, 2018. However, today, we will be certificating the winner of the Montserrado County District #13 By-election only. Though a winner was announced in the Sinoe County Senatorial By-election, that winner will not be certificated until complaints filed against the process are fully disposed of. This is in line with the decision of the Supreme Court in the case CDC vs NEC, 2015.
- II. While we celebrate the end of a process and the determination made by the people of District #13 as to who represents them in the House of Representatives, the NEC is deeply concerned about reports of violence that characterized final stages of the campaign in District #13.
- III. Since the incident of December 7, 2011, the Commission, government, and the people of Liberia continue to work very hard to keep our electoral process free of violence. As tense as the 2017 Presidential and Representatives Elections were, Liberians committed themselves to the rule of law. They waited patiently for the outcome of the complaints filed against those processes. We do not recall any case of electoral violence during the 2017 process. If it did not happen in those elections that had so much at stake, the by-election in District #13 should certainly not have experienced the violence that was reported. However, we are pleased to report that the Commission is in receipt of complaint filed by the Unity Party regarding the incident and that complaint has been forwarded to our Independent Hearing Office for immediate investigation. Also the Liberia National Police is investigating the criminal aspect and the Commission has been asked for its cooperation in that investigation and the Commission will be glad to fully cooperate with law enforcement in this regard. We like to reiterate our dismay over the incident and extend sympathy to all who suffered in any way as a result of the incident.
- IV. With that said, we wish to thank the Government of Liberia for providing the funds to conduct the District #13 Representative and the Sinoe County Senatorial By-elections. We thank all the parties and candidates that participated in these by-elections. Many

thanks to the poll workers who spent tireless hours to ensure that the By-elections was conducted as prescribed by law. Thanks to all security institutions for helping to provide the enabling security environment for the conduct of the by-elections.

V. We congratulate Mr. Flomo on his victory in the Representative By-election.

Having said that, I will now call up Representative Elect Edward Papay Flomo to come forth and receive his certificate of election. On behalf of the Commission, I wish to congratulate you on your election.

I thank you.