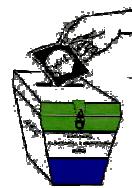




National Electoral Commission (NEC)
OAU Drive, Tower Hill
Freetown
Sierra Leone



**GUIDELINES ON THE ROLE OF ELECTORAL OBSERVERS
DURING POLLING AND COUNTING**

Observers have an important role to help ensure that the election is free, fair and transparent. They must agree to follow a Code of Conduct prepared by the NEC. The following should be read in conjunction with the Code of Conduct.

Domestic observers will be accredited either by the NEC HQ or by the NEC District Electoral Offices in the district in which they are based. International observers will be accredited by the NEC in Freetown only.

Electoral observers must at all times, while observing wear accreditation badges issued by NEC. Observers may enter a polling station from the time that the polling officials arrive, and may move between polling stations and between polling centres.

Observers will only vote at the polling station for which they are registered. They will be allowed to vote before the general public votes only if they are on the Final Voters' Register for that polling station.

Observers may witness all processes in the polling station except the act of a voter recording his/her vote. They may make their own record of seal numbers or of any other relevant process. Inside the polling station, observers may not communicate with voters in any way.

At no point during the polling process are observers allowed to handle sensitive polling and counting materials.

No observers, party/independent candidates' agents or polling staff are allowed to assist voters with disabilities when marking a ballot paper.

Electoral observers may not interfere in the electoral process. They cannot raise any concerns with the presiding officers, but should bring their concerns to the attention of the NEC instead. Electoral observers may remain in the polling station while it is prepared for the count and for the entire counting process. They can record the votes received by each party/candidate in their journals.

Observers must switch off their cellular phones during counting and avoid any movement which might disturb the process of counting.

The whole exercise of polling and counting will not be affected if no observer is present at the polling station.

Upon completion of the counting, observers will be allowed to follow election materials to the district offices using their own respective mode of transport.