

**Statement by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
on Nomination of Members to the National Elections Commission
Wednesday, March 20, 2013**

My Fellow Liberians:

The National Elections Commission, as constituted, has served our country over the past several years with great commitment and dedication. They have contributed to the conclusion of two successful democratic elections and several by-elections.

However, on March 26, 2013, the tenure of five of the current members of the National Elections Commission will run out. There also exists a need to fill a vacancy for one additional member. In keeping with Chapter 2, Section 2.2, of the New Elections Law of 1986, and as amended in 2003 and 2004, I am nominating the following persons to serve in various capacities on the Commission after confirmation by the Liberian Senate. They include:

1. Cllr. Jerome Kokoya, Chairman
2. Cllr. Sarah Jegede-Toe, Co-Chairman
3. Cllr. Elizabeth Nelson, Commissioner
4. Mr. Jonathan Weedor, Commissioner
5. Mr. Ansumana Kromah, Commissioner
6. Mr. Samuel Joe, Commissioner
7. Ms. Henrietta Madia Peters, Commissioner

By these nominations, I have sought to achieve balance, as much as possible, in both gender and in geography. I am therefore pleased that the persons just named come from the various regions of our country, with two represented by Bong and Grand Gedeh Counties.

In the interests of continuity, I have re-nominated a few of those who previously served – from Gbarpolu, Nimba and Sinoe Counties, to be joined by

the incumbent from Grand Bassa County – ensuring that this new configuration of the Commission benefits from the invaluable experience gained over the years of their service. I expect that the individuals who have been re-nominated will continue in service to our country with the same levels of commitment and diligence.

I also nominated a few for the first time, and expect that the new members will bring to their tasks freshness of ideas, energy, dynamism and courage in helping the Commission play its pivotal role in the consolidation of our young democracy.

As we have continuously pledged to work with all Liberians, we will work with those who have not been re-nominated to explore how each may continue to serve their country in other ways. On behalf of all Liberians, I thank each of you for your service to our country.

Finally, my fellow citizens, the burden of consolidating our democracy and deepening its practices are ours to share. To do this, we do not seek a perfect Liberian; we seek a committed Liberian – committed not to an individual or a party, but dedicated to the shared aspirations of recreating our society into one which is safely guided by the values and virtues of democracy, and by the unwavering commitment to the principles of fairness, equity and equality before the law.

We call upon each of those nominated, when confirmed by the honorable Liberian Senate, to exercise equity and fairness, loyalty and commitment to Liberia and to the continuous improvement of our democratic process.

May God bless our Republic and protect our democracy.