



PRESS STATEMENT

MONROVIA, 29 DECEMBER 2020, the National Elections Commission, (NEC) today hosted the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN)-Liberia Chapter, to a one-day interactive forum at the headquarters of the Commission on 9th street in Sinkor.

The African Women Leaders Network (AWLN)-Liberia Chapter requested the one-day meeting with the authorities of the NEC which was held at the headquarters of the National Elections Commission on 9th street in Sinkor.

The AWLN is concern about the status of the election in Nomodatanau Town in Gbarpolu after the fracas as well as security for the pending election and participation of women as it relates to Madam Botoe Kanneh.

Speaking Tuesday, 29 December 2020, the Chairperson of the African Women Leaders Network, and Former Foreign Minister Majohn Kamara and the former Foreign Minister Olubanki King Akerele expressed deep concern about sustaining the peace in Liberia.

The both former Foreign Ministers were accompanied by the National Tribal Leader Ma Musu Thompson, MacDella Cooper Presidential candidate in the 2017 General Elections and now Political leader of the Movement for One Liberia Party, (MOL), Journalist Facia Harris, (AWLN) and Atty. Naddre John, member, (AWLN).



NEC BOC Members led by Chairperson Browne Lansanah and African Women Network-Liberia Chapter Delegation pose for photo.

Responding, the Chairperson of NEC Davidetta Browne Lansanah indicated that the Commission was taken aback by the disruption in its electoral process as a consequence of the eruption of violence in Gbarpolu adding that the commission has since condemned the

violence in Gbarpolu to the effect that the Commission was concerned about the safety of its staff, materials and even candidates.

Madam Browne Lansanah said the Commission did not only condemn the violence but also sent a fact finding team into the affected areas and that the team has reported that citizens are going about their normal business, suggesting that pre-elections activities such as Civic and voter education, (CVE) could be underway.

She pointed out that thousands of dollars were lost in the process during the violence, elections materials damaged and several of NEC staff mercilessly beaten. The NEC Chairperson noted that since the incidence the Commission is in consultation with authorities of the Ministries of Justice, (LNP) and Internal Affairs to ensure that calm is returned to the area and an enabling environment is created for the conduct of the election in Gbarpolu.

The head of NEC says series of confidence building meetings have been held to the pending election in Nomodatanau Town in Gbarpolu with candidates in preparation for the election which date could be announced in the coming days. She noted that the Commission has received assurances from the Ministry of Justice/LNP of security of the electoral process and from the Internal Affairs Ministry that the cultural dimension will not affect the electoral process.

All seven Commissioners including, Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah, Co-chairperson Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves, Commissioners Boakai A. Dukuly, Floy Oxley Sayor, Barsee Leo Kpankpai, Cllr. Ernest Morgan Awar and Josephine Kou Gaye attended the forum.

Signed By: _____.

Prince Dunbar

Communications Officer