

ALL PEOPLES CONGRESS (APC) MOTTO: ACTION PROGRESS COMMITMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

The general public would recall that on 3rd June 2021, the sitting Member of Parliament for Constituency 056, Tonkolili District, Musa Bamba Foray Jalloh contested and was declared winner of the Paramount Chieftaincy election for Samhaia Bendugu Chiefdom, Tonkolili District. Our lawyers have advised us that in light of this development, and by operation of law, the Parliamentary seat for Constituency 056 automatically became vacant by virtue of Sections 76 (1)(f) and 77(c)&(f) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, which said Section are reproduced below.

Section 77(1) (f) - No person shall be qualified for election as a Member of Parliament-

f. if in the case of such a member as is referred to in paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 74, he is for the time being a Paramount Chief under any law.

Section 77 (c) & (f) - A Member of Parliament shall vacate his seat in Parliamentc. if any other circumstances arise that if he were not a Member of Parliament would cause him to be disqualified for election as such under section 76; or

f. If in the case of such a Member as is referred to in paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 74, he becomes a Paramount Chief under any law:

It is clear from the above that Paramount Chief Musa Bamba Foray Jalloh of Sambaia Bendugu Chiefdom, Tonkolili District is no longer the Member of Parliament for Constituency 056. The Parliamentary scat for Constituency 056, in Tonkolili District therefore became vacant on the election of Musa Bamba Foray Jalloh as Paramount Chief of Sambaia Bendugu Chiefdom 91 days ago, and a bye election is therefore long overdue.

We call on the National Electoral Commission to, without further delay; announce a date for the bye election to fill the vacant Parliamentary seat for constituency 056. If the National Electoral Commission can announce a date for bye election to fill the vacant position of Chairman for Koinadugu District Council six weeks after that position became vacant upon the death of the substantive holder, there is no reason why the same cannot be done for the vacant Parliamentary seat in Constituency 056. The people of constituency deserved to be represented in Parliament and anything short of that will be a deliberate ploy to deprive them of legislative representation.

Signed:

Amb. Dr. Alhaji Osman Foday Yansaneh National Secretary General - APC