

GUEST COMMENTARY

Enjoining Liberians' Sober and Informed Decision on Voting Day

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On Saturday, December 20, 2014 Liberians will finally go to the polls in a Special Senatorial elections with the aim of either renewing the mandate of 15 senators whose position are up for grasp or retiring them for their service to our country.

In the process leading to the Saturday's elections, the scope, manner and form of the national debate was diverse and competitive. We were in the midst of Ebola situation and the polls expected to be conducted in October became untenable. The National Elections Commission (NEC) made appropriate representation to the National Legislature in view of the prevailing situation for its determination.

Having weighed-in meticulously, a Resolution was passed by the National Legislature mandating the National Election Commission to conduct the Special Senatorial elections on or before December 20, 2014.

The politically charged aura that marked the opening of political campaign season especially in the capital, which is the seat of government coupled with launch of campaign rallies by rival contenders, became a sensitive national security concern.

Following a number of high level consultations involving key state actors, and in a swift and tacit proactive action, the government issued Executive Order No. 65: "Prohibiting mass movements of people including Rallies, Parades, and Demonstrations on the streets of Monrovia"; to protect the security o the State, maintain law and order and promote peace and stability. Indeed that represents the trappings of a responsible government that is accountable to its people.

Elections are a demonstration of our civic responsibility but the choices we must make in such processes will either guarantee a wholesome future or likelihood of poor representation. With the latest victory at the Supreme Court vis-a-viz NEC's pronouncement for the conduct of elections on Saturday, December 20, 2014 we are well on our way to another electoral milestone.

Lest we forget that the fight against Ebola is on course – that is all the reason why the government's action for restraint is expedient and timely because our country cannot afford to recede into the terrible past that led to unbearable loss of lives. We challenge our compatriots to vote wisely and in a civil manner for the candidate of their choice. That is the surest way we can contribute to the process of genuine democratic development.