

WANEP Maintains Lead in Conflict Prevention in West Africa

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) continues to make giant strides in preventing conflict and promoting peace in West Africa. Critical stakeholders and partners affirmed this going by the outpouring of commendations on the organization for its peerless coordination of an election situation room (ESR) in the just concluded presidential elections in Sierra Leone.



Some of the personalities who visited the WANEP ESR: clockwise; HE Kgalema Petrus Motlanthe, Head of AU Observers Mission to SL being taken round the ESR by WANEP Executive Director, Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze; HE Dr Mohammed Ibn Chambers, SRSG to UNOWAS chatting with the Analysts; HE Maria Brewer, US Ambassador to SL with the Eminent Persons and Mary Hunt, Head of DFID in Sierra Leone

The Economic Community of West African States, (ECOWAS) cited WANEP “as a key partner in the success story of ECOWAS Conflict Prevention,” in the new UN-World Bank Research titled; ‘Pathways to Peace’.

Other partners had this to say;

“Very much impressed with the work WANEP is doing in the sub-region. We especially appreciate the setting up of this situation room to ensure close monitoring of the electoral process,” - HE **Dr Mohammed Ibn Chambers, SRSG to UNOWAS**

“We have had peaceful transitions in Ghana, Gambia, Liberia and now Sierra Leone. Much credit goes to the civil society led West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

(WANEP), which has been so effective to help ECOWAS, national and local institutions commit to values of democracy and good governance!” - ***Clever B. Nyathi***

“Impressive collaboration between USAID and WANEP for the successful elections in Sierra Leone,” ***HE John Dramani Maham, Head of Commonwealth Mission to SL and former president of Ghana***

“This WANEP Situation Room is indispensable for accurate projection and prompt response to any evolving situation. The AUO Mission can only say... All power to your elbow!” - ***Kgalema Petrus Motlanthe, Head of AU Observers Mission to SL and former President of South Africa.***

Based on its experience in election monitoring and observation, WANEP under the project on Mitigating Election Violence through the National Early Warning System (NEWS) set up a coordinated Election Situation Room (ESR) in Sierra Leone. The ESR provided the platform to observe, report, analyze and facilitate response to violent threats to the peaceful conduct of the 2018 presidential and parliamentary elections in Sierra Leone.

The ESR, which operated in Freetown with a satellite room in Kono, one of the identified hotspots, comprised of civil society organizations, state and non-state actors. It operated in the first and second rounds of the elections. Throughout its operation, the ESR received reports on the electoral process from its 500 accredited observers in prioritized areas across the country.