



CONGRESS FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE

National Headquarters

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY GENERAL

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For Immediate Release

(Monrovia, Liberia, January 3, 2016)

The National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Mighty Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), wishes Liberians in Liberia and the world over a Happy and Prosperous 2016.

The CDC wishes to extend congratulations to Mrs. Julie Fatorma Wiah for her victory in the December 29, 2015 Lofa County District 2 By-Elections. Her victory is a clear indication that women are making gains towards political gender equity and should be encouraged in Liberia's democratic process.

We also want to extend profound thanks to the people of Lofa County for their categorical rejection of the ruling Unity Party and its heir apparent, Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai. This defeat sustained by the Unity Party after spending hundreds of thousands of dollars of tax payers money campaigning in Lofa for nearly one month, is a strong manifestation of the dismal failure of the Unity Party led government. This defeat points to the fact that the VP Boakai, after ten years in power as Vice President has not meaningfully impacted the lives of the people of Lofa. Hence, they absolutely rejected him and the UP Candidate.

Contrary to all the empty propaganda that Lofa County is a VP Boakai stronghold, the people have demonstrated a preview of their the verdict come 2017. No amount of Government-sponsored packaging can rescue him and the failed UP regime. No amount of paid for marketing of the Vice President can rescue the irreversible failures of the UP regime.

ILLEGAL USE OF GOVERNMENT RESOURCES FOR CAMPAIGNING IN LOFA BY-ELECTION



The Congress for Democratic Change will like to use this occasion to call special attention to the illegal use of State resources for campaign purposes in the Lofa By-Election. The use of Government assets by Vice President Joseph Boakai, Defense Minister Brownie Samukai, and other government officials violates the Code of Conduct for public officials. The CDC sends out this early warning to the National Elections Commission (NEC), other political parties in the opposition, and the international community for the scrupulous implementation of the Code of Conduct by the Liberian Government.

Motto: One Nation, One People, One Destiny!

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The following provisions of the Code of Conduct ¹ have been violated by VP Boakai and Defense Minister Samukai:

“PART V: POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

5.1 All Officials appointed by the President of the Republic of Liberia shall not:

- a) engage in political activities, canvass or contest for elected offices;*
- b) use Government facilities, equipment or resources in support of partisan or political activities;*
- c) serve on a campaign team of any political party, or the campaign of any independent candidate.*

PART VIII: USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS, PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES

8.1 Use of Government Facilities: Public Officials and Employees of Government shall use Government facilities, including residential property, equipment, money, vehicles, computers, internet, and telephones for official purposes only.

PART IX: GIFTS, BRIBES AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

9.6 Use of Office for Private Interest: No Public Official or Employee of Government should use an official position to pursue private interests that may result in conflict of interest.”

The days when public monies, assets, as well as facilities are abused to the detriment of the opposition should be a ghost of the undemocratic past and not an occurrence in today's pursuit of truly fair, transparent, impartial, and democratic elections. The CDC firmly believes that the unhindered implementation of the Code of Conduct is the beginning of such a political dispensation in Liberia come 2017.



The involvement of the Defense Minister in overt political activities evidenced by his pointedly defiant campaign trip to Lofa during the Lofa County District 2 By-Election is a clear threat to the peace and security of the state. The illegal use of military resources of the country for partisan-political activities during this critical period of our national transition is sinister, illegal and threatens our fragile democracy. As a major stakeholder, the CDC will not stand by and witness the reckless abuse of public office, especially by the state security apparatuses.

¹ AN ACT OF LEGISLATURE PRESCRIBING A NATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALL PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
[http://www.emansion.gov.lr/doc/Act_Legislature_Prescribing_A_National_Code%20of_Conduct%20\(Final_Version%202014\).pdf](http://www.emansion.gov.lr/doc/Act_Legislature_Prescribing_A_National_Code%20of_Conduct%20(Final_Version%202014).pdf)



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The illegal use of Government resources by Government Officials to engage in political activities undermines fair democratic competition and gives undue advantage to the ruling Unity Party in the ensuing electoral process. The CDC categorically rejects such practice and will sternly resist the continuance through all available legal and democratic avenues. The CDC describes, as counterproductive, the continued abuse of Government resources to the detriment of other political stakeholders.

