The Training and Outreach and IT departments of the National Electoral Commission from 16th—26th February 2015, conducted training programme on Geographic Information System (GIS) for NEC IT staff. Commissioner Augusta Bockarie, Commissioner in charge of Training and Capacity Building formally opened the session. The training was facilitated by the Conflict Management & Development Associates (CMDA) and Data Management and Logistics Services. The objective of the training was centered around the Commission’s preparation to undertake digital form of Boundary Delimitation activities using the required technology, legislative and technical framework to divide the country into electoral Constituencies and Wards. The training was also to capacitate the NEC IT staff in the effective use of the ArcGIS 10.2.X Software, update/upgrade of the existing GIS-based database application for planning, monitoring and evaluation of elections. NEC IT staff during the 10-day training session were able to use the ArcGIS Spatial Data Management System, and upgrade/update the customized GIS-based electoral database application that will be configured into the Central Server at the NEC Head office that can be accessed from the regional Offices. The training also capacitated the NEC IT staff on the use of the ArcGIS 10.2.X software package and enabled them to cascade the trainings to the District Electoral Officers, specifically in the Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS ) data capture, in order for them to be knowledgeable in undertaking the field data capture of NEC Registration/Polling centers nationwide.

The Sierra Leone Police was charged with the responsibility to provide the required security for the storage and distribution process. During the distribution process, Electoral Commissioners, Management and Technical staff of the Commission are expected to provide the required supervisory and monitoring roles while development partners and civil society organisations will observe the process nationwide.

Members of the District School Reopening Committee and the Ministry of Education and Technical staff of the Commission at district level in the entire distribution process.

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MISSION STATEMENT
The National Electoral Commission shall impartially serve all stakehold-
ers in the electoral process, and shall undertake voter education pro-
grammes for the citizens of Sierra Leone as a means of promoting and
sustaining democracy good governance and an enlightened citizenry.

VISION STATEMENT
The vision of the National Electoral Commission (NEC) is that of an inde-
pendent, credible and well-resourced institution which
promotes democracy and good governance by continually administering
elections in such a manner that the results are acceptable to all

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Accountability
The Commission will take full responsibility for its activities and
will always be answerable to the people of Sierra Leo-
ne and to its partners.

Credibility
The Commission will endeavour to win the confidence and
trust of all Sierra Leoneans and the international commu-
nity through the quality of its services.

Independence
In all the electoral matters, the Commission will ensure that
it operates freely in its own best judgment, without taking
directives from or being controlled by any person or au-
thority.

Integrity
The Commission will carry out its activities in an honest and
truthful manner, and will take all reasonable measures to prevent
wilful wrongdoing by its officials.

Impartiality
The Commission will always be non partisan and fair in all
its activities.

Professionalism and Dedication
The Commission will endeavour to have a well trained, pro-
nessionally competent and confident staff, dedicated to
the delivery of trustworthy elections.

Transparency
The Commission will be open at all times in dealing with all
stakeholders in the electoral process.

Editorial
The publication of the NEC News Bulletin is intended to be dis-
tributed among its Stakeholders, Educational Institutions and inter-
sted members of the public in line with the NEC Mission and
Vision Statements of promoting... voter education programmes for
the citizens of Sierra Leone as a means of promoting and sustaining
democracy good governance and an enlightened citizenry... In so
doing, it is able to discharge its Constitutional mandates by use of its
Guiding Principles of Accountability, Credibility, Independence,
Integrity, Impartiality, Professionalism and Dedication and Trans-
parency.

This edition of NEC News Bulletin is the 14th publication. The previous publications have been for internal office use, with limited
readership.

The NEC News Bulletin will be published on a quarterly basis.
In this edition, we focus on the New Chief Electoral Commissioner
and Chairman of the National Electoral Commission, his back-
ground and assumption of office; appointment of Mackslow G. Se-
say as Electoral Commissioner for the Northern Region; NEC
Chairman’s interactions with Democratic and Political Institutions;
Development Partners and the Media, in order to further strengthen ties; NEC on staff Training and observation of Presidential Elections in Nigeria and collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to distribute post-Ebola educational and hygiene materials to Educational Institutions nationwide.

