



National Electoral Commission (NEC)

OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown



OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 6th March 2018 – The National Electoral Commission (NEC) wishes to inform the public with regard to the situation in Ward 49 in Kenema District.

During the distribution of ballot papers in this ward, one box of ballot papers destined for a polling station in Dodo Town was damaged. NEC cannot account for this damage and the box is no longer in the correct, sealed state that it should have been when delivered to the Polling Centre Manager. Upon notification, the NEC District Office contacted the NEC Headquarters and the following actions have been taken to ensure that no election procedures or results will be affected.

All ballot papers that were in the sealed box number 1512 have been cancelled and will not be accepted.

The serial numbers of these ballot papers are as follows:

Councillors' ballot paper	C 0005051 to C 0005450
Chairperson	C/M 0175951 to C/M 0176350
Parliamentary	PARL 0010601 to PARL 0011000
Presidential	PR 0380501 to PR 0380900

The polling staff in the ward will check all ballot papers before counting to ensure that no cancelled ballot papers have been introduced to ballot boxes.

The NEC had prepared a contingency reserve of ballots for situations like this one. The affected ballots are now being replaced and there will be sufficient ballot papers for every Ward 49 voter to cast his or her vote tomorrow.

NEC has taken necessary administrative action with regard to the District Office to enable the NEC to respond immediately and effectively.

The NEC is pleased that the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) is in full cooperation with the NEC to investigate the matter.

Signed:

Mohamed N'fah-Alie Conteh
Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman
National Returning Officer
National Electoral Commission (NEC)