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**AFRICAN UNION OBSERVER MISSION
IN
LIBERIA**

**STATEMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION OBSERVER MISSION
ON THE SECOND ROUND OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
IN LIBERIA 8TH OF NOVEMBER 2005**

In the spirit of the Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, the African Union accepted the invitation issued by the National Elections Commission of the Republic of Liberia to observe the second round of the Presidential Election held on the 8th of November 2005, due to the fact that the 11th of October 2005, Presidential Election results did not produce a winner, as none of the twenty-two presidential candidates obtained an absolute majority of the votes cast.

In accepting the invitation of the National Elections Commission, the African Union was keenly mindful of the fact that, the holding of transparent, free and fair elections is one of the cornerstones of establishing democratic governments and advancing good governance principles on the continent.

The African Union Observer Mission was composed of Pan-African Parliamentarians, and member of the Civil Society Organizations from various African countries as well as officials from the African Union Commission.

Hon. Mr. Elie-Victor Essomba Tsoungui, Member of the Pan-African Parliament from Cameroon, led the mission.

The Observer Mission has been in Liberia since the 4th of November 2005, and was engaged in consultations with various stakeholders of the run-off Presidential election process.

The Observer Team was subsequently deployed to different counties namely, Montserrado, Nimba and Margibi. The Observers visited over one hundred (100) polling stations in these counties.

Having observed the voting process, the Observers came to the conclusion that the voting process was peaceful, orderly in all the polling stations visited. The Observers noted that the parties agents worked amicably, and no complaint was raised. The Observers also noted that the polling officials and the security personal were diligent and efficient.

The Observers were pleased to note that, both voters and the officials displayed commendable dedication to the democratic process as prescribed in the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

The African Union Observer Team is in a position to state that, the conduct of the second round of the Presidential run-off election has been free, and transparent under the watchful eye of domestic and international Observers.

Everywhere, the secrecy of the polls was assured, the officials adhered to the procedures, and the candidates representatives were present at all the polling stations that the African Union Observer Team visited.

The African Union Observer Team recommends that the candidates and the people of Liberia accept the outcome of the election process.

The Observers urge the new elected President of Liberia to reconcile the Liberians and to put them to the task of rebuilding their country.

The Observer Mission wishes to place on record their deep and sincere appreciation to the National Elections Commission of the Republic of Liberia for having given them the opportunity to observe and monitor these landmark elections, and for the free access they have enjoyed observing the voting and counting process in order to ensure the credibility of the polls.

The African Union Observers are indebted to the National Elections Commission, as well as to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for their gratitude and support during their deployment in the counties. The African Union observers wishes to record their thanks to all those, Civil Society Organizations, the Religious Community, Women's groups, Youth groups, and the Media, who imparted to its valuable information and advice during the course of our stay.

The Observers look forward to seeing the African Union continue being seized with the Liberian Democratic process for the peace consolidation and the rebuilding of Liberia in near future.

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