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Govt. Notice No. 16

## RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS OF THE SLPP

### CLAUSE 1

#### LEGAL CONTEXT

#### 1. The Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 (Act No. 6 of 1991)

The most directly relevant provisions of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 (Act No. 6 of 1991), as confirmed by the Final Ruling of the Supreme Court in the recently concluded case of Allie Bangura V. Chief Somanoh Kapen III and 27 Others, are contained in Section 35 as follows:

#### Section 35(1):

"Subject to the provisions of this section, political parties may be established to participate in shaping the political will of the people, to disseminate information on political ideas, and social and economic programmes of a national character, and to sponsor candidates for Presidential, Parliamentary or Local Government elections."

Section 35(2) is more specific. It stipulates that:

"The internal organisation of a political party shall conform to democratic principles, and its aims, objectives, purposes and programmes shall not contravene, or be inconsistent with, any provisions of this Constitution."

#### 2. The Constitution of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) 1995 (as amended)

The SLPP Constitution 1995 (as amended) also embodies the following pertinent provisions:

**Clause 4F (5):** Each Constituency shall elect its own officers, set up local sub-branches in towns and villages, make its Rules and Regulations which shall be approved by the National Executive Council.



**Clause 4E (7):** Election of District Party officials (not exceeding ten (10) shall be done by delegates three (3) per constituency) from constituency branches of the Party, biennially, under the supervision of the Regional Executive.

**Clause 4E (4):** Regional officials shall be elected by delegates four (4) (per district) from the districts in the region, biennially, under the supervision of the Regional Vice-Chairman and all such elections shall be reported to the National Executive Council for approval.

**Clause 4E (5):** Regional Party officials shall be responsible for coordinating Party activities in the districts and for regional party organisation.

**Clause 4E (9):** District Party officials shall be responsible for coordinating party activities in the constituencies and shall organise such activities in the district.

## CLAUSE 2

### BASIC RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE SUPERVISION AND CONDUCT OF EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

From the aforementioned provisions of the two Constitutions, it is hereby resolved by the National Executive Council (NEC) to enact the following basic Rules and Regulations to govern the supervision and conduct of elections for all executives of the Party, starting from the level of zones and sections through to the election of National Officers.

1. Sections for the administration of the Party shall correspond to the established sections within the administration of chiefdoms in the Provinces.
2. Zones for the administration of the Party shall be created in the urban municipalities. Their number may vary from constituency to constituency but no urban constituency shall have less than 10 and more than 25 zones.
3. Zoning/Re-zoning of any urban constituency shall be the responsibility of the constituency executive working under the supervision of the District Chairman with the approval of the Regional Chairman. Such zoning/re-zoning shall be carried out in consultation with the existing zonal executives in the constituency.
4. An application for membership of the Party, to be valid, shall be made on a prescribed application form duly authenticated by signature of the Regional Chairman.
5. Before conducting any election of the Party, and in order to ensure the validity of the election, the Returning Officer shall first verify the identity and eligibility of voters, candidates, nominators and seconders. To be eligible, they must produce evidence of a valid membership card and accompanying receipts of payment of membership dues to the Returning Officer.
6. Where a candidate is also subject to a residence qualification, the Returning Officer must also verify that such residence qualification has also been met.
7. Before a zonal/sectional/constituency/district/regional election takes place, the list of voters/delegates shall be published and circulated to all the aspirants concerned for a period of not less than five (5) days prior to the date fixed for such election. Every aspirant in such elections has a right of access to the voters/delegates list without let or hindrance.
8. Each voter/delegate is entitled to one vote only provided he or she is a registered and fully paid-up member of the Party for not less than one year.
9. Voting shall be by secret ballot.
10. Election results shall be decided by simple majority.
11. Except as otherwise specified in a decision of a superior organ of the Party, e.g. the National Executive Council (NEC), the date and venue of every executive election of the Party shall be published/displayed publicly by the executive concerned as stipulated in these Rules and Regulations for that election and shall be communicated to the National Secretariat through the Regional Chairman. The information of such date and venue shall be duly published/displayed by the executive concerned by SMS or by letter or by any other expeditious means that can be substantiated for a period of not less than five (5) days prior to the date fixed for the election.



