



National Electoral Commission (NEC)

OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown



PRESS RELEASE

ELECTIONS SHOULD REFLECT COMMITMENT TO PEACE, DEMOCRACY

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 6 March 2018 – On the eve of elections, Sierra Leone’s National Electoral Commission (NEC) is prepared to conduct elections in a way that is inclusive, peaceful and democratic.

Polls will be open from 7am to 5pm. Voters must vote in the same place they registered and should have their voter ID cards with them.

The fourth national elections since the end of civil war, the event is an opportunity for citizens of Sierra Leone to confirm their commitment to peace and democracy.

“Voting is non-violent and yet it is a very powerful act,” says NEC Chair, Mohamed Conteh. “You do not have to be the biggest, the fastest or the strongest to determine the future of your country.”

The NEC has taken decisive actions, to make the elections accessible to all eligible voters. Ramps have been built at polling stations across the country, to accommodate wheel chairs. A custom-designed ballot guide will be used for the first time ever in Sierra Leone, and will enable blind and visually-impaired voters to cast ballots, independently. And voters who require assistance may be accompanied by another eligible voter of their choice – even as they make their mark.

“Elections are for everybody,” says Conteh. “Everyone has the right to vote, in a peaceful environment.”

Once they have cast their ballots, voters should leave the voting area, quietly.

Says Conteh, “Let Sierra Leone be known – throughout the world – as a nation of peace.”

To learn more about voting, go to the Frequently Asked Questions page on the NEC website: <http://necsl2018.org/frequently-asked-questions/>

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