



POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTRATION COMMISSION

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Chairman's Talking Point 11/06/14

Good afternoon members of the fourth estate.

- **Purpose of the meeting**

The Commission in its constant engagement with the media will be organising press conference from time to time to update you on the mandate and activities of the Commission. Such fora will be used to clarify issues.

Please feel free to always call on the Commission for clarifications on issues surrounding politics and Political Parties in Sierra Leone.

Also call us to be part of your programmes when discussion Politics or Political Issues so that our side will also be heard.

- **MANDATE OF THE COMMISSION**

Let me start by reminding you once again about the Mandate of the Commission.

The constitutional provision for the establishment of the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) is enshrined in Sections 34 and 35 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and the Political Parties Act of 2002.

CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE OF PPRC

The PPRC Act No3 of 2002 gives the Commission the mandate to:

- a. Register and supervise the conduct of political parties in accordance with the 1991 Constitution and the Political Parties Act of 2002;
- b. Monitor the affairs or conduct of political parties to ensure their compliance with the constitution of Sierra Leone, the Political Parties Act and 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. When approached by persons or parties concerned, to mediate any conflict or disputes between or among the leadership of any political party or between or among political parties;
- f. To do all such things as will contribute to the attainment of good conduct of political parties;

- **BYE ELECTIONS**

The Commission on Saturday 31st May 2014 deployed personnel for the Parliamentary Bye-Election Constituency 100 in the Western area, Local Council Bye Elections in Ward 251 in Constituency and Ward 258 in Constituency 77 in Bo District Council and Ward 300 in Constituency 86 in Moyamba District Council.

This was done in line with the Commissions mandate to monitor the conduct of Political Parties.

The Commission wants to congratulate Political Party members and their supporters for ensuring political tolerance, non-violence and a smooth running of these processes.

- **GIFTS FROM THE UN FAMILY**

The Commission has so far received two vehicles and other office equipment from the United Nations Liquidation Team.

- **MEDIATION PROCESS**

SIERRA LEONE PEOPLES PARTY (SLPP)

DELEGATE CONFERENCE 2013

The Commission after the SLPP Delegate Conference in August 2013 received complaint from Ambassador Allie Bangura and others challenging the validity of the Elections Held. After series of meetings with all sides concern, on the 30th December 2013, the Commission came out with a report recommending the formation of a Reconciliation

Committee. This Committee was to be appointed by Chief Somanoh Kapen and Ambassador Alie Bangura.

A meeting was called to appoint members of the Reconciliation Committee but Ambassador Alie Bangura did not show up but the Commission received a letter from a legal representative of Ambassador Bangura informing the Commission that he is taking the matter to Court.

As we speak, the Commission is aware of a Committee set up by the Campaign for Unity in the SLPP. The Commission has been providing technical support to the Committee including the use of the Commissions Conference Room for meetings.

SLPP NORTHERN REGION COMPLAINT

The Commission two weeks ago met with Sierra Leones Peoples Party National Chairman Chief Somanoh Kapen and the National Secretary General Sulaiman Banja Tejan Sie and a cross section of the Northern Region Executive members.

The meeting discussed complaint from a cross section of the Northern Region Executive with regards the appointment of an acting Regional Chairman. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that the Secretary General write and reinstate all regional executive officers that were suspended.

- **NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (NDA)**

The Commission received a complaint from a cross section of the Executive of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) that the National Secretary General Mohamed S. Jalloh, the 2012 Flagbearer Alhaji Musidal Jalloh and the National Coordinator Abdul Razak Bah misappropriated the sum of \$38,000 donated to the party by President Good Luck Jonathan.

After series of meeting with all parties involved, an investigations Committee was set up with a one month life span.

At the end of their investigations, the Committee recommended the following:

- PPRC should use its good office to help the Committee obtain a bank statement on the accounts transaction and should also help to pass a mandate to the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank that no withdrawals should be made from such account.
- That the National Secretary General Mohamed S. Jalloh, Abdul Razak Bah and Alhaji Wurie Musidal Jalloh be suspended from holding any responsible positions including executive positions in the party for five years because of (a) breach of party constitution, (b) unauthorized expenditure of party funds and (c) embezzlement of party funds.
- That in 90 working days, Mohamed S. Jalloh, Abdul Razak Bah and Alhaji Wurie Musidal Jalloh should return the total sum they received from President Good Luck Jonathan to the party's bank account and failure to do so, further administrative actions will be instituted against them.
- That the three suspended members should surrender all party properties in their possession to the Committee.

The Party is now led by Acting Chairman Mrs Augusta James Teima, Acting Secretary General Abdullai Barrie and all other positions remain the same.

Finally on the NDA, the Party will hold its Annual Delegate Conference in August this year.

RUFPP

The Commission received a complaint from a cross section of the executive and some members of the RUFPP who called for the resignation of the Secretary General Alimamy D. Conteh, 2012 Flag Bearer, Eldred Collins and National Chairman, Ansumana M.P. Fowai.

The Commission advised the Party on the way forward and asked that they go to convention. On Saturday 19th April 2014, the party held a Mini Delegate Conference at Trivoli Entertainment Centre at John St and a resolution was passed and a vote of non-confidence was passed on the Secretary General Alimamy D. Conteh, 2012 Flag Bearer, Eldred Collins and National Chairman, Ansumana M.P. Fowai. All three were suspended from their positions in the party.

Yesterday Tuesday 10th June 2014, I have instructed the Interim Chairman Keifala Kosia and the executive of the RUFPP to hold their National Delegates Conference on 5th and 6th September 2014.

The Commission has also confirmed the interim executive members that were elected during their last Extra Ordinary National Delegate Conference. The interim appointments include Keifala Kosia as Acting Chairman, Raymond Kartewu as acting Secretary General, Lahai Sannoh as acting Youth President and Isha Sesay as Acting Womens President. All other positions remain the same.

This executive will take the party to its National Delegate Conference.

- **PDP**

The Commission is also looking into matters affecting the People's Democratic Party. A comprehensive report will be presented soon.

- **PPRC AIDS MEETING WITH POLITICAL PARTIES ON EBOLA**

The Commission was approached by the Ministry of Political and Public Affairs to organise a meeting with Political Parties on the Ebola disease. The meeting discussed possible collaboration with Political Parties on the sensitization of the citizens and people in affected areas on the disease and its implications.

During the meeting, senior Executive Officers of Nine Registered Political Parties excluding the RUFPP on Tuesday 10th June 2014 agreed to join in the sensitization process on the Ebola Disease.

A committee has been set and the RUFPP has being included in the committee and they are presently meeting at the PPRC Office to look at the following:

- Parties Review the existing concept note and the Budget
- Sensitization strategies
- To Organise Nationwide Sensitization meetings
- To Organise a National Dialogue Forum

- **THE ROLE OF PPRC IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The first major engagement the PPRC had with political parties on the ongoing constitutional review process was at a conference in Freetown in December, involving the national executive officers of all political parties.

Two weeks later, the PPRC involved party executive members from the District and regional levels; including some of whom are members of the Constitutional Review Committee. Over three hundred political party representatives attended the second conference in Bo in January.

- **THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW PROCESS AND POLITICAL PARTIES**

The Commission will on the 24th June 2014 meet with Political Parties on the Constitutional Review Process. The meeting will discuss the participation of political parties in the entire process and it is hoped that Political Parties will make strong Commitment to the entire process.

Thanks for your attention.