



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**POLITICAL PARTIES  
REGULATION COMMISSION  
(PPRC)**

**OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL  
FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2023 was politically charged in Sierra Leone, marked by significant developments and challenges within the political landscape. The Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) operated under the newly established Political Parties Act No. 25 of 2022, navigating a dynamic environment where social media emerged as a battleground for political discourse. This digital arena was rife with frequent attacks on opponents and widespread hate speech, often originating from outside the country. Political leaders' use of inflammatory language further incited their supporters to engage in disruptive activities, while tribal profiling and regional identity politics exacerbated polarization.

Despite these challenges, the PPRC implemented several key activities aimed at fostering a more inclusive and peaceful political environment. Among these initiatives was the Unhindered Access for Political Parties, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Commission also organized National and Regional Multi-Party Forum engagements, supported by the National Democratic Institute (NDI), to bring together political party leaders to discuss and understand various issues related to the electoral process.

Additionally, the PPRC developed a comprehensive Communication Strategy and successfully held District and Regional Peace Match (Float Parade) events, supported by International IDEA with funding from the European Union. These activities were crucial in promoting peace and understanding among different political factions.

The Commission received substantial support from the Government of Sierra Leone, which was instrumental in advancing its programmatic and electoral activities. Notably, the procurement of seven vehicles for the Commission, for the first time since its restructuring in 2010, significantly enhanced its operational capabilities.

In the post-election period, the PPRC continued its efforts with activities such as the Post Election Reflection Retreat and the development of a Dispute Resolution Guide for Political Parties. The Commission also worked on the Political Finance Regulation and Manual, with support from International IDEA with funding from the European Union. Institutional and capacity support from the UNDP, including the provision of office furniture, machines, ICT items, and a generator, further bolstered the Commission's operational efficiency.

The financial support from the Government of Sierra Leone was unprecedented, with the Commission receiving Eight Million Five Hundred Thousand Leones (8.5 million), marking the highest allocation of resources to the PPRC to date.

This report highlights the PPRC's resilience and proactive measures in addressing the challenges of a politically charged year, underscoring the Commission's commitment to promoting a fair and peaceful political environment in Sierra Leone.

The PPRC appreciates the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) for providing financial support for the administrative and programmatic work of the Commission. The Commission further appreciates the GoSL for strengthening the capacity of the PPRC through the approval of recruitment of new staff and the procurement of seven vehicles in preparedness for the June 24, 2023 election. The Commission also appreciates the European Union through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the provision of a vehicle. The Commission also appreciates the support received from International IDEA with funding from the European Union in supporting the Commission's programmatic and electoral activities. Understandably, the Commission still requires additional financial and technical resources to fully discharge its mandate and carry out its activities.

The Annual Report is therefore segmented as follow:

**Part I** highlights the profile of the Commission. It presents the Commission's Mandate, Operational Independence, Powers of the Commission, Vision and Mission Statements, Guiding Principles and Organisational Structure.

**Part II** discusses the activities undertaken by the Commission during the year under review. This is further divided into Pre-Election Activities, Election Activities and Post Election Activities.

**Part III** presents Staff and Institutional Capacity Building and further highlights Institutions the Commission partnered with during the year under review.

**Part IV** highlights the Challenges faced by the Commission in the discharge of its mandate, proffers recommendations for further actions and present its future plans in ensuring that the Commission is more effective.

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**Olushogo Abraham David**  
Executive Secretary



## ACRONYMS

ACC	Anti Corruption Commission
ADB	African Development Bank
APC	All People's Congress
APPWA	All Political Parties Women's Association
APPYA	All Political Party Youth Association
AU	African Union
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CDP	Citizen's Democratic Party
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African State
ECSL	Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone
EU	European Union
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GoSL	Government of Sierra Leone
IDEA	Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
IFES	International Federation of Electoral Systems
IRC	International Red Cross
MDA	Ministries, Department and Agencies
MDAs	Ministry Department and Agency
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NaCEED	National Council for Civic Education and Dem
NASSIT	National Social Security and Insurance Trust
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NEC	National Electoral Commission
NURP	National Unity Reconciliation Party
ONS	Office of National Security
PEA	Public Elections Act
PPA	Political Parties Act
PPRC	Political Parties Regulation Commission
ReNIP	Republic National Independent Party
RUFP	Revolutionary United Front Party
SLBA	Sierra Leone Bar Association



SLBC	Sierra Leone Broadcasting Cooperation
SLLC	Sierra Leone Labour Congress
SLP	Sierra Leone Police
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UP	Unity Party

In 2023, the political landscape of Sierra Leone was characterized by significant developments and challenges. The Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) operated under a new legal framework, the Political Parties Act No. 25 of 2022. Under this new legislation, the PPRC closely monitored the conduct of political parties in ensuring compliance to their party's constitution, the Political Parties Act and other statutory laws. The Commission closely monitored the conduct of lower-level elections of political parties. While some parties adhered to their constitutions and the Act during their internal elections, others failed to comply.

Social media became a battleground for political discourse, with frequent attacks on opponents and widespread hate speech, often originating from outside the country. This period saw political leaders using inflammatory languages, which sometimes incited their supporters to engage in disruptive activities. Tribal profiling and regional identity politics further polarized the political environment. However, the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Cooperation (SLBC) and other media houses in and out of the country provided opportunities for political parties to debate issues as a way of shaping public opinion. The media to a great extent provided fair coverage, allowing political parties to communicate their visions to the populace.

In response to these challenges, the PPRC undertook extensive political education campaigns to emphasize the importance of unity across party lines. Despite the contentious atmosphere, the campaign period was relatively peaceful compared to previous elections. A significant policy change was the ban on street rallies, implemented by the PPRC in consultation with the seventeen (17) registered political parties in the presence of key stakeholders. This move ensured that campaign activities were confined to designated areas, allowing citizens to engage directly with political leaders in a controlled environment. Consequently, daily activities such as schooling, market trading, and transportation continued uninterrupted during the campaign period.

Elections day and the subsequent counting process were notably peaceful, marking a significant milestone in the country's democratic journey. However, post-election tensions arose when the All People's Congress (APC), the main opposition party, decided to boycott governance

following the announcement of the Presidential and General Election results. This impasse prompted mediation efforts by delegations from Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU), culminating in the signing of the Agreement for National Unity on October 18, 2023.

The Commission observed that, Youth were easily misled by self-seeking politicians to perpetuate violence against political opponents. However, the Commission noted the effort of the All Political Party Youth Association (APPYA) as a convener of peace messages to their compatriot. The Commission also appreciates the efforts made by the All Political Parties Women's Association (APPWA) in encouraging political leaders to adhere to the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Act, 2022; the Public Elections Act (PEA), 2022 and the Political Parties Act (PPA), 2022.

The PPRC played a crucial role in fostering political dialogue and community outreach to promote national cohesion. Despite the pervasive threat of hate speech, political intolerance, and violence, the PPRC's effective regulation contributed significantly to the peaceful outcome of the elections. By the end of 2023, the political situation had improved with increased dialogues promoting peace, political cohesion and unity.

## MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

### Chairman Mr. Abdulai Masiyambay Bangurah



The Chairman is a legal practitioner of over twenty seven years standing. Post call, he sojourned briefly at the Law Officer's Department as pupil Barrister, before he moved to the Eastern Regional town of Kenema in 1996 and established Private Practice, under the Eagle eye of Samuel U. Navo Jr, of blessed memories.

He plied his trade in Kenema for twenty four unblemished years, until he was privileged by His Excellency, with an appointment as Deputy Attorney General and Minister of Justice in 2018.

As a Private Legal Practitioner, he held several retainerships including, UNHCR, IRC, SLCB, NASSIT, CARE Intl, Eastern Poly-tech, Kenema City and District Councils of Kenema etc.

In 2019, the Chairman was again opportune to have attracted His Excellency's esteemed pleasure for the second time in one year, when was appointed Chairman of the Commission.

The Chairman is a founding member of the Law Department at Njala, where he teaches law and at the moment Acting as Head of Department. He is married with five beautiful children.

### Commissioner Mohamed Kenewui Konneh



Mohamed Kenewui Konneh took the oath of office as Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman of the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone in August 2020 after Parliamentary approval. Before his appointment, he worked for two years as Director of Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) where he espoused qualities of leadership in chain management and situational management.

