RTD. Brigadier Julius Maada Bio  
Presidential Candidate, 2018 Elections  
Sierra Leone Peoples Party  
Wallace Johnson Street  
Freetown

Dear Sir,

PRINTING OF BALLOT PAPERS, RECONCILIATION AND RESULT FORMS (RRFs), TALLY CENTER AND PUBLICATION OF RESULTS, VOTING PROCEDURES FOR SIERRA LEONE POLICE PERSONNEL

I acknowledge receipt of letters dated 30th January, 2018 on the above subject matters and hereby submit the following responses:

Printing of Ballot Papers

1. The ballot papers will be printed on the following basis:
   a. Total number of polling stations is 11,122
   b. Total number of polling centers is 3,300
   c. Total number of voters in the register is 3,178,663
   d. Total number of elections to be conducted is 4
   e. Voters have been allocated to polling stations on the basis of 300 voters per station with a maximum of 400 voters per station. However, the last polling station in a polling center will have voters allocated on a remainder basis. The remainder of voters in the last polling stations may be less or greater than 300 but will not be more than the maximum threshold of 400 voters.
   f. The ballot papers for each of the four elections will be printed in three thresholds as follows:
      i. At polling station level, 100% ballot papers of the total number of voters in the register, 3,178.663, will be printed for each election.
      ii. At polling station level, the last polling station in a polling center, whose voters are allocated on a remainder basis, the ballot papers will be
printed on the basis of rounding up to the nearest 50 ballot papers. For example, if the remainder voters allocated to the last polling station in a polling center is 129, a total of 150 ballot papers will be printed for the last polling station.

iii. At polling center level, ballot paper buffer of 150 ballot papers per center will be printed. However, for polling centers having over 10 polling stations (Mega Centers, totaling 38), the ballot paper buffer is doubled to 300 ballot papers.

g. In summary, the total ballot papers to be printed for each election is the total number of voters (3,178,663) at polling station level, plus the extra ballots rounded up to the nearest 50 for the last polling stations and single station-centers (73,578), plus the ballot paper buffer at center level (500,550).

h. A total of 3,752,88 ballot papers are printed for each election.

i. A copy of the allocation of voters to polling stations will be made available to all political parties.

2. The ballot papers are printed by RENFORM, a printing firm that is residing in South Africa. The procurement of the printing service was done by the UNDP.

3. Each ballot paper has a unique serial reference number and a concealed security feature prescribed by the Chief Electoral Commissioner.

4. The timeline for the arrival of ballot papers and other election forms and the subsequent dispatch to the districts will be communicated to all political parties.

Reconciliation and Result Forms (RRFs)

1. The NEC considers RRFs to be sensitive electoral materials and will ensure that RRFs are made available at the following levels:

   a. One RRF in each of the 11,122 polling stations

   b. Maintain buffer stock of 125 RRFs (blanks, without names of candidates) for each election at the NEC District offices. However, the buffer stock of 125 RRFs per district for the presidential election will have the names of candidates pre-printed in the order of the ballot paper.

2. The RRFs are serially referenced and are printed with a security feature.

3. The NEC will provide a duplicate copy of each polling station result to agents of candidates/political parties present at each polling station, reference to Section 90 of the Public Elections Act, 2012.
4. The NEC will ensure that only the official copies of RRFs with the correct serial references are accepted for the purpose of tabulating the results of each election. Any other scenario will be investigated and necessary action taken.

**Tally Centers and Publication of Results**

1. The NEC will decentralize the tallying of election result at regional level in the following locations:
   a. Freetown – NEC Data Center at Wellington
   b. Bo – Bo District Council Hall
   c. Kenema – Kenema District Council Hall
   d. Makeni – Makeni Town Hall
   e. Port Loko – Port Loko District Council Hall

2. The NEC initially intended to decentralize the tallying of election results at district level. However, the NEC took the following factors and constraints into account in deciding to decentralize the tallying of election results to regional level:
   a. The logistical and infrastructural requirements to setup and electronically link up sixteen District Result Tally Centers.
   b. The non-availability in some Districts of tally center staff that are required to have the minimum competence to work in a computer-based result management system.
   c. The challenge for the NEC to have in place policy-level oversight monitors to be assigned to the sixteen District Result Tally Centers at the same time.
   d. Budgetary constraints as a result of additional setup, oversight and administrative costs.

3. At the end of counting, the results from all polling stations will be contained in Tamper Evident Envelops (TEEs) and dispatched to the NEC District Offices. The District Returning Officer will convey the District TEEs to the Regional Result Tally Center for tabulation. The results will be electronically transmitted to the regional and national result databases via a dedicated internet and VPN system.

4. The agents of candidates/political parties will be allowed to monitor the process of verifying the RRFs received in the Regional Tally Centers.

5. All District-level election results will be validated at the regional and national levels.

6. The District Returning Officers will publish certified summary election results for each election and will provide copies of the certified results to agents of candidates,
political parties and observers, reference to Section 94 of the Public Elections Act, 2012.

7. NEC will progressively display the election results and other related information on projected screens, in full view of the observers and agents of candidates/political parties in the Regional Result Tally Centers.

8. The certified results for all elections will be published in the NEC website showing summary results and polling station results.

Voting Procedures for the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) Personnel

1. The NEC has generated a blank Supplementary Register to enable SLP personnel, who are deployed on polling day outside their areas of registration, to cast their ballots.

2. The Supplementary Register will capture the following details:
   a. Name of SLP Officer.
   b. SLP Number.
   c. Voter ID Number.
   d. District.
   e. Deployment Centre Code.
   f. Signature or thumb print of the SLP Officer.

3. SLP personnel deployed in specific polling centers will be allowed to vote in the last remainder polling station in the polling center.

4. The Supplementary Register will only be made available in the last remainder polling station in the polling center.

5. SLP personnel who are deployed outside their area of registration will only be allowed to vote in the presidential election.

6. All SLP personnel who will be allowed to vote in the last remainder stations will be subjected to the standard voting procedures:
   a. SLP Officer must present a voter ID card (since the officer may be outside his/her registration area).
   b. Details of the SLP Officer will be entered in the Supplementary Register.
   c. The standard voting procedures in the polling station will be conducted including inking the left index finger of the SLP Officer.

7. The NEC is in discussion with the Sierra Leone Police to finalise the identification of specific polling centers that will accommodate the voting process of roving SLP teams.
The Commission is available for further discussions and clarifications on the matters explained above. The Commission regrets any inconvenience caused as a result of the delay in replying to your letter.

Please accept the assurances of the Commission’s highest esteem.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Member, SLPP Election Management Committee
Champion, SLPP Election Commission/Chairman.

Copy: SLPP National Chairman and Leader.
SLPP National Secretary General.
Chief, Elections Management Committee, SLPP.
Chairman, PPRC.
Coordinator, National Elections Watch.
Development Partners.