



ALL PEOPLES CONGRESS (APC)
MOTTO: ACTION PROGRESS COMMITMENT

<u>Headquarters & Western Region</u>	<u>Eastern Region</u>	<u>Northern Region</u>	<u>North/West Region</u>	<u>Southern Region</u>
We Yone House 11A Old Railway Line, Freetown. Tel: 076-611-726 Our Ref:	Victor Brima Street R.T.I. – Kenema Tel: 076-744870 Your Ref:	12, Field Road Makeni. Tel: 076-731-170	1 Falaba Road Port Loko Tel: 076731170	7 Baiima Lane Off Baiima Road Bo Tel: 076-616-448 27th Oct. 2020

PRESS STATEMENT

**ALL PEOPLES CONGRESS (APC) CONDEMNS NATIONAL ELECTORAL
COMMISSION (NEC) FOR RE-RUN OF CONSTITUENCY 110 ELECTIONS
WHICH THE APC WON.**

The All Peoples Congress (APC) Party notes with consternation the press statement from the National Electoral Commission (NEC) dated 20th October 2020 declaring a re-run of the Constituency 110 election held on 24th August 2019. The results of that election indicated a 43% win of the APC candidate as against 41% for the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) candidate. The APC, therefore, condemns the declaration by NEC as a deliberate attempt to deny the APC its well-deserved victory in the said election.

The NEC declaration constitutes another clear manifestation of a pattern of blatant use of state institutions to undermine and weaken the APC as the largest Opposition Party in the country. The Bye-election in Constituency 110 followed the High Court judgment of 31st May 2019 that declared the seat vacant following which APC parliamentary candidates and their SLPP counterparts filed petitions. But the Chief Justice chose to assign for hearing

only the petitions filed by the SLPP candidates and disregarded those petitions filed by the APC candidates. Even though the APC was discriminated against and disadvantaged by the Courts this way, the Party decided to participate in the election and fielded a candidate following consultations with its membership.

Several national and international election monitoring bodies observed the election in Constituency 110, including the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC), National Elections Watch (NEW), National Commission for Democracy (NCD), Office of National Security (ONS), Human Rights Commission Sierra Leone (HRCSL), Strengthening Electoral Accountability and Governance (SEAG), Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL), European Union (EU), U.S Embassy, UK High Commission as well as several media houses. The Observers were unanimous in declaring that the voting process was peaceful in all polling stations in the constituency with the exception of the one in Angola Town where, towards close of voting, SLPP thugs led by the Minister of Transport and Aviation of the ruling government, attacked the centre at the Sarah Modern Preparatory School, comprising 10 polling stations and destroyed voting materials including 10 boxes that contained ballot papers in the full view of the police and military personnel that the SLPP Government had posted there by the unnecessary invocation of Military Aid to Civil Power (MAC-P). These police and the military were seen clearly colluding with the SLPP thugs and their complicity in the voting process and destruction of ballot boxes was highlighted and confirmed by the NEW in their Press Release of 26 August 2019 in which they also called SLPP

Government to speedily investigate the matter and bring perpetrators to justice. To date neither investigations nor arrests have been made for that serious breach of public order.

The destruction of ballot boxes by SLPP thugs on the watch of the police and the military in the one polling station in Angola Town followed by nullification of the entire results of the election in Constituency 110 when the action permissible by under the circumstances was to cancel only the results in the affected polling station and order a re-run in that station, was clearly a last minute act of desperation to deny an APC victory.

In these circumstances, the APC strongly protests against the machinations of the NEC which have the potential to pose serious threats to our democracy and, by implication, the stability, peace and security of the nation. The APC eschews such eventuality and is instead resolved to explore all peaceful means and options available to put an end to the many unconstitutional acts and gross abuse of power which have become the hallmark of the SLPP since coming to power in 2018.

Through this Press Statement, therefore, the APC is calling on all democratic institutions of the state, non-state actors, members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corp, development partners, international community in general and Sierra Leoneans at home and abroad to condemn, in the strongest and unequivocal terms, our country's unacceptable drift towards dystopia under the current SLPP Government. As we prepare our membership to participate

in the upcoming bye election in constituency 110 and elsewhere, we want the authorities and all democratic institutions to know that the party will defend the votes of our people in the said bye elections. The bye elections must be free and fair and must be free from fear. Consequently the unnecessary deployment of large police and military personnel at polling stations must be addressed precedent to the elections.

Signed:-


The stamp is circular with a blue border. Inside the border, the text "ALL PEOPLES CONGRESS" is written in a semi-circle at the top, and "NATIONAL SECRETARY" is written in a semi-circle at the bottom. In the center of the stamp, the date "27 OCT 2020" is stamped.

Amb. Dr Alhaji Osman Foday Yansaneh

National Secretary General - APC