Mohamed Kenewui Konneh started his professional career in fraud and investigation at the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) where he spent 10 productive years as an investigator and later ended as head of the newly created Ethics Unit by then.

Mohamed Kenewui Konneh later got a lifetime career job at the African Development Bank (ADB) in the Audit and Ethics department where he developed his interpersonal skills and

communication skills. At the ADB, he had the opportunity to travel far and wide coordinating ADB projects and putting Africa on the map in the field of Accountability.

Mohamed Kenewui Konneh is a graduate with a bachelors and MPhil in Accounting at Fourah Bay College. He is happily married with three children. He is a great fan of Liverpool football club. He enjoys cooking during weekends and having fun with friends.

#### **Commissioner Alhaji Muctarr Babatunde Williams**



Commissioner Alhaji Muctarr Babatunde Williams was nominated by the Sierra Leone Labour Congress (SLLC), re-appointed by the President and approved by Parliament. He was first appointed as a Commissioner in 2005. He is a Trade Unionist by Profession and very proactive, a characteristics that is easily noticeable to any one close to him. His diligence and forthright service in the trade Union Movement has earned him the position of Deputy Secretary General of the SLLC. Commissioner Williams enriches the work of Commission through his wide experience in Administration and on Labour issues.

Commissioner Williams has served on the board of many other institutions. He is the current Chairman, Board of Directors HFC Mortgage and Savings. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT) since 2004. His love for his Alma Mata, the Methodist Boys High School is second to none. He has demonstrated this by serving as the past President of the alumni Association.

#### **Commissioner Christian Sawyerr Esq.**



Christian Sawyerr a barrister and solicitor of the high of Sierra Leone attach to the firm of Gevao and Associates. He has been a private legal practitioner for over eight (8) years. Christian Sawyerr graduated from University of Kent in England, United Kingdom with LLB Honors in Law in 2010.

In 2013 he graduated with a Masters Degree in International Law with International Relations from the University of Kent, England, United Kingdom. He presently holds a B.L from the Council of Legal Education, Sierra Leone which has enabled him to practice law in Sierra Leone.

## **PART ONE: PROFILE OF THE COMMISSION**

### **1.0 PROFILE OF THE PPRC**

The constitutional provision for the establishment of the Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) is enshrined in Sections 34 and 35 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. The PPRC came into operation in 2005 during the reorganization of the National Electoral Commission (NEC) which saw the relinquishing of its oversight responsibilities of political parties.

In 2009, the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) in collaboration with the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) commenced the restructuring of the PPRC. Previously, the Commission had seconded civil servants and contract staff either temporarily recruited by UNDP or by the International Federation of Electoral Systems (IFES). On evaluation, the Commission and its partners concluded that the use of seconded civil servants is unsuitable as it neither caters for professional development of staff, nor does it enhance the Commission's Constitutional independence. The recruitment of staff for the PPRC was in accordance with the provisions of Political Parties Act which gives the Commission powers to appoint its own staff. The Commission in 2010 recruited its own staff and became more functional.

### **1.1 MANDATE OF THE PPRC**

The Political Parties Act No 25 of 2022 gives the Commission the mandate to:

- a. Regulate, supervise and monitor the conduct and affairs of political parties so as to ensure their Compliance with the Constitution and this Act;
- b. Monitor compliance of political parties with the terms and conditions of their registration;
- c. Monitor the accountability of political parties to their membership and to the electorate of Sierra Leone;
- d. Promote political pluralism and spirit of constitutionalism among political parties;
- e. Mediate conflict or dispute within a political party and between or amongst political parties;  
and
- f. To do all such things as will contribute to the attainment of good conduct of political parties;

## **1.2 OPERATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF PPRC**

Pursuant to Section 34 (5) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and Section 13 of the Political Parties Act No. 25 of 2022, the Commission shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority except in the circumstance where political parties are aggrieved with a decision of the Commission. In such a case, the party concerned may appeal to the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone and the decision of the Court shall be final.

## **1.3 POWERS OF THE COMMISSION**

### **1.3.0 Refusal to register Political Parties**

Pursuant to Subsection (5) of Section 35 of the 1991 Constitution and Section 30 of the Political Parties Act, 2022, the Commission shall not register an association as a political party, if the Commission is satisfied that;

- a. The membership or leadership of the association-
  1. Is restricted to members of any particular tribal or ethnic group or religious faith;
  2. Includes a non-citizen or a person prohibited from membership or leadership of a Political party under the constitution or the Political Parties Act 2022;
- b. If the name, symbol, color or motto of the association has exclusive or particular significance or connotation to members of a particular tribe, ethnic group or religious faith;
- c. The Association is formed for the sole purpose of securing or advancing the interest and welfare of a particular tribe, ethnic group, community, geographical area or religious faith;
- d. The Association does not have a registered office in the western area and each of the provincial headquarters towns of
- e. The Association has contravened a provision of the Constitution or the Political Parties Act relating to the application or registration of a political party

### **1.3.1 Formulation of Regulations in the discharge of its duties:**

The Commission has powers to make such regulations as may be necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities under the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone;

## 1.4 VISION, MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES OF PPRC

### 1.4.0 Vision

Our Vision is a Sierra Leone with a responsible and resilient political landscape through good governance, transparent, peaceful and inclusive party politics.

### 1.4.1 Mission

Our mission is to engender, among political parties in Sierra Leone, a spirit of accountable political pluralism, as well as strong democratic principles, register, regulate and mediate between and among political parties, and provide platforms for political reconciliation and cohesion between and among political parties.

#### We do so by:

- Working with political parties and stakeholders to attain the mandate of the Commission to regulate political parties;
- Championing public political education to ensure sustainable peace and development;
- Strengthening the capacities of political parties to enhance sound internal party policy development and encourage collective participation;
- Facilitate mediation and develop programs for youth, women, and persons with special needs;
- Responding to emerging issues using integrated approaches;
- Building a financially sustainable and highly effective PPRC.

### 1.4.2 Core Values

Our work is guided by the following core values:

- **Impartiality:** We take no sides and favours no one in the conduct of our work. We commit to constantly demonstrate impartiality while dealing with political parties and their supporters.
- **Tolerance:** Members of Staff of the Commission will embolden political pluralism and tolerate varying shades of opinions without taking sides. We tolerate, as much as possible, all shades of opinions, without showing preference for one over another in the application of the law.



- **Transparency & Accountability:** As a public entity funded by taxpayers, the programmes and activities of the PPRC shall be open to public scrutiny and unfettered access. We will do the same for donor funded resources.
- **Integrity:** The PPRC shall conduct its business with honesty, veracity, reliability and commitment in line with the National Constitution and PPRC Act.
- **Efficiency:** The Commission shall, to the best of its ability, manage its affairs with the available resources, and discharge or respond to all queries and matters brought to its attention regarding the use of state and donor resources.
- **Professionalism:** The Commission shall be professional in discharge of its mandate and will seek to ensure its staff and or representatives behave in professional manner in their dealings with political parties and members of the public.
- **Gender equality/Inclusivity:** The Commission shall ensure adherence to the Political Parties Act (PPA 2022), Public Elections Act (PEA, 2022), and the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Act (GEWE, 2022). To do so, the work of the Commission will be guided by Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

**Other critical core values are:**

In addition to our values, the Commission is also guided by the following principles.

- Diversity, respect and mutual trust
- Productive partnership and national participation
- Confidentiality and privacy
- Social inclusion; irrespective of tribe, region, ethnicity or political affiliation

## 1.5 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF PPRC

The organizational structure of the Commission is based on its functions as provided for under Section 34(1) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and Section 4 of the Political Parties Act of 2022. It is structured in the following manner:

## **A. Members of the Commission**

The Commission is made up of five Commissioners. These include:

- a. The Chairman
- b. The Chief Electoral Commissioner
- c. A legal practitioner nominated by the Sierra Leone Bar Association
- d. A member nominated by the Sierra Leone Labour Congress
- e. A member nominated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sierra Leone.

They meet as a Board to take policy decisions on the Commission and are responsible for the overall direction of the affairs of PPRC.

## **B. The Strategic Management Team**

The Management Team coordinates the day to day work of the staff in implementing the mandate of the Commission in accordance with the Commission's policies and approved work plans. It is chaired by the Executive Secretary and it consists of all Directors.

