

Independent Candidate Julie Wiah Wins Lofa County District #2 By-Election



Mrs. Wiah Receives Certificate of Election from NEC Chairman Korkoya

Independent Candidate Julie Fartorma Wiah has been elected Representative of Electoral District #2 in Lofa County.

Madam Wiah was elected during the Tuesday, December 29, 2015 Representative by-Election held in the district.

Ten candidates contested the hotly contested By-Election. They included eight political parties and two independents.

Consistent with Article 37 of the Constitution of Liberia, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Alex Tyler, on October 6, 2015, notified the National Elections Commission (NEC) of a vacancy in the House of Representatives occasioned by the death of the Representative of Electoral District Number Two, Lofa County, Hon. Fofie Saah Bimba.

Accordingly, the NEC successfully organized and conducted a Representative By-Election in the district on Tuesday, December 29, 2015.

Pursuant to the decision of the Board of Commissioners, and in keeping with the key electoral dates, the Commission conducted a Candidates Nomination Exercise from October 26 to November 9, 2015.

Following the nomination process, ten candidates were qualified to contest the Representative By-Election. They are:

No.	Name	Party/Independent
1.	BRIMA, Jr.homas N.	Liberia National Union (LINU)
2.	CHOWOE, asper Tamba Saiiah	Liberty Party (LP)
3.	MAMARA, Molsema	Congress For Democratic Change (CDC)
4.	KAMARA, Vaforay A.M.	Independent
5.	KANNEH, Amara Kaifa	Alliance for Peace and Democracy (APD)
6.	KANNEH, Fombah K.	All Liberian Coalition Party (ALCOP)
7.	LANSANA, Augustine Boakai	Unity Party (UP)
8.	RUSSELL, Julia F.	All Liberian Party (ALP)
9.	SAAH, Moses Armah	Alternative National Congress (ANC)
10	WIAH, Julie Fatorma	Independent

At the close of the electoral exercise, Independent Candidate Julie Fartorma Wiah, was announced victor by NEC Chairman Jerome George Korkoya at ceremonies marking the announcement of final results of the By-Election in the town of Massabolahun on December 31, 2015.

“Results from all 73 polling centers in Electoral District show that a total of 10,207 or 32.64% of the total of 31,273 registered voters of the electoral district turned out to vote. Of those who turned out to vote, 5,250 (51.44%) were males while 4,957 (48.64%) were females.” Chairman Korkoya noted.

He asserted that the valid votes cast amount to 9,816 while 391 are invalid votes. He further announced the final results of the By-Election as follows:

No.	Name	Party/Independent	Votes	Percentage
1	BRIMA, Jr Thomas N.	Liberia National Union (LINU)	475	4.84
2	CHOWOE, Jasper Tamba Saiiah	Liberty Party (LP)	816	8.31
3	MAMARA, Molsema	Congress For Democratic Change (CDC)	1,573	16.02
4	KAMARA, Vaforay A.M.	Independent	1,522	15.51
5	KANNEH, Amara Kaifa	Alliance for Peace and Democracy (APD)	433	4.41
6	KANNEH, Fombah K.	All Liberian Coalition Party (ALCOP)	256	2.61
7	LANSANA, Augustine Boakai	Unity Party (UP)	1,664	16.95
8	RUSSELL, Julia F.	All Liberian Party (ALP)	670	6.83
9	SAAH, Moses Armah	Alternative National Congress (ANC)	433	4.41
10	WIAH, Julie Fatorma	Independent	1,974	20.11

“Consistent with the results just read and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Chairman of the National Elections Commission, I do hereby declare Independent Candidate –WIAH, Julie Fortorma Winner of the December 29, 2015 Lofa County, Electoral District Number 2 Representative By-Election. On behalf of the members of the Board of Commissioners and staff of the National Election Commission, I congratulate the Representative –Elect in the December 29, 2015 Representative By-Election for District Number Two, Lofa County in person of Madam Julie Fortorma Wiah.” Chairman Korkoya said amidst cheers from supporters of Madam Wiah.



Registered voters of Electoral District number two in queues on Election Day

Article 1 of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia in relevant parts, invests power in the people..... to cause their public servants to leave office and fill vacancies by regular elections and appointments. In exercise of said power, the people of Electoral District number 2 Lofa County, on December 29, 2015, went to the polls to vote in a Representative By-Election to fill the vacancy created by the death of Representative Fofie Saah Bimba.

On January 2, 2016, Mrs. Wiah was subsequently certificated by the Commission in the provincial City of Voinjama.

At the certification ceremony, Chairman Korkoya said the Certificate of Election, which further confers legitimacy, is also an embodiment of the power, trust and aspiration reposed in the Representative-Elect by the citizens of Electoral District #2, Lofa County.

“When the majority of the voters in the recently held December 29 By-Election voted for you, Madam Wiah, they did so considering you as the best candidate to perform the triple functions of law making, oversight, and representation at the National Legislature on their behalf. This certificate therefore constitutes your sufficient authority to perform these functions. You should not and cannot afford to betray their trust.” He noted.

Chairman Korkoya disclosed that in the Commission’s public interactions with citizens across the country including Electoral District Number 2 Lofa County, they have complained time and again about the long distances they are required to travel in order to cast their ballots during elections and have repeatedly appealed to the Commission to increase the number of centers across the country.

He said in order to address this very important issue, which has funding implications, the Commission has included in its plans for the 2017 elections, a proposal to increase the number of centers from 1,780 to 2,080.

Chairman Korkoya said the proposal will be forwarded to the National Legislature for approval. He then appealed to Representative Wiah to put on your legislative agenda, support for the increase of voting centers across the country in order to alleviate the difficulties faced by voters, including those in her district, many of whom had to walk long distances to have her elected.

The Head of the Elections Management Body of Liberia said the By-Election would not have been possible without the support and timely provision of the needed funding from the Government and people of Liberia. He also acknowledged the level of support received from one of the Commission's international partners, USAID through IFES during the conduct of the By-Election.

He lauded political parties and independent candidates that contested the by-election as well as registered voters, poll workers, observer groups, the media, personnel of the Liberia National Police and authorities of Lofa County, for their supportive role which resulted to the successful conduct of the By-Election.