

## **ELECTORAL JUSTICE AND SECURITY UPDATE FOR WEEK ENDING 8TH APRIL, 2023**

Dear readers;

We are pleased to present the 8th weekly update for the week ending 8th 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:

### **ECSL CONCLUDES NOMINATIONS FOR PCMP CANDIDATES**

The Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL), by a Public Notice dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023, announced that it has concluded the nomination process for Paramount Chief Members of Parliament (PCMP) in the 14 provincial districts across the country. The Commission said in districts where more than one candidate was nominated, Kenema (2), Bombali (2), Falaba District (6), Koinadugu (2), Kambia (2), Bonthe (3), and Pujehun (2), elections will be conducted to determine the representative.

Kailahun, Kono, Tonkolili, Port Loko, Karene, Bo, Moyamba nominated one candidate each, meaning that the candidates will go unopposed.

### **THE INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL SIGNS COMMUNIQUE TO PROMOTE CREDIBLE ELECTIONS**

Ahead of the June 24, 2023 elections, the Inter Religious Council of Sierra Leone (IRC SL) has signed a communique committing to support credible, free and fair elections. The communique also urges religious leaders to be neutral, impartial and non-partisan during the electioneering process.

### **SLPP AND APC AUTHORITIES CONDEMN THE ALARMING DESTRUCTION OF CAMPAIGN POSTERS**

Officials of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) and the All People's Congress (APC) have condemned the alarming rate at which their campaign materials,

including posters/banners, are being destroyed in several parts of the country. Whilst giving a media interview, representatives of both parties cautioned their supporters to desist from such a destructive act, and urged law enforcement institutions to lawfully deal with anyone caught in the act of destroying campaign posters. The Secretary-General of the SLPP confirmed that the police have made some arrests of suspects, adding that the matter will be fully investigated.

### **SIERRA LEONE POLICE CONCLUDES A NON-VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN IN SCHOOLS**

The Sierra Leone Police has concluded a non-violence Campaign in schools across Port Loko. This, according to the LUC Port Loko Police Divi-

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sion, is to educate and advise young people to steer clear of violence before, during and after the elections.

## **PPRC HOLDS WORKSHOP IN FALABA DISTRICT FOR FEMALE ASPIRANTS FOR LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

The Political Parties Regulation Commission on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 organised a workshop for female aspirants for local council councilor positions in Falaba District. This was done in order to deepen their knowledge about the Proportional Representation System, the duties and obligations of candidates, among others. The Commission also explained the various reasons why the PR system was adopted.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS COMMENCES, AMIDST COMPLAINTS**

Distribution of voter registration cards is underway across the 3,630 registration centres nationwide. CARL-SL Monitors observed that the process has been generally peaceful, although several complaints have been made regarding faulty voter registration cards. Some of the faults complained of include, cards

without photos, cards sent to the wrong centres, blurry photos, and “missing cards”.

## **REPORTED SCUFFLE AT MILE 38 BETWEEN SECURITY PERSONNEL AND SUPPORTERS OF THE OPPOSITION APC**

Social media was awash with videos of reported confrontation between supporters of the All People’s Congress (APC) and some security personnel at Mile 38. The scuffle occurred while the APC Presidential candidate, Dr. Samura Kamara, was returning to Freetown after a short visit to the United States of America. It is reported that the police fired tear gas in order to disperse the “angry crowd and restore calm”. It is also alleged that some personnel discharged firearms, prompting the Independent Police Complaints Board to launch an investigation into the matter.

Following the incident, the All People’s Congress (APC) released a statement in which they described the incident as an “attempted assassination” plot by the Sierra Leone Police against their presidential candidate, Dr. Samura Kamara.

The Sierra Leone Police released a statement essentially denying

the accusation, stating that the impasse was caused by the failure of the APC Presidential candidate to adhere to the “gentleman’s agreement” he had reached with the police regard the size of his convoy.

## **PPRC INSISTS THAT THE BAN ON STREET RALLIES WAS NOT IMPOSED ON POLITICAL PARTIES**

The Executive Secretary of the Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC), Olushogo David, has insisted that the decision to ban street rallies was unanimously made by political party representatives at a meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2023. At the meeting, he said the participants discussed the advantages and disadvantages of street rallies, and unanimously agreed to ban it. Some political parties have challenged Mr. David’s account, though.

## **SECURITY UPDATE**

Except for the scuffle at Mile 38, the week under review has been peaceful, and our monitors recorded no form of election-related violence in other parts of the country.