The Executive Secretary is the Vote Controller and is charged with overseeing the day to day administration of the Commission. The Executive Secretary is the Registrar of political parties. The Executive Secretary is being supported by Six (6) departments headed by Directors which includes the:

- i. **Director of Training and External Relations**
- ii. **Director of Mediation and Programs**
- iii. **Director of Administration and Human Resources**
- iv. **Director of Finance**
- v. **Director of Procurement and Logistics and**
- vi. **Director of Internal Auditor**

## **PART TWO: ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION**

### **2.0 PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES**

#### **2.0.1 MONITORING OF INTERNAL DEMOCRACIES OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

##### **2.0.1.0 Monitoring of All Peoples Congress (APC) Internal Elections**

The Commission received several election petitions from members of the APC following the conduct of their lower level elections. The Commission sat on all the petitions received and looked at their merits and demerits. The PPRC delivered its ruling which in some instance called for the re-run of elections and uphold some elections based on the evidence before it. The Commission resolved all petitions brought before it and that led to the party holding a National Delegate Conference and subsequently having a Flag Bearer.

##### **2.0.1.1 Monitoring of National Unity and Reconciliation Party (NURP) Internal Elections**

The secretariat of the party provided to the Commission timetable for the conduct of its lower level elections. This process was monitored by staff of the Commission. The process was largely peaceful.

##### **2.0.1.2 Monitoring of the Revolutionary United Front Party (RUF) Internal Elections**

The Commission monitored the lower level elections and the National Delegate Conference of the RUF. Those elections were peaceful and participatory.

##### **2.0.1.3 Monitoring of the Citizen's Democratic Party (CDP) Internal Elections**

The lower level elections of the party was monitored by staff of the Commission. The entire process brought together members to exercise their franchise. The National Delegate Conference was conducted in a peaceful manner.

##### **2.0.1.4 Monitoring of the Republic National Independent Party (ReNIP) Internal Elections**

The lower level elections of ReNIP were monitored by the Commission. The Commission was satisfied with the manner in which those elections were conducted which was in line with the party's constitution. The National Delegate Conference of the party was also monitored by the Commission.

### 2.0.1.5 Monitoring of the Unity Party (UP) Internal Elections

The Commission received from the secretariat of the party list containing names of elected officials of the party at District level. The leadership of the party was summoned by the Commission and informed that the party's constitution provides for lower level elections to commence from Ward Level. The PPRC advised the leadership of the party to adhere to the provisions of the party's constitution. The Commission was not informed of the holding of such elections as agreed in the meeting held with the party on same. The party secretariat sent to the Commission list of executive members. The PPRC having got an insider's information that elections were not held but individuals handpicked to hold positions, conducted an independent investigation and facts pointed out that indeed some names submitted to the Commission as executive members were neither party members nor do they hail from the district as stated by the party. Some members informed the Commission that they were handpicked as no elections were held. The PPRC informed the party leadership of its investigation and the party was encouraged to adhere to the dictates of the party's constitution. The no adherence of the party to conduct their internal elections in line with the provisions of the party's constitution and other non-compliance issues led to their non-participation in the 2023 Presidential and General Elections.



**Monitoring of Internal Democracies of Political Parties**

## 2.0.2 VERIFICATION OF POLITICAL PARTY OFFICES

Pursuant to its Constitutional and Statutory mandate, the Commission during the year under review embarked on the verification of political parties offices across the country.

The purposes of these verifications were to verify the existence of these offices in tandem with the terms and conditions of their registration. Reports obtained from the field guided and informed the Commission on the compliance level of political parties.

The verification exercises revealed that some political parties do not have party offices in some regions while others notified the Commission that they are on the verge of securing an office space.



Verification of Party Offices

### **2.0.3 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PPRC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

During the year under review, the Commission with support from the European Union (EU) through , the International IDEA developed the first ever Communication Strategy of the PPRC. The Communications plan was developed to support PPRC to effectively communicate its mandate, functions, and activities, and foster trust and confidence among citizens, political actors, and international development partners.

The Strategy aimed to establish a credible national and institutional image, generating trust among internal political stakeholders/actors, and engaging international democracy-promoters and partners.

Through the Communication Strategy, the PPRC effectively engage with citizens and provide them with accurate and timely information on the electoral process, voter registration, voter education, and election monitoring. This help increase public awareness and understanding of the electoral process and the role of the PPRC in ensuring free, fair, and credible elections.

### **2.0.4 LAUNCH OF THE YOUTH TRAINEE PROGRAM**

The Youth Trainee program focused on youth empowerment and employment that gives young graduates an opportunity to serve and this prepares them for future life opportunities. The Commission with support from the EU through International IDEA recruited young graduates through the Youth Internship Program, aimed at strengthening the capacity of the PPRC ahead of the Presidential and General Elections. The program was designed to provide youth trainees with practical skills and knowledge to enhance their participation in the democratic process and contribute to the Commission's mandate of regulating political parties and promoting free and fair elections.

### **2.0.5 STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT**

#### **2.0.5.0 Consultative Conference on “Campaign Modes and Nomination Criteria for Political Parties”**

The Commission held a consultative conference with the leadership of registered political parties on Campaign Modes and Nomination criteria. During the Conference, the Commission

presented to the leadership of the political parties the nomination criteria of political parties and the pros and cons of Street Rallies.

The PPRC reminded leaders of political parties of the provision of the Political Parties Act No. 25 of 2022 and urged parties to adhere to those provisions which will account for their nomination criteria.

It was further agreed by the leaders of political parties that street rallies have not paid off in the past and collectively noted that during campaigns especially when the APC & SLPP are on the street, businesses are always closed, market women hardly go to the market to sell their products for fear of being looted, school children hardly go to school and public transportation system are also disrupted. All of these inconveniences led the parties to agree on putting a ban on street rallies and that rallies are confined to designated locations.

The party leadership noted an equitable enforcement of the decision but noted that rules should be design to guide the process. Responding to the fears of the party leadership, the Commission in league with the Office of National Security (ONS), Sierra Leone Police (SLP), Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL), National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCEED) signed to the guidelines on political parties processions to and from campaign designated locations.

The decision to place a ban on street rallies paid off as the country marked the first in its history where the livelihood of ordinary citizens were not infringed and there weren't major campaign related violence in the Western Area to be specific.

#### **2.0.5.1 Early Voting for persons performing Pilgrimage**

The Commission together with the Ministry of Social Welfare held a joint meeting with the leadership of the registered political parties and the ECSL to discuss the possibility of persons perform pilgrimage to be able to vote early

The meeting was summoned following a letter of request received from the Ministry of Social Welfare regarding granting an opportunity of early voting to Pilgrims that will be going to the

Holy Land of Mecca. The request was made owing to the fact that Hajj coincided with the holding of the Presidential and General elections, on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023. According to the Minister of Social Welfare, people who will be performing the pilgrimage will be disenfranchised if they are not allowed to vote.

The leadership of political parties present agreed that the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone draft regulations that will tend to all faiths that may coincide with the holding of a general election for the attention of Parliament.

### **2.0.5.2 Regional Engagement/ Town Hall Meetings with Political Parties and Stakeholders**

With funds from the Government of Sierra Leone and the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the Commission held regional town hall meetings with registered party representatives of the All Political Party's Women's Association (APPWA) on the "APPWA's Political Parties National Inclusion Plan". These meetings also discussed the Gender Bill and the role of political parties in its enactment and implementation, the Revised Political Parties Act and its provisions for gender inclusivity in governance.

National Democratic Institute (NDI) also supported initiative for the popularization of the Political Parties Act (PPA) No. 25 of 2022, Women's Empowerment with reference to section 58 of the Public Elections Act (PEA) 2022. These engagement helped political leaders to understand the content of the PPA and PEA. It further enriched their understanding on the role of political parties in ensuring peace and national cohesion.



