

c/o The National Grand Coalition (NGC)

14 Naimbana Street, Freetown,

Tel: +23276641154/+23230748961

Or

Unity Party (UP)

4 Pademba Road, Freetown,

Tel: +23277582363

15th September 2021

The Chairman,
Anti-Corruption Commission
Gloucester Street,
Freetown

Dear Chairman,

REQUEST FOR UPDATE ON THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FORMER ACTING REGISTRAR OF THE PPRC AND OTHERS AT THE COMMISSION IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN 2018 AND 2020

You may recall that in a letter addressed to you on 30th October 2019, sixteen senior members of Political parties under the nomenclature of APPA blew the whistle and requested that you launch an investigation into the activities of the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC), regarding abuse of office by the acting Registrar PPRC in the “period between the Administration of the Late Justice Hamilton and the incumbent, Mr. Abdulai Bangura, Chairman, Political Parties Registration Commission.” Among the allegations made against the Acting Registrar were the following:

- a) “Unlawful use of solicited funds to undermine political party structure and authority of political party leaders”
- b) “Illegal soliciting of funds by the political parties registration commission from donors after the State President has dismantled all commissions except the national electoral commission and national commission for democracy through executive order.”
- c) “Illegal Funding of convention of a rival faction of All Political Parties Association Sierra Leone.”

Considering that the PPRC is a key institution that plays a critical role in our democracy, our expectation was that you would treat and dispose of this matter expeditiously. It is therefore unfortunate that almost two years after you received that request for investigation, we are yet to see any progress made in that regard by the ACC.

This unresolved matter has since become more complex with the recent appointment of the acting Registrar of PPRC, Mrs. Zainab Morseray, who is at the centre of these allegations of corruption, as

Commissioner of the Electoral Commission. This matter, Mr. Chairman, deserves to be treated seriously because it clearly puts the integrity and reliability of four State institutions in jeopardy: first, the PPRC itself where the said acting Registrar took control of the Institution and created a team that allegedly mismanaged State funds; second, the Electoral Commission, which by the appointment of Mrs. Zainab Morseray is poised to receive as Commissioner an individual whose integrity is still under scrutiny by the ACC; third, Parliament which through its Committee on Appointments and Public Service will have to consider the appointment of a public officer who is at the heart of such a dark controversy; and finally, the ACC whose delay in dealing with this matter has put all these institutions into a state of total embarrassment. Needless to say that with this matter there is a lot at stake; for instance, how can political parties be convinced that the forthcoming elections are in safe hands when one of the managers is under suspicion of grave irregularities in her previous employment?

Furthermore, there have been more revelations concerning this PPRC story. It must be understood that in the period between the demise of Justice Hamilton and the appointment of the current PPRC Chairman (the period in which His Excellency the President dissolved all Commissions except the NEC and NCD), there was no executive vacuum at the PPRC. Section 34 (1)b and 34 (2) of the 1991 Constitution provide for an ex-officio Member of the PPRC, that is the Chief Electoral Commissioner on whose shoulders the mantle naturally fell to provide leadership during the interregnum and section 34 (3) for a Secretary to the Commission who shall be the Administrator and Registrar General. It is interesting to note that Mrs. Zainab Morseray who was working as Registrar only in an acting capacity, managed to bypass the authority of the ex-officio Member of PPRC and the Commission's Secretary to raise funds, have access to the PPRC account and spend monies by bringing in some junior officials as co-signatories to the account. At a discussion programme on Star Radio on 7th September 2021, one Mr. Lucien Momoh who is Media and Public Outreach Officer, confirmed that indeed he too was a signatory to the PPRC accounts.

In the light of the foregoing, we trust that you will appreciate the urgency of the matter and the reason why your investigation into the PPRC should be given priority. The conclusions of that investigation may have serious implications for the integrity of our institutions and the direction of democracy in Sierra Leone.

As we patiently await your response, we wish to thank you for your usual cooperation

Yours faithfully,

Wadi W. Williams (NPD)

Morseray Bangura (UP)

Nfagie Kabba (ADP)

Theresa Turay (PLP)

Susan Williams (NPD)

CC. Chief Electoral Commissioner

The Speaker, House of Parliament

The Chairman, PPRC

The Chairman, Appointments Committee, S.L. Parliament

Secretary to the President

The Ambassador, United States of America

The Ambassador, European Union

The Resident Coordinator, United Nations

The Irish Ambassador

The British High Commissioner

The UNDP Resident Representative