



**NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION  
(NEC)**



**PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATION OF  
PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES  
ELECTIONS 2018**

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# NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (NEC)

## GUIDE TO NOMINATION PROCEDURES FOR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2018



### 1. INTRODUCTION/FOREWORD

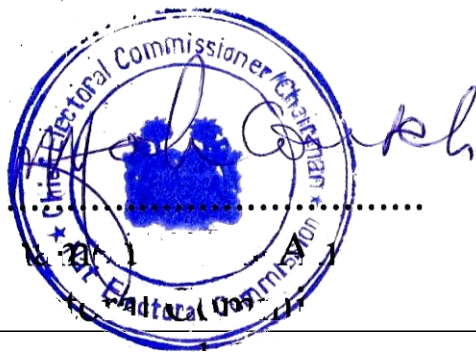
The purpose of this guide to nomination procedures is to assist all political parties and their candidates, as well as independent candidates (in the case of the Parliamentary elections) in the nomination process for the upcoming 2018 Parliamentary elections.

*THIS GUIDE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:*

- Timeline for Parliamentary nomination
- Nomination procedures for Parliamentary /PCMP candidates
- Publication of candidates
- Objection procedures for nominated candidate
- Death of a nominated candidate
- Withdrawal of nominated candidate

This guide also contains (in the appendix) the necessary forms and documents needed for the candidate nomination process.

The NEC hopes that this information will be of assistance to you. However, the information contained here is not intended to be legally exhaustive. Further information can be found in the Public Election Act, 2012 (Act No. 4 of 2012) and the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone (Act No. 6 of 1996).



**MOHAMED N'FA- ALIE CONTEH**

**Chief Electoral Commissioner/ Chairman,  
National Electoral Commission**

## **2. BACKGROUND**

This guide deals with the nomination of Parliamentary candidates by political parties, Paramount Chief Member of Parliament and independent candidates. During the days of submission, the District Returning Officer will receive the nominations of candidates in each district of Sierra Leone, and the National Returning Officer for Presidential candidates at the NEC headquarters in Freetown.

On March 7th, 2018, registered voters in Sierra Leone will vote in four elections: President, Ordinary Members of Parliament, Mayors/District Chairpersons and Councillors.

In the elections to the office of the President and the Vice-President, a candidate will be declared elected if (s)he gains 55% of the valid votes cast. If no candidate obtains such a share of the vote, a second ballot shall be conducted, in which the two Presidential candidates (and their Vice-Presidential running mates) who obtained the highest number of valid votes in the first election shall participate. The Presidential candidate, and his/her Vice-Presidential running mate, who obtain a majority of the valid votes cast at the second election are declared elected. Only individuals who are members of a registered political party and nominated by a political party can contest in the Presidential election.

In the Parliamentary election, 132 Ordinary Members of Parliament shall be elected; one from each constituency. Elections for Ordinary Members of Parliament are based on simple majority, meaning that the candidate who obtains the highest number of valid votes cast in the constituency is elected. Candidates for Ordinary Members of Parliament can be nominated by a registered political party or contest as independent candidates. A person can only be nominated in one constituency, and each party can only nominate one person per constituency.

Apart from the 132 Ordinary Members of Parliament, there will be an election for 14 Paramount Chief Members of Parliament. This guide does not deal with that election.

### 3. Timeline for Parliamentary Elections

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Deadline for political parties to submit lists of approved candidates
17 <sup>th</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Nomination Period ( Ordinary Members of Parliament and Paramount Chief Members of Parliament)
17 <sup>th</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Posting of Provisional list of Nominated Parliamentary Candidates
17 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Objection Period
27 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Objection Period ends (5:00 pm)
29 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Decision on all Objections by Returning Officers (before 6 :00 pm)
30 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Deadline for appealing on rejected nominations to the NEC (5:00 pm)
31 <sup>st</sup> January 2018	NEC deadline for deciding on appeals (before 6:00 pm)
1 <sup>st</sup> February 2018	Final List of Parliamentary Candidates published
31 <sup>st</sup> January - 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Gazetting of List of Nominated Candidates
4 <sup>th</sup> February – 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Campaign Period
6 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Cooling Off Period
7 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Polling Day

Please note that the timeline for the nomination process with regard to the Parliamentary elections is determined by a decision of the National Electoral Commission taken in accordance with Sections 67 and 70 sub-sections (2) paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Public Elections Act 2012

