

## **ELECTORAL JUSTICE AND SECURITY UPDATE FOR WEEK ENDING 15TH APRIL, 2023**

**D**ear readers;  
We are pleased to present the 9th weekly update for the week ending 15th 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 ANNOUNCES DATE FOR THE CONDUCT OF PCMP ELECTIONS**

The Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone has announced that elections for Paramount Chief Member of Parliament (PCMP) will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2023. While speaking at a press conference to provide updates on the Commission's level of preparedness for the forthcoming elections, the Chief Electoral Commission said the elections will be conducted for districts with more than one nominee, including Kenema, Bombali, Falaba, Koinadugu, Kambia, Bonthe and Pujehun.

### **APC POSTPONES INTERNAL ELECTIONS**

The All People's Congress (APC) on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 announced a postponed of internal elections for the award of symbols to Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. The elections were initially scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

### **THE SIERRA LEONE PEOPLE'S PARTY (SLPP) CONCLUDES ENGAGEMENTS ON THE AWARD OF SYMBOLS IN KONO**

The Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 concluded their chiefdom and constituency engagements with party members regarding the award of party symbols for councilor and mayoral positions ahead of nomination process for the June 24<sup>th</sup> elections. The results have

not yet been published, though.

**In Bo, Hon. Sualiho** Monyaba Koroma polled the highest number of votes during the screening process for Mayoral contest for the SLPP symbol, and *Victor Kosseh Hindowa* polled the highest the number of votes for the position of chairman.

**In Kambia, different political** party candidates seeking to aspire for parliament have participated in a street rally to declare their intentions. This raised eyebrows particularly from Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC), which has put a ban on street rallies/processions of that nature.

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## **APC SUPPORTER ALLEGEDLY BEATEN BY A SUSPECTED SLPP SUPPORTER**

In Kenema, a supporter of the All People's Congress (APC), Alice Yatta Moisia, was reported to have been allegedly beaten by a suspected SLPP supporter, Ibrahim Benjamin. According to madam Moisia, the Mr. Benjamin beat her up after she confronted him for destroying the APC campaign banners she had placed in front of her house. The police are currently looking for the suspect as investigations progress.

## **ECSL CONCLUDES THE DISTRIBUTION OF VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS, AMIDST MANY CONCERNS**

The distribution of voter registration cards ended on the 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, which was largely peaceful and organized across the country.

**From the 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> April,** 138,709 voter registration cards were distributed across **Port Loko** District. 739 voter registration cards were faulty; there was a mismatch in respect of 39 cards; and cards for 857 registered voters were unavailable; there were 932 voter registration cards with names on those cards not in the pre-printed journal for Port Loko; 76 people registered in a particular centre, but their details were found in different centres.

**Similar cases were recorded in** most centres across the country. Many cards had errors and photos are blurry, making it difficult or practically impossible to identify a voter.

**However, the manager of the** Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL) **in Kono** has stated that they are working towards resolving these issues before the

June 24<sup>th</sup> elections so as to ensure that every registered voter votes.

**Speaking at a press conference** on Electoral Preparedness at the ECSL Headquarter, the Chief Electoral Commissioner said photographs of mismatched registrants are being taken with mobile application and attestations issued. He also said that cards of misplaced registrants are also being relocated. He assured the public that none of these anomalies will prevent any registered voter from voting, insisting that the reported issues will be resolved before the elections.

## **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.