**Regional Engagement/ Town Hall Meetings with Political Parties and Stakeholders**



### 2.0.5.3 National/ Regional Multi-Party Forum

The Commission in the year under review effectively engaged leaders of political parties on varied issues of national concerns across the country. The PPRC with support from the NDI, the Commission also established the National and Regional Multi-Party Forum (All- Party Issues Forum) in Bo, Kenema, Kono, Makeni, Port Loko and the Western Area. The intent was to create a platform where political leaders can discuss national issues and chart the way forward. The platform also provided an opportunity for party leaders to interface with Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDA) to seek clarification on issues of national importance. The Commission coordinated the issues raised by political parties for action by the respective MDA's.

Furthermore, these engagements also discussed the Gender Empowerment Bill, the preparedness of the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL) ahead of the 2023 general elections, the Political Inclusion section in the Political Parties Act, 2022, the role of Political Parties in conflict prevention and conflict mitigation in elections.

These engagements brought together representatives from the 17 registered political parties in Sierra Leone and to this end gave voice to the passing of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Act of 2022.



National/ Regional Multi-Party Forum

#### **2.0.5.4 Election Preparedness National Stakeholders Dialogue Conference**

With support from the EU through International IDEA, the Commission organized a conference that brought together the leadership of the registered political parties. The dialogue conference provided an opportunity for the public to get first hand information on the level of preparedness of various sectors ahead of the elections. Respective actors in the electoral process provided updates on their level of preparedness and opportunity given to political party leaders to interface and seek clarifications from Election Management Bodies regarding electoral preparedness and processes.

#### **2.0.5.5 Unhindered Access And Managing Diversity For Peaceful Elections With Paramount Chiefs, Speakers, Village Headmen/ Women And Political Parties**

Over the years the roles and authorities of Paramount chiefs and other traditional rulers in the history and politics of Sierra Leone has become very prominent. It is a form of governance for the local people by the local people. Paramount chiefs are the highest Political authority at the local or chiefdom level.

Ahead of the commencement of Campaigns, the Commission with funds from the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) embarked on district campaigns to promote access for all political parties to conduct their activities without let or hindrance.

The Commission observed during the lower level elections of political parties, that opponent candidates were obstructed from entering into certain areas especially areas which are considered to be the home town or perceived strong holds of opponent contenders. With this in mind, the Commission introduced this district program to;

- Solicit the support of Paramount Chiefs and other stakeholders in providing absolute access to Political Parties country-wide without willful obstruction, and to dissociate themselves from disrupting any legitimate campaign activities.
- Educate political parties on campaign guidelines and political processions to and from campaign designated locations, by ensuring maximum commitment of Paramount Chiefs and other stakeholders.

- Strengthening commitments of Paramount Chiefs and stakeholders in ensuring uninterrupted political parties campaign activities in their respective chiefdoms.

This activity reached out to more than 1,200 Sierra Leoneans in the sixteen (16) electoral districts. In each district, the dialogue was climax by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by all stakeholders committing to peace and unhindered access for all political parties. The Commission believes that this activity contributed to a greater extent, the peace and unhindered access political parties enjoyed during the campaign period.



**Unhindered Access And Managing Diversity For Peaceful Elections**

### 2.0.5.6 Political Tolerance and Non Violence campaigns

Ahead of the commencement of campaigns, the Commission organized a comprehensive campaign focused on promoting political tolerance and non-violence across the respective

districts. This campaign was a crucial initiative aimed at fostering a peaceful political climate and ensuring a democratic process free from violence and intimidation.

The campaign focused on educating political parties, candidates and their supporters on the importance of political tolerance and non-violence; encourage a culture of respect and understanding among political opponents; reduce incidents of political violence and intimidation during the election period and strengthen the democratic process by ensuring free, fair, and peaceful elections.

The campaign brought together members of the registered political parties, their supporters and other stakeholder in the respective communities.



### **2.0.5.7 Outreach engagement through Radio and TV discussion programs**

The Commission initiated a series of outreach programs through radio and TV discussion platforms in the lead-up to the Presidential and General Elections held on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.

This initiative aimed to promote informed voter participation, enhance transparency, and encourage peaceful electoral processes. Part of the discussions focused on educating the electorate on their rights and responsibilities and to promote political tolerance and non-violence during the election period. These campaigns helped to coil down political tensions, intimidations and violence across the country.



**PPRC Outreach engagement through Radio and TV discussion programs with Director of Training and External Relations, Lucien H.L.Momoh.**

## **2.0.6 POLITICAL INCLUSIVITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **2.0.6.0 Training of APPWA and APPYA**

During the year under review, the PPRC together with its partners engaged in series of activities geared towards the youth and women's political capacity development and representation. Below are summaries of such engagements;

The Commission, in collaboration with UNDP, conducted leadership training for APPWA and APPYA on Negotiation and Consensus building.

The training helped in building the capacity of members of APPWA and APPYA on negotiation and consensus building. It also helped to increase their understanding and better positioned them in their respective political parties.

### **2.0.6.1 Training for Political Party Female Aspirants**

The Commission in collaboration with NDI and APPWA trained 340 female aspirants from the 17 political parties across the regions on key and emerging issues

The trainings focused on eight modules which includes; knowing your Political Party and being an active member, Public Elections Act 2022, GEWE Act 2022, Political Parties Act 2022, Aspirant women leaders: getting on your Party's list, dealing with violence against Women in Politics (VAW-P), Cyber Security, and Cyber Crime Act 2021.

The training helped female aspirants to understand the provisions of the PEA, PPA and GEWE Act. It also enrich their understanding on the challenges they will face as aspirants and how to overcome them. Participants were able to do self assessment on their level of preparedness ahead of their political journey. These training significantly embolden female aspirants to be resilient and committed towards the actualization of their dreams.

### **2.0.6.2 Training of Political Leaders on Gender Mainstreaming**

The Commission in partnership with the Gender Center for Empowerment and Development (GenCED) West Africa, Directorate of Political Affairs of the ECOWAS Commission and the Office of the Resident Representative of ECOWAS in Sierra Leone, organized a two days Training on "Mainstreaming Women's Role in Political Parties activities ". The training brought together

the Chairpersons of the 17 registered Political Parties, the Secretaries General and Women's leaders.

The training aimed to strengthen the role of political parties in participatory democracy and to deepen the role of women in inclusive electoral activities in Sierra Leone ahead of 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 Presidential and General Elections.

### **2.0.6.3 Training of Female Candidates**

The PPRC with support from NDI and in collaboration with APPWA conducted training of 170 female candidates in five piloted district of Koinadugu, Tonkolili, Port Loko, Bo and Pujehun. The training targeted female candidates from Political Parties that went through nomination in all the Districts mentioned above.

The training covered Elections Preparation update and Information sharing on women's inclusive participation in the electoral process, Campaign rules and Political Parties code of conduct, Running an effective and successful campaigns, Achieving your Campaign goals , practical Experience sharing of former members of Parliament that ran campaigns as a candidates in the 2002 District Block Proportional Representation system. These trainings built the capacity of female candidates and strengthened their aspirations during the elections process.

### **2.0.7 MEDIATION SESSIONS HELD**

Pursuant to its Constitutional and Statutory mandate, the Commission during the year under review mediated conflicts between and amongst members of political parties. Below is a summary of such mediation;

#### **2.0.7.0 Coalition for Change (C4C) Party**

The Commission received complaint from some members of the C4C including founding members against the National Chairman and Secretary General of the Coalition for Change (C4C) party. The complaint varied from expiration of term of office, maladministration and abuse of office.

While the Commission was looking into the merit and demerits of the complaint, some members of the party took the matter to court; hence the Commission had to stay action.

#### **2.0.7.1 Peace and Liberation Party (PLP)**

The Peace and Liberation Party (PLP) former Chairman approached the Commission to mediate between himself and the rest of the membership of the party especially members of the current executive of the party. During the mediation meeting, the erstwhile Chairman complained on the conduct of the current National Chairman about his administrative lapses which was refuted.

At the end of the mediation, the Commission issued a ruling based on the evidence before it and dismissed the complaint.

#### **2.0.7.2 Alliance Democratic Party (ADP)**

In the year under review, the Commission continued its mediation between executive members of the party. This stems out of a complaint reported by cross section of executive members.

These issues were looked into based on the evidence submitted. Through the meditative skills of the Commission, there was a peaceful settlement of the impasse and led to the party's participation in the elections.

