



Elections Coordinating Committee

*Search for Common Ground Office
16th Street Sinkor, Cheeseman Avenue
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: +231-6-554-109/+231-6-227-759
Email: eccscretariat2011@gmail.com
www.eccliberia.org*



November 8, 2011

PRESS STATEMENT

The Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC), commends Liberians for the courage to turn out to vote in the Tuesday November 8, 2011 runoff election despite yesterday's violence. From initial observations, the process started on time and has so far been peaceful and orderly. For the runoff polls, the ECC trained and deployed about two thousand observers across the country. However as of midday, reports gathered from the field suggest a slow turnout.

The ECC observed the sudden transfer of some polling centers and is worried that this may hinder voters' opportunity to exercise their franchise. Among reasons cited for the transfer of the polling centers are partisan interest/political alignment and fear of arson or personal attacks. The following polling centers were observed to have been among those transferred: Susan Berry, Bethel World Church/School in Congo Town, People's institute in Oldroad, Sinkor etc.

The Election Monitoring Body condemns in the strongest term the violent incident at the headquarters of the opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) which allegedly resulted to three deaths leaving a number of others injured and properties damaged. The death of Liberians under such circumstance is regrettable and does not augur well for Liberia's emerging democracy. The ECC calls on UNMIL, the international community and the Government of Liberia, to speedily investigate the incident and prosecute those responsible in accordance with due process. The ECC equally calls on political party leaders and their supporters to conduct themselves peacefully and further refrain from uttering inflammatory statements.

Meanwhile, the ECC is alarmed by the clamp down on four radio and three television stations by the government. The ECC received reports that Love FM/TV, Power FM/TV, Kings FM/Clar TV and Shiata FM have been ordered to halt operations for allegedly broadcasting hate messages. The ECC calls on the government of Liberia to exercise restraint as the closure of media institutions at this critical moment could be perceived as repressive and anti-democratic.

Signed: Oscar Bloh
Chairman, ECC