



POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTRATION COMMISSION

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The Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) on Saturday 23rd November 2013 completed a three days Inter-Party Dialogue for the Ten Registered Political Parties in Sierra Leone.

The dialogue which started in Kenema on Thursday 21st November 2013 was also held in Bo on Friday 22nd November 2013 and in Makeni on Saturday 23rd November 2013 brought together Youth Leaders, Women Leaders, Regional and District Chairmen and Representatives of National Executive of the ten Political Parties.

In her welcome address and declaration of purpose, the Acting Registrar Ms. Zainab Umu Kamara says the process will discuss issues and challenges faced by political parties before, during and after the 2012 Elections and how they will work together for the sustenance of democracy in Sierra Leone.

In his Opening Remarks, the Chairman of the Commission Hon Justice M.E. Tolla Thompson says the process is part of the Commission's Mandate to ensure that Political Parties are accountable to their Membership. He says the process will allow party members to inform their leaders present about their challenges in the region.

During the exercise, the following issues were raised:

- Intolerance
- Divide in Political Parties
- Suppression of smaller Political Parties
- Security & Traditional Leaders bias during elections
- Inter/Intra Political Conflict
- Marginalization of Youths
- Corruption and infighting in Political Parties
- Lack of regular meetings

- Violation of Campaign dates & Violence
- Lack of Communication between the National Executives and the District or Regional Executives
- The Lack of Political Education
- Lack of Accountability by the National Executive Members
- The Nomination Fees for Candidates
- Lack of Office in Makeni
- UNPP Lacks offices nationwide
- Lack of payment of dues

In their response to the issues raised by members of Political Parties, representatives of their National Executives of the ten Political Parties assured their members that they will take these issues back to the National Executive for remedy. They also appealed to their member to imbibe the culture of communicating through the appropriate channels.

The meetings were climaxed with Group Work and presentations on the role of political parties in the prevention of conflict between and among political parties, the role of youth in politics, the role of women in politics and how political parties should be accountable to their membership/the electorates and citizens.

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