



POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTRATION COMMISSION

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The Chairman of the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) Hon Justice M.E. Tolla Thompson on Wednesday 31st August, 2016 cautioned media practitioner and officers of political parties to ensure that the media is used to promote the ideals of political parties, promote democracy, good governance and peace in Sierra Leone.

In a meeting held at the PPRC Headquarters in Freetown for political parties officials, Independent Media Commission (IMC), Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ), Radio Station Managers and Newspaper Editors, Hon Justice Thompson said, the Commission is concerned about the negative use of the media by politicians especially the radio. Politics he says should be war of words and not by fighting or the use of obscenity on the media.

“ It behoves Political Parties and Journalists to salvage this situation by working assiduously to counteract and nullify the clique movement which is slowly gaining currency in our country thereby rendering our democracy meaningless” he added. Hon Justice Thompson also reminded members present of the role played by the media leading to the genocide in Rwanda. The media he concluded should be wary of the use of hate speeches and incitements by politicians.

In his address Commissioner Alhaji Muctarr B. Williams said the 2018 elections are drawing closer and that the Commission is concerned about the rapid spate of violence in the Country. “ Now is the time to put an end to misinformation from the top to the bottom of political parties”, he added.

In his statement, Commissioner Alhaji Dauda Musa Bangura of the IMC reminded media practitioners of the Media Code of Practice in covering elections and political parties activities. The role of the media he said is to ensure that information disseminated should ensure peace in Sierra Leone. When covering elections or political activities, Commissioner Bangura advised colleague journalist to ensure fairness, balance and accuracy.

He advised Journalist to abstain from broadcasting or publishing inciting stories and to ensure that statements made by politicians do not create hate, violence or promote tribalism.