# **NOMINATION PROCEDURES FOR PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES**

## **(ORDINARY AND PARAMOUNT CHIEF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT)**

### **4. PERIOD AND PLACE OF SUBMISSION**

<b>Dates of Submission</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018</b>
<b>Time of Submission</b>	<b>10 am – 5 pm</b>
<b>District Returning Officers</b>	<b>District Electoral Officers</b>
<b>Place of Nominations</b>	<b>NEC District Electoral Offices</b>

*(Please note that the nomination for each constituency will take place in the District Electoral Office in the district to which the constituency belongs. A list of the District Electoral Offices is found in the appendix.)*

### **5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Parliamentary candidates must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- a) must be a citizen of Sierra Leone (not a naturalised citizen);
- b) must not be less than twenty-one years of age;
- c) must be a registered voter
- d) must be able to speak and read the English language “with a degree of proficiency sufficient to enable him to take an active part in the proceedings of Parliament”

“All those paid from the Consolidated Fund including ministerial or departmental employees, civil servants and teachers are excluded from nomination as candidates, unless they have resigned from their post 12 months prior to the date of polling as per Section 76 of the 1991 Constitution”.

*A candidate for Parliament can stand either on behalf of a registered political party, or register as an independent candidate.*

**For further information, please refer to Sections 75 & 76 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991: Act No. 6 of 1991.**

## 6. PROCESS OF NOMINATION

### Documents Required

- a) Parliamentary candidate nomination checklist (NEC Form OMP/PCMP (01)
- b) Nomination form signed in accordance with the description below (NEC Form OMP (3A)
- c) The sum of Ten Million Leones
- d) Voter identification card (to be presented in accordance with below)

**For further information, please refer to the Public Elections Act 2012**

### Nomination Steps

- a) Nomination papers must be submitted to the District Returning Officer in the district in question before 5 p.m. in the afternoon of the last day for the delivery of the nominations papers.
- b) The candidate must bring the above-mentioned nomination documents with the checklist (NEC Form OMP 01) as a proof of submission and receipt (see appendices).
- c) The nomination of a Parliamentary/Paramount Chief candidate must be in writing in the form prescribed by the Public Elections Act 2012. The prescribed **Nomination Paper of Ordinary Members of Parliament and Paramount Chief Members of Parliament** (NEC Form OMP 03(A) and NEC Form PCMP 03(B)) is enclosed in this guide;
- d) Every candidate shall be nominated by three (3) electors of the electoral area (constituency/District) for which (s)/he is a candidate and no candidate must be nominated for more than one (1) electoral area. The three (3) nominators must all sign the **Nomination Form of Ordinary Members of Parliament and three witnesses for Paramount Chief Members of Parliament** in the place indicated.
- e) The candidate should indicate the political party that (s)/he wishes to stand for, or if (s)/he wishes to stand as an independent candidate. The candidate will only be nominated as contesting for a particular political party if s/he is included on the Political Party List of Endorsed Parliamentary Candidates (NEC Form OMP 01) submitted by that political party.
- f) The candidate is required to deposit with the District Returning Officer a non-refundable fee of Ten Million Leones (Le.10,000,000) or deposit a written receipt issued by or on behalf of the Accountant General received for or on account of the candidate in respect of that sum. The District Returning Officer will issue an official receipt.
- g) The Parliamentary/ Paramount Chief Candidate is required to sign the Code of Election Campaign Ethics (NEC Form PRE/OMP 08) prepared by the NEC as a condition for acceptance of nominations forms.
- h) The Voter Identification card(s) of the Parliamentary Candidate and the three (3) persons who nominated him/her must be present to verify that they are voters.
- i) Candidates are expected to present their nominations in person. Their photographs will then be captured by the NEC for the ballot papers.

## **Parliamentary candidates nominated by political parties**

Political parties presenting Parliamentary candidates in the 2018 elections must submit a list of candidates that the party has endorsed, using the Political Party List of Endorsed Parliamentary Candidates (NEC Form OMP 01). This list must be sent to the NEC headquarters not later than **10<sup>th</sup> January, 2018** and include for each candidate;

- The Surname, First Name and initials for Middle name(s)
- Voter ID Card number, and
- Constituency

This list must be signed by the National Chairperson and the National General Secretary. *Any political party that does not send such a list will not be presenting any candidates in the 2018 Parliamentary elections.*

Only persons included on this list will be accepted as candidates standing for the political party in question. Persons who are not on any political party list can only register as independent candidates. Each party can only endorse one person per constituency, and no person can be endorsed in more than one constituency.

