

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) ABOUT COUNTING OF PRESIDENTIAL AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTES

## **When will counting begin?**

It begins immediately after closing of polling.

## **Who will handle the ballot boxes?**

Under no circumstances may observers, representatives or any other person, but the polling staff touch any ballot boxes or papers at any stage of the process.

## **Who is allowed to be present during the counting?**

Accredited NEC officials, accredited Domestic and International observers, accredited party representatives, accredited journalists and LNP.

## **In which order will the counting occur?**

Ballots will be reconciled, sorted, counted and tallied. The presidential ballots will be counted first, followed by senate and then House of Representatives ballot.

## **How will the ballots be reconciled?**

Reconciliation of ballots assures that the number of ballots in the ballot box corresponds to the number of ballots issued.

The ballots will be reconciled facing down. During the reconciliation, there is no need to see the marked ballot papers since it is only confirming the number of ballots issued.

## **How will the ballots be sorted?**

During the sorting, there will be a separate stack for each candidate.

## **How will the ballots be counted?**

Each stack will be counted separately in the order in which candidates appear on the ballot paper. The Presiding Officer will assign one member of the polling place to count the ballots, which are then re-counted by the Presiding Officer to confirm the totals reached.

## **How will the results be filled?**

When the numbers match, the Presiding Officer will fill out the Record of the Count Form, which will be sent to the Magistrate Office for tallying.

## **Where will the results be displayed after counting?**

Once the count for President, Senate and House of Representatives is completed and all the count forms are filled in, the results will be displayed at the polling place in full view.

## **Who will announce the official results and when will that be done?**

The election results will be officially announced by the NEC. By law the NEC must announce the results within a maximum of 15 days.

The NEC will also be announcing provisional results as it receives reports from the counties.