



Elections Coordinating Committee

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PRESS RELEASE

The Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) strongly condemns recent disturbing public statements made by certain politicians. These statements are inflammatory and may preempt the outcome of the ongoing collation of results by the NEC. This has the potential to undermine the entire electoral process and the gains made thus far in strengthening democracy and maintaining peace and stability in Liberia.

On Tuesday October 11, 2011, Liberians heeded the call of national and international actors to go out and vote in an orderly and peaceful manner. This was a demonstration of their will to ensure the country remains stable as well as strengthen and consolidate the peace and emerging democracy. The ECC in two previous statements released this week on its observation of the electoral process stated that of the 2,000 polling places observed across the country, the elections were properly handled by the National Elections Commission (NEC) and they have not received any reports of fraud or manipulation that could influence or alter the outcome of the electoral exercise. Of the places observed, the ECC views the process thus far to be free, fair and credible. The counting process has started and NEC will be officially releasing preliminary results within a period of two weeks.

During this critical period of the electoral process, the ECC urges all political parties and candidates to maintain the peace, and wait for NEC to release the final results. Any grievances thereafter should be addressed according to law and through the NEC as the initial course of redress. In the interim, they should refrain from making public statements that could incite violence and undermine the credibility of the elections that have been effectively administered thus far.

The ECC calls on all major stakeholders: the Government, NEC, political parties, media, civil society and international partners to allow the "will of the Liberian people" to prevail. The ECC also calls on all political parties to exercise restraint as the official results are being announced and to respect the "OUTCOMES OF THESE ELECTIONS". The ECC commends the international community for supporting the democratic process in Liberia.

The Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC), a coalition of civil society organizations is in partnership with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA). The ECC has monitored the various cycles of the electoral process including the voters' registration, referendum and the elections day. God Bless Liberia

Signed: Oscar Bloh (Chairperson, ECC)

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" Promoting credible elections to increase public confidence in democracy"