Please note that if a person is on a list sent to the NEC by a political party, the person will still need to be nominated in accordance with the process described above.

## **Independent Parliamentary Candidates**

Any person who declares himself/herself as being independent, or who is not on the list submitted by any political party, will be nominated as an independent candidate. No person can be nominated in more than one constituency.

Each person being nominated as an independent candidate will choose a symbol to be placed on the ballot paper next to his/her name. Only the symbols included on a list provided by the NEC are available to the independent candidates, and each symbol can only be used by one candidate in each constituency. The candidates will choose a symbol in the order that they presented their nomination papers. Once the candidate has chosen a symbol, the number of that symbol will be noted on the nomination paper.

## **7. PUBLICATION OF PROVISIONAL LIST OF CANDIDATES**

At the end of the prescribed nomination period for the Parliamentary Election, the District Returning Officer will immediately publish the Provisional List of Parliamentary candidates through Government Notice and other means that the NEC might find appropriate. The Provisional List will detail:

- Full names, addresses and occupations;
- Name of the political party to which the Parliamentary candidate belong;
- Name, addresses and occupations of the three nominators of the political party which nominated the Parliamentary candidate.

**For further information, please refer to Sections 60 to 97 of the Public Elections Act 2012.**



## **8. OBJECTIONS AND APPEALS**

### **Who Can File an Objection?**

Any voter in the electoral area (Constituency) in question may file an objection to the nomination of a Parliamentary candidate. Objections must be filed in person with the Returning Officer in the District using the NEC Form OMP04, which will be available with the Returning Officer.

**For further information, please refer to Section 63 of the Public Elections Act 2012.**

### **Where and When Should Objections Be Filed?**

Objections should be filed at NEC District Office not later than **27<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 5: 00 pm**. The recipient of the objections is the Returning Officer in the District.

**The time for objections is in accordance with Section 63 of the Public Elections Act 2012.**

### **Grounds for Objections**

- Nomination Forms are not filled in correctly;
- Candidate is not a Sierra Leonean citizen or otherwise naturalised;
- Candidate is not a registered voter;
- Candidate is not twenty-one years of age or older;
- One or several of the nominators are not qualified to be a nominator;
- Deposit of Le. 10,000,000/00 not paid;
- Candidate is not qualified to be a Member of Parliament under Section 76 of the 1991 Constitution

**For further information, please refer to Section 76 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991 and Section 63(2) of the Public Elections Act 2012.**

### **Decision on Objections**

The District Returning Officer shall decide on an objection not later than **4: 00 pm on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2018**.

**The time for the decision on objections is in accordance with Section 63 (3) Public Elections Act 2012.**

### **Appeals**

Any candidate not satisfied with the decision of the District Returning Officer has the right to appeal to the NEC Headquarters in Freetown not later than **4.00pm on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2018** using the attached form (NEC PBE/PCMP 07).

The District Returning Officers can provide additional information on the appeals process. The NEC will give a decision on any received appeals not later than **4.00 p.m. on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018**.

The decision of the NEC regarding appeals can itself only be appealed by way of an election petition through the High Court (Section 63(6) of the Public Elections Act, 2012).

**For further information, please refer to Section 78 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991, Section 63 (5) of the Public Elections Act 2012 and the decision by the NEC taken in accordance with Section 63(6) of the Public Elections Act 2012.**

## **9. PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL LIST OF CANDIDATES**

As soon as decisions on any appeals regarding Parliamentary nominations have been made, and in any case not later than ten (10) days before the election date, the NEC will publish the full names, addresses and occupations of the candidates and of their nominators (where appropriate, their Parties). This will be done by Government Notice, and by other appropriate means in the district and constituency.

**For further information, please refer to Section 67 of the Public Elections Act 2012.**

## **10. DEATH OF A NOMINATED CANDIDATE**

In the event of the death of a Parliamentary candidate prior to Election Day, the District Returning Officer shall withdraw the notice of the poll and report the matter to the NEC.

The Electoral Commission shall in such a case appoint a new election day in the constituency in question and the appropriate procedures shall start afresh.

