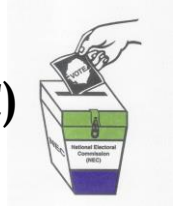




**NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (NEC)**  
OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown-Sierra Leone



**PRESS STATEMENT ON THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATES FOR THE CONDUCT OF NINETEEN (19) PARAMOUNT CHIEFTAINCY ELECTIONS IN SIERRA LEONE**

**Declaration of Candidates for Paramount Chieftaincy Elections**

The National Electoral Commission observed the Declaration of Rights of aspirants for Paramount Chieftaincy election vacancies in 19 chiefdoms in the Eastern, Northern and Southern Provinces. The Declaration process was conducted by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development has ordered that the Declaration of Rights meetings that were conducted in Gbargbo and Bagbwe Chiefdoms, both in the Bo District, be redone on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November, respectively.

The National Electoral Commission observed that the meetings were as challenging as they were interesting for both chiefdom authorities and the Declaration officials because they relied heavily on recounting unwritten and non-archived lineage relationships dating from pre-colonial era; and also they relied as much on the legal framework of the Chieftaincy Act of 2009 as on 'traditions and customs' of individual chiefdoms. The National Electoral Commission also observed that decisions were sometimes controversial.

However, the National Electoral Commission noted that the declaration meetings were successfully accomplished in a transparent and credible manner.

**Conduct of Paramount Chieftaincy Elections**

In exercise therefore of the powers vested in it under section 33 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone (Act No. 6 of 1991), and pursuant to provisions in Section 28 of the Chieftaincy Act of 2009 (Act No. 10 of 2009) the National Electoral Commission will conduct 19 Paramount Chieftaincy Elections nationwide from 2<sup>nd</sup> December – 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 as follows:

No.	Date of Election	District	Name of Chiefdom	No. of Qualified Candidates
1	2 <sup>nd</sup> /12/ 2013	Kailahun	Pege Bongre	4
2		Port Loko	Sanda Magbolontor	12
3		Bo	Gbargbo	(Re-declaration)
4	4 <sup>th</sup> /12/ 2013	Kailahun	Pege West	4
5		Port Loko	Maforki	7
6		Bo	Bagbwe	(Re-declaration)
7	6 <sup>th</sup> /12/ 2013	Kailahun	Mandu	2
8		Tonkolili	Malal Mara	8
9	7 <sup>th</sup> /12/ 2013	Bonthe	Bendu-Cha	3
10	8 <sup>th</sup> /12/ 2013	Tonkolili	Yoni	8
11	9 <sup>th</sup> /12/ 2013	Kenema	Gaura	8
12	10 <sup>th</sup> /12/ 2013	Moyamba	Kamajei	3
13	11 <sup>th</sup> /12/ 2013	Bombali	Tambahka	8
14		Kenema	Niawa	10
15	13 <sup>th</sup> /12/ 2013	Pujehun	Pejeh	9
16	14 <sup>th</sup> /12/ 2013	Kono	Toli	8
17	15 <sup>th</sup> /12/ 2013	Pujehun	Makpele	7
18	16 <sup>th</sup> /12/ 2013	Kono	Lei	4
19	18 <sup>th</sup> /12/ 2013		Gbane Kandor	5

**Signed:**

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2013**



**Dr. Christiana A. M. Thorpe**  
**Chief Electoral Commissioner/Chairperson**  
**National Returning Officer**  
**National Electoral Commission**