



## Press Statement

**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018**

**Time of Release: 7.30pm**

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, this press briefing provides an overview of the development that took place following our previous briefing at 2pm. We wish to reiterate that the election process thus far has been generally peaceful. However other observations have been made as follows:

1. Concerns raised about deployed military personnel voting while carrying their weapons;
2. Inadequate voting materials at locations that had to cater for additional security deployed;
3. Allegation of campaign activities around polling stations;
4. Cancellation of mayoral ballot in Bonthe District;
5. Allegations of intimidation of police personnel by certain presidential candidates;
6. Ongoing investigation regarding allegations of forceful police entry into residence/office of a presidential candidate though police claimed it was done under a warrant;
7. Various levels of interruptions at certain polling stations
8. Allegations of exclusion of observers in the counting process

### Interventions:

- High level coordination amongst Situation Room, ONS, NEC and SLP for immediate resolve of all concerns raised; As we congratulate Sierra Leoneans for the tremendous efforts made so far to ensure peaceful elections are held, we call on the leadership of all political parties to ensure their supporters stay calm and maintain law and order. We want to take this opportunity to thank the National Electoral Commission for granting access to State and non-State actors in addressing concerns raised. To the security forces we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation.