### **2.1 ELECTION ACTIVITIES**

#### **2.1.0 REGIONAL/ DISTRICT PEACE MATCH**

The Political Parties Regulation Commission with funding from International IDEA and support from the European Union organized series of Peace Matches (Float Parades) ahead of the June 24<sup>th</sup> 2023 Presidential and General Elections. These events were strategically scheduled during the cooling-off days to foster peace and national cohesion among citizens. The District Peace Match took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023, across all districts outside the regional headquarter towns, while the Regional Peace Match was held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023, in all regional headquarter towns, including Western Rural/Urban.



The primary objectives of the Peace Matches were:

1. **To Promote Peace and National Cohesion:** To disseminate messages advocating for peace and unity among the citizens ahead of the elections.
2. **To Encourage Peaceful Conduct:** To engage the electorate on the importance of maintaining a peaceful demeanor during the election period.

#### **2.1.0.1 District Peace Match - June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023**

On June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023, the District Peace Match was conducted in various districts outside the regional headquarter towns. This float parade saw the active participation of local communities, political party representatives, civil society organizations, and various stakeholders. Thousands of citizens joined the float parades, carrying banners and placards with messages of peace, unity, and non-violence. The parades included musical performances by the Artist for Peace, speeches by community leaders, and distribution of peace pamphlets. The event successfully created an atmosphere of camaraderie and mutual respect among the participants, reinforcing the significance of peaceful elections.

#### **2.1.0.2 Regional Peace Match - June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023**

Following the district events, the Regional Peace Match took place on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023, in all regional headquarter towns, including Western Rural/Urban. These events were more extensive, drawing larger crowds and media attention. The regional parades attracted a diverse group of participants, including religious figures, youth groups, and international observers. Similar to the district events, the regional parades featured cultural performances, musical concert by the Artist for Peace, peace rallies, and speeches by the Chairman of the PPRC, Chairman of NaCCED, prominent figures emphasizing the importance of peace and democratic processes. The regional events amplified the messages of peace and unity, reaching a broader audience and ensuring that the call for peaceful elections resonated throughout the country.

The District and Regional Peace Matches organized by the Political Parties Regulation Commission were a significant success. They effectively promoted messages of peace and national cohesion, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility among the citizens. The active participation of diverse groups and the positive reception of the events underscored the importance of such initiatives in ensuring a peaceful electoral process. As the nation

approached the June 24, 2023 elections, the Peace Matches played a crucial role in preparing the electorate for a calm and orderly voting experience.



**Regional and District Peace March with Political Parties**



## **2.1.1 MONITORING OF ELECTION PROCESSES**

### **2.1.1.0 Nomination**

The Commission monitored the nomination process of political parties. The PPRC observed that some political parties manipulated the party list sent to the ECSL. Names of nominated individuals were removed in some instances thereby creating unnecessary tensions. ECSL became victim of circumstance as most individuals perceived that the ECSL staffs were the ones removing their names from the list. Political Party leaders did not opening informed their party members that they have removed their names but instead deceived them that they have been nominated. All of these issues created tensions and unnecessary suspicion for the electoral process.

#### **2.1.1.1 Campaigns**

The PPRC monitored the campaigns of political parties across the Country. The campaigns were largely peaceful save for some incidence of violence that erupted in some districts. Western Area for the first time in the history of the country was largely peaceful during the campaign periods. This can be attributed to the ban on street rallies agreed to by the registered political parties.

The Commission officially received few complaint of political violence but was swift to intervene and in some instances had to refer to the law enforcement agencies owing to such incidence outside the mandate of the PPRC.

Notwithstanding the above, the Commission observed the following:

- There are minimal obscenities and public insults
- In Freetown in particular, the Commission did not notice or receive any report of destruction of the opponents' campaign materials or obstruction of the opponent's campaign activities
- There are no reported incidences of violence in the City and most parts of the Country

The Commission observed the following challenges during the campaign period:

- Street processions  
The compliance rate was not as expected, but the processions seen during the period was not as massive, obstructive, and profane, as they were in the past as Political Parties mostly campaign in designated locations.
- Political Parties campaigning outside the time limit for campaigns, which is 7 am to 5 pm each day.

### **2.1.1.2 Polling Day**

The Commission effectively monitored the polling day across the country. It was observed that citizens went to the polls early in most of the stations to cast their vote. The PPRC observed that members of political parties in most of the areas monitored conducted themselves peacefully. The Presidential and General Elections of June 24 2023 is the first of its kind where in most area political party members and supporters conducted themselves relatively peaceful since the opening of polls to counting of the ballots. The election process was inclusive and very participatory as it also witnesses the increase of women's participation following the passage of the Political Parties Act No. 25 of 2022 and the Public Election Act of 2022.

## **2.2 POST ELECTION ACTIVITIES**

### **2.2.0 PPRC REGIONAL/ DISTRICT HEALING AND RECONCILIATION ENGAGEMENT**

With funds from the Government of Sierra Leone, the Commission held Regional and District engagement following complaints received of intimidations from political opponents after the election. The PPRC held the district level post election healing and reconciliation engagement between members of political parties, traditional leaders, districts officers, chiefdom administrators and other stakeholders.

The intervention of the Commission aimed at fostering a sense of unity, understanding, and collaboration among political parties, traditional leaders, and other stakeholders; thus reducing the potential for conflicts and ensuring sustainable democratic progress. The engagement of the PPRC at the district level allowed for targeted interventions that resonate with local

contexts and challenges, contributing to a more harmonious national political landscape. The Commission's intervention also addressed the following:

- Promote community reconciliation through open and inclusive dialogues that encourages political parties, traditional leaders, and stakeholders to address grievances, bridge divides, and promote reconciliation within and among communities
- Strengthen democratic values by ensuring stakeholders understanding of democratic principles, tolerance, and respect for differing opinions to create a more constructive political atmosphere;
- Build trust among political parties, traditional leaders, and stakeholders, creating an environment conducive to cooperation, information sharing, and joint problem-solving;
- Enhance conflict resolution skills of stakeholders to handle their differences peacefully;
- Collaboratively Develop Local Action Plans that outline concrete steps and activities to maintain peaceful relations, even during politically charged periods.

### **2.2.1 DIALOGUE LUNCH**

In the year under review, the Commission with support from the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Sierra Leone held "Dialogue Lunch" for political party leaders whose parties are being represented in the House of Parliament. This project brought together leaders from these parties to have frank conversations on issues of national concern and to chat the way forward in the interest of national peace and development. The project also facilitated dialogue between and among the respective leaders to enhance peace and political stability. The discussions were done under the "Chatham House rules".

The outcome of these discussions pointed out that leaders of political parties have an obligation to control, support and exert leadership by collectively supporting state institutions to ensure peace, and national cohesion.

However, following the signing of the Agreement for National Unity, the Commission held a dialogue lunch between the Sierra Leone Peoples’ Party (SLPP) and the All Peoples’ Congress (APC) and discussed the implementation of the agreement. Frank conversations were held and road maps developed by both parties during the meeting.

### **2.2.2 DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION GUIDE**

During the year under review, the Commission in the post election phase, sought the support from one of its donor partner; International IDEA to support the development of a Dispute Resolution Guide for political parties. The Commission observed that political parties are always faced with Intra-Party Disputes but in most instances, those disputes escalate as parties do not have structures to mitigate or address disputes when they erupt.

The PPRC opined that conflict is part of life and is sometimes necessary as it can result in positive outcomes for the parties involved, however in most cases, the negative impacts far outweigh the benefits. It therefore becomes necessary to prevent conflicts as much as possible or de-escalate them. By so doing, relationships are preserved and protected from the ravaging emotional, psychological, physical and financial impacts that it brings.

To this end, the Political Parties Regulation Commission with support from the EU through International IDEA developed and validated the Dispute Resolution Guide for Political Parties. It is the wish of the Commission that this guide will equip Political Parties with the know how to diffuse intra-Party Conflict and where it has occurred, to be able to intervene using means and processes that will lead to positive outcomes and ways that will leave all the parties concerned feeling satisfied with that outcome.



**Development and Validation of the Dispute Resolution Guide**

### 2.2.3 INTER-PARTY DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

Following the announcement of the June 24<sup>th</sup> 2023 Presidential and General Elections, there was huge out bust from the main opposition; All People’s Congress (APC) of several electoral issues and as such boycotted all governance processes.

