

## **ELECTORAL JUSTICE AND SECURITY UPDATE FOR WEEK ENDING 22ND APRIL, 2023**

Dear readers;

We are pleased to present the 10th weekly update for the week ending 22nd April, 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. CARL-SL will also use these updates to guide its public engagement and advocacy interventions.

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

Freetown/nationwide:

### **DR. SAMURA KAMARA AND CHERNOR MAJU BAH ALLEGEDLY ATTACKED IN MAMBOLLO**

The flagbearer of the All People's Congress (APC), Dr. Samura Kamara, and his running mate, Mr. Chernor Maju Bah, were allegedly confronted by a group of youths suspected to be supporters of the ruling SLPP in Mambolo, Kambia District on the 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2023. These youths, reportedly dressed in green T-shirts, also hurled stones at some APC supporters in the area. According to the police Local Unit Commander in Kambia District, no arrest has been carried out as the suspects quickly ran into nearby bush. However, 3 motorbikes suspected to be owned by some of the attackers were seized by the police and investigations are ongoing.

### **ECSL POSTPONES NOMINATION DATES FOR 3 POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE WESTERN AREA RURAL**

The Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL) has postponed nominations for local council positions for three political parties **in Western Area Rural**. The parties include the SLPP (postponed to 25<sup>th</sup> April), the APC (postponed to 26<sup>th</sup> April) and the NGC (postponed to the 28<sup>th</sup> April)

### **APC's ALFRED PETER CONTEH WRITES ECSL**

A member of the APC's ITGC, Alfred Peter Conteh, has written a letter to the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) reminding the Commission about the ongoing legal matters in the High Court of Sierra Leone ap-

pertaining the legality of the current APC executive ahead of the political party nominations. The letter warned that the Commission may be dealing with an illegal executive of the APC.

### **APC COMMENCES THE PROCESS OF AWARDING SYMBOLS**

The All People's Congress (APC) on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 started the process of awarding symbols to candidates for local council and parliamentary positions. Elections were conducted in different districts across the country which allowed zonal, ward and regional executives to vote for aspirants aspiring for different positions.

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*In Kambia*, the All People's Congress has held its primary elections for the 31 candidates who were initially screened for parliamentary seats. 18 of the candidates were later elected - 3 for each of the 6 parliamentary seats. The process was generally peaceful; however, concerns were raised about the eligibility, popularity and influence of some of the elected candidates.

*The Sierra Leone's People's Party* (SLPP) has also completed its nomination process for local councilors in Kambia District. 46 candidates were nominated - 2 for each of the 23 wards in the district. The nomination was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. Nominations for the positions of Chairman and running mate, which was supposed to be held on the same day, has been postponed.

## ECSL DISCLOSES PROVISIONAL DATA OBTAINED FROM THE 10-DAY DISTRIBUTION EXERCISE OF VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS

The Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL), by a press release dated 17th April 2023, has revealed the provisional data obtained from the 10-day distri-

bution exercise of voter registration cards. The data shows that over 2,000,000 registered voters collected their voter registration cards. This accounts for 77% of the total population of registered voters. The Commission also recorded 5,205 "photo-less registrants", 502 mismatched cases and 9,061 misplaced cards. The Commission says these anomalies will be resolved to ensure that no eligible voter is disenfranchised.

## THE ECSL WARNS POLITICAL PARTIES TO PREPARE LISTS IN LINE WITH THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRY

The Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) has concluded training for political party representatives on how to submit nomination lists using the online nomination App. The Director of Communications for the ECSL, Raymond George, has said the Commission will not accept any list that does not meet the legal requirements, including the mandatory 30% female representation on every list of candidates for parliament.

*Mr. Raymond George also disclosed* that the PPRC has so far approved only four political parties, including the United Demo-

cratic Movement (UDM), All People's Party (APC), Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), and the National Grand Coalition (NDC) to participate in the forthcoming elections. He said the Coalition for Change (C4C) had been mistakenly added to the list of approved parties, adding that all the District Returning Officers have been warned to not process nominations from the Coalition for Change (C4C) until they get clearance from the Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC).

*The Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL)* says every political party must fully comply with the laws of the Sierra Leone if they want to participate in the 2023 elections.

## SECURITY UPDATE

Except for the incident in Mambollo, Kambia District, the week under review has been generally peaceful, and our monitors recorded no form of election-related violence in any other part of the country.