NEC Review is produced and Published by the Outreach and Ex-
cutional Relations Unit, Department of Training and Outreach, and
printed by the IT Department, National Electoral Commission-
Sierra Leone.

Your Comments, contributions, ideas and viewpoint are welcome. We hope you enjoy reading the NEC News Bulletin.

MISSION STATEMENT
...Of all Political Parties in Sierra Leone
domination of the activities of both the Na-
tional Populations and Housing Census,
Constitutional Review Process and the re-
sultant follow-up and implications on the
electoral operations in Sierra Leone.

The Chairman and other Commissioners
also took the opportunity to explain about
the on-going plans for the probable es-
tablishment of a national civil register that
NEC is currently working in collaboration
with the National Registration Secretariat
and other Dignitaries; Development Partners and the Media, in
order to further strengthen ties; NEC on staff Training and ob-
serveration of Presidential Elections in Nigeria and collaboration
with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to distribute
post-Ebola educational and hygiene materials to Educational Insti-
tutions nationwide.

NEC Chair and Commissioners pose with officials of National Elec-
tions Watch –NEW.

NEC Chair and Commissioners pose with Attorney General & Minister of Justice
Frank Kargbo and his Deputy Arrow
Bockarie (below) and the OSIWA Coun-
temporary Joe Pemagbi (right)

NEC Chair and Commissioner Bockarie
pose with a cross section of the executive
and membership of the APC (above);
the PMDC (right) and the UDM (left)

Commission to facilitate the involvement of
political parties and civil society in the pro-
posed consolidation of the National Civil
Register.

The 2nd and 3rd rounds of the Commiss-
ion’s meeting with MDAs and other part-
ners have been scheduled to run from Tues-
day 24th March– onto the 1st week of
April, 2015.
Chief Electoral Commissioner Meets with PPRC, NEW and Pays Courtesy Calls on National Executives of all Political Parties in Sierra Leone

The Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman and other Electoral Commissioners, from 3rd to 10th March, 2015 paid Courtesy calls on the executives and memberships of registered Political Parties in Sierra Leone. The purpose was to solicit political parties cooperation on how to improve the electoral process in Sierra Leone; register the Commission’s commitment to continue enhancing the credibility of the electoral process through the conduct of credible and transparent elections based on international best practices. The Commission also took the opportunity to solicit political parties views and perception of NEC in the discharge of its duties as an independent EMB. The Chairman and various Commissioners took time to further acquaint them on the Commission’s on-going activities such as staff capacity building, completion of the NEC Annual Work Plan 2015, re-commencement of construction of NEC’s National Warehouse and Rub Hall and preparation to start construction of the Regional Office and Warehouse in Bo.

The Commission also used the meet-the-political-parties meetings to further acquaint them on NEC during the Boundry Delimitation, Local Council elections scheduled for 2016 and the Presidential and Parliamentary elections that are scheduled for 2017.

The Commission also highlighted its concern regarding the postponements of the National Population Census and the Constitutional Review process and the resultant implications they have on the conduct of the Boundary Delimitation, Local Council elections scheduled for 2016 and the Presidential and Parliamentary elections that are scheduled for 2017.

Political Parties in their reactions, raised series of issues and concerns regarding their perceptions about the operations of NEC during the run up to the 2012 elections, such as the handling of the candidate’s nomination fees and how they would want the Commission to better relate with them as prime stakeholders. In another related development, officials of the NEC collaborated with the MEST to distribute post-Ebola educational and hygiene materials to educational institutions.

N.E.C. GETS CHIEF ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER AND CHAIRMAN

Electoral Commissioner Mohamed N’fah-Alie Conteh on Thursday 12th February, 2015 was sworn into office by H.E. Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma as the Chief Electoral Commissioner (CEC) and Chairman of the National Electoral Commission, subject to the approval of Parliament..."