Consequently, the “Agreement of National Unity” was signed on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 between the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and the All People’s Congress (APC). Resolution five (5) of the agreement provided for the institutionalization of an Inter-Party Dialogue framework between the All People’s Congress (APC), Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) and other political parties.

The Inaugural Meeting on the Institutionalization of an Inter-Party Dialogue framework between the All People’s Congress (APC), Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) and other political parties was held on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2023. Below is the summary of action points reached:

1. Inter-Party Dialogue meetings be held once a month and should have some interactive sessions thereafter
2. PPRC to coordinate and provide secretariat role for the Committee
3. A sub-committee was constituted for the development of the ToR’s. Committee members included the ;
  - a. Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP);
  - b. All People’s Congress (APC) Party
  - c. People’s Democratic Party (PDP);
  - d. People’s Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC)
  - e. Alliance Democratic Party (ADP)
  - f. National Grand Coalition (NGC)
  - g. United Democratic Movement(UDM)
4. Regular Inter-Party Town Hall meetings to be held at Districts level
5. Political Parties leaders to regularly condemn all form of hate speech
6. Dialogue between and amongst political leaders must continue
7. Regular joint public relation program be held on TV’s and Radio’s stations

The Committee will serve as a platform for open and inclusive discussions that will help address issues of common interest and challenges thereby promoting democratic values that will add credence to our democratic governance.

### **3.0 STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING**

During the year under review, the Commission benefited from staff capacity building in preparedness for the daunting task ahead of the conduct of the 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 Presidential and General Elections. The Chairman, Commissioners and some staff members benefited from various capacity building programs and opportunities.

#### **3.0.1 International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) program**

With support from the United State of America Embassy through the US Ambassador, granted a leadership training opportunity to the Executive Secretary; Mr. Olushogo A. David.

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) organized by the United States Department of State on the theme “Not Too Young to Run – Engaging Youth in the Political Process” was held in various cities across the United States. The program aimed to equip young leaders from around the world with the skills necessary to become effective and impactful leaders in their respective countries, focusing on strategies for youth and women’s participation in politics. The program's theme in each city was well designed to address the specific needs of the cohorts, and the sessions were insightful, informative, and engaging.

Through this program, participants had the opportunity to engage with experts in various field, learn about best practices and innovative approaches to leadership, and network with other like-minded individuals from around the world. The program focused on creating opportunities for future collaboration among cohort members.

At the end of the program, participants were equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement impactful strategies in their home countries. The program's impact on the country representatives cannot be overstated, as they were better equipped to implement impactful strategies in their home countries.





**Executive Secretary, Mr. Olushogo A. David at the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in the US**

### **3.0.2 Study Tour to the Gambia**

The Chairman, Commissioners and some staff members benefited from the study tour to the Gambia with support from the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in collaboration with the Gambia High Commission in Sierra Leone.

The study tour enhanced the Commission's knowledge on intra and inter-party relations and how they interact and collaborate with their oversight bodies in the sub-region. Specifically, the study tour exposed the PPRC team to best practices and lessons learned on effective intra and inter-party relations.

The lessons from the study tour broaden the Commission's view and mind in a limited time and enabled the PPRC to improve on innovative thinking and explore a road suitable for the Country's development based on national conditions.



**The PPRC Chairman, Abdulai M. Bangurah, Commissioners and Staff in Gambia, on a study tour with the Gambia Government, EMBs and relevant stakeholders**

### **3.0.3 China scholarship**

The Commission benefited from a prestigious Chinese scholarship program, resulting in the award of a Master’s in Law in International Relations to two of its esteemed staff members. This scholarship is part of China’s ongoing commitment to fostering international educational exchanges and enhancing diplomatic ties through advanced academic opportunities.

The Chinese scholarship program is designed to provide exceptional candidates from various countries with the opportunity to pursue advanced studies in top Chinese universities. This

initiative aims to promote cross-cultural understanding, build international networks, and contribute to the professional development of participants.

The Chinese scholarship awarded to the PPRC, resulting in the award of Master in Law in International Relations to Mr. Karifa Tarawally and Mr. Alimamy Jalloh. This represents a valuable opportunity for professional growth and institutional development. The knowledge, skills, and networks gained through this program will significantly enhance the PPRC's ability to fulfill its mandate effectively and contribute to the promotion of democratic governance. The PPRC expresses its gratitude to the Chinese government and the participating universities for this generous and impactful initiative.



**China, Master scholarship programs awarded to two esteemed PPRC staff**

### **3.1 POST ELECTION STAFF REFLECTION**

With support from the EU through International IDEA, the PPRC held a post election reflection retreat to reflect on its successes, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges during the year under review. The retreat was also meant for the PPRC to have insider's reflections of its capacities and management processes.

The outcome of the retreat served as a road map for the Commission in planning for the next electoral cycle in terms of service delivery. The reflective engagement was also meant to document the outcomes and key takeaways from the staff retreat, for the development of a new strategic plan. The retreat aimed to foster collaboration, engagement, and innovation among staff members to ensure a successful plan for the organization's future direction.



**Chairman, Commissioners and Staff of the PPRC, posed during a post elections retreat in Bo**

### **3.2 INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING**

#### **3.2.0 Support from the Government of Sierra Leone**

In preparation for the Presidential and General Elections held on June 24<sup>th</sup> 2023, the Government of Sierra Leone, through the Ministry of Finance, provided significant logistical support to the Commission. This support included the provision of seven brand new vehicles, which played a crucial role in enhancing the Commission's operational capacity during this critical period. The Commission remains grateful to the Government of Sierra Leone for their support in ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission in tandem with its mandate.

### 3.2.1 Support from the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone

The Commission received vital support from the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) through the provision of a 20Kva generator. This generator served as a backup power source, significantly enhancing the Commission's operational effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its mandate.

### 3.2.2 Support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

The UNDP played a pivotal role in bolstering the operational capacity of the PPRC. Their generous contributions included essential office furniture, equipment, and a brand new vehicle, all of which were crucial for the Commission's daily operations and strategic planning efforts.

#### **Office Furniture and Equipment**

- **Office Tables and Chairs:** The UNDP provided eight office tables and chairs, equipping the eight-room office space allocated to the Commission by the Government of Sierra Leone on Lamina Sankoh Street, Freetown. This provision ensured that each office was adequately furnished, enabling a conducive working environment for the Commission's staff.
- **30 KVA Generator:** Recognizing the importance of uninterrupted power supply, the UNDP donated a 30 KVA generator for the office on Lamina Sankoh Street. This generator was instrumental in maintaining continuous operations, particularly during critical periods leading up to the elections.



**30 KVA Generator donated by UNDP**

- **Conference Table and Chairs:** To facilitate meetings and collaborative sessions, the UNDP supplied a 75-seater conference table and chairs. This addition significantly enhanced the Commission's capacity to host large gatherings, including training sessions, stakeholder meetings, and strategic discussions.



**Conference Table and Chairs donated by UNDP**

#### ***ICT Equipment***

- **Laptops and Other ICT Items:** The UNDP's support extended to the provision of 16 laptops and other essential ICT items. These tools were vital for the Commission's data management, communication, and overall administrative functions. The laptops enabled the staff to perform their duties more efficiently, enhancing productivity and ensuring that all electoral processes were meticulously documented and monitored.

#### ***Vehicle Provision***

- **Toyota Land Cruiser Prado:** In addition to the office furniture and ICT equipment, the UNDP provided a Toyota Land Cruiser Prado for the Commission. This vehicle was crucial for the Commission's mobility, enabling staff to conduct field operations, monitor electoral activities, and engage with stakeholders across different regions effectively.

The institutional capacity-building support from the UNDP and other partners had a profound impact on the PPRC's operations. With the new office furniture, generator, conference table, laptops, ICT equipment, and vehicle, the Commission was better equipped to manage the complexities of the electoral process. The enhanced infrastructure facilitated improved

coordination, effective communication, and streamlined workflows, which were crucial in the lead-up to the Presidential and General Elections of 2023.

The Commission extends its deepest gratitude to UNDP for their unwavering support and generous contributions. The institutional capacity-building support received significantly strengthened the Commission's ability to fulfill its mandate, ultimately contributing to the successful execution of the 2023 elections. The PPRC remains committed to continuing its partnerships with organizations like the UNDP, recognizing their invaluable role in supporting democratic processes and governance in Sierra Leone.

