



Congressman Donald Payne

Tenth District - New Jersey

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Rep. Payne Commends Côte d'Ivoire on Peaceful Elections Urges Continued Commitment to Peace during Run-off Contest

Washington, DC— *This week, after five years and six postponements, the West African nation of Côte d'Ivoire successfully held a landmark presidential election. African Union and international observers reported that despite longstanding political crisis and significant planning and operational challenges, nearly 80 percent of eligible voters cast their ballots in a calm and orderly fashion. A run-off is scheduled for November 28, 2010.*

Congressman Donald M. Payne, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, released the following statement:

"I commend the people of Côte d'Ivoire for confirming their commitment to peace, democracy and economic prosperity. The success of this landmark election has planted seeds of hope in the hearts of Ivorians who are ready to see Côte d'Ivoire reclaim its place as an economically vibrant bastion of peace along Africa's western coast.

"As the country prepares for the November 28th run-off, the Independent Election Commission with the support of the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union and the international community, must continue to ensure transparency throughout the final stages of the electoral process.

"And lastly, I call on the remaining presidential contestants to put the interest of their country and its people ahead of their personal aspirations. To harvest the seeds of hope that have sprouted from the hearts of the Ivorian people, the candidates and their supporters must exercise patience, civility, and respect for credible election results."

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