



POLITICAL PARTIES REGULATION COMMISSION

OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown, Sierra Leone +23275262441/ +23278443294

Email: info@pprc.gov.sl / pprcsierraleone@yahoo.com

Website: www.pprc.gov.sl



23rd July, 2025

Hon. Osman Timbo
Member, All Peoples Congress
35 Jones Street
Freetown

Dear Sir,

REF: REQUEST FOR LEGAL CLARIFICATION ON PRESS RELEASE DATED 4TH JULY, 2025

The Commission acknowledges receipt of your letter on the subject matter supra, and wishes to thank you for your thoughtful engagement and the legal concerns raised. Please find hereto the Commission's response to the issues presented:

1. Legal Basis

The Commission's directive is grounded in **Section 34(4) of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 (Act No. 6 of 1991) (as amended in 2022)**, which empowers the Commission to register political parties and "make such regulations as may be necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities."

Furthermore, **Section 12(2)(a) of the Political Parties Act 2022 (Act No. 25 of 2022)** empowers the Commission to "regulate, supervise and monitor the affairs or conduct of political parties so as to ensure their compliance with the Constitution."

Also relevant is **Section 12(2)(f) of the said Act**, which provides that the Commission may "do all other things to contribute to the attainment of the object stated in subsection (1)."

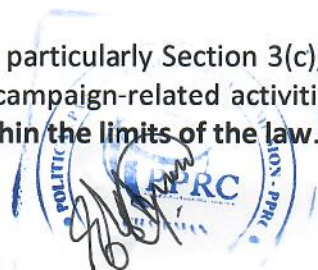
These provisions clearly establish the Commission's authority to issue directives regulating the conduct of political parties, including the use and placement of internal campaign materials in public places.

2. Infringement of Constitutional Rights

The Commission's press release does not infringe on the Constitutional rights of freedom of expression as provided for in Section 25 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 (Act No. 6 of 1991) or freedom of assembly and association as provided for in Section 26 of the said Constitution. Rather, the directive seeks to ensure that such rights are exercised within the ambit of the law and in a manner consistent with the responsibilities and obligations of political parties under the Constitution and the Political Parties Act. Regulating the internal affairs of political parties to ensure decorum cannot be equated to a violation of fundamental rights.

3. Alleged Contradiction of the PPRC Code of Conduct

The Second Schedule to the **Political Parties Act 2022**, particularly Section 3(c), (d), (e), and (g), does grant political parties the right to engage in campaign-related activities. However, these rights are not absolute and must be exercised **within the limits of the law**. The Code of





POLITICAL PARTIES REGULATION COMMISSION

OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown, Sierra Leone +23275262441/ +23278443294

Email: info@pprc.gov.sl / pprcsierraleone@yahoo.com

Website: www.pprc.gov.sl



Conduct does not provide for the public display of internal campaign materials across public spaces.

The Commission's directive simply requires that such materials be confined to party premises, which is reasonable, given that only party members participate in such internal processes. This approach preserves decency and order while reinforcing the internal nature of the contest.

4. Jurisdiction Over Public Spaces

The regulation of political signs, banners, and billboards by political actors falls squarely within the Commission's purview. The Second Schedule, which you referred to, underscores the Commission's authority in this regard. Moreover, **Section 12(2)** of the Political Parties Act further mandates the Commission to regulate and supervise all activities of political parties and their members. Thus, any political material issued or displayed by a party or its members is subject to the supervisory and regulatory authority of the PPRC. To suggest otherwise would be to undermine the comprehensive oversight function granted to the Commission by law.

5. Spirit of the Law

As rightly noted in your letter, the objective of the **Political Parties Act 2022** is to promote political pluralism, internal democracy, and citizen participation. The Commission has always championed these values and continues to do so. **Section 12(2)(d)** expressly mandates the Commission to "promote political pluralism and the spirit of constitutionalism among political parties." The emphasis on constitutionalism implies adherence to laws and statutes that guide political conduct. The Commission's directive is, therefore, consistent with both the spirit and letter of the law, aimed at fostering orderliness and legal compliance in internal party processes.

In conclusion, the Commission wishes to reiterate that the press release dated 4th July, 2025, was issued within its legal mandate, with the sole aim of maintaining order, discipline, and legality in political party activities, particularly in the context of internal elections. It neither infringes on constitutional rights nor contradicts the Political Parties Act or its Code of Conduct. Rather, it seeks to guide parties to conduct their internal processes responsibly and within their own structures.

I thank you once again for your engagement and encourage continued collaboration in the interest of democratic governance and political stability in Sierra Leone.

Yours faithfully,


Emmanuel Kolvaya Amara
Chairman

Cc: The National Secretary General, APC