



# National Electoral Commission (NEC)

OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown



## Official Statement

Freetown, Sierra Leone 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Yesterday, Sierra Leone conducted the fourth national elections since the end of civil war. The people of Sierra Leone were committed to vote, to exercise their right to choose their leadership, in a way that was peaceful.

Irregularities were minimal. Of 17,745 sealed boxes of ballot papers, only 37 were problematic – the equivalent of 0.2%. Although they were few, each of these irregularities was swiftly addressed.

By 5:30 pm in the evening, everyone who had joined a polling queue had voted and every polling station was closed; and by 2:00 am this morning, results had begun to arrive in regional tally centres.

All five regional tally centres – in Bo, Freetown, Kenema, Makeni and Port Loko – are operational. The National Electoral Commission (NEC) welcomes the presence of accredited political party agents and observers in these centres today and for the duration of the process.

Reconciliation and Results forms have been delivered to four of the Regional Tally Centres (Bo, Freetown, Makeni and Port Loko) in sealed, tamper-evident envelopes; and are in the process of arriving in Kenema.

Data entry is now underway, and accuracy will take precedence over speed.

The NEC is the constitutionally-mandated body that is responsible to deliver election results and is the only authority in doing so. The NEC requests patience and continued commitment to peace.

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Mohamed N'fah Alie Conteh  
Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman  
National Returning Officer

