



National Electoral Commission (NEC)

OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown



OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Freetown, Sierra Leone, **21st March 2018**- The National Electoral Commission (NEC) is the constitutionally-mandated body that is charged with the responsibility to conduct all public elections. The NEC is currently engaged in preparation activities related to the credible and efficient conduct of the forthcoming Presidential Run-Off election in all district electoral offices and regional tally centres.

Acknowledging the role of the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) in ensuring electoral security, the NEC has routinely cooperated with the SLP as a working partner – opening its doors, providing information and availing its staff.

In recent days, however, the SLP has unwarrantedly entered NEC premises, unannounced and at random, interrogated NEC staff; and obstructed them from performing their duties. In addition to delaying the time-sensitive work that is critical to the conduct of the Presidential run-off election, the unsystematic and confrontational nature of these visits has served to intimidate some staff.

The NEC is committed to conducting electoral activities according to law and upholding the Constitutional and Human Rights of citizens, including its own staff. To this end, the NEC expresses its continued willingness to cooperate with the SLP.

The NEC wants to remind the SLP that the Commission is the sole electoral management body charged with the conduct of public elections in Sierra Leone; and should refrain from actions that may obstruct electoral activities, apparent intimidation of our electoral staff or undermine the credibility and independence of the electoral process in any way.

Signed and dated this 21st day of March, 2018


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MOHAMED NTAH LIE-CONTEH
CHIEF ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER AND CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL RETURNING OFFICER

