



National Electoral Commission (NEC)
OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown



STATEMENT

The NEC wishes to update Sierra Leoneans on the progress of the tally of results from the 7th March elections for President, Parliament and Local Councils.

In our five Regional Tally Centres, NEC continues to process election result forms from polling stations. While the majority of these forms have now been entered for the Presidential election, NEC processes have identified some forms that require examination before being accepted as the genuine results. These processes are built into the system to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the final results.

The tally process is also of course open to party and candidate agents and non-partisan observers. Agents are encouraged to raise any concerns they have about the reliability of results forms during the tally, and have done so. NEC is also examining any such forms flagged by agents, in addition to those identified by our own processes.

The Public Elections Act 2012 allows NEC to take any necessary steps in examining these results, and this can include the recounting of the ballot papers from affected stations. Any recount will be ordered by an Electoral Commissioner and take place in the relevant District Office – again, in the presence of agents and observers. The results of the recount are sent to the Regional Tally Centre on a fresh results form for data entry. Recounts are underway now in relevant District Offices.

As the public will appreciate, these processes will take time. NEC will take any necessary steps to ensure the accuracy of the results and to safeguard votes legitimately cast by Sierra Leoneans on 7th March.

NEC Commissioners are also aware of allegations against our own staff, and we take these allegations very seriously.

In addition to the numerous safeguards already in place, we continue to monitor the tally process at every stage, and have kept our doors open to all political parties, national and international observers, and the media. We have been in regular dialogue with political parties, since long before the election; and we have remained in contact and responded promptly to each of their concerns. We believe that trust is paramount.

We also understand the dangers of speculation and that false allegations have the potential to damage public confidence in the electoral process. Democracy – the practice of choosing political leaders without the use of violence – is a precious opportunity, and one we must use. We appeal to all citizens to respect the integrity of the electoral process, to refrain from speculation, to remain patient and to uphold the peaceful environment that has come to characterise Sierra Leone.

Voters across Sierra Leone peacefully and diligently cast their ballots on election day. They have placed their confidence in the NEC to tally these votes and to announce election results that accurately reflect their will for national leadership, as expressed on the ballots they marked that day. We will continue to honour this trust in our work.

Signed and dated this 11th day of March, 2018



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MOHAMED N'FAH ALIE-CONTEH
CHIEF ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER AND CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL RETURNING OFFICER