Before his appointment, as Chairman of NEC, Commissioner Mohamed N’fah-Alie Conteh had given over 25 years of meritorious service and unbroken service to the Commission.

Mr. Conteh first worked in the Commission in 1990 as District Electoral Officer and later rose through the ranks, serving in various positions such as Senior Elections Officer, Principal Elections Officer, Chief of Field Coordination and Reporting and Director of Operations. In May 2009, Mr. Conteh was first appointed by President Koroma to the position of Electoral Commissioner, Northern Region and served a 5-year term of office.

NEC Chairman and Commissioner Augusta Bockarie pose with the executive and membership of the UNPP (right) and RUPP (left)

PPRC Chairman Hon. Justice Maitland E. Tolla Thompson addresses NEC Chair and Commissioners during a courtesy call visit (above); NEC Chair and Commissioner Augusta Bockarie pose with the executive and membership of the Peoples Democratic Party-Sorbeh (below right)

NEC Chair poses with the executive and membership of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (above); NEC Chair and Commissioner Augusta Bockarie pose with the executive and membership of the UNPP (right) and RUPP (left)

10 Exclusive Swearing-In Ceremony Pictorials—Page 5
British High Commissioner to Sl and other Dignitaries pay Courtesy Calls on NEC Chair—Page 6
NEC Chair meets with PPRC, NEW and pays Courtesy Calls on Political Parties — Page 7
NEC Conducts Training on Geographic Information Systems for IT staff — Page 10
NEC collaborates with the MEST to distribute post-Ebola educational and hygiene materials to educational institutions — Page 10

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Continued on page 2
Mr. Mohamed N'fah-Alie Conteh is a Sierra Leonian who has a Secondary School Education at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Secondary School and Chist the King College in Bo, Sierra Leone. He received his BA degree in History and Political Science, and post-graduate Diploma in Education from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone in 1983 and 1984, respectively. He also holds a Post-Graduate Diploma (with distinction) in International and Electoral Law from the Institute of Advanced Management and Technology (IAMTEC) Sierra Leone in 2008.

Before joining the Commission, Mr. Conteh taught as a Pupil-Teacher at the Islamic Secondary School in Kenema from 1978-1979, as Assistant Teacher at the Ahmadiyya Islamic Secondary School Kenema from 1984-1986 and Ansurul Islamic Secondary School Kenema from 1987-1991 before becoming an election administrator for 25 years, continuously. He began his career in election administration with the National Electoral Commission (NEC) of Sierra Leone in 1990, where he rose through the ranks from District Electoral Officer (DEO) to becoming Director of Operations from November 2007 to April 2009. He became Electoral Commissioner in NEC from May 2009 to January 2015. He is currently (effective 12th February, 2015) the Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman of NEC. Since 1990, he has participated in the conduct of all public elections in Sierra Leone (i.e. Presidential, Parliamentary, Local Government Elections, etc.). In collaboration with his colleagues, Mr. Conteh was very instrumental in the transformation of Sierra Leone’s Electoral Commission and its system of administering democratic elections in the country from the badly structured and poorly managed system that it was in the 1970s, to becoming a model public institution with enviable election administration system in Africa by 2012.

He attended many elections related courses, conferences, study tours and Elections Observation Missions, both within and outside Africa. He is an accredited BRIDGE Facilitator/Trainer i.e. Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections- a course in Elections Administration founded by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), and the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD).

Mr. Conteh was awarded the National Honour of ‘Officer of the Order of the Rokel-OOR’, by His Excellency, the President of Sierra Leone, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, in recognition of 24 years diligent and dedicated service to NEC, on the 28th April, 2014. Mr. Conteh’s electronic publications include: "The Institution of Paramount Chiefcy in Sierra Leone: An Introduction to its History and Electoral Process" (2011). "A Short History of the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone-1961-2010" (2012); "The Electoral Commission and the Management of Sierra Leone’s Electoral Process".