In the case of the death of an Independent Parliamentary candidate, no substitution will be allowed; and the election will proceed as scheduled.

**For further information, please refer to Section 66 of the Public Elections Act 2012.**

## **11. WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATED CANDIDATE**

Any Parliamentary candidate may withdraw his nomination by notice in writing signed by and delivered by her/him to the District Returning Officer not later than **4:00 pm** of the tenth day (**25<sup>th</sup> February 2018**) before election day.

However, such a withdrawal shall not take place/effect if such a withdrawal would result in there being no candidate to contest the election in the constituency. If only one candidate is nominated after the close of nominations, then no election will be held; and that candidate will be declared duly elected by the NEC.

**For further information, please refer to Section 64 of the Public Elections Act 2012.**

## **13. ELECTION OF A SOLE CANDIDATE**

Where only one candidate is nominated after close of nomination or should a candidate withdraw, and only one candidate remains, no election will be held and the sole candidate will eventually be declared as a Member of Parliament.

**For further information, please refer to Section 68 of the Public Elections Act 2012.**

**APPENDIX A.**

**DISTRICT: LOCATION/ADDRESS**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>
<b>EAST</b>	Kailahun	GEL Compound, Mbelebu Section, Kailahun Town
	Kenema	59 Wanmann Abu Road, by SLTU Office, Kenema City
	Kono	8 Gandhi Fania Street, Koidu City
<b>NORTH</b>	Bombali	Azzolini Highway, Makeni City
	Koinadugu	158A Main Makeni Road-One Mile, Kabala Town
	Tonkolili	15 Boys School Road, Magburaka Town
	Falaba	Mongo Town
<b>NORTH- WEST</b>	Port Loko	75 Lungi Road, Port Loko City
	Kambia	District Council Area, Kambia 2, Kambia Town
	Karene	Kamalo Highway, Kamakwie Town
<b>SOUTH</b>	Bo	79 Tikonko Road, Bo City
	Bonthe	144 Bo Road, Mattru Jong, Bonthe Mainland
		13/13A Claffin Lane, Bonthe Island
	Moyamba	8 Kpangbavie Street, Moyamba Town
Pujehun	8 Sesay Street, Fernandopo, Pujehun Town	
<b>WEST</b>	Western Rural	Chukuma Johnson Drive, Waterloo
	Western Urban	National Stadium (Presidential Lounge), Freetown
	Headquarter	OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown

## **APPENDIX B.**

### **FORMS**

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#### **Forms for Parliamentary candidates**

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Political Party List of Endorsed Parliamentary Candidates                           | NEC Form OMP 01      |
| 2. Checklist for Parliamentary Candidates  | NEC Form OMP/PCMP 02 |
| 3. Nomination Form of Ordinary Member of Parliament                                    | NEC Form OMP 03(A)   |
| 4. Nomination Form of Paramount Chief Member Of Parliament                             | NEC Form OMP 03(B)   |
| 5. Objection form regarding Parliamentary Candidates                                   | NEC Form OMP 06      |
| 6. Appeal against upheld objections to the nomination of Parliamentary /PCM Candidates | NEC Form OMP/PCMP 07 |
| 7. Code of Election Campaign Ethics  | NEC Form OMP/PCMP 08 |

**POLITICAL PARTY LIST OF ENDORSED PARLIAMENTARY  
CANDIDATES**

**PUBLIC ELECTIONS ACT, 2012 (SECTION 61)**

**DISTRICT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF PARTY** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CONST</b>	<b>NAME OF CANDIDATE (SURNAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE INITIALS)</b>	<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>	<b>ID CARD NUMBER</b>

**SIGNATURE OF THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**CHECKLIST FOR PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES**

We hereby confirm that the below items have all been submitted and received as part of the nomination of the Parliamentary candidate. *(Please tick for each item)*

Name of candidate \_\_\_\_\_ District/Constituency \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Documents</b>	<b>Received</b>
Parliamentary/Paramount Chief Candidate Nomination Checklist, NEC OMP/PCMP 02	
Nomination Form of Parliamentary / Paramount Chief Candidate, NEC OMP/PCMP 03(A&B)	
Code on Election Campaign Ethics, NEC OMP/PCMP 08	
Candidate Nomination Fee	
Voter Identification Card of the Parliamentary /Paramount Chief Candidate and those of the three (3) Nominators (original)	
Voter Identification Card of the Paramount Chief Candidate and Tax receipts of the three (3) Nominators (original)	

