



## **Elections Coordinating Committee**

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### **PRESS STATEMENT**

The Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) considers the November 8, 2011 Presidential Election to be free, fair and transparent. Its observers did not report any major electoral and administrative irregularities that undermined the integrity and credibility of the results. The process was peaceful and orderly.

The ECC deployed 1,725 observers at polling places across the 15 counties as well as 76 observers at the 19 electoral magistrates in the various counties and the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex to observe the counting, tallying and recording of results. The ECC observed that almost all of the polling places opened on time and that there were adequate election materials with minor disruptions during voting. Uniformed security officers were deployed at the polling places observed. Party agents from the Unity Party were present at polling precincts. Counting started in time and all voters who were in the queue before 6 Pm were allowed to vote.

At the same time, the ECC observed some challenges during the day of election. Some unidentified persons in New Kru Town attempted to stop the transportation of ballot boxes but the situation was peacefully resolved with the intervention of UNMIL and the Liberia National Police. This phenomenon was also experienced in West Point.

Now that the elections are over, social and political reconciliation will be a major challenge in consolidating the peace and strengthening the emerging democracy. The ECC calls on the government, political parties, civil society and the media to consider this issue as a national development and governance priority and give it serious attention in the coming months.

The ECC is also calling on the government not to lose sight of the violent incident of November 7, 2011 at the headquarters of the CDC. The ECC is further urging the government to speedily establish an independent body comprising diverse stakeholders to investigate the cause of the violence that led to the death and injury of Liberians. The ECC proposes that a detailed term of reference is developed to guarantee that the findings of the investigation will be implemented in order to restore public trust and confidence in the nation's security apparatus.

The ECC is the domestic election observer body comprising more than 30 civil society organizations that observed the major cycles of the 2011 elections.

Oscar Bloh, Chairperson