Mr. Conteh, in a row appointed Commissioner Mohamed N’fah-Alie Conteh, to the elevated position of Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman of the National Electoral Commission (NEC). Mr. Conteh is on record to be the first staff to have been appointed both as Electoral Commissioner and later Chief Electoral Commissioner of NEC.

Continued from page 6

On Wednesday 25th February 2015, Commissioners and staff of the National Commission for Democracy also paid a Courtesy Call on the Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman of the National Electoral Commission Mohamed N’fah-Alie Conteh on his assumption of office. The NEC Chairman reiterated the Commission’s continued commitment in collaborating with these institutions to ensure that the country’s democratic tenets are sustained and improved. The HRC, UNDP and SLP partners and the security, as a key partners in the conduct of elections. The NEC Chairman congratulated the new Chairmen on his assumption of office and after deliberations pledged his institution’s continued support and cordial working relationship with the National Electoral Commission.

As the dust settles on the appointment of Mohamed N. Conteh as Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman of NEC, he and colleagues embarked on a charm offensive to further strengthen the ties between NEC and relevant partners in the electoral process. The NEC Chairman and his delegation on the 25th, 26th and 27th February 2015 paid courtesy calls on the Human Rights Commission (HRC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) respectively. The reasons for the visits were to further strengthen the ties the Commission has with democratic institutions, development partners and the security, as a key partners in the conduct of elections.”

Mr. N’fah-Alie Conteh was also appointed as Acting Chairman of NEC at the NEC Board of Commissioners meeting of January 22, 2015, to replace Acting Chairman Katta Kamara who was elevated to become the permanent Chairman of NEC.

As the NEC Chairman and Commissioners paid a Courtesy Call on the NEC Chairman, the Commission Mohamed N’fah-Alie Conteh, to the elevated position of Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman of the National Electoral Commission (NEC). Mr. Conteh is on record to be the first staff to have been appointed both as Electoral Commissioner and later Chief Electoral Commissioner of NEC.

The NEC Chairman congratulated the new Chairman on his assumption of office and after deliberations pledged his institution’s continued support and cordial working relationship with the National Electoral Commission. The NEC Chairman reiterated the Commission’s continued commitment in collaborating with these institutions to ensure that the country’s democratic tenets are sustained and improved. The HRC, UNDP and SLP partners and the security, as a key partners in the conduct of elections. The NEC Chairman congratulated the new Chairmen on his assumption of office and after deliberations pledged his institution’s continued support and cordial working relationship with the National Electoral Commission.

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British High Commissioner And Other Dignitaries Pay Courtesy Calls On NEC Chairman

The British Commissioner H.E. Peter West on Friday February 20th 2015 paid a Courtesy Call on Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman of the National Electoral Commission Mohamed N’fah-Alie Conteh to congratulate him on his assumption to office. In attendance were Electoral Commissioners Miatta French and Augusta Bockarie; Rachel Chetham and Samira Bhatia of the British High Commission and the Department of International Development (DFID) respectively.

Chairman Mohamed N’fah-Alie Conteh in his welcome statement briefed the High Commissioner and delegation on the Commission’s current activities including plans to organise the NEC 2015-2019 Strategic Plan and the drafting of a concept paper in response to the postponement of the activities of both the National Populations and Housing Census, Constitutional Review Process and the resultant follow up implications on the electoral operations in Sierra Leone by law established. He assured the President of the Commission’s commitment in the discharge of its functions, and categorically pledged to ensure professionalism prevails in the conduct of elections in a free, credible and transparent manner.

According to news monitored via State House Communications Unit, Electoral Commissioner Mohamed N’fah Alie Conteh was sworn in as the new Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman of the National Electoral Commission on a swearing in ceremony held at State House, Freetown. The oath of office was administered by His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma at State House. Congratulating the new Chairman of NEC, President Koroma stated that the general conduct of elections has improved remarkably, and added that the new Chair was part of the two previously held elections which were acclaimed by both local and international organizations to be free, credible and transparent.

