

C/o 14 Naimbana Street Freetown

or

4 Pademba Road, Freetown

The Chairman,
National Electoral Commission,
NEC Headquarters,
Tower Hill, Freetown.

26th October 2020

Dear Sir,

Unity Party (UP) and National Grand Coalition (NGC) parties withdrawal from Constituency 110
Parliamentary rerun Elections

The leadership of the National Grand Coalition (NGC) and the Unity Party (UP) hereby jointly acknowledge receipt of "Notification of date for the Conduct of Parliamentary Re-run Election in Constituency 110 in the Western Area Rural District..." scheduled for Saturday 12th December 2020.

We write to inform you of our joint decision to withdraw from the rerun Election in Constituency 110. We therefore ask that details of our nominated candidates be removed from the elections materials immediately.

You will recall that this will be NEC's THIRD attempt at conducting the same election having been unable to fulfill its mandate of organizing the polls in a peaceful and non-violent manner in the previous attempts.

The last rerun was marred by violence before and on polling day, specifically at one polling centre at Adonkia. The disruption of the process and smashing of ballot boxes happened in full view of the public and under the watch of the Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) at the time, now Inspector General. Even though some of the violent scenes were freely circulating in the social media showing public officers directly involved, we do not know of any action taken to reprimand or punish the culprits: no indictment, no prosecution and no conviction.

NEC took the very controversial decision of cancelling the entire election and ordering for a rerun instead of cancelling the results of the only polling centre where there was trouble.

Although all political parties had signed various memoranda committing themselves not to resort to violence during elections, the two old political parties involved were simply let off the hook without any serious investigation but rather all four participating parties were submitted to a rerun Election.

We, at the NGC and UP, consider this as unfair and a blatant violation of democratic principles that instead of sanctioning the offending parties, such an important institution in our democracy as NEC should rather take a convenient decision that punishes the smaller parties and favours the bigger parties, one of which is in power.

We consider ourselves as being punished because for the third time we are being asked to endure the huge costs of preparing our members and supporters for another election due to no fault of ours. We are not ready to do this.

We recognize that all these messy arrangements occurred during the previous administration of NEC. In your capacity as the current Chairman of NEC who has vowed to be upright, professional and a good listener, we hereby present our case to you with great expectation that we will not be royally ignored as was characteristic of your predecessor. In view of the above we shall be visiting you shortly to present our demands for compensation for all the expenses we have been made to endure fruitlessly in the past rerun and also for a refund of the amounts our two parties paid as nomination fees in the last rerun Election.

We look forward to your swift and appropriate action while committing ourselves once more to cooperate with you in your efforts to rebuild the sacred institution now under your care.

 Femi Claudius Cole,

Chairperson and Leader, Unity Party

&

UP Parliamentary Candidate

Constituency 110

Dr. Dennis Bright


Chairman and Leader

National Grand Coalition

NGC



CC: The Chairman, PPRC

The Resident Coordinator, United Nations

The European Ambassador,

The ECOWAS Representative,

The United States Ambassador,

The British High Commissioner