



POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTRATION COMMISSION

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The Chairman of the Political Parties Registration Commission Hon Justice M.E. Tolla Thompson informed political parties that 2015 is a year that the commission will change its approach in regulating and supervising political parties.

A political party he says is not established to contest elections but to participate in shaping the political will of the people; disseminate information on political ideas, and social and economic programmes of a national character.

This year he says, the Commission will ensure that political parties adhere to the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, the Political Parties Act of 2002 and their party constitutions.

Hon Justice Tolla Thompson added that there is no more going to be a time where political parties go to congress, elect their officers and after few months they decide to change them without reference to their constitution.

Hon Justice Tolla Thompson also advised the leaders of the political parties to also inculcate the habit of consulting their members on the day to day activities of their parties. Lack of consultation he says leads to suspicions among party members.

He admonished the political parties to now concentrate on their party ideologies rather than individuals. Politicians he says must be principled and ensure that they maintain fairness and justice among members.

Speaking on the existence of political party offices in the country, Hon Justice Thompson expressed dismay over the habit of political parties changing offices often. This year he says, the Commission will be conducting unannounced office verification

of all political party offices nationwide. He advised party officers present to put their house in order or face the law.

Speaking on political parties' compliance in accounting to the Commission on its finances, Hon Justice Thompson also expressed dismay over the delay or non-compliance by most of the political parties. This he says will not be tolerated this year.

Meanwhile, the Commission in league with the ten registered Political Parties will embark on a weeklong sensitization exercise on the importance of the Western Area operation surge.

The exercise will help community people take ownership of the program and not to be complacent as a result of the drop in the infection cases. This will also help in convincing the people in the western area to work together for the eradication of the virus in their respective communities by adhering to the rules and respect community bye-laws.

The exercise will also be used to educate the people that Sierra Leone will only be declared EVD free after 42 days without any new infection.