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Press Release

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“ECC observers report voter registration continues with fewer challenges than initial days”

The Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) shared its findings today on the middle part of the voter registration process (February 18 to 23) based on 257 reports from its 89 trained and accredited observers located in all 15 counties.

Oscar Bloh, ECC Chair stated “Overall, reports from ECC observers from all 15 counties show that registration is continuing across the entire country. While there remain some challenges, such as problems with camera, there were fewer issues reported than at the beginning of the registration process.”

He added that “Political parties are now deploying more of their representatives to witness the voter registration process. However, ECC Observers continue to report that registration staff appear to be unevenly requiring applicants to provide proof of eligibility.”

On the pace of voter registration Bloh stated “ECC observer reports from across all 15 counties during the second phase of observation show on average 40 applicants were successfully registered each day at registration center.” He explained, “While this is a significant reduction from the ECC’s first observation phase when an average of 75 successful registrants was reported, such a decrease in registration rates is typical during the middle of the voter registration exercise.”

To further improve the voter registration process ECC Steering Committee Member Harold Aidoo called upon “the NEC to ensure that all registration centers open at 8:00 am and stay open throughout the day.” He also encouraged the NEC to provide data on number of registrants by registration center to enhance transparency and accountability.

The ECC was able to rapidly collect, verify, and analyze data on the voter registration process because for the first time ever its observers were reporting in real time by sending in reports using coded text messages via their mobile phones. All reports are received and processed at the ECC’s Election Data Hub using a specifically designed elections database.

“All eligible Liberians should register by March 7 to ensure their ability to cast their ballot in October 2017” added ECC Steering Committee Member Lena Cummings.

The ECC, a civil society platform comprising 30 organizations that observes all aspect of elections in Liberia, has deployed 89 observers across the 15 counties to witness the voter registration process.

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The ECC is a civil society platform that observes elections in Liberia and works in partnership with the National Democratic Institute with support from USAID. The work of the ECC can also be accessed on eccliberia.com.

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