12. Where the exigency demands, a decision to change a date or venue of an election may be made by the executive concerned but such changes shall be duly publicised/displayed by the executive for a period of not less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the new date fixed for the election.

13. The delegates list to be used for any election of party executives from constituency to regional levels, to be valid, shall be duly authenticated by signature of the Regional Chairman and duly published/displayed/circulated by the executive concerned for a period of not less than five (5) days prior to the date of the election.

14. An attendance list of voters/delegates shall be established for every election. A voter/delegate shall sign the attendance list upon arrival at the voting place before being allowed to vote at an election and shall not be prevented from signing the attendance list.

15. Proxy or absentee voting is not allowed. Impersonation is strictly prohibited.

16. The attendance list signed by the voters/delegates participating in an election shall be validated by the signature of the Returning Officer before the time stipulated for the commencement of voting.

17. Nomination of a candidate for a vacant position shall be done where the election takes place. Every nomination shall be made on a Nomination Form provided for that purpose by a nominator and seconded by a seconder. The candidate, nominator and seconder shall all be validly registered and fully paid-up members of the Party as stipulated in these Rules and Regulations for that election.

18. Results of any election shall be entered into a Results Sheet prepared for that purpose and signed by the Returning Officer and initialled by all the contestants. The refusal of a contestant to initial the Results Sheet shall not invalidate the results of the elections.

19. Ballot papers to be used for an election shall be signed by the Returning Officer in the presence of the contestants before the commencement of the election. The absence or refusal of a contestant to be present for that purpose shall not invalidate the election or the results.

20. Before any election, contestants shall sign a declaration expressing satisfaction with the preparation. Such declaration shall be deemed to be evidence of acceptance of the process. The refusal to sign the declaration shall be a valid ground for excluding the contestant from the election.

21. Each Region shall set up a Regional Elections Complaints Committee (RECC) whose membership shall be drawn from all the districts (one from each district) in the Region. The Committee shall appoint or elect one of its members as the Chairman. This Committee shall have as its mandate the investigation of any complaints emanating from any electoral process in the Region.

22. Every complaint shall be in writing addressed to the Chairman of the RECC and copies sent to the other members of the RECC and the Regional Chairman and the National Secretariat.

23. As long as a contestant in an election has signed the declaration referred to in Rule B. 20, only petitions relating to the actual voting and counting shall be entertained. Complaints relating to activities preceding the conduct of the voting will not be entertained.

24. A complainant against an election in which he or she participated either as a candidate or a voter may file a complaint with the RECC not later than seventy-two (72) hours after the end of the elections.

25. The RECC shall investigate all election complaints validly filed with it and report its findings to the parties and the National Secretariat through the Regional Chairman not later than seventy-two (72) hours from the date of receipt of the complaint.

26. Only in exceptional circumstances as determined solely by the Independent Elections Monitoring and Oversight Committee (IEMOC), established under Clause 9 of these Rules and Regulations, shall an appeal be entertained against a decision of a RECC and the IEMOC may review such appeals. Decisions of the IEMOC shall be final and conclusive.

27. Results of all constituency and district elections shall be endorsed by the Regional Convention.

28. All election results endorsed by the Regional Convention shall be submitted by the Regional Chairman to the NEC for ratification. All election results so ratified by the NEC shall be submitted immediately to the IEMOC for publication and circulation.



29. Negative campaigning in public (including radio, newspaper or social media) by candidates against each other or by their supporters is strictly prohibited. Such campaigning constitutes a violation of these Rules and Regulations and of the provisions of Clause 2 (5) (b) of the SLPP Constitution 1995 (as amended) and may lead to the disqualification of the candidate.

30. All Aspirants, unauthorized National Officers, Ministers of Government, Members of Parliament, Chairmen/Mayors and Councillors of Local Councils and other unauthorised persons shall refrain from interfering in the conduct of elections. Any direct or indirect interference by any of the persons aforementioned that disrupts an electoral process shall be considered a violation of Clause 2 (5) (b) of the SLPP Constitution 1995 (as amended) and may give rise to appropriate disciplinary action against the defaulter and his or her candidate.

