

ELECTORAL JUSTICE AND SECURITY UPDATE FOR WEEK ENDING 4TH MARCH, 2023

Dear readers;

We are pleased to present the 3rd weekly update for the week ending, 4th March, 2023. These updates are part of the electoral justice and security projects currently implemented by CARL and funded by the Government of Ireland and OSIWA. The projects are aimed at promoting effective administration of electoral justice as well accountability for human rights violations and electoral offences before, during and after the 2023 elections. As part of this initiative, CARL-SL has hired and assigned Monitors across the 16 districts of the country. Their main responsibility is to keep tabs on critical election-related incidents/developments, including petitions, lower level elections and conventions for the election of party executives, politically-motivated violence and human rights abuses, among others.

During the week under review, the following developments/incidents were observed/ reported:

Freetown/nationwide:

HON. EMERSON LAMINA ACCUSES EU AMBASSADOR OF INTERFERING IN NATIONAL POLITICS

Opposition C4C Member of Parliament, Hon. Emerson Lamina, has accused the EU Ambassador, Manuel Muller, of interfering in national politics and acting as a mouthpiece of the main opposition APC. These allegations were made during a joint ACP- EU Parliamentary Committee meeting in Brussels, Belgium.

In response, the EU Delegation to Sierra Leone has,

in a press release dated 02/03/2023, referred to these allegations as unfortunate, unnecessary and devoid of facts. The Delegation went further to provide clarifications on specific claims made by Hon. Lamina and also reiterated its commitment to supporting free, transparent, credible and inclusive elections in Sierra Leone. The EU Delegation said its electoral support is strictly non-partisan.

SIERRA LEONE POLICE REVOKES OPPOSITION UNITY PARTY'S CLEARANCE TO CONDUCT ITS NATIONAL DELEGATES

Just as opposition Unity Party was about to start its National Delegates Conference, the Sierra Leone Police wrote to the leadership of the party withdrawing an earlier clearance granted to the party to convene for two days. The police said the clearance was revoked because the Political Parties Regulation Commission is currently investigating

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how the Party constituted its executive. The party will not be given security clearance until the PPRC concludes the ongoing investigation.

ALFRED PETER CONTEH INSISTS THAT THE NEWLY ELECTED APC EXECUTIVE IS ILLEGITIMATE

The Chairman of the Interim Transition Governance Council (ITGC), Alfred Peter Conteh, has reiterated that the Transition Interim Independent Election Management Committee (TIEMC) was not the legally competent body to have conducted the elections for the executive positions of the opposition APC, emphasizing that the entire National Delegates Conference and its outcome are illegitimate.

Consequently, Mr. Conteh has, in an open letter, raised concerns about the meeting between representatives of the British Commonwealth and some members of the APC party. Referencing the judgment of the Hon. Justice Fisher, he said that the Interim Transition Governance Council (ITGC) is the only body charged with the responsibility to govern the affairs of the party, including overseeing the conduct of elections for national executive positions.

LOCAL COUNCIL HEADS ADHERE TO THE MINISTRY'S DIRECTIVES

Following directives from the Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs, Mayors and chairpersons of local councils across the

country have handed over the administration of the councils to the Chief Administrators.

ECSL HOLDS A THREE-DAY TRAINING WORKSHOP IN MAKENI

The Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL) has held a three-day training workshop in Makeni to raise awareness and deepen knowledge about the distribution process of the voter ID cards.

SECURITY UPDATE

The week under review has been generally peaceful, and our monitors recorded no form of election-related violence in any part of the country.