



Republic of Liberia

**NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

TUBMAN BOULEVARD, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> STREETS, SINKOR – P.O. BOX 2044  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA



## ***First Progress Report on the Four Representative By-Elections & Other Electoral Activities***

### ***24 September 2021***

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I am pleased to submit herein, the first progress report on the four Representative By-Elections in District #2, Bong County; District #1, Bomi County; District #1, Grand Gedeh County and District #1, Nimba County. This report also includes status of preparatory activities for the 2023 General Elections of the National Elections Commission (NEC).

#### **1. Representative By-Elections**

- The NEC has received the total budget **US\$1,727,451.73 (One Million Seven Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-One United States Dollars and Seventy-Three Cents)** for the four Representative By-Elections from the Government, disbursed in Liberian and United States Dollars as follows:  
**US\$1,036,471.04 and L\$110,643,640.62;**
- A “Joint Resolution LEG-002/2021” for the conduct of the representative by-elections on 16 November 2021 was received on 7 September 2021;
- The NEC received approval for procurement from Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC). Bidding process has begun.
- The NEC has issued the Writs of Elections to five (5) Magistrates of the respective magisterial areas in the four counties of the vacant seats on 8 September 2021. Five magistrates were issued Writs of Elections instead of four because District #2 of Bong County falls within NEC Magisterial areas of Upper and Lower Bong County each of which has a magistrate.
- The Timeline and Electoral Key Dates were submitted to the Legislature on 10 September 2021;
- Candidates Nomination commenced 13 September and will end on 24 September 2021 with no extension of date. This was announced to the public at various intervals and through the media.
- The NEC will sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with 11 (eleven) Radio Stations to cover the by-elections. The four counties radio stations are included.

#### **2. 2023 General Elections**

- Authorities are yet to approve the US\$91.9 Million Proposed 2023 Budget for Biometric Voter Registration (BVR). The NEC and Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) have been working over the past months, to streamline the budget. Following series of technical discussions between both entities in the week of 8 September 2021, the Minister

of Finance and NEC Chair, along with their technicians held a high level meeting and discussed the 2023 Budget aimed to finding a way forward for the approval of the budget.

- The NEC, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), conducted a Feasibility Study to do a comprehensive analysis of the potential for the introduction of new technologies, such as Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), in electoral process in time for the 2023 general elections and beyond. The study was conducted in June and early July 2021 by two experts who worked in close collaboration with NEC Technical Team. Consultations were held with several government entities (including the Honorable Legislature), civil society organizations and partners. The draft report of the study was submitted to the Commission and other partners who made additional inputs and recommendations. The final report shall be released to the Commission soon;
- On the aspect of donor/UN Support to the 2023 Proposed Budget, they are yet to announce any support in the absence of the approval of the said budget.
- The NEC has hired a boundary delimitation international specialist who served as the consultant for the 2011 Boundary Delineation to lead the assessment. The technical assessment will be done from September 13 to October 14, 2021. During this period, the consultant will hold series of consultations with strategic and technical stakeholders of the electoral constituency redistricting process. Since his arrival, Mr. Archie Delaney has held initial meetings with LISGIS Director, Mr. Francis F. Wreh. Letters were also written to key stakeholders, including the Speaker, President Pro Tempore, and Chairs of both Houses Committees on Autonomous Agencies and Commissions, and Elections for their participation in the anticipated discussions. On the outcome of the Commission's communication to the Houses on the matter above, the NEC received letters on 17 and 22 September 2021 from the President Pro Tempore, wherein he designated Senator Henrique F. Tokpa as a focal point for the Senate, while Senator J. Gbleh-bo Brown, Chairman on Senate Statutory Committee on Internal Affairs, Good Governance and Reconciliation designated Mr. Julius Kwarbo Wese, Chief of Office Staff of his office as a focal point for the Committee.

Please see attached copies of the Timeline and Electoral Key Dates for the Representative By-Elections that were submitted to your Honorable Office.