

Press Statement by Cllr. Jerome G. Korkoya
Chairman, National Elections Commission
On the 2018 Senatorial By-elections in
Montserrado and Bong Counties
James M. Fromayan Conference Hall
Monday, July 2, 2018

Introduction

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press,

I am pleased to welcome you to the Headquarters of the National Elections Commission (NEC) and to this press conference. In today's press conference we will provide information on the following:

1. Joint Resolution LEG – 003/2018 from the Honorable Legislature;
2. Arrival of 80% Prepacked kits;
3. Amendment of Elections Writ to Reflect the New Elections Date; and
4. Declaration of Political Campaign for the By-election

The Joint Resolution

I am pleased to inform you that the National Elections Commission (NEC) has received Joint Resolution LEG – 003/2018 by the 54th Legislature of the Republic of Liberia setting the date for the Senatorial By-elections in Bong and Montserrado Counties. In keeping with Section I of the said Resolution, the Senate and House of Representatives resolved that the by-elections be conducted no later than July 31, 2018.

Election Date

In keeping with the Joint Resolution, the NEC has set Tuesday, July 31, 2018 as the date of the by-elections.

Political Campaign

As already announced, following the nomination period, which ran from April 11 to May 5, 2018, the Commission certified twelve candidates. Those qualified were:

Bong County

1. Josiah Marvin Cole
2. Fairnoh Theo Gbilah
3. Prince Togar Kollie
4. Henrique Flomo Tokpa
5. Orlando Koimene Zarwolo

Montserrado County

1. Bernard DJ Blue Benson, Jr.
2. Josephine George Francis
3. Saah Hardy Joseph
4. Finley Y. Karngar
5. Mark Augustine Keshen
6. Yekeh Yarkpaworlue Kolubah
7. Michael Doe Tipayson

In view of the above, I am pleased on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to declare campaign for the 2018 Senatorial By-election open. The campaign period commences today and will end at midnight on Sunday, July 29, 2018. Candidates in the by-elections are advised to go about their campaign in a peaceful manner void of violence and in keeping with the laws of Liberia and more specifically those controlling the electoral process.

The NEC has amended the writ of Elections issued to magistrates of the two counties to reflect the new date.

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, the NEC is also pleased to inform you that 80% of prepacked materials for the Senatorial By-elections arrived in the country on yesterday, July 1, 2018, aboard a chartered flight.

The remaining 20% is expected on or before July 7, 2018. The public will be informed on the arrival of the remaining prepacked kits.

The Commission is grateful to the Government of Liberia for its support to the conduct of the Senatorial by-elections in Bong and Montserrado Counties. We are pleased to inform you that the Government has made allotment of the remaining \$690,526 (Six Hundred Ninety Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Six United States Dollars). This amount is being processed for disbursement to the Commission. The amount brings the Government of Liberia's total contribution to \$2,200,464USD (Two Million Two Hundred Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Four United States Dollars). We also wish to thank our partners, for their budgetary support of \$577,465.45 (Five Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Five United States Dollars Forty-Five Cents) towards the conduct of the by-elections. I thank you.