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Candidate

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of District Returning Officer

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOMINATION FORM OF ORDINARY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**  
**PUBLIC ELECTIONS ACT, 2012 (SECTION 60)**

Constituency for which candidate seeks election \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of OMP Election: March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

1. I, the undersigned, am the Parliamentary Candidate to whom this nomination form relates and I hereby certify that I am willing to stand for election for Parliament as a Member for the \_\_\_\_\_ Constituency
2. I also hereby state that I am qualified and not disqualified for election to the office of Parliament in accordance with the requirements of section 75 and 76 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991.

Full name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Last name, first name, middle initial)*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Voter Identification Card Number

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Name & Number of Symbol (Party/Independent) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

**NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**NOMINATION FORM OF PARAMOUNT CHIEF MEMBERS OF**  
**PARLIAMENT**  
**PUBLIC ELECTIONS ACT, 2012 (SECTION 60)**

District for which candidate seeks election \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Election: ...<sup>th</sup>, ..... 2018

3. I, being Paramount Chief of the ..... Chiefdom of the ..... District do hereby certify that I am willing to stand for election by the Chiefdom Council of ..... in the ..... District, and in doing so, I hereby declare that I am qualified and not disqualified for membership in accordance with the requirements of Sections 75 and 76 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991.

Full name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Last name, first name, middle initial)*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Voter Identification Card Number

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Symbol \_\_\_\_\_

This nomination form was completed and signed in the presence of two witnesses:

1. Name ..... of ..... Signature.....
2. Name ..... of ..... Signature .....

Received by me at ..... o'clock, on the ..... day of .....2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Returning Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate



**NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

**STATUTORY DECLARATION FOR PURPOSES OF NOMINATION**

I ..... of ..... do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

- 1. I hereby consent to my nomination as a candidate at the Parliamentary/PCMP Election to be held in ..... District/Constituency (Tick as appropriate).
- 2. I am an ordinary resident in the above Constituency / District (Tick as appropriate).
- 3. I am qualified by law for election as OMP/PCMP Member of Parliament (Tick as appropriate).
- 4. I am a registered voter with Voter Identification Card number.....issued to me at Registration Center .....  
Registration Center Code ..... in the ..... Constituency/District
- 5. The particulars entered in this form are in every respect true and correct.
- 6. I make this declaration believing the same to be true according to the Oaths and Statutory Declaration Act.

Declared at .....

This .....day of .....2018

**Signature/thumbprint of Declarant:** .....

Signature, Stamp and Date: Magistrate/Commissioner for Oaths/Justice of the Peace

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Received today the ..... day of ..... 2018

.....  
District Returning Officer

We, the undersigned are the three (3) Nominators for the above candidate and are voters of the constituency for which this candidate seeks election.

1. Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Voter Identification Card Number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2. Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Voter Identification Card Number

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Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

3. Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Voter Identification Card Number

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Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

We, the undersigned being members of the Chiefdom Council of the .....District do hereby nominate Paramount Chief of the Chiefdom as a fit and proper candidate for the election as a Paramount Chief member; we are Nominators for the above candidate and are voters of the district for which this candidate seeks election.

1. Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Voter Identification Card Number

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Tax receipt Number

--	--	--	--	--

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature or Mark \_\_\_\_\_

2. Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Voter Identification Card Number

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Tax receipt Number

--	--	--	--	--

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature or Mark \_\_\_\_\_

3. Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Voter Identification Card Number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Tax receipt Number

--	--	--	--	--

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature or Mark \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

**OBJECTION TO NOMINATION OF ORDINARY MEMBERS OF  
PARLIAMENT AND PARAMOUNT CHIEF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT  
CANDIDATE**

**THE PUBLIC ELECTIONS ACT, 2012 (SECTION 63)**

TO: THE DISTRICT RETURNING OFFICER

CONSTITUENCY/DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Objector (in BLOCK letters)\_\_\_\_\_

Address of Objector\_\_\_\_\_

I, the above-named objector being registered pursuant to the provisions of the Public Elections Act, 2012 as a voter in the register of voters for the above-named Constituency/District with voter identification card number \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby object to the nomination of the following person:

