

## **DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH, MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

### **Strategic objective of the Department**

Improve on NEC's capacity to deliver elections by implementing an effective and efficient system of performance measurement

### **Structure and Staffing:**

The Department is staffed by: 1 Director; 1 Unit Chief; and 2 Assistant Electoral Officers.

### **Functions**

The Department performs two major functions in the Commission;

- Research, documentation and manning of the NEC Resource Centre
- Monitoring and Evaluation of all programmes and activities of the NEC

Other functions of the Department include:

- Development of an operational and administrative M & E framework
- Establishment of roles and responsibilities for the conduct of M & E exercises
- Development of evaluation policies and plans
- Implementation and monitoring of the effectiveness of M & E Policies
- Conduct of quarterly, mid-term and annual reviews
- Preparation of evaluation reports of all reviews for the attention of management
- Development of staff capacity for monitoring and evaluation
- Coordination of Research on relevant themes and perspectives of election management and administration

### **Accomplishments**

In 2016 the Department accomplished the following:

## Research and Documentation

- Production of the Annual Report 2016;
- Compiled identified **“Challenges of the Boundary Delimitation conducted in 2006 and 2008”**

The work gave insight into the challenges of the Boundary Delimitation process conducted in 2006/2007 for Constituencies and Wards on which elections for the 2007 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections, 2008 Local Council Elections; and the 2012 Multiple elections were conducted. It also contained broad recommendations which may be referred to for necessary policy initiatives in the on-going Boundary Delimitation process.

**The Department represented NEC in the 2016 Fragility Assessment Workshop** which took place on Friday 27th May 2016, organized by the MoFED at its George Street Office. A wide range of stakeholders in the work of governance and other walks of life countrywide also participated. It aimed at updating the Peace and State building Goals (PSGs) on the benchmark of the last assessment done in 2012. The Peace and State building Assessment Goals are; Legitimate or Inclusive Politics, Security, Justice, Economic Foundations, Revenue and Services. These were assessed across the spectrum properties starting from Crisis, to Rebuild & Reform, Transition, Transformation, unto Resilience. The spectrum properties also marked the stages of development/evolution of the state building goals since 2012.

- Conducted an **exit polls survey** on the Bye-Elections of constituency 001 and constituency 050 to identify voters' perception about key electoral processes leading to the polls. The research aimed at providing answers to the following research questions:-

- I. *How did you hear about the electoral exercise you are currently participating in?*
- II. *What is your general view of the process you have just participated in?*
- III. *What impact do you think your participation in this electoral exercise will have in Sierra Leone's democratic process?*
- IV. *Do you feel secure to participate in this Election?*
- V. *If No, to question 4 which aspect(s) of the election do you feel is not safe?*

A summary of responses are as follows:

- Radio was the most popular means by which voters knew about the elections followed by Candidates campaign and know your candidates posters.
- The voters' perception of the process was generally satisfactory
- Voters responded that their participation in the election will positively impact on the democratic process in the country.
- A greater majority of the voters felt secure during the whole election period.
- Binding of all gazettes and newspapers concerning NEC issues for 2015.
- Audio/Visual Documentation of all relevant activities in 2016.

### ***Monitoring and Evaluation***

- Developed election monitoring and evaluation form A, B and C for bye elections monitoring of polling, counting and tallying processes;
- Developed Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the bye elections;
- Monitored the Training of NEC staff at HQ and Regional levels on the Boundary Delimitation process;
- Effectively and efficiently monitored the training of polling staffs for the bye elections conducted in the year 2016;

- Participated in the formation and presentation of Report by Evaluation Committee on the procurement of Vehicles to Procurement Committee;
- Participated in the monitoring of specialised in-house training for Office Assistants, and Personal/Administrative Assistants at the Civil Service Training College; in which participants were interviewed to assess the level of attainment of the set learning objectives.

## Resource Center

The NEC Resource centre is dedicated to preservation of relevant election management and administration reference materials for use by stakeholders and staff. So far it has been supported by development assistant partners including USAID and IIDEA. USAID provided furniture, television, a laptop and desktop computers for the establishment of the centre in 2010; while IIDEA provided additional books on key election management themes in 2015.

Printed materials were also donated by the Sierra Leone Library Board to help develop the collection.

The Resource Centre contains a unique collection of over 200 hard copies on election management and administration issues and documentaries on key relevant issues. These include published and unpublished materials, many of which are on elections in transition democracies and post conflict reconstruction in developing countries.

Subject areas include thematic issues including electoral security, media in elections etc. It can be accessed but some materials are available on [www.necsl.org](http://www.necsl.org)