



PRESS RELEASE

Sierra Leone Run-Off Election: WAEON Calls for Peaceful and Credible Polls

The West Africa Election Observers Network (WAEON) calls on the two main presidential candidates contesting in the run-off elections of Sierra Leone to condemn any form of behavior with potential negative consequences for a peaceful election on March 31, 2018.

WAEON notes with concern, reports of increasing cases of incitement of tribal sentiments and use of inflammatory language in the days leading to the run-off election in the country.

While we commend the people of Sierra Leone for comporting themselves during the electioneering period, leading to the generally peaceful conduct of the March 7, 2018, these developments in recent times among the two main presidential candidates – Samura Kamara of the All People’s Congress (APC) and Julius Maada Bio of the Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP); and their supporters are unfortunate as they have the potential to polarize the nation and undermine the peaceful conduct of the election run-off.

WAEON therefore, calls on Mr. Kamara and Mr. Bio, as well as their respective supporters to avoid the use of inflammatory language in the conduct of their campaigns. WAEON further calls on the leadership of political parties to condemn any form of behavior with potential negative consequences for a peaceful election on March 31, 2018.

WAEON further calls on supporters of political parties to vote based on issues and refrain from acts that will escalate tensions during the polling day and the post-election period.

Finally, WAEON wishes the people of Sierra Leone peaceful elections, and reminds all electoral stakeholders to conduct themselves diligently to ensure that the outcomes of the polls are regarded as credible.

Signed

A black and white image of a handwritten signature, which appears to be 'James Lahai', written in cursive.

James Lahai
Acting Chairman
(For and on behalf of WAEON)
Contact Number: +232-76-962-233

Dated: March 30, 2018



For follow up information on the statement, please contact James Lahai on +232-76-962-233 and/or Dr. Franklin Oduro of the Secretariat on (+233 – 0302) 784293/4; 777214.

About WAEON

WAEON is an independent, non-partisan and non-religious organization of citizen observer groups from 13 West African Countries that aims at strengthening and supporting Citizens' Election Observation Groups (CEOGs) in the sub-region. It was formed in 2010, and has its secretariat at the Accra-based Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana).

Secretariat Contact Information

WAEON Secretariat

CDD-Ghana

Physical Address: No.95 Nortei Ababio Loop North Airport Residential Area, Accra, Ghana

Email: info@waeon.org

Tel: (+233 – 0302) 784293/4; 777214