



Elections Coordinating Committee

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Introduction

On Tuesday 11th October 2011 Liberians went to polls to vote in the first post-war democratic elections organized by Liberians. The general elections were contested by sixteen presidential candidates and over five hundred legislative candidates. The Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) with support from the Open Society Institute of West Africa and the National Democratic Institute fielded two thousand observers across Liberia to monitor the voting process. Preliminary reports from three hundred ten observers from across the country indicate the following observations:

- Generally, polling centers opened on time.
- The National Elections Commission deployed voting materials at all polling stations to allow voting to take place.
- Voting was generally peaceful and orderly with low incidents of disruptions.
- Security presence was evident at most polling centers across the country.
- Voting in most of the polling places ended at the stipulated 6:00pm and that those in the queues were allowed to cast their votes.
- Counting started almost immediately after voting ended at the official time.
- Party agents, national and international observers were present and observed the counting.
- Most polling staff gave special attention to certain categories of voters such as the aged, pregnant women, visually impaired and physically challenged persons.

However, voting was not free from challenges which included:

- Congested polling places and poor queue management in certain areas.
- Poor lighting system
- Close placement of voting screens in some areas
- Slow pace in the processing of voters
- Some party agents disallowed because they could not produce party identification cards.

Conclusion & Recommendations

At the close of elections, the ECC reaffirms its confidence in the orderly conduct of the October 11th, 2011 elections that has culminated into partial release of unofficial results in the media.

Whilst recognizing and lauding the efforts of all stakeholders including NEC, Political Parties, International and Local Observers and the Liberian people for ensuring the peaceful casting of votes, the ECC insists that the civility displayed during the voting process must be sustained.

NEC has slated the 13th October 2011 as time for official disclosure of preliminary results, therefore, the ECC implores all and sundry to exercise patience and restraint in upholding the healthy democratic credentials that Liberia has earned.

"ECC appeals to all political parties to respect the eventual pronouncement of results by NEC. This is to remind all that the Commission is the only constitutionally empowered entity to certify results of votes counted.

"Promoting credible elections to increase public confidence in democracy"