The National Electoral Commission shall impartially serve all stakeholders in the electoral process, and shall undertake voter education programs for the citizens of Sierra Leone as a means of promoting and sustaining democracy good governance and an enlightened citizenry.

MISSION STATEMENT

The vision of the National Electoral Commission [NEC] is that of an independent, credible and well-resourced institution which promotes democracy and good governance by continuously 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 Leone and its partners.

Credibility
The Commission will endeavor to win the confidence and trust of all Sierra Leoneans and the international community through the quality of its service.

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 authority.

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 free in all its activities.

Professionalism and Dedication
The Commission will endeavor to have a well-trained, professionally competent and confident staff dedicated to the delivery of non-partisan elections.

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

ELECTORAL COMMISSIONERS

Dr. Christiana A.M. Thorpe
Oversight: Infrastructure, Finance & Administration
Commissioner Stephen Aiah
Mattia
Oversight: Electoral Operations & Information Technology
Commissioner Florence K. Kebbie
Oversight: Electoral Education, Training, Capacity Building, Procedures & Gender
Commissioner Mohamed N. Conteh
Oversight: Boundary Delimitation, Legal Affairs, Research & Documentation
Commissioner Miatta French
Oversight: Human Resource, Media & External Relations

The National Electoral Commission successfully concluded the 8-weeks long nationwide Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) Programme that was conducted for eligible Sierra Leoneans.

The field data capture aspect of the BVR started from the 23 January 2012, ended on the 25th March 2012 and the process was conducted in four phases for a period of 2 weeks, during which, a provisional figure of 2,701,299 registrants were captured. Phase one of the BVR process captured 724,310 registrants, 727,368 in phase two, 668,349 in phase three and 581,272 in phase four.

In order to meet with the challenges of administering the BVR process in the field, the Commission recruited and trained various category of ad-hoc staff including 400 Ward Coordinators, 30 IT Focal Persons, 10 IT Software Engineers and 2,274 Registration Staff. The Commission also employed the services of community representatives in the constituted Ward Electoral Education Committees nationwide who were engaged on community outreach and sensitization on the BVR process.

The Commission accredited registered political parties, local and international observers and the media to observe the BVR process in order to enhance stakeholders participation. The Commission held four press conferences at the end of every phase, where by, updates on cumulative registration totals and deployment retrieval and redeployment of registration materials of the BVR process were released. The Commission also used the press briefings to dilate on pertinent issues that emerged during the BVR process.

Dr. Christiana Thorpe, Chief Electoral Commissioner, during these sessions took the opportunity to register the Commission’s stance on issues bordering on electoral malpractices such as multiple and underage registrations, electoral fraud and bribery, impersonation, falsification and altering of documents.

According to Dr. Thorpe, the BVR process can best be described as “excellent in the area of planning and execution, though the figures portray overall decrease from the previous registration where there is the possibility of further amendments during the exhibition phase when multiple and underage will be seriously addressed”. The Exhibition phase of the BVR was set to commence from the months of April – August 2012.

Sierra Leone’s BVR Process... NEC Registers 2,701,299
Salma Kargbo (second from right) and Augustine Mohamed (first from right) during a briefing session of ECOWAS observers.

Steering committee members of the Accra Principles of Electoral Justice (APEJ) in Sierra Leone between 24th February–2nd March 2012 embarked on monitoring and observation of the BVR process nationwide. The objective of the observation was to assess the BVR process in order to improve trust in the electoral process in line with global standards of electoral management. The APEJ steering committee also observed the Local Council Bye election conducted on Saturday 14th January 2012 in Ward 369 in the Western Area Urban Freetown City Council. The APEJ initiative was a pilot project intended to be implemented in three (3) African States – Ghana, Kenya and Sierra Leone for an eighteen months period.

A cross section of APEJ Steering Committee Members

The Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC) is a forum that was established by NEC to enhance Political Parties and other Stakeholders’ interaction on electoral activities. Since the commencement of the BVR process on 23 January 2012, the PPLC interactions were being held for every two weeks and was focused extensively on the BVR Process. The Commission used the forum to update political parties and other Stakeholders about events during the electoral process. Political party representatives also used the PPLC as a platform to raise or highlight certain issues related to the BVR such as the interpretation of the clause ‘Ordinary resident’ in relation to the registration of persons outside their wards. Despite the tense nature of some of the discussion sessions, the PPLC platform was effective in creating the awareness among Political parties, and other stakeholders in promoting credible, free and fair electoral activities in Sierra Leone.
NEC- Sierra Leone welcomed the Liberian delegation during the courtesy call paid on her and she assured them of her commission's support to the delegation in realizing their objective. The Liberian delegation met with Electoral Commissioners and Staff of NEC and held interactive sessions with officials in the Information Technology, Operations, Logistics, Training, Capacity Building and Procedures Departments of NEC –Sierra Leone. The Liberian delegation was also taken on a conducted tour of the facilities at the National Data Center at Wellington and later observed the BVR field data capture in some registration centers in and around Freetown.

