



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



Official Statement

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 29th March 2018 – Following the meeting held at the Bintumani Hotel on Monday 26th March, 2018 between Heads of International Election Observation Missions from Africa, the All Peoples congress (APC) and the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP); the National Electoral Commission will proceed with a number of enhancements to the electoral process.

Responding to specific concerns expressed by the two political parties (APC and SLPP), these enhancements are intended to increase the transparency of the electoral process and improve trust among political stakeholders.

In particular they include:

- The presence of up to four party/candidate agents (two for each candidate) in any polling station at one time;
- Allowance of these agents to vote in the same polling stations where they are deployed, through the supplementary voter register;
- Assurance that agents are able to follow election materials throughout the entire duration of delivery;
- Revision of tally centre procedures for maximum agents access;
- Processing of results on a district-by-district basis at the Regional Tally Centres;
- Availability of training to agents in each tally centre;
- Polling station result print-outs that enable agents to compare the results entered into the data tally system with the ones produced following manual counting at polling stations; and;
- A parallel tally system that is not connected to the Internet or other NEC systems.

The Commission is pleased to have reached an understanding (as detailed in the summary of tally and results process attachments) with regard to the process to be followed in its five regional tally centres. In the meantime, preparations for the run-off election are on track, throughout the country.

The Commission wishes to assure the general public, and particularly the two political parties contesting the Presidential run-off election, that it is committed to conduct credible election on **Saturday 31st March, 2018.**

Signed


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





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Summary of tally and results process

In the run-off election, Presiding Officers will count ballots in polling stations, after they have closed. The Reconciliation and Results Form (RRF) from each polling station will be sealed into a tamper-evident envelope. This envelope goes first to the District Office and thence to Regional Tally Centre where it is opened, checked and data entered into the NEC's IT tally system.

Availability of printed polling station results during the tally

Once a polling station's RRF is marked as **archive** in the IT system, the Regional IT person will print three copies of each polling station result. One copy is to be given to each of the lead agents for each candidate who is present in the centre at the time. One further copy should be put in a reference binder that is accessible to observers.

Tally system District summaries

When the whole District is processed, the District Returning Officer will order a district summary to be produced and printed. This summary, once checked, accepted and certified by the District Returning Officer, will be copied and shared with the lead agent for each candidate who is present in the centre at the time. The summary will also be posted on the wall of the Regional Tally Centre and at the relevant District Office.

Parallel collation system summaries

The NEC has established a parallel, separate collation system to collate the regional and national results. When the Regional Returning Officer receives the certified district summary from District Returning Officer, she/he will direct the data entry of those results into the parallel system. From this parallel system, the Regional Returning Officer will generate a regional summary for certification. This regional summary, once certified, will be shared with the lead agent for each candidate who is present in the centre at the time, and posted at the Regional Tally Centre.

Final results

The Regional Returning Officer will physically take the regional result summary to the National Tally Centre. These results will be further data entered into the parallel separate collation system under the supervision of the National Returning Officer or his delegate. A national summary will be generated to stand as the national result for certification and declaration by the National Returning Officer.

Information displayed in Tally Centres








The NEC has a colour display screen in each Regional Tally Centre. These screens display two different items of information:

A: a dashboard that shows progress in the processing of RRFs and at what stage the RRFs are currently in. This is dynamically updated from the system.

B: Four times a day – at 8am, 2pm, 8pm and 2am – the regional progressive result. This will also be printed and provided to agents and observers present in the system.



29/03/18

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|---------------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| In Regional Tally Centre | Data entry of RRF |  | Tally System with LAN and VPN generates a district summary |  | Tally system with LAN and VPN generates a regional summary |  | Tally system with LAN and VPN generates national summary |
| In Regional Tally Centre | | |  | | | | |
| In Regional Tally Centre | | | Data entry of district summary into separate (without LAN and VPN) system |  | Separate (without LAN and VPN) system generates a regional summary | | |
| In National Tally Centres | | | | |  | | |
| In National Tally Centres | | | | | Data entry of regional summary into separate (without LAN and VPN) system |  | Separate (without LAN and VPN) system generates national result |

