



Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa - International Election Observation Mission (EISA-IEOM) urges Liberians to build on the exemplary Conduct of the 10th of October 2023 elections.

Release Date: November 13, 2023 - Monrovia

As Liberians head to the Presidential Runoff on November 14, 2023, the EISA-IEOM urges citizens from all political backgrounds and affiliations to uphold the exemplary conduct demonstrated during the first-round election on October 10. The Presidential and Legislative elections on October 10 received commendation from both international and domestic observer groups for being peaceful, well-administered, credible, and transparent. Managed largely by the National Election Commission and the Joint Security Taskforce Committee, with limited support from the government and international partners, the October 10 elections fostered a peaceful post-election environment.

The Mission's call comes amidst accusations of irregularities from the two contesting parties, Unity Party (UP) and Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC). The EISA IEOM has noted unverified claims by both parties aimed at discrediting the work of democracy-supporting institutions, such as independent international and domestic observer groups. The Mission emphasizes that fake and unverified rumors about election rigging, without substantiating evidence, can undermine confidence in the electoral process, contribute to heightened political tensions and unrest, and harm the reputation of democratic institutions responsible for overseeing elections.

The Mission strongly condemns the acts of violence that emerged in District 3 in Nimba County on November 10, 2023, resulting in injuries to more than five people due to the shooting, and another incident in Grand Gedeh involving supporters of the UP and CDC on the same day. The Mission is also concerned about the minimal post-election peace messaging observable since the announcement of the results and wishes to call on Liberians to continue to show the restraint and calm demonstrated on October 10. Community-level mechanisms to encourage acceptance of results, community dispute resolution, and physical safety are crucial as the country holds the run-off election.

The EISA-IEOM reminds Liberians that the gains made so far in consolidating peace and strengthening democracy have come at a significant cost, and any post-election violence would be a major setback for the prosperity and democracy of Liberians. The Mission reiterates the recommendations made in all its public reports and analyses, encouraging Liberian stakeholders to uphold peace and tolerance.

We call on political parties to lead by example and also educate their party supporters on the importance of adhering to the Farmington River Declaration principles.

The EISA IEOM has been in Liberia since January 2023, observing and reporting on all key electoral activities. All queries/engagements emanating from this statement should be directed to: EISA-IEOM Media Analyst, George Yonbior Sharpe at Yonbior@eisa.org

About USAID Support to EISA-IEOM to Liberia: The USAID-funded EISA International Election Observation Mission (EISA-IEOM) Activity seeks to enhance the integrity of the 2023 Liberia Presidential and Legislative elections through the deployment of an independent international election observer mission (EOM) to monitor, assess and report on all phases of the electoral process in accordance with international and regional benchmarks. The IEOM is implemented in close coordination with the financial support of USAID/Liberia and will complement the efforts of other electoral stakeholders.

For all resources, including EISA statements and reports from the 2017 Liberia Elections <https://eisa.org/epp-liberia.php>