

4th November, 2021

PRESS STATEMENT

POSITION STATEMENT ON THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ELECTIONS FOLLOW-UP MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE

Citizens Advocacy Network (hereinafter referred to as “CAN”) has followed with keen interest mixed reactions within the public domain on the Press Statement issued by the European Union Elections Follow-Up Mission, dated 29th October, 2021.

CAN notes the critical issues highlighted and the indictment of key State institutions (National Electoral Commission, Political Parties Registration Commission, the Judiciary and the Sierra Leone Police) in the said press statement.

CAN further notes with serious concern the desperate efforts of the referred institutions to discredit the findings published by the EU Election Follow-Up Mission.

In view of the above, CAN wishes to unreservedly state the following:

1. That the European Union (EU) has been and remain one of the most supportive and independent allies of our beloved country;
2. That the findings contained in the Press Statement published by the EU are reflective of the very issues that CAN and several other credible institutions have been raising over the years;
3. That State institutions or Election Management Bodies against whom reputation adverse findings have been made should be courageous enough to accept the recommendations and take appropriate remedial steps to address same;
4. That the idea of being defensive and/or attacking the EU further exposes the indicted institutions and the Government of Sierra Leone as desperate, dishonest and unwilling to take appropriate and honest steps to foster a true sense of independence and credibility in our state institutions;
5. That the 2023 elections are very crucial to the health and well-being of Sierra Leone’s nascent democracy. We therefore, cannot afford to have this nation degenerate into civil unrest as a result of unprofessional conduct of Election Management Bodies.

6. That urgent steps **MUST** be taken by the indicted institutions to rebuild public trust and confidence in their operations.

CAN remains true and committed to promoting the ideals of Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democratic Good Governance in Sierra Leone.

God bless Sierra Leone!



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¹ Citizens Advocacy Network is a Civil Society Institution that promotes and safeguards the ideals of Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democratic Governance in Sierra Leone.