



CITIZEN RIGHTS NETWORK SIERRA LEONE

(CIVIL SOCIETY & HUMAN RIGHTS)

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PRESS STATEMENT ON THE BYE ELECTION HELD AT CONSTITUENCY 110

SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER, 2020.

The Citizen Rights Network Sierra Leone, herein referred to as CRN-SL is Human Rights and Civil Society organization in the country, promoting Human Rights for all, transparency and good governance in Sierra Leone.

On Saturday the 12th December, 2020, the citizen Rights Network Sierra Leone together with other Civil Society Organizations and other partners monitored the rerun or bye election conducted in constituency 110 by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) of Sierra Leone. Before, during and after the election at the said constituency, several observations were noted and recorded by CRN-SL representatives who were accredited to monitoring the election exercise as follow:

1. Citizen Rights Network representatives observed that, some of the voters took snapshots of the ballots papers issued to them to vote. This was noticed by some of the NEC staff and the voters were immediately confronted to delete photos of the snapshots. This incidences happened at the pooling Centre # 15093 polling station number 6and pooling Centre # 15087 pooling station 14.the police and security personnel present were alerted to prevent further occurrence of this.
2. The presence of top government officials of the ruling SLPP governance were highly felt around some of the pooling centers and stations. This was a cause for concern as there was no need for, if at all; they were not coming to vote, nor accredited to observe the said election.

3. Our organization also noticed some political intimidations against party agents and representatives of the main opposition party (APC) by the incumbent SLPP government supporters and party stalwarts.

This happened at a Centre called “wan house” where some top governments officials were just roaming about the Centre and pooling stations in the presence of the police and other security personnel for which, they were never intercepted nor any action taken by the appropriate authorities or body concerned to do so.

4. We also observed that, some of the representatives of the National Election Watch (NEW) in one of the centers did refuse to sign on the NEC registration book, after the counting of ballot papers ended. No reason(s) were given by them for this.
5. We must also state in explicit terms that the Covid 19 measures and directives were fully adhered to by all the voters, security personnel, NEC officials at the centers and the other accredited observers. Almost all voters coming into the centers other persons concerned wore or put on facemasks during and after the polls.
6. It is also worthy to state that , 90% of the pooling stations and pooling centers opened to the voters in time with all the election materials readily available by NEC . Voting commenced at exactly 7:00am and ended 5:00pm in the evening. We did not notice any disenfranchisement of any illegible voter(s) either by NEC or security personnel.

In conclusion, CRN-SL will continue to monitor all elections in the country and report on the any issue or issues of anomalies to citizenry that have the proclivity to sabotage the democratic tenets of our country, Sierra Leone.

The above mentioned observations were noticed and recoded down impartially and apolitically by our staff and representatives of this organization accredited to the bye election held on Saturday 12th December 2020 at constituency 110. A full and comprehensive report will be published soonest upon pronouncement of winner of the said bye election by Chairman and National Returning officer of the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

Yours faithfully,



Ibrahim Bai Koroma

Executive Director

