



## PRESS RELEASE SECURITY SECTOR

**Freetown (3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021)** – The public is hereby informed that the Security Sector is concerned about the growing trend amongst political parties in nurturing able-bodied party loyalists as marshals.

The idea of organizing party stalwarts to serve as marshals for political party contenders has characterized our political landscape spanning a decade. Political parties were allowed to organize marshals to complement the efforts of the security forces by maintaining decorum during political activities and campaigns. Indeed, the conduct of marshals used to be largely peaceful and unprovocative, but presently this is not the case.

Lately, the Security Sector has had to contend with violence incited or perpetrated by marshals set up by political parties across the country, clearly undermining peace, security and national development.

In consideration of the potential threat posed to national security by the continued use of marshals, **the Security Sector hereby bans the cultivation/grooming and use of marshals by all political parties with immediate effect.**

The Sector wishes to assure political parties and the general public that it has the capacity to provide professional security services to all who are entitled and to maintain law and order in the country.

The leadership of all political parties are reminded of their obligation to ensure that the conduct of their members is not inimical to national security. They are therefore encouraged to use their influence on their members in a positive way to foster peace and security in the country.

The law will frown at any political party, person or group of persons who attempt to contravene the ban on the use of marshals by political parties and/or under the guise of any other social grouping.



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**For and on behalf of the Security Sector**