



# POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTRATION COMMISSION

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18<sup>th</sup> October, 2012

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 convened an emergency meeting of the Leaders of Political Parties and the Inspector General of Police to discuss issues of national significance. Issues discussed are as follows:

### 1. Dealing with political parties through the medium of the PPRC

The PPRC noted in particular, the undue increase in the engagement of Political Parties in organised events such as signing of Declarations, discussion of political party manifestoes, organised trainings and communiqués without reference or notification of the PPRC. The PPRC reiterated its Constitutional and Statutory mandates to monitor, supervise and regulate the conduct of political parties and therefore called on all agencies to notify or give prior notice of any engagement with political parties for the effective monitoring of such events. The political parties in turn, affirmed their commitment to ensure that future engagements with institutions are channelled through the medium of the PPRC.

### 2. Engagement of Vigilantes or private security

The PPRC noted with concern, engagement of Vigilantes or private security by political parties in their rallies or motorcades. The PPRC wishes to draw the attention of all political parties that the Sierra Leone Police is the Constitutional Body with the mandate to protect life and property and to maintain internal security.

The Commission is of the view that the introduction of vigilantes or private bodyguards in our political scene is counterproductive and will mar our quest for free, fair and violent free election.

The PPRC calls on all political parties, Presidential Aspirants to refrain from engaging private militias.

### 3. Obstruction of passage of Presidential motorcade

Mindful of its role to regulate the conduct of political parties, the PPRC drew the attention of all political parties to the incident that led to the obstruction of the Presidential motorcade on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 by the Flag bearer of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) on Godrich Street, Freetown. This action was unanimously condemned.

#### **4. The Presidency of Sierra Leone**

The Commission wishes to draw the attention of all political parties and the general public to Section 43 (3) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, which provides that:

“A person elected to the office of the President... shall  
Assume that office on the day upon which he is declared  
Elected by the Returning Officer, or upon the date that his  
Predecessor’s term of office expires, whichever is the latter”

In the light of this Section, the Commission wishes to confirm to all political parties that there is no vacancy in the Office of the President. The President continues in Office until after the election of another President. Therefore, the privileges, respect and dignity should be accorded the President at all times.

Over time, for security reasons, the Police have always accorded the President or Chairman of Sierra Leone free and unhindered access to our roads whenever on their official or private functions. The Commission urges all Political Parties to observe this privilege. In the same vein, all Political Parties are urged to inform their members about the privileges of the President to free and unhindered access to the roads.

#### **5. Condemnation of the conduct of the SLPP Flag bearer by PPRC**

From information received, and in the main the views presented in the meeting, the Commission is of the view that the Flag bearer of the SLPP disobeyed traffic instructions and obstructed the Presidential motorcade. There can be no excuse to disregard Police instructions and the Commission strongly condemns the conduct aforesaid.

#### **6. Potential to undermine public peace**

Furthermore, reports received by the Commission is that the conduct aforesaid did cause panic on that day amongst on lookers that could have been a recipe for chaos.

#### **7. Vigilance of the Police in carrying out their responsibilities**

In this regard, the Commission urges the Police to be vigilant and to ensure that Political Party Operatives, rallies or motorcades do not obstruct Presidential Motorcades. The Commission also wishes to remind the Police of their sacred duty to protect life and property to the People of Sierra Leone

## **8. Warning to Political Parties**

The Commission appeals to all political parties to observe the Code of Conduct and the Declaration on the 2012 Elections which they signed.

Political parties are here warned that any repetition of such conduct or behaviour will be met with severe sanctions – **You have been warned.**

**# End of Public Notice #**