In conclusion, we extend thanks and appreciation to the Board of Commissioners, Officers and Staff of the National Elections Commission for the able manner in which the recent By-Election was conducted.

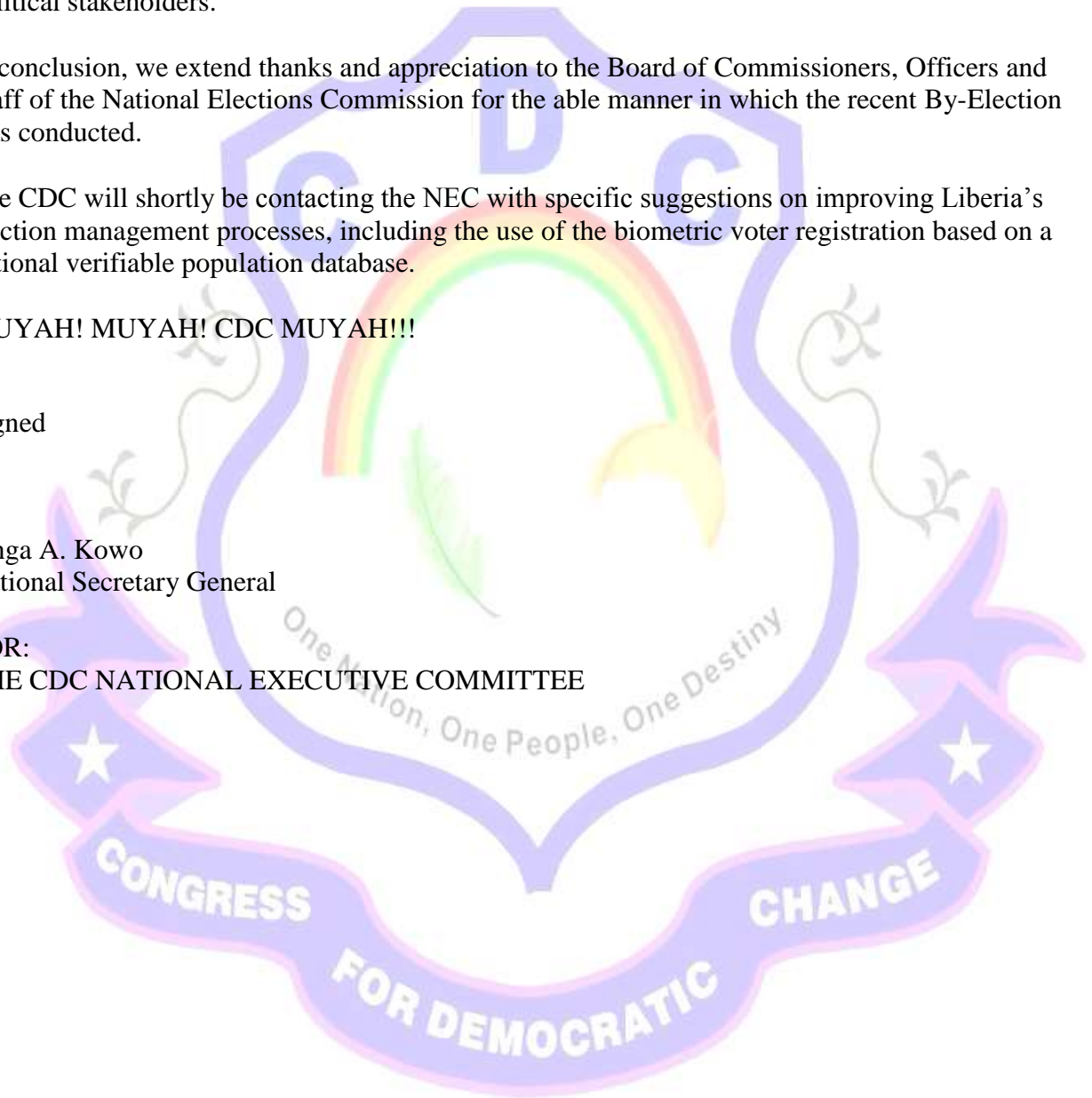
The CDC will shortly be contacting the NEC with specific suggestions on improving Liberia's election management processes, including the use of the biometric voter registration based on a national verifiable population database.

MUYAH! MUYAH! CDC MUYAH!!!

Signed

Janga A. Kowo
National Secretary General

FOR:
THE CDC NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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