



# POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTRATION COMMISSION

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### INTRODUCTION

In line with its mandate, the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC), have carefully considered the suspension from office (commonly referred to as a Palace Coup) of the Chairman and Leader; Chief Sumano Kapen and the Secretary General, Mr. Sulaiman Banja Tejan-Sie. The Commission perused the numerous correspondence it received on the issue and also looked at the relevant provision of the National Constitution and the Sierra Leone Peoples Party Constitution relevant to the matter. Consequently, the Commission deems it fit to issue a press release to leave the Sierra Leone Peoples Party and the general public in no doubt on its stance on an issue of this nature.

### THE CONSTITUTION AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES ACT 2002

**Whereas**, the Constitutional Provision which established the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC), hereafter refer to PPRC, is enshrined in Sections 34 and 35 of the Constitution – 1991, and the Political Parties Act of 2002.

**Whereas** the Constitutional Provision and the Act empower the PPRC to “register” and “when approached by Persons or Parties concerned to mediate in any conflict or dispute between or among the leadership of any Political Party or between or among Political Parties”.

**Whereas** the Sierra Leone Peoples Party is registered with the PPRC as a Political Party.

### THE ISSUE

**And whereas** on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014, at a meeting chaired by the Hon. Manso Dumbuya – the Western Area Regional Chairman of the SLPP, comprising of members known or styled as the Grassroots and a cross-section of the National Officers, etc, suspended the National Chairman & Leader, Chief Sumano Kapen and

the Secretary General of the Party, Mr. Sulaiman Banja Tejan-Sie from their positions.

**Whereas** a cross-section of National Officers headed by Dr. Prince Harding, Deputy Leader, approached the PPRC with the intention of reconciling the different factions.

**Whereas** a meeting was held to look into the matter, which was subsequently adjourned to continue on the adjourned date.

**And whereas** the subsequent meeting was boycotted by Dr. Prince Harding and the cross-section of the National Officers.

**Whereas** the action by this body to suspend the Chairman and Leader and the Secretary General was not in accordance with the Party's Constitution.

**And whereas** members of Political Parties must realize that Constitutions generally do not sit comfortably with irregularity and invalidity. If they do, it germinates and the situation then becomes fluid and eventually leads to a recipe for confusion and chaos as it is evidenced, choreographed and documented by the present impasse.

**And whereas** the main players or actors in the Saga claimed that they are doing it for the rank and file and or the Grassroots. But it seems to the Commission that the suspension was a way to maximise and propagate their own interest. The Commission cannot sit by and allow matters of this nature to run amok.

**And whereas** the PPRC regards the suspension as an outrageously unfortunate setback to the efforts of those who have worked tirelessly and relentlessly for the reconciliation of the internal perennial conflict in the Party.

## CONCLUSION

**Now therefore**, the PPRC views the suspension as an affront to our nascent democracy as it runs contrary to Sec 35 of the National Constitution and Clause 2 (4) and 4B v (i) of the SLPP Constitution.

The PPRC has come to the conclusion that the suspension of the Chairman and Leader and Secretary General is irregular and invalid. Indeed the action taken to

suspend the Chairman and Leader and the Secretary General is outside the realm of the intendment and spirit of the Constitution and has the tendency of eroding the said Constitution.

In the result, the PPRC will not recognise the suspension of the Chairman and Leader and the Secretary General of the Party. We out rightly condemn it.

We therefore call on Dr. Prince Harding, Leader of the aggrieved National Officers to address their grievances if any through constitutional means.

**# End of Release #**

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