



Republic of Liberia

NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION

TUBMAN BOULEVARD, 9th & 10th STREETS, SINKOR – P.O. BOX 2044

MONROVIA, LIBERIA



Office of the Chairman

Press Statement by Cllr. Jerome G. Korkoya
Chairman, National Elections Commission (NEC)
On Update of the By-elections in Montserrado and Bong Counties
James M. Fromayan Conference Hall
Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Introduction

- Distinguished ladies and gentlemen of the Press, you are welcome to the headquarters of the National Elections Commission and to this press conference. In today's press conference we will provide information on funding for the by-elections and setting of a new date for the said elections.
- You will recall in our last meeting on May 8, 2018, we announced that the NEC was unable to conduct the Montserrado and Bong Counties Senatorial By-elections within the constitutional timeframe of ninety days because of lack of sufficient funding to the process at the time. We also announced that as at that date, the Government of Liberia had provided \$500,000USD (Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars) for conduct of the by-elections.

Funding Received Thus Far

- Following that press conference, the Commission has been meeting with relevant stakeholders to resolve the funding issue for the by-elections. I am pleased to inform you that the Government of Liberia has provided additional \$1,009,938USD (One Million, Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred Thirty-Eight United States Dollars) for the by-elections. This brings the total amount provided by the Government of Liberia to

\$1,509,938USD (One Million, Five Hundred Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred Thirty-Eight United States Dollars.

- Our partners through the Election Project with donations from UNDP, EU, Sweden, Irish Aid and Canada have committed \$565,835USD (Five Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred Thirty-Five United States Dollars to the By-elections.
- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID through IFES has also committed \$11,450USD (Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Forty United States Dollars to the by-elections.
- The total amount received and committed for the conduct of the by-elections so far amounts to \$2,087,223USD (Two Million, Eighty-Seven Thousand, Two Hundred Twenty-Three United States Dollars). That leaves an outstanding amount of \$690,706.45 (Six Hundred Ninety Thousand, Seven Hundred Six United States Dollars and Forty-Five Cents) from a total budget of \$2,777,929.45 (Two Million, Seven Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred Twenty-Nine United States Dollars and Forty-Five Cents) agreed upon by the NEC and the Government of Liberia for the two by-elections.

International Procurement

- With the amount on hand, the Commission is consummating agreements for international procurement for the printing of ballots and provision of pre-packed kits for the by-elections.

Activities Undertaken So Far

- The Commission has concluded nomination of candidates for the two by-elections. Eleven of the twelve aspirants processed have been notified of the acceptance of their nomination applications. Complaint against Hon. Marvin Cole, Senatorial Aspirant of Bong County on the ticket of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) is being heard by the Independent Hearing Officer.
- Assessment of polling places in Bong County has been completed while assessment of polling places in Montserrado County is ongoing.

Printing of final registration rolls for replacement of lost and damaged voters' cards is ongoing as well.

Setting of New Date

- With the financial issue significantly resolved, the next issue of concern is the new date for the holding of the by-elections. As you are aware, the NEC is without authority to set a new date. The Commission is therefore holding consultation with relevant authorities of the Government to remedy the date issue.
- The NEC will inform the Liberian people, through you, members of the press, on a new date for the by-elections as soon as those consultations are concluded.

Felicitation

- Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the Commission wishes to extend thanks to the Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Autonomous Agencies and Commissions, Hon. Milton Teahjay and the Chairman of the House Standing Committee on Elections and Inaugurations, Hon. Alex C. Grant for their role played in getting us to where we are.
- We are also grateful to the UN Resident Coordinator, H.E. Yacoub El Hillo and our international partners for their contributions to the by-election.
- We wish to also extend thanks to the Liberia Council of Churches through its President, Bishop Kortu Browne for their ongoing interventions.
- Finally, we wish to thank the Minister of Finance and the Government of Liberia for the funding provided so far.

I thank you.