



Address: 16th Street and Russell Avenue, Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia;
Tel.: +231-(0)777-040-129; Email: info@leonorganization.org OR asmamba@leonorganization.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEON INTRODUCES EXPERT OBSERVATION APPROACH DURING LEGISLATIVE BY-ELECTIONS IN NIMBA AND GRAND GEDAH COUNTIES

The Liberia Elections Observation Network (LEON) is pioneering an alternative approach to election observation during the upcoming April 23, 2024, by-elections for a senatorial seat in Nimba County and a representative seat for Electoral District No. 1 in Grand Gedeh County. Departing from conventional observation methods, LEON is implementing an expert approach, marking a shift in its strategy to enable insightful and targeted scrutiny of the electoral process with minimum observers assigned at polling places.

In the expert approach, LEON will leverage a team of experienced analysts with specialized expertise in fields such as electoral procedures, law, governance, and data analysis. These specialists will focus on monitoring the electoral environment and observing the National Elections Commission's (NEC) application of policies, procedures, and laws governing Liberia's elections. This approach is expected to enable LEON to provide actionable recommendations, enhancing the electoral process.

This strategic evolution underscores LEON's commitment to adaptability and innovation in addressing the evolving challenges and dynamics of electoral processes in Liberia. A team of four analysts will be dispatched from LEON's secretariat to join seven long-term observers (LTOs) in Nimba and two LTOs in Grand Gedeh counties. These LTOs will serve as the "eyes and ears on the ground," monitoring developments in the lead-up to election day. Together, LEON's analysts and LTOs will observe and report during and after electoral proceedings.

Electoral process findings from nonpartisan citizen observers will inform LEON's electoral statements and reports. Depending on its observation findings, LEON may release a preliminary statement following the electoral and vote tabulation processes. A final by-election report will be issued after the electoral cycle.

Since 2017, LEON has observed every election in Liberia, including presidential, senatorial, and representative elections, and various by-elections. Findings from electoral process observation enabled LEON to issue actionable recommendations on increasing public participation, mainstreaming gender, addressing voter registration challenges, and resolving electoral disputes during the review and reform of electoral laws.

Campaign Statement: LEON commends all political parties and independent candidates for maintaining a peaceful and violence-free campaign thus far. We caution against provocations that may incite electoral violence in Nimba County and Electoral District No. 1 in Grand Gedeh County.

LEON calls on all Liberians in these counties to remain peaceful and refrain from any acts of violence at the conclusion of the campaign, during the conduct of the elections and vote tabulation, and after the announcement of post-election results.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Mr. Augustine S.M. Tamba, Head of Secretariat, Telephone: (+231) 777040129
Email: tambasm@gmail.com; Website: www.leonobservation.org