



# POLITICAL PARTIES REGULATION COMMISSION

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What is the PPRC's mandate in S/L?

The political Parties Act No. 25 of 2022 gives the Commission the mandate to:

- a. Regulate, supervise, and monitor the conduct and affairs of political parties so as to ensure their compliance with the constitution and the Act;
- b. Monitor compliance of political parties with the terms and conditions of their registration;
- c. Monitor the accountability of political parties to their membership and to the electorate of Sierra Leone;
- d. Promote political pluralism and spirit of constitutionalism among political parties
- e. Mediate conflict or dispute within a political party and between and amongst political parties; and
- f. To do all such things as will contribute to the attainment of good conduct of political parties.

### 2. How effectively does the PPRC regulate political parties in S/L?

As per the mandate of the Commission, in line with the Political Parties Act No. 25 of 2022, every activity, event, or programme of political parties must be supervised/witnessed by the commission. Before commencing such activity, the commission must first be notified.

### 3. In your opinion, how does the PPRC contribute to promoting transparency in political financing?

Political financing may be a relatively new term to political parties. To ensure transparency, there is a whole section in the PPRC Act (sections 35) that focuses on political party funds and assets. This includes funding of political parties, declaration of assets, accounts and audit of political party, declaration of assets in relation to elections, etc.



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## 4. What challenges does the PPRC face in enforcing compliance among political parties?

We are always face with a challenge when it comes to compliance. Most Political Parties after registration can't meet the demand and criteria to take part in an election, the commission most of the time had to write to them to remind them of their responsibilities.

## 5. How important is the PPRC's role in ensuring free and fair elections in S/L?

Very crucial. We prepare Political Parties for any Public Election. Before these elections, we engaged them on the need and importance of Political Parties in the electioneering process.

## 6. To what extent do you think the PPRC has succeeded in fostering political accountability?

The PPRC has succeeded in fostering political accountability through the following means:

- a. Monitoring compliance of political parties with the terms and conditions of their registration. This is pursuant to Section 12(2)(b) of the Political Parties Act of 2022.
- b. Monitoring the accountability of political parties to their membership and to the electorate of Sierra Leone. This is pursuant to Section 12(2)(b) of the Political Parties Act of 2022.

## 7. How does the PPRC engage with civil society organizations to promote democratic governance?

Civil Society Organizations are often considered as partners, they always form part of our engagement with Political Parties.

## 8. What measures do you think the PPRC should implement to enhance its effectiveness?

Regular collaboration and engagement with Political Parties and the Electorate of Sierra Leone.



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## 9. How well does the PPRC communicate its activities and decisions to the public?

The commission does not conduct its activities/decisions in secrecy. For every activity/decision, the public is duly informed through the media.

## 10. In your view, how does the PPRC address issues of corruption within political parties?

The Anti-Corruption Commission is responsible for any alleged corruption case. We supervised the conduct and activities of Political Parties.

## 11. How significant is the PPRC's role in mediating conflicts between political parties?

Mediating conflicts between and amongst Political Parties is one of the Commission's key Mandate. Mediation is crucial in the democratic process, issues and complaints is always bound to happen, so without the intervention of PPRC, these issues will lead to something grave.

## 12. What impact do you think the PPRC has on youth participation in politics?

The Commission always monitors the activities and operations of youth in Politics. We have a whole section within the Commission that deals with youth in Politics. We always work with All Political Parties Youth Association (APPYA). This association draws its members from all 16 registered political parties in the country.

## 13. How does the PPRC ensure that political parties adhere to the principles of democracy?

Adherence to the principles of democracy by political parties forms part of the commission's mandate. We monitor every action of political parties, and ensure they reflect democratic principles and values.



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## 14. What role does the PPRC play in educating the public about their political rights? Voter Education & Civic Awareness

- a. The PPRC informs citizens about their right to vote and the importance of elections, and how to participate in the democratic process.
- b. It conducts public awareness campaign on electoral laws, voter registration, and political party regulations.
- c. Ensuring Fair Political Competition
- d. By registering and regulating political parties, the PPRC ensures that parties operate transparently, helping voters make informed choices.
- e. It educates the public on party manifestos, policies, and democratic values fostering an informed electorate.
- f. Promoting Political Rights & Responsibilities
- g. The PPRC educates citizens on their right to join political parties contest elections, and engage in peaceful political activities.
- h. It emphasizes gender equality in politics encouraging women and marginalized groups to participate.
- i. Legal & Constitutional Awareness
- j. The commission educates the public on laws governing political participation.

