



ALL PEOPLES CONGRESS (APC)
MOTTO: ACTION PROGRESS COMMITMENT

| <u>Headquarters & Western Region</u> | <u>Eastern Region</u> | <u>Northern Region</u> | <u>North/West Region</u> | <u>Southern Region</u> |
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APC WELCOMES WORLD BANK'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW FUNDING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE MID TERM CENSUS AND CALLS FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF MR. ALIE COMONER KARGBO AND OTHERS.

The APC registers its appreciation to the World Bank for withdrawing funding from the ill-fated Mid Term Census with a promise to redeploy those funds into other more relevant areas covered by the said project.

The general public will recall that in our most recent Press Release and letters to our development Partners, including the World Bank, we drew attention to the fact that key steps were missed and adequate preparations were not made to guarantee the successful conduct of the proposed Mid Term Census. We concluded by stating that going ahead with this Census will certainly be an exercise in futility.

In the most recent meeting of the Advisory Committee on Tuesday 7th December 2021, the APC drew attention to the failure of Statistics Sierra Leone to share and allow time to discuss the report on the Pilot Census and expressed concerns that the training of field staff and supervisors was left too late and there were no guarantees that field staff were properly trained to be able to successfully use this new technology. Also, no field operation plan was presented to the Advisory Committee. This helped to confirm the position of the APC that the proposed Mid Term Census was ill motivated, poorly planned and unprofessionally executed. We therefore hope that the President Bio led SLPP Government will now see sufficient reason to completely abandon this proposed Mid Term Census and refocus the efforts of Statistics Sierra Leone towards a scheduled Census in 2025.

The above notwithstanding, the APC wishes to bring to the attention of all Sierra Leoneans and the international community the unfortunate new developments involving the unlawful arrest and detention of senior opposition party operatives like the Northern Region Chairman of the APC Mr. ALIE Comoner Kargbo among others. The National Secretary General of the APC and the Leader and Chairman of the NGC were also invited for questioning by the Inspector General of Police on trumped up allegations.

The APC wishes to let the Bio led SLPP Government know that the United opposition in Sierra Leone will not and cannot be intimidated. Such indiscriminate arrests and intimidation tactics deployed by the President Bio led government will serve no useful purpose other than to further destabilize our beloved country and threaten the peace and security of our people.

We are therefore calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Mr. ALIE Comoner Kargbo and all those so far detained as a result of their opposition to the Mid Term Census and wish to state that the Consortium of Progressive Political Parties (COPPP) and the APC shall use all legitimate means at our disposal to resist any such attempts by the Bio led SLPP government and the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) to cause chaos and mayhem in Sierra Leone.

We continue to call on the international community and our moral guarantors to intervene immediately to avoid the situation from degenerating any further.

The APC and COPPP will periodically review and evaluate developments as they unfold and shall advise its members and Sierra Leoneans on next steps.

Long Live the APC.
Long Live Democracy
Long Live Sierra Leone.

Signed:


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Amb. Alhaji Osman Foday Yansaneh
National Secretary General, APC

