

REINFORCING CREDIBILITY AND ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES

The Role of Electoral Stakeholders and Electoral Administrations

The Role and Impact of Political Parties and Candidates in Ensuring Credible and Acceptable Elections

C.A. Lamin Lighe
NEC Liberia

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INTRODUCTION

- Political parties and candidates are key stakeholders in elections. They compete for public office and attempt through party issue-based electoral platforms to convince eligible voters to vote for them.
- From another perspective, the final validation of the election results is, in practice, in the hands of the political parties and candidates.
- If they do not accept the results due to real or perceived electoral fraud or irregularities, the legitimacy of the resulting legislature or government is threatened.
- Likewise, the voting public—whether affiliated with a particular party through membership or not—must perceive and believe that the results officially declared after Election Day are valid and represent the expressed will of the electorate

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Roles of candidates and political parties:

- Know about the process –
Candidates and political parties should familiarize themselves with the electoral process
- Establishment of cordial relationship with the EMB
- Continuous voter education
Candidates and political parties must continue to sensitize supporters and members about campaigning and voting procedures all through the electoral circle

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Roles of candidates and political parties:

- Inter-party consultation

Candidates, political parties and EMB must find a platform to work together on information sharing and to be seen as partners rather than enemies

- Periodic meetings between and amongst contesting parties and candidates will send a message of peace and harmonious relationship
- Monitoring of the electoral process and not only Election Day
- Poll watching
- Parallel vote tabulation

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Roles of EMB

- Establish clear laws and enforce the laws
- Ensure open electoral process
- Provide credible information to the public on the electoral process
- Give equal access to all
- Encourage inter-party dialogue
- Provide clear roles for candidates, parties and voters