## 15. How effective is the PPRC in monitoring campaign financing during elections?

The PPRC typically has a mandate to regulate campaign financing requiring financial disclosures. The PPRC Act (2002, amended) and Public Elections Act (2022) empower it to monitor party Income and expenditures.



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## 16. In what ways does the PPRC collaborate with international organizations to strengthen democracy?

- a. PPRC collaborates with international organizations to strengthen democracy through various initiatives including capacity building, electoral support, governance reforms.
- b. Partnership with the United Nations (UN) & UNDP - The UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) often supports the PPRC in election monitoring, voter education, and institutional strengthening. Collaboration with the European Union (EU) & ECOWAS
- c. The EU Election Observation Missions (EOMs) provide recommendations to the PPRC on electoral reforms and fair party competition.
- d. ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) assists in conflict prevention ensuring political parties adhere to democratic norms.
- e. The National Democratic Institute (NDI) trains PPRC officials on best practices in political governance. Support from International IDEA
- f. International IDEA (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance) provides technical expertise on political party regulations.

## 17. How does the PPRC handle complaints from citizens regarding political party conduct?

PPRC handles complaints from citizens regarding political misconduct e.g., electoral fraud, hate speech, campaign violations through a structured process.

Citizens can file complaints with the PPRC through:

- a. Written petitions (submitted in person or via email).
- b. PPRC's Investigation Process



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- c. Once a complaint is filed, a Preliminary Assessment is done in ensuring that the complaint falls under its mandate (e.g., breach of electoral laws, party conduct). Mediation (if minor) – For low-level disputes, the PPRC may facilitate dialogue between parties.
- e. Formal Investigation – If serious (e.g., hate speech, vote-buying), committee reviews evidence and holds hearings.
- f. Decision & Sanctions– The PPRC can:
  - i. Issue warnings or fines.
  - ii. Suspend or deregister a party for severe violations (depends on legal powers).
  - iii. Refer cases to the police, judiciary, or Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) if criminal (e.g. violence, bribery).

## **18. What is the perception of the PPRC's independence from political influence?**

The 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone define the independence of the Commission. The PPRC treats all political parties equally and not based on power, influence, or popularity.

## **19. How does the PPRC contribute to the promotion of gender equality in political representation?**

Sierra Leone has made significant progress in the area of Gender equality. The PPRC act makes adequate provision for 30% representation for women in Politics

## **20. What strategies does the PPRC employ to engage marginalized communities in the political process?**

The PPRC Act of 2022 addresses the issue of marginalization of every sort. Women, Youth and PWDs. So, in Section 41 and below, the act provides representation for these marginalized groups.



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## **21. How does the PPRC assess the performance of Political parties in Sierra Leone.**

PPRC assess political parties' performance based on their compliance to the constitution of Sierra Leone and the Political Party Act. They monitor if these parties observe the democratic principles, and that they are working in accordance with the constitutions of SL and the PPRC Act.

## **22. What role does the PPRC play in the development of electoral laws and policies?**

The Commission is always consulted when electoral laws are being drafted for their input. The Commission is part of Political Party Liaison Committee.

## **23. How does the PPRC facilitate dialogue among political parties to promote cooperation?**

The PPRC facilitate dialogue through a process called Mediation. During the process both/conflicting parties are called to a neutral platform where the issues will be discussed and the disputes resolved.

## **24. In your opinion, how can the PPRC improve its outreach to the general public?**

Must maintain regular Radio and TV discussion programs on the activities of the commission.

- a. Organize trainings for journalist for public awareness of the commission
- b. Create social media messages and billboards

## **25. How does the PPRC ensure that political parties comply with the Political Parties Act?**

The PPRC ensures the compliance of political parties with the Political Parties Act, 2022, Act No25 of 2022 in the following ways:

- a. By regulating, supervising, and monitoring their affairs and conduct. This is pursuant to Section 12(2)(a) of the Political Parties Act.
- b. By facilitating mediation and conflict resolution within a political party, and between or amongst political parties. This is subject to Section 21(2)(e) of the Political Parties Act.