31. No person shall hold more than one executive position in the Party concurrently.

32. District/Regional representatives of the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) shall be invited to observe all elections of the Party.

33. These basic Rules and Regulations shall apply, as appropriate, to all student bodies and other organisations and associations affiliated to the Party. They shall similarly apply to all Regions and Branches of the Party in the Diaspora.

### CLAUSE 3

#### ZONE/SECTION EXECUTIVE

1. As a general rule, the executive of a zone or section shall be chosen by consensus under the supervision of the constituency executive in such a way that it is fairly representative of the local community. If, for any valid reason, a consensus is not forthcoming, elections shall be held under the supervision of the constituency executive. In all cases, the results of the consensus/elections shall be signed by the Returning Officer and the Constituency Chairman and endorsed by the District Chairman and sent to the Regional Chairman for approval and submission to the National Secretariat for documentation.

2. To be eligible to vote, a member must be:

- (i) permanently resident in the zone or section in which he or she seeks to vote; and
- (ii) a fully paid-up member of the Party for not less than one year.

3. To be eligible to be voted for office, a candidate must have been:

- (i) permanently resident in the zone or section in which he or she vies for office for not less than one year; and
- (ii) a fully paid-up member of the Party for not less than one (1) year prior to the date of the election.

### CLAUSE 4

#### CHIEFDOM EXECUTIVE

#### Delegates

- \* Section executives
- \* Zonal executives (in the case of constituencies in urban areas such as Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Makeni, Koidu and Bonthe Urban).
- \* There shall be not more than 10 executives per section or zone who are eligible to be voters/delegates.

1. To be eligible to be voted for office in a Chiefdom executive, a candidate must have been:

- (i) be a fully paid-up member of the Party for not less than a year prior to the date of the election; and
- (ii) permanently resident in the chiefdom for not less than one (1) year prior to the date of the election.

2. Elections shall be conducted under the supervision of the Constituency Chairman or his representative chosen from among the constituency executive. The results of any such elections shall be signed by the Returning Officer and the Constituency Chairman and endorsed by the District Chairman and sent to the National Secretariat through the Regional Chairman for documentation.

#### CLAUSE 5

##### CONSTITUENCY EXECUTIVE

###### Delegates

- \* Section executives (in the case of single chiefdom constituencies)
  - \* Chiefdom executives (in the case of multiple chiefdom constituencies)
  - \* Zonal executives for urban constituencies
  - \* There shall be not more than 10 executives/delegates per chiefdom, section or zone who are eligible to be voters.
1. To be eligible to be voted for office in a constituency executive, a candidate must have been:
    - (i) a fully paid-up member of the Party for not less than one (1) year prior to the date of the election; and
    - (ii) ordinarily resident in the Constituency for not less than one (1) year prior to the date of the election.

2. Elections shall be conducted under the supervision of the District Chairman or his representative chosen from among the district executive. The results of any such elections shall be signed by the Returning Officer and the District Chairman and approved by the Regional Chairman for presentation to and ratification by the NEC.

#### CLAUSE 6

##### DISTRICT EXECUTIVE

###### Delegates

- \* Constituency Chairmen
  - \* Constituency Women's Leaders
  - \* Constituency Young Generation Leaders
1. To be eligible to be voted for office in a district executive, a candidate shall have been:
    - (i) a fully paid-up member of the Party for not less than two (2) years prior to the date of the election; and
    - (ii) ordinarily resident in the district for not less than two (2) years prior to the date of the election.
  2. Elections shall be conducted under the supervision of the Regional Chairman or his representative chosen from among the Regional Executive. The results of any such elections shall be signed by the Returning Officer and the Regional Chairman for presentation to and ratification by the NEC.
  3. A member of the National Officers assigned by the National Chairman and Leader may attend as an observer.

