



Republic of Liberia

NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION

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

MONROVIA, LIBERIA



Second Progress Report on the Four Representative By-Elections & Other Electoral Activities

1 November 2021

I am pleased to submit herein, the second 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 and other processes of the Commission. This report also includes status of preparatory activities for the 2023 General Elections.

1. Representative By-Elections

- Assessment of seventy-eight (78) voting precincts to be used on Election Day completed. This exercise was key, as it provided insight to the Commission on the type of structures, mode of transport, access to precincts, and assurance that all polling places will be made available to voters, etc.

The below table shows the number of precincts and polling places in each of the four Electoral Districts for the 2021 By-Elections.

No.	Magisterial Area	District	Precincts	Polling Places	Voters
1	Bomi	1	27	69	29,670
2	Bong	2	22	70	30,042
3	Grand Gedeh	1	11	56	25,412
4	Nimba	1	18	85	37,457
	Total		78	280	122,581

- The NEC continues its outreach activities for the By-Elections with radio talk shows in Monrovia that are being aired simultaneously on the local radio stations within the four electoral districts in Bomi, Bong, Grand Gedeh, and Nimba Counties.
- On 1 October 2021, the NEC launched Civic and Voter Education (CVE) and Gender Campaign for the Representative By-Elections simultaneously in Bomi, Bong, and Nimba Counties, while CVE was launched on 4 October in Grand Gedeh County, due to bad road condition which delayed NEC staff from reaching in time with materials (Posters, T-shirts, caps & fliers) for the CVE launch. CVE activities continue up to Election Day in the four districts.
- NEC has conducted a series of training sessions (Replacement, Data Entry, and Polling & Counting). Replacement of Lost/Damaged Voter Identification Card has been completed in the four Districts from 4-8 October 2021.
- A total of thirty-three (33) candidates have been qualified by NEC to contest in the Representative By-elections in Bong, Bomi, Grand Gedeh, and Nimba Counties. On 27 September 2021, a total of thirty-three (33) aspirants' names were published in the local dailies and on NEC's official website for public vetting. The final list of candidates was published in the local dailies and on NEC's official website. Please see attached.

- Political Campaign was officially declared open on 15 October 2021, and it will run up to midnight, 14 November 2021.
- Stakeholders' engagement continues in the four electoral districts. The latest engagements were held in Bomi, Bong, Nimba, and Grand Gedeh Counties on 14 and 15 October 2021.
- NEC has moved additional staff, vehicles, equipment and other logistics to the four districts. This will continue until the announcement of final results as staff are moved depending on activity (eg: infrastructure set up, recruitment, training, materials movement from NEC Headquarters, deployment to/from precincts, conduct of by-elections, tally, announcement of results, payment of staff, etc.).
- Ballot Papers for the By-Elections arrived in country on 26 October 2021. Total breakdown of Ballot Papers received according to county/district: Bomi County 39,848 ballot papers; Bong County 40,425 ballot papers; Grand Gedeh County 32,340 ballot papers; and Nimba County 49,088 ballots.
- Recruitment of temporary staff for the polling and counting exercise for Election Day is ongoing.
- County Tally Results Database has been set up for the four districts. Tally will be conducted at the NEC Magisterial Offices, except Nimba County where it will be conducted at the Ganta United Methodist Compound, where the NEC has secured a sub office in the district.
- The NEC conducted a four-day Legal Workshop on New Proposed Hearing Procedures, Election Cases, and Training in Ganta, Nimba County. The forum, which was conducted by the Legal Section of NEC, involved sixty-four (64) participants including members of the NEC Board of Commissioners, a representative from the Ministry of Justice, and senior technicians of NEC, including Elections Magistrates. Facilitators of the training were Cllr. M. Wilkins Wright, former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, along with Atty. Alvin Teage Jalloh, NEC Senior Legal Counsel, and Cllr. Muana S. Ville, NEC Chief Disputes Hearing Officer, technical assessment from

2. 2023 General Elections

- After a period (September 13 to October 14, 2021) of consultations with strategic and technical stakeholders on electoral constituency redistricting process, the NEC Consultant, Mr. Archie Delaney, has concluded the initial assessment on boundary delimitation. During this period, Mr. Delaney held series of meetings with Focal Points of institutions: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), Liberian Land Authority, the Liberian Senate, the House of Representatives, and other institutions of government. Mr. Delaney also appeared live on SKY FM and OK FM respectively on the process of boundary delimitation on 8 and 14 October 2021. The Assessment Report was delivered to the Commission on 26 October 2021 and informs the Commission Electoral Constituency Delimitation for the 2023 General Elections in Liberia.

Mr. Archie Delaney presented the report Tuesday to the Board of Commissioners (BOC), through its Chairperson, Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah, witnessed by a number of government agencies, including the Governance Commission (GC), LISGIS, the Chairperson on Autonomous Agencies and Elections of the Liberian Senate, Dr. Henrique F. Tokpa and UNDP Electoral Support Office to Liberia. A key recommendation from the Delaney's Report

indicates that the current Administrative Boundaries are negative impacting the work of the LISGIS, which could also have ramifications for a successful delimitation process.

- A nationwide assessment is ongoing on all NEC Electronic Communication equipment in remote locations and magisterial areas of all the solar power systems, high-frequency radio systems, including antenna mast, repeater radios, and their associated antenna, etc. This exercise will inform the Commission with empirical evidence, of the number of equipment on the field and their conditions as well.
- On 25 October 2021, the Commission, represented by the Chairperson, Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah, honored a House of Representative Leadership Forum Invitation to a consultative meeting of relevant stakeholders in the Statistical Sector. The focus of the communication was Synchronization and Consolidation of the National Identity Registry (NIR's) mandate and functions amongst others, and to include the designing, maintenance and administering of a Comprehensive National Biometric Identification System.
 - a. The NEC made known its position to support a national endeavor on synchronization of data. NEC viewed these plans as futuristic, beyond the 2023 General Elections and a gradual process towards achieving national objectives.
 - b. The NIR made known its position to have NEC submit its Voter Registration data/ (roll) for the 2023 General Elections, in piecemeal to the NIR, during the voter registration process.
 - c. NEC reminded the House's Leadership Forum that as the custodian of the voter registry (data), the NEC was concerned about the intentions of the NIR to request voter registration data during the period of voter registration and prior to the General Elections, noting that issues of public perception, and integrity of the voter's roll were primary reasons NEC maintained it will conduct the 2023 voter registration as a standalone as required by law.
 - d. The Honorable Speaker and Chair of the House's Leadership Forum concluded the discussion after obtaining a motion instructing the NEC to work with the NIR, indicating to the contrary, which could have implications for the approval of NEC's 2023 Biometric and Elections Budget before the Legislature.