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## **26. What are the Key Successes of PPRC in promoting good governance in Sierra Leone?**

The New PPRC act No 25 of 2022, Establishment of the Inter Party Dialogue Committee, Political Education for Leadership of Political Parties, and its Members, Political Parties Dispute Resolution Guide.

## **27. How does the PPRC address the issue of Political violence during elections?**

Sections (39) of the Political Parties act, which is the Codes of Conduct clearly define how Political Parties should conduct themselves during elections; and there are punitive measures if any of those provisions are contravened.

## **28. What role does the PPRC play in fostering a culture of political tolerance?**

The Political Parties Regulation Commission plays a pivotal role in promoting a culture of political tolerance in the following ways:

- a. By providing political education and engagement to political parties.
- b. By facilitating collaboration with Civil Society Organizations and the media.
- c. By monitoring hate speech and incitement.

## **29. How does the PPRC support the capacity building of Political Parties.**

Regular engagements and Trainings.

## **30. What feedback mechanisms does the PPRC have in place for citizens to express their concerns?**

We always have Media engagements where we address concerns from the Public. If it's a written concern, the doors of the commission are always open to receive complaints or concerns from citizens or Political Parties. We always ensure we address every concern.

## **31. How does the PPRC monitor the activities of political parties between elections?**

The PPRC monitors the activities of political parties by:

Requiring them to submit annual reports detailing their activities, finances, and internal structures. The Commission request monitoring audits, investigate



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complaints about party conducts, and checks adherence to internal democratic processes.

## **32.in what ways does the PPRC promote civic education among the electorate?**

The Commission has its flagship program called Political Education. In this program we discuss issues of violence, responsibilities of supporters and members of Political Parties, Colors in Politics, Value of the ballot box and Political Parties Ideologies. The Commission will soon commence its every week PPRC hour on major radio and Television stations.

## **33. How does the PPRC's work align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

PPRC work aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals in the following ways:

- a. Its work aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality). This aspect encourages the participation of women in political leadership, and party structures.
- b. It also aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 10 (Reduced Inequality), by ensuring inclusive party structures that represent marginalized and regional interests.
- c. The Commission's work aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). This is ensured by promoting accountable, transparent, peaceful political processes.

## **34.What Challenges do you think the PPRC faces in enforcing Political Party Regulations?**

They always tag the Leadership of the Commission in belonging to a particular political party whenever we used the stick approach. They sometimes used strong invectives on staff of the commission whenever carrying out the mandate of the Commission. Our lives are sometimes threatened. Political Parties sometimes flout the provisions in PPRC act that has to do with the criteria that define their operations as Political Parties. Etc.



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## **35. How does the PPRC contribute to the overall stability of Sierra Leone's Political landscape?**

The PPRC plays a stabilizing role in Sierra Leone's political development in diverse ways:

- a. By promoting national unity\_ through enhancing inclusive political dialogue. The PPRC helps bridge ethnic, regional, and political divides.
- b. By supporting electoral processes, in ensuring a level playing field amongst political parties.
- c. By enhancing public trust in institutions. Its transparency and impartial regulation of political parties facilitate public trust in democratic systems. Sections (39) of the Political Parties act, which is the Codes of Conduct clearly define how Political Parties should conduct themselves during elections; and there are punitive measures if any of those provisions are contravened.

## **36. What role does the PPRC play in ensuring that elections are conducted in a peaceful manner.**

We always create unique activities for Political Parties whenever there is an election. These activities may include; the need for a peaceful election, Political tolerance, Patriotism etc

## **37. How does the PPRC engage with the Media to promote transparency in Political Processes?**

We always invite the media in all of our activities. We grant interviews, and sometimes organize press conferences.

## **38. What improvements would you suggest for the PPRC's operational framework?**

Full implementation of the Commission's Five years Strategic Plan, that's span from 2024 to 2028.



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## **39. How does the PPRC assess the impact of its interventions on democratic governance?**

Our mandate as a Commission forms the building blocks of Sierra Leone's democratic governance. We shape the mind set of Political Parties by regulating their activities and conduct. Our role as a Commission cannot be overemphasized.

## **40. In your Opinion, what is the future role of the PPRC in Sierra Leone's democracy?**

Our future role is to see Sierra Leone enjoys a healthy democracy where Political Parties support in the development drive by engaging government (healthy discussions) on issues of national concern.