#### CLAUSE 7

##### REGIONAL EXECUTIVE

###### Delegates

- \* District Chairmen
- \* District Secretaries
- \* District Women's Leaders
- \* District Young Generation Leaders



1. To be eligible to be voted for office in a regional executive, a candidate shall have been:
  - (i) a fully paid-up member of the Party for not less than two (2) years prior to the date of the election; and
  - (ii) ordinarily resident in the region for not less than two (2) years prior to the date of the election.
2. Elections shall be conducted by the Regional Chairman or his accredited representative. The results of any such elections shall be signed by the Returning Officer (if different from the Regional Chairman) and the Regional Chairman for presentation to and ratification by the NEC.
3. A member of the National Officers assigned by the National Chairman and Leader may attend as an observer.

#### CLAUSE 8

##### NATIONAL OFFICERS

1. The voters/delegates to the Party Conference shall be as prescribed in Clause 4A (2) of the SLPP Constitution 1995 (as amended).
2. To be eligible to be voted for a position as a National Officer, a candidate must have been:
  - (i) a fully paid-up member of the Party for a period of not less than two (2) years prior to the date of the election; and
  - (ii) ordinarily resident in Sierra Leone for a period of not less than two (2) years prior to the date of the election.
3. The NEC shall elect an electoral body to be known as the Independent Elections Monitoring and Oversight Committee (IEMOC) which shall be responsible for supervising and conducting the election of the National Officers of the Party and any other elections referred to it by the NEC.
4. The IEMOC shall have for its composition, powers and functions as set out in Clause I hereof. The IEMOC may make rules for the proper performance of its functions provided they shall not contravene, or be inconsistent with, any provisions of these Rules and Regulations.
5. The NEC shall approve the time-tables for all elections of the Party upon the recommendation of the National Officers.

#### CLAUSE 9

##### INDEPENDENT ELECTIONS MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (IEMOC)

1. An Independent Elections Monitoring and Oversight Committee (IEMOC), comprising of a Chairman and six (6) members of whom four (4) shall come from the four regions of Sierra Leone (one from each region) and two (2) from the ranks of the former Members of Parliament, shall be established by the NEC. All its members shall be elected by the NEC and shall be persons of proven competence and integrity and are fully-paid up and registered members of the Party.
2. The functions of the members of the IEMOC shall include the following:

- (a) supervising and conducting the elections of National Officers of the Party and any other elections referred to it by the NEC;
  - (b) verifying the identity of the delegates/voters, candidates, nominators and seconders. Such verification may take the form of a roll call of each voter/delegate by name, district, region or organisation, as appropriate, with a view to eliminating impersonation. When a voter/delegate's name is called from the list, he/she shall move forward to receive a duly validated ballot paper from the ballot issuer (one of the IEMOC members designated for that purpose) who will be located in an open area visible from all sides of the hall;
  - (c) verifying the eligibility of the delegates/voters, candidates, nominators and seconders. To be eligible they must be validly registered and fully paid-up members of the Party in accordance with these Rules and Regulations;
  - (d) obtaining a written declaration from every candidate for the position of National Chairman and Leader that he or she is not under any legal impediment to contest for the said position;
  - (e) publishing and circulating the final list of voters/delegates ratified/approved by the NEC as submitted by the Regional Chairmen. Such final list of voters/delegates shall be published and circulated in good time so that all the contestants have access to the list, at any rate for a period of not less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date fixed for the election;
  - (f) accrediting all voters/delegates whose names are contained in the final list published as stipulated in paragraph 2(c) hereof;
  - (g) each voter/delegate is entitled to only one vote;
  - (h) voting shall be by secret ballot;
  - (i) the results of an election shall be decided by a simple majority;
  - (j) proxy and absentee voting shall be strictly prohibited;
  - (k) regulating the process for the nomination of candidates for elections provided that such nominations shall take place not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the time fixed for the elections;
  - (l) regulating the process for accrediting agents duly appointed by the contestants;
  - (m) promoting knowledge of sound democratic election processes;
  - (n) facilitating the observation of party elections by the PPRC and other invited bodies;
  - (o) such other functions as may be provided for by the Party Constitution, these or any other Rules and Regulations.
3. The IEMOC may utilize appropriate technology and adopt appropriate approaches in the performance of its functions.
4. (i) The IEMOC shall meet for the dispatch of its business at such time and place as it may determine.



- (ii) The Chairman shall preside at a meeting of the IEMOC at which he is present and in his absence, a member elected by the members present from among their number, shall preside.