Three IT technicians messrs Achie Delaney, James Dobgey and David Colley of the Liberian Electoral Commission undertook a 4-day study tour to Sierra Leone from 19th—23rd March 2012. The objective of the visit was to observe, catalogue, document and assess the activities of the BVR process in Sierra Leonian. According to Achie Delany, the NEC-Liberia decided to come to Sierra Leone in order to learn from NEC-Sierra Leone He said that the decision was “... based on the fact that Liberia is yet to go biometric and our two sister countries share a lot of commonalities as post war countries with similar cultures and tradition, who are also sharing common border with a great aspiration to develop our socio-economic and political structures...”. Dr. Thorpe on behalf of NEC-Sierra Leone welcomed the Liberian delegation during the courtesy call paid on her and she assured them of her commission's support to the delegation in realizing their objective. The Liberian delegation met with Electoral Commissioners and Staff of NEC and held interactive sessions with officials in the Information Technology, Operations, Logistics, Training, Capacity Building and Procedures Departments of NEC –Sierra Leone. The Liberian delegation was also taken on a conducted tour of the facilities at the National Data Center at Wellington and later observed the BVR field data capture in some registration centers in and around Freetown.
For Attempted Multiple Voter Registration Culprit Sentenced to Jail Term and Payment of Fine

David Bendu of Ward 335, Constituency 93 in the Western Area Rural District was arraigned at the Waterloo Magistrate Court for allegedly committing electoral fraud during the BVR process. He was charged with attempted double registration and sentenced to pay Five Hundred Thousand Leones as fine and 2 years imprisonment in accordance with provisions of the Electoral Laws Act, 2002. In total, 27 cases were reported at the end of the BVR process. Sixteen multiple registration cases reported nationwide, out of the 16 cases, 1 was under police investigation, 8 convicted, 3 awaiting court decision, 1 discharged on insanity grounds and 3 dismissed for lack of evidence. Other registration malpractices reported included underage registration in Kailahun Bombali and Kenema Districts, 3 cases of Assault reported in Kenema and Moyamba Districts and other cases of bribery, altering and falsification of documents, impersonation and conspiracy to commit felony were reported nationwide.

NEC Chairperson Declares Winner for Local Council Bye-Elections in Ward 369, Freetown City Council

Dr Christiana Thorpe, Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairperson of the National Electoral Commission on Sunday 15th January 2012 in a press release, declared Mohamed Kanu Mansaray winner of the Local Council Bye in Ward 369. Dr. Thorpe declared Mr. Mansaray who received 428 votes, being the highest number of valid votes cast duly elected as Councilor for the Ward No 369. Dr. Thorpe’s declaration was as a result of the powers that was vested in her as Chief Electoral Commissioner and the National Returning Officer. The bye election was conducted following the death of former Councilor Abdul Salaam Ade Lewally of Ward 369.
The Logistics and Procurement Unit in the Department of Finance and Administration on Wednesday 7th March 2012 coordinated the opening of bids for the procurement of a 300 and 80 KVA generators respectively for the NEC headquarter building. The bid opening process for the procurement of the generators is one of numerous activities undertaken by the Commission in line with procurements of goods and services as prescribed by law in the Public Procurement Act of 2004 (PPA). A total of 14 bidding documents were sold, 11 bids were received and opened on the closing date and time. Assessment of the bids was done by the Evaluation Committee in line with the PPA 2004. In attendance were the Chief Electoral Commissioner, commissioners, NEC management staff, Officials of the National Public Procurement Authority and bid representatives. In the last six months, the Commission has presided over the opening of bids for the purchase of laptops, desktop computers and motor bikes for the NEC district offices.
Exclusive Pictorials on NEC Biometric Voter Registration Process

Ward Coordinators on BVR Training

Cross Sections of some District Ward Coordinators

Tonkolili
Western Urban
Bombali
Bo
Pujehun
Kailahun
Kono
Moyamba
Koinadugu
Exclusive Pictorials on NEC Biometric Voter Registration Process

Registrants going through BVR process

NEC Press Conference on BVR Phase 3

NEC Staff on BVR sensitisation float parade
The NEC sends you and your entire family the gift of Peace for the New Year.
Register free to get your own Biometric Voter Registration ID Card with Joy and Happiness.
Prove Your Citizenship and Vote in the 2012 Elections.

Your Vote Is Your Power!!!

Happy New Year

Signed: CEC/Chairperson

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