### **3.3 PARTNERSHIPS**

The PPRC acknowledges the invaluable support received from various partners during the period under review, which significantly enhanced its ability to carry out its mandate, culminating in the successful elections of June 24<sup>th</sup> 2023 and the implementation of other programs and activities in the post election era.

Foremost, the Commission extends its appreciation to the Government of Sierra Leone for its financial support, which underpinned both the administrative and programmatic work of the Commission. This financial backing was crucial, yet the Commission recognizes the ongoing need for additional financial and technical resources to fully execute its responsibilities and engage in a broader array of activities.

The robust partnerships with esteemed organizations such as the (UNDP), the EU, International IDEA, NDI, the ONS, the ECS), the SLP, the RSLAF, and various Diplomatic Missions have been instrumental. These alliances have provided the Commission with essential capacity-building programs and technical support, significantly bolstering its operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Through these partnerships, the Commission was equipped with the necessary tools and expertise to navigate the complexities of the electoral process, ensuring a fair, transparent, and credible election on June 24<sup>th</sup> 2023. The collaborative efforts facilitated enhanced coordination, improved security measures, and comprehensive oversight, which collectively contributed to the integrity and success of the electoral exercise. The Commission remains committed to fostering these partnerships, recognizing their pivotal role in strengthening democratic processes and governance in Sierra Leone.

The PPRC plays a critical role in ensuring the integrity and transparency of the electoral process in Sierra Leone. Despite its efforts and the support received from various partners, the Commission faces several significant challenges that impede its ability to fully discharge its mandate. These challenges need to be addressed to enhance the Commission's effectiveness and efficiency.

#### **4.0 CHALLENGES**

##### **4.0.1 *Inadequate Office Space***

One of the primary challenges facing the PPRC is the lack of a befitting office space to serve as its headquarters. While the Government of Sierra Leone has provided an eight-room office on Lamina Sankoh Street, Freetown, this space is insufficient to accommodate the growing needs and functions of the Commission. A more suitable and spacious headquarters is necessary to support the Commission's operations and staff adequately.

##### **4.0.2 *Lack of Presence in All Districts***

The PPRC currently lacks presence in all districts (save for Kono) across Sierra Leone. This absence hinders the Commission's ability to monitor and regulate political activities effectively at the grassroots level. Establishing offices in all districts is crucial to ensure comprehensive oversight and to address local electoral issues promptly and efficiently.

##### **4.0.3 *Inadequate Staffing***

The Commission faces significant challenges related to inadequate staffing. The current workforce is insufficient to cover all districts, limiting the Commission's operational reach and effectiveness. There is a pressing need for additional staff to ensure that the PPRC can perform its duties across the entire country, providing adequate support and oversight during the electoral process.

##### **4.0.4 *Increase in Hate Speech, Misinformation, and Mal-information***

The rise of hate speech, misinformation, and mal-information presents a substantial challenge for the PPRC. These issues undermine the electoral process by spreading false information,



inciting violence, and creating distrust among the electorates. The Commission requires enhanced tools and strategies to combat these negative trends and promote accurate and responsible communication.

#### **4.0.5 *Misuse and Abuse of Social Media***

The misuse and abuse of social media, particularly by individuals outside Sierra Leone, pose a significant threat to the integrity of the electoral process in Sierra Leone. Social media platforms are often used to disseminate false information and inflammatory content, complicating the Commission's efforts to maintain a fair and transparent electoral environment. Developing robust monitoring and response mechanisms is essential to address this challenge effectively.

#### **4.0.6 *Inadequate Logistics***

The PPRC also struggles with inadequate logistics, which hampers its ability to perform its functions efficiently. Limited resources for transportation, communication, and other logistical needs restrict the Commission's operational capacity. Enhancing logistical support is critical to ensure that the PPRC can carry out its mandate effectively, particularly during peak electoral periods.

The challenges faced by the Political Parties Regulation Commission are significant and multifaceted. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts and resources from both the government and international partners. By overcoming these obstacles, the PPRC can enhance its operational capacity and contribute more effectively to the democratic governance of Sierra Leone.

## **5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

As the Commission continues to fulfill its mandate of regulating political parties and ensuring a fair and transparent electoral process, several key recommendations have emerged. These recommendations address tangible issues of concern and aim to enhance the Commission's operations, ensuring it can effectively uphold its responsibilities.

### ***5.0.1 Establishment of a Befitting Headquarters***

To ensure the efficient functioning of the PPRC, it is imperative to secure a more suitable and spacious headquarters. The current office space on OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown, is inadequate for the growing needs of the Commission. A new headquarters should be designed to accommodate all departments and provide sufficient facilities for staff and operations.

### ***5.0.2 Expansion of District Presence***

The PPRC must establish offices in all districts across Sierra Leone to enhance its oversight and regulatory capabilities. A district presence will enable the Commission to monitor political activities at the local level more effectively and address local electoral issues promptly. This expansion requires financial and logistical support to set up and maintain these offices.

### ***5.0.3 Increase in Staffing Levels***

To meet the demands of its expanded mandate and district presence, the PPRC needs to increase its staffing levels. Recruiting and training additional staff will ensure that the Commission can operate efficiently across all regions. This increase in human resources will enhance the Commission's ability to provide comprehensive oversight and support during the electoral process.

### ***5.0.4 Improving Logistical Support***

Inadequate logistics hamper the PPRC's ability to perform its functions efficiently. To address this, the Government through the Ministry of Finance should:

- Secure additional resources for transportation, ensuring staff can travel to all districts and conduct field operations effectively
- Invest in modern communication tools and infrastructure to enhance coordination and information sharing

### ***5.0.5 Strengthening Capacity Building and Training***

Continuous capacity building and training are essential for the PPRC to remain effective. The Commission through support from the Ministry of Finance should:

- Implement regular training programs for staff on new regulations, technologies, and best practices

- Seek partnerships with international organizations for technical support and capacity-building initiatives
- Conduct workshops and seminars to keep staff updated on the latest developments in electoral governance and political regulation.

The Commission plays a critical role in maintaining the integrity of Sierra Leone's electoral process. By addressing the recommendations outlined above, the Commission can enhance its operational capacity and effectiveness, ensuring it continues to fulfill its mandate successfully. These recommendations require the support and cooperation of the government, international partners, and other stakeholders to be implemented effectively.

## 6.0 LOOKING AHEAD

As the Commission reflects on its achievements and challenges over the past year, it is crucial to outline a forward-looking strategy that will guide the Commission. Based on numerous lessons learnt and feedback from Political Parties and other key stakeholders during the year under review, the PPRC will undertake the following major processes:

### ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT OFFICES

As contained in the Medium Term National Development Plan (MTNDP), PPRC will endeavor to establish district offices country wide. Establishing district offices will enable the PPRC to monitor political activities more closely and ensure compliance with regulations at the local level. The district office will:

- Facilitate real-time monitoring of political party activities, campaign financing, and adherence to electoral laws
- Provide a local presence that can quickly address and resolve issues, ensuring that political parties operate within the legal framework.
- Investigating and addressing complaints and violations more efficiently
- Facilitate better communication and engagement with local stakeholders
- Promote inclusivity by engaging with diverse communities and ensuring their voices are heard and represented
- Improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the PPRC's operations

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DISTRICT INTER-PARTY DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FORUM**

Following the announcement of the June 24<sup>th</sup> 2023 Presidential and General Elections, there was huge out bust from the main opposition; All People’s Congress (APC) of several electoral issues and as such boycotted governance processes.

Consequently, the “Agreement of National Unity” was signed on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 between the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and the All People’s Congress (APC). Resolution five (5) of the agreement provided for the institutionalization of an Inter-Party Dialogue framework between the All People’s Congress (APC), Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) and other political parties.

The Commission intends to establish the District Inter-Party Dialogue Committee Forum in all the districts. One of the core objectives of setting up the Inter-Party Dialogue Committee is to facilitate constructive communication and dialogue among political parties thereby fostering collaboration and understanding among them.

The district committee will serve as a platform for open and inclusive discussions that will help to address issues of common interest and challenges thereby promoting democratic values that will add credence to our democratic governance.