5. Each member of the IEMOC shall have one vote but where there is an equality of votes, the Chairman or other member presiding shall have a casting vote.

6. A quorum for a meeting of the IEMOC shall be five.

7. All decisions, matters or things authorized or required to be done by the IEMOC shall be decided at a meeting where a quorum is present and the decision is supported by the votes of a majority of the members.

8. A proposal circulated among all members and agreed to in writing by a majority of all members shall be of the same force or effect as a decision made at a duly constituted meeting of the IEMOC and shall be incorporated in the minutes of its next succeeding meeting; but if a member requires that the proposal be placed before a meeting of the IEMOC, this provision shall not apply to that proposal.

9. The IEMOC or its members shall not accept any gift, grant, donation or bequest from any member of the party who is a candidate for any internal party election.

10. Whilst serving as a member of the IEMOC, he or she shall not be eligible for election as a member of any executive of the Party.

11.

Subject to the Constitution of the Party and these Rules and Regulations, the IEMOC shall regulate the procedure of its meetings. It may issue standing orders for the internal regulation of its business and the conduct of its members and staff.

#### CLAUSE 10

##### APPROVAL BY NEC

1. These Rules and Regulations shall be approved by the National Executive Council (NEC) as required by the SLPP Constitution 1995 (as amended).

2. These Rules and Regulations shall be submitted to the PPRC as required by the PPRC Act 2002 (as amended).

3. The Party Secretariat shall take appropriate steps to ensure that they are properly gazetted.

#### CLAUSE 11

##### ENTRY INTO FORCE

These Rules and Regulations shall take effect immediately upon the adoption and approval of a Resolution by the NEC to that effect as from the Tenth day of January 2016.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) this Tenth day of January 2016.

Signed:.....

**CHIEF BAI SEBORA SOMANOH KAPEN III,**

*National Chairman and Leader*

*Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP).*



## Govt. Notice No. 17

**RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ELEVATION AND RECOGNITION OF SLPP DIASPORA BRANCHES AS REGIONS****A. INTRODUCTION**

1. A previous administration promulgated Rules and Regulations for Managing Diaspora Branches. These Rules and Regulations are unfortunately unsigned and undated, so it is not possible to say which of the previous administrations adopted them. However, be that as it may, Paragraph 1 of the said Rules and Regulations states that: "These Rules and Regulations are applicable to North America region and all Overseas and African branches. Branch here is used interchangeably with branch or branch."
2. Thus although they seemed to give recognition to the SLPP branch in North America as a region, those Rules and Regulations were intended to be applied to Diaspora regions and branches equally and a Diaspora branch was defined to "mean an organisation of SLPP members per sovereign state or group of such states outside Sierra Leone of not less than 50 registered members."
3. Notwithstanding that equal application of the Rules and Regulations to regions and branches, they seemed to be more apposite to branches rather than regions. Therefore, for present purposes, we shall treat them as applicable only to Diaspora branches which for the sake of understanding shall be taken as analogous to "districts" in the SLPP Constitution of 1995 (as amended).
4. For the avoidance of doubt, the Rules and Regulations contained herein are designed solely for establishing criteria by which a Diaspora branch or a group of branches shall be elevated to the status of a Diaspora region.
5. In formulating the criteria due cognizance is taken of the fact that with the appreciable growth of membership of the SLPP in the Diaspora in recent times, there will inevitably generate a greater demand from existing Diaspora branches to be elevated and recognised as regions by the parent body in Sierra Leone. For example, as already stated, the branch in the North America had received prior recognition as a region from a previous administration of the SLPP in Sierra Leone and that recognition should be reaffirmed although the precise criteria used for that recognition was unclear.
6. Anticipating that there would be similar requests in future from Diaspora branches for regional status, it is considered necessary that clear guidelines be adopted by the Party for the elevation and recognition of such branches as regions rather than leaving such an important decision to be made purely by the whim and caprice of the parent administration of the Party in Sierra Leone.
7. Indeed a request of this nature has been received recently from the executive of the United Kingdom and Ireland branch. Similar requests may in future also come from the SLPP Diaspora branches in other parts of the world including places like Canada, Europe, Australasia, Africa and elsewhere.