<i>Constituency /District</i>	<i>Name of person objected to</i>	<i>Voter Identification Card number of Person objected to</i>	<i>Political party (or "independent")</i>

The ground (s) of my objection is (are)-

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Dated this ..... day of January, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature or Thumbprint of the Objector**

**NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**APPEAL AGAINST UPHELD OBJECTIONS TO THE NOMINATION OF**  
**ORDINARY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT/PARAMOUNT CHIEF**  
**MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT CANDIDATE**  
**THE PUBLIC ELECTIONS ACT, 2012 (SECTION 63 (5))**

TO: The National Electoral Commission

DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_ CONSTITUENCY \_\_\_\_\_ PARTY \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Appellant (in BLOCK LETTERS) \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Appellant \_\_\_\_\_

I, the above-named appellant, having been provisionally nominated in accordance with the Public Elections Act, 2012 in the above-named Constituency/District with Voter Identification Card number \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby appeal against the upheld objection against me.

The ground (s) for appealing the upheld objection is (are)-

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Dated this ..... day of January, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Appellant

**NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION**  
**CODE OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN ETHICS**  
*THE PUBLIC ELECTIONS ACT, 2012 (SECTION 155)*

**PREAMBLE**

1. Noting the recent violent past of Sierra Leone, and the need for continued peace; and given the desirability for a free, fair, peaceful and well-regulated election and the avoidance of aggravation of ethnic tension and political discord, we agree and accept:-
  - a. That a Code of Conduct for Campaign Activities, taken to mean all activities undertaken in furtherance of the electoral campaign for a political party or candidate will generally respect and contribute to the holding of a free and fair election,
  - b. To subscribe to the Code of Conduct and to the very best of our ability, to comply with and to take all reasonable steps to ensure its full observance,
  - c. To adhere/uphold conditions conducive to the conduct of free, fair and democratic elections within a climate of democratic tolerance in which political activities may take place without fear of coercion, intimidation or reprisals.

s

**APPLICATION OF THE CODE**

2. In this Code, "Party" includes –
  - a. any entity that subscribed to this Code of Conduct, including independent candidates, political parties, alliances or coalitions of parties, and political movements other than parties; and
  - b. the candidate, leader, officials, members, agents, representatives and supporters of any entity that subscribed to this Code of Conduct.
3. "Campaign period" refers to:-  
 The period of time during which the election campaign activities can legally take place as announced by the National Electoral Commission.
4. "Campaign Activities" refer to:-  
 Any and all actions undertaken in the furtherance or promotion of a political party or candidate for election.

**COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE**

5. All Parties that have subscribed to this "Code":-
  - a. Are bound by the Code,
  - b. Will take decisive steps to prohibit leaders, officials, candidates and members from infringing the Code; and
  - c. Must, therefore, instruct its leaders, officials, candidates and members to adhere to the terms of the Code; and dissuade its supporters from breaching the Code.
  - d. Will be responsible for breaches of the Code undertaken by supporters, officials, members, agents, and representatives.
  - e. Will not make false, frivolous or vexatious complaints or generally abuse the right to complain about violations of the Code.

6. The political party as represented by the Candidate who has subscribed to this Code will instruct party officials, members and supporters to observe the Code to ensure compliance.

**PERMITTED CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES**

7. All Parties that have subscribed to this Code are entitled to undertake activities normally associated with election campaigns, including the publication of materials, use of national and local media, and the organization of campaign events as per the existing laws, rules and regulations.

**COMPLAINCE WITH THE ELECTION PROCESS**

8. All Parties that have subscribed to this Code will co-operate with election officials to ensure:-
  - a. The safety, security and integrity of voters, electoral officials, party agents, accredited elections observers and election materials such as ballot papers, ballot boxes, etc, before, during and after the polls;
  - b. All Parties that have subscribed to this Code shall accept that voters have complete freedom to exercise their franchise in secret without being subjected to any annoyance or obstructions.
  
9. A Party that has subscribed to this Code will not –
  - a. Procure votes by forcible occupation of polling stations or through illegal activities in the polling stations;
  - b. Interfere unjustifiably or in bad faith with the duties of election officials, disturb the process of casting or counting of votes; or
  - c. Provide false information to voters in relation to the voting process or in any way attempt to inform voters that their votes will not be secret.