### **STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION**

Recognizing the importance of collaboration, the PPRC will strengthen its partnerships with key stakeholders, including government agencies, international organizations, civil society, and political parties. This collaborative approach will help to:

- Leverage expertise and resources from partners to support the Commission’s initiatives
- Foster a cooperative environment that encourages dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders
- Enhance the overall effectiveness of the Commission's work through shared knowledge and best practices

### **INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY STRENGTHENING**

As the PPRC repositions itself for greater effectiveness in its function, the Commission seeks for more training opportunities for its staff and Commissioners. The PPRC will develop a

comprehensive staff capacity building plan. This plan will ensure that all staff members receive targeted training and professional development opportunities, enabling them to contribute more effectively to the Commission’s mission.

### **POLITICAL PARTIES CAPACITY BUILDING AND INTERNAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

There is a seeming lack of a wholesome approach by political parties to teach or sensitize their membership on the provisions of Section 35 (1) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. The Section provides that:

**“...political parties may be established to participate in shaping the Political will of the people, to disseminate information on political ideas, and social and economic programmes of a national character, and to sponsor candidates for presidential, parliamentary or local government elections.”**

Also, some Political Parties lack the capacity and structure to embark on a day to day administration of their party as envisaged by Section 35 (2) of the 1991 Constitution which states that:

**“The internal organization of political parties shall conform to democratic principles and its objectives, purposes, and programmes shall not contravene or be inconsistent with any provision of the Constitution and the Political Parties Act No 25 of 2022”.**

Consequently, the capacity of all political parties in organizational efficiency, political party administration, program development, governance, and democratic pluralism should be improved as it will be demonstrated in the enhancement of their policy development and efficiency in the governance of the state.

### **POLITICAL EDUCATION**

Recognizing the unwarranted tensions between and among political parties, the Commission has identified an urgent need to enhance Political Education. This initiative aims to foster a comprehensive understanding of political party policies, programs, and the importance of political participation. It also underscores the reasons for the existence of political parties and their responsibilities to their members and the electorate.

Improving the level of political education in Sierra Leone is crucial, particularly regarding key political variables such as violence, political tolerance, national cohesion, and dialogue. These elements are essential for driving national development and ensuring a stable and inclusive political environment. Through increased political education, the Commission seeks to promote a more informed and engaged electorate, capable of contributing to the country's democratic processes and development goals.

#### **POLITICAL PARTY ACCOUNTABILITY**

It has been observed that political parties don't strictly adhere to the provisions of Section 12 (2) c and Part VII of the Political Parties Act No.25 of 2022. In order to increase transparency and accountability, the effective auditing and publication of the income and expenditure of parties and candidates should be enforced.



ANNEX

1. The Management Team



**Olushogo A. David**  
Executive Secretary



**Nafisatu B Alpha**  
Dir. Admin and Human  
Resource



**Sheku K. Konneh**  
Dir. Finance



**Jenneh J. H. Amadu**  
Dir. Mediation &  
Programs (M&P)



**Abu Bangura**  
Dir. Internal Audits



**Mamadu Bah**  
Dir. Procurement and  
Logistics



**Lucien H. L. Momoh**  
Dir. Training and  
External Relations



**Josephine P.M. Panda**  
Dep. Dir. (M&P)  
- West



**Karifa Tarawali**  
Dep. Dir. (M&P)  
- East



**Alimamy M. Jalloh**  
Dep. Dir. (M&P)  
- N.West



**Joseph E. Mbawah**  
Dep. Dir. (M&P)  
- South



**Misbao L. Janneh**  
(Acting) Dep. Dir.  
(M&P) - North



**Hawah M. Davies**  
Manager, Admin and  
Human Resources



**Yusif Kamara**  
Manager, Information  
Technology



**Elizabeth Y. Kamara**  
Manager, Gender,  
Youth and Disability



**Jonathan Browne**  
Manager, Political  
Finance



**Aminata K. Yankuba**  
Manager, Finance

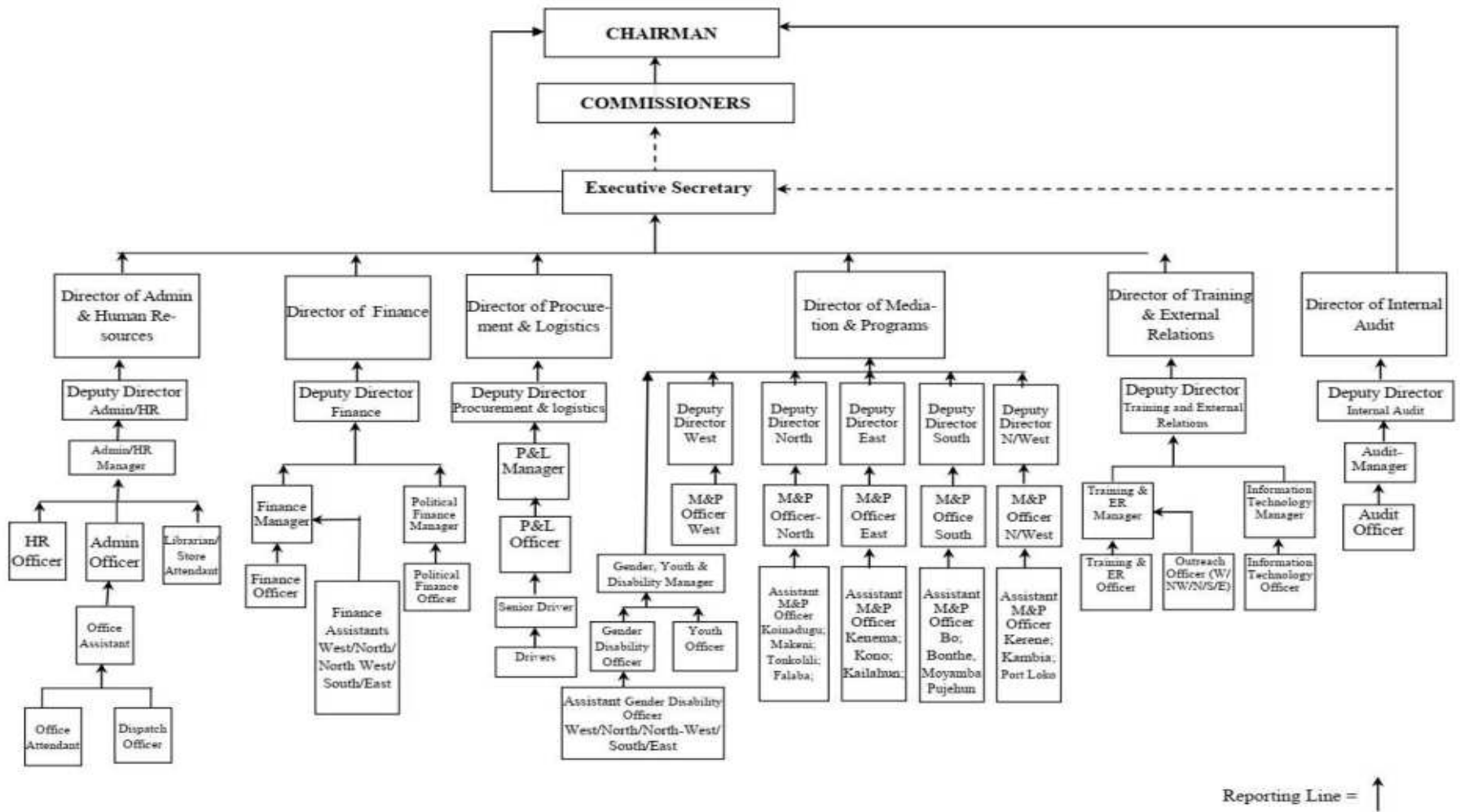


**Leonard D. Sesay**  
Manager, Internal  
Audits



2. Organogram

**Organogram - Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC)**



### 3. Office Addresses

Office	Addresses
Head Office	OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown / 9 Lamina Sankoh Street, Freetown
Bo	189 Bo-Kenema Highway, Bo City
Kenema	11 Elogima Street, Off School Drive, Kenema City
Kono	58 Old Yengama Road, Kono
Makeni	108 Teko Road via Teko Barracks, Makeni City
Port Loko	1A Waterworks Road, Port Loko City