According to news monitored via State House Communications Unit, Electoral Commissioner Mohamed N’fah Alie Conteh as Chairman and Chief Electoral Commissioner he will continue to support, uphold and maintain the Constitution of Sierra Leone by law established. He assured the President of the Commission’s commitment in the discharge of its functions, and categorically pledged to ensure professionalism prevails in the conduct of elections in a free, credible and transparent manner. Dignitaries present include the Secretary to the President, Mr. E.B. Osbo Coker; Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Mr. Franklin Bai Kargbo; the Chairman of the Political Parties Registration Commission, Justice Tollia Thompson; Minority Leader in Parliament, Dr Bernadette Lahai; Minister of Political and Public Affairs, Hon Kemoh Sesay; Other Commissioners of NEC and family members of the new appointee.

Macksood Gibril Sesay Becomes Electoral Commissioner for the Northern Region

According to a State House press release issued on Friday 27 February 2015, NEC Director of Legal Affairs, Research and Documentation Macksood Gibril Sesay has been appointed by H.E. President Ernest Bai Koroma to the position of Electoral Commissioner for the Northern Region. His appointment was pursuant to Constitutional provisions. The office became vacant, following the elevation and appointment of former Electoral Commissioner -North Mohamed N. Conteh to the office of Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman of NEC.

Mr Sesay on Wednesday 18th March 2015, successfully went through the Parliamentary Committee on Appointment and on Friday 20th March 2015, the House of Parliament approved his appointment to serve as Electoral Commissioner of NEC. On Tuesday 31st March 2015, Mr Mohamed N’fah-Alie Conteh was sworn in as Chairperson of NEC.

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1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, dilated on a range of issues on elections date, conduct of boundary delimitation and diaspora elections.

The Parliamentary approved Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman designate of the National Electoral Commission Mohamed N’fah Allie Conteh on Wednesday 12th February, 2015, served as guest at the ‘good Morning Sierra Leone’ radio programme at the Radio Democracy 98.1 FM Radio Station. Mr Conteh used the opportunity as his first media interaction immediately after Parliament had endorsed his presidential nomination as Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman of NEC, to outline the successes of the Commission over the years and his vision for the Commission in the discharge of his duties.

In another related development, on Tuesday 17 February 2015, Commissioner Conteh, during a ‘Good Morning Salone’ programme at the SLBC TV, where he was a guest, outlined his vision for NEC which is to “...Conduct all public elections in a more transparent, credible and open manner without recourse to unnecessary court actions.”

Commissioner Conteh also stated that he will in due course, “...enhance the professionalism and technical capacity and welfare of staff through local and international capacity development programmes.”

Commissioner Conteh further stated that as Chairman, he will endeavour to “...network with local elections related MDAs, Civil society, other stakeholders and international partners...” in order that the visions are realized.

The Training and Outreach Department in collaboration with the Departments of Human Resource, Gender and Disability and Information and Technology on 3rd and 4th February, 2015 organized a training for staff in the Training and Human Resource Departments on “Human Resource Information Management Systems”. The objective of the 2-day capacity building workshop was to expose staff in the Human Resource Department to be able to use the electronic version of the Human Resource Information (HRIS) System that was developed by a contracted service provider. Statements were delivered by Directors of the respective Departments on the need for the training. The sessions were facilitated by NEC IT Officers Jusufu Henry Swaray and Sheku Conteh. The training sessions were categorized into lectures on the first day and hands-on practical work on the second day whereby staff were given the opportunity to interface with computers by creating mock log-in programmes in order to input relevant HR data for processing.

Commissioner Macksood G. Sesay before his elevation has been the Director of Legal Affairs, Research and Documentation and before that, he was Chief of Legal Affairs. Commissioner Macksood G. Sesay joined the Commission in 2007 as Assistant Electoral Officer in the Outreach and External Relations Department.