**SYMBOLS**

10. A Party that has subscribed to this Code will not –
  - a. imitate the symbols of another Party;
  - b. steal, disfigure or destroy political or campaign materials of another Party; or
  - c. Permit its supporters to do anything prohibited by this section.

**CAMPAIGN CONDUCT**

11. No Party that has subscribed to this Code shall indulge in any activity which may create, or aggravate, tension between race, gender, ethnicity, language, class, region or religion.
  
12. All Parties that have subscribed to the Code of Conduct shall have the right to present their political principles and ideas without fear of intimidation or threat. However, criticism of other parties, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programmes, past record and work. Parties and candidates shall refrain from unfounded criticism of any aspect of private life, not connected with public activities of the leaders or workers of other parties. Criticism of other parties or their workers based on unverified allegation or distortions shall be avoided.



13. All Parties that have subscribed to this Code shall respect the rights and freedoms of other political parties to campaign and to disseminate their political ideas and principles without let or hindrance. There shall be equal access to the state media. Journalists who are engaged in their professional activities shall have a free hand to do so without any intimidation.
14. All Parties, candidates, agents and party entities that have subscribed to this Code shall not obstruct, disrupt, break up or cause to be broken up, meetings or rallies organized by other political parties and candidates; nor should they interrupt or prevent speeches and cause the destruction of handbills, leaflets, and the pasting of posters by other political parties and candidates. However, the posting of these handbills, leaflets, and posters must be with the consent of the owners of the properties.
15. All Parties that have subscribed to this Code shall in accordance with the Public Order Act of 1965 notify the Inspector General of Police/Paramount Chiefs of any meeting or rally. The Police/Paramount Chief should ensure that no preferential treatment is accorded to one party or particular candidate to the detriment of other parties that have subscribed to this Code of Conduct.
16. All Parties that have subscribed to this Code of Conduct shall not use state power, privilege or influence or other public resources for campaign purposes.
17. All Parties that have subscribed to this Code shall desist from coercing or offering pecuniary gains or other kinds of inducements to individuals to vote for or particular party or candidate, or to abstain from voting.
18. All Parties will refrain from acts of forgery, destruction, fraud, unauthorized removal, or concealment of election materials.
19. All Parties will respect the secrecy of the ballot and will refrain from any act likely to threaten or compromise said secrecy.

#### **INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE**

20. All Parties that subscribe to this Code accept that intimidation, coercion or threatening behaviour, in any form, is unacceptable, and leaders of these parties will direct their officials, candidates, members and supporters not to intimidate or undertake acts of violence against any person at any time.
21. All Parties that have subscribed to this Code shall ensure that they do not coerce or intimidate Paramount chiefs or their sub-chiefs, or any other authority to deny any Party the right of access to any chieftdom for political functions.
22. All Parties that have subscribed to this Code shall not raise any private force or militia or use the regular army or other forces to intimidate and gain political or electoral advantage.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF THE OUTCOME OF A FREE AND FAIR ELECTION**

23. All Parties that have subscribed to this Code will accept the outcome of the election as certified. Should controversy arise, all Parties will submit any grievances to the relevant Courts, the National Electoral Commission or the Political Parties Registration Commission as appropriate and shall accept and comply with the final decisions set down.

**CAMPAIGN SILENCE PERIOD**

24. All Parties that have subscribed to this Code shall not make use of the radio/television stations or convene or hold political activity twenty four hours prior to polling day.
25. All Parties shall abide by the prohibition on campaigning within four hundred yards of a place of voting on polling day.
26. No Party which has signed this Code will permit supporters, officials, candidates, members, agents, representatives to undertake any action in contravention of this Code.

**COMMUNICATION AND MONITORING ADHERANCE TO THE CODE**

27. All Parties that has subscribed to this Code will make every effort to maintain communications with other Parties that have subscribed to this Code.
28. Breach of this Code can result in prosecution before the Electoral Offences Court.
29. All Parties that have subscribed to this Code, civil society and the media shall ensure the dissemination of the issues raised in the Code widely throughout the length and breadth of the country.

**COMPLAINEE WITH THE LAW**

30. All Parties that have subscribed to this Code will adhere to existing laws, rules and regulations.

I hereby commit to adhere to the Code of Election Campaign Ethics

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Party/Independent\_\_\_\_\_

Election Contesting\_\_\_\_\_ Constituency/District\_\_\_\_\_

Voter Identification Card Number

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Signature

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Date