

## **NEC Announces Ballots Arrival For Rivercess County, District 2 By-Election**



The National Elections Commission (NEC) has announced the arrival of ballot papers for the April 21, 2015 Representative By-Election in Electoral District Number 2 Rivercess County.

The Acting Chairman of the Commission, Cllr. Sarah Toe, made the declaration Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at a news conference held at the Commission's headquarters in Monrovia.

Cllr. Toe said a total of 24,200 ballot papers have been printed and delivered to the National Elections Commission.

She indicated that the ballot papers which were printed in the West African State of Ghana were brought into the country on Monday, April 13, 2015 and are being packaged for Election Day, Tuesday, April 21, 2015.

The Acting NEC Boss said In keeping with the key electoral dates of the Rivercess County Electoral District Number 2 Representative By-Election, the Commission,

on March 25, 2015 officially certified ten candidates to contest the By-Election and by the same token officially declared the start of political campaigning on the same day.

“Since the start of campaigning, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, there has been no official report of rancor or misbehavior either on the part of the candidates or their supporters. This is a very welcome development and we wish to implore the candidates and their supporters to continue along this path up to midnight April 19, 2015, the official date for the end of political campaigning,” Cllr. Toe said.

She also said that in preparation for the polling process on April 21, 2015, the National Elections Commission is concluding the process of recruiting more than 200 temporary staffs to serve as poll workers and that shortlisted candidates are being processed and would shortly be trained to conduct polling activities.

The Acting Chairman of the Commission informed journalists that 26 International Observers, 44 National Observers and 840 independent candidates and political party agents have been accredited by the Commission to observe the Tuesday, April 21, 2015 Representative By-election in Rivercess County.

Among institutions accredited by the Commission are the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES); United States Embassy; African Union, European Union, UNMIL, UNDP, the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC), the Elections Coordinating Committee and the Angie Brooks International, among others.

A total of 840 tags will be given to agents of political parties and the only independent candidate contesting the Representative By-Election in the District.

Training of these political parties and Independent Candidate Agents will be conducted on April 19, 2015 in the county.

Cllr. Toe revealed that civic and voter education activities are also proceeding quite well in the district and that Town Criers, civic educators and gender monitors recruited by the National Elections Commission are currently conducting civic and voter education activities across Electoral District Number 2.

The efforts of these people, she indicated, are being complemented by additional field staffs that include elections magisterial and field coordination personnel from several elections magisterial areas across Liberia.

“At the same time, community radio stations in the county as well as national media institutions are also providing awareness while posters and fliers for the by-election are being used to compliment CVE activities in Rivercess,” Cllr. Toe noted.

According to Cllr. Toe the goal of the CVE exercise is to reach all registered voters of Electoral District Number 2, Rivercess County, and encourage them to participate in the forthcoming by-election.

Electoral District Number 2 comprises 19 voting precincts, 42 polling places and a total number of 16,003 registered voters.

10 candidates certified by the Commission to contest the April 21, 2015 Representative By-Election include one female and nine males. They include:

1. Barte, Sr. Charles Zarkpah.....Male..... Congress For Democratic Change (CDC)
2. Doue, G. Thomas M.....Male.....Alternative National Congress (ANC)
3. Greene, Jerry Floh.....Male..... Unity Party (UP)
4. Mentoe, Hilary Flomo.....Male.....Independent
5. Paul, Gabriel.....Male.....National Patriotic Party
6. Reeves, Jerome Garmonblo.....Male..... Union of Liberian Democrats (ULD)
7. Wally, Matthew T.....Male.....Liberty Party
8. Weseh, Lucky T.K.....Female.... National Democratic Coalition (NDC)
9. Zah, Kofi Bob.....Male..... People’s Unification Party (PUP)
- 10 Zahnwea, Byron Wehgbiah.....Male.....Movement for Progressive Change (MPC)

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alex Tyler, in concert with article 37 of the Liberian Constitution, on January 22, 2015, wrote The National Elections

Commission (NEC) notifying it of the existence of a vacancy in the House of Representatives.

In the letter, Speaker Tyler informed the Commission that the vacancy is a result of the election of Rivercess County Electoral District Number 2 Representative, Francis Paye, as Senator during the December 20, 2014 Special Senatorial Election.

Joey T. Kennedy  
Director of Communications