



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

MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR COUNTING

The timely and accurate counting of ballots in the elections for the President, Members of Parliament, Mayors/Chairpersons and Councillors of the Republic of Sierra Leone is a vital step in the path of the Sierra Leonean people towards democracy. The ability of the media to participate in this process is of high priority to the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

Counting at polling station level

The counting of the ballots will take place immediately upon the conclusion of polling at every polling station. Each presiding officer is responsible for organising and conducting the count in his/her respective polling station.

The media is free to visit and observe the counting process at the polling centres. NEC-accredited agents of the political parties and independent candidates along with national and international observers are also free to observe the process.

Journalists will need a valid press card to be allowed inside the polling stations. They must wear their badges and carry with them one additional identity document with photo. Special accreditation is not required.

Media are to follow the instructions given by the presiding officer in charge at the polling station. Journalists may film or photograph the overall progress during counting, but may **not under any circumstances interfere with the counting process.**

While NEC will try to be fully accommodating, space at many of the polling stations will be limited. NEC therefore kindly asks for the media's cooperation, understanding and patience as we try to accommodate everyone in the areas provided.

Upon completion of counting, the results from that specific polling station and polling centre will be posted for media to take note of. The results will then be sent to the **NEC Tally Centre** in Freetown where the results from around the country will be added.

The overall election results will be announced at the NEC media centre.