**B. LEGAL BASIS**

8. The SLPP Constitution 1995 (as amended) envisages the establishment of Diaspora branches and regions. For example, Clause 4 (A) (2) (n), in defining the composition of the membership of the Party's National Conference, makes provision for:  
"One person for every 50 registered and fully paid members from SLPP North America Region and any other Diaspora Branch."
9. Clause 4 (A) (3) (e) lists among the powers and functions of the Party's National Conference the power:  
"to receive and consider reports from the constituent Branches."
10. Clause 4 (B) (1) (c) also provides in relation to the composition of the National Executive Council the following:  
"Five (5) members to be elected at a regional level, to be adopted at the Party Conference, one of whom should be a member of the Young Generation and one a member of the Women's Wing."



**C. CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION OF BRANCHES AS REGIONS**

11. Before a Diaspora branch is elevated and recognised as a Diaspora region, it shall fulfil the following conditions:
- (i) Establish a minimum of five (5) organisations of SLPP members per sovereign state or group of states outside of Sierra Leone each with a membership of not less than 100 registered members. In total the branch must have not less than 500 registered and paid up members.
  - (ii) Apply in writing to the National Secretariat in Sierra Leone indicating at least an elected interim executive and a list of not less than 500 registered and paid up members at least one-half of whom shall be of the status of chief patron and above.
  - (iii) The National Officers may provide to the executive of a new region a provisional authorization permitting the region to exist as such subject to ratification at the next meeting of the National Executive Council (NEC).
  - (iv) Members registered in any Diaspora branch or region and who pay their membership dues regularly and promptly shall be entitled to enjoy the same rights, privileges and obligations as those registered in Sierra Leone.
  - (v) Persons resident overseas shall seek registration only at the Diaspora branch of their place of residence for them to benefit from the privileges of membership. Multiple registration at different branches shall not be encouraged. Members who choose to register directly with the National Secretariat in Sierra Leone may do so and their registration shall be recognised by all Diaspora branches and regions.
  - (vi) Membership cards of all categories of membership shall be issued only by the National Officers of the National Secretariat in Sierra Leone who are specifically authorised to do so.
  - (vii) Subject to approval by the National Executive Council (NEC) the National Officers shall prescribe for each financial year the annual and monthly dues payable for each category of membership for members of the Party both in Sierra Leone and in the Diaspora.
  - (viii) Subject to approval by the National Executive Council (NEC) the National Officers shall prescribe the proportion of membership dues payable annually and monthly by each Diaspora region to the National Secretariat in Sierra Leone. Such payments shall be made by the Diaspora regions to the National Secretariat either annually or quarterly.
  - (ix) Diaspora regions may be requested as and when necessary to make contributions to national projects of the Party designated as such by the National Executive Council.
  - (x) All Diaspora regions shall submit their registers of members to the National Secretariat annually indicating contact addresses, emails, district of origin, age and telephone numbers and these shall be updated quarterly or as necessary. This information shall be recorded in the data base kept by the National Secretariat. Such record shall be prima facie proof of membership.

**D. DIASPORA REGION PARTY ORGANISATION**

12. The Constitution of the SLPP 1995 (as amended) shall govern all Diaspora regions and branches. For the avoidance of doubt, all Constitutions of Diaspora regions shall be considered as bye-laws only and shall not be inconsistent with the SLPP Constitution 1995 (as amended) while being mindful of their specific circumstances. All bye-laws of Diaspora regions shall be approved by the National Officers.



13. Diaspora regional executives shall operate under the supervision of the National Secretariat in Sierra Leone in accordance with the SLPP Constitution 1995 (as amended) and these Rules and Regulations while they in turn shall supervise the Diaspora branches in their regions.
14. For the avoidance of doubt, the electoral college for the election of the regional executive shall comprise of the following:
  - (i) The Chairman of the Branches
  - (ii) The Secretaries of the Branches
  - (iii) The Women's Leaders of the Branches
  - (iv) The Young Generation Leaders of the Branches
15. The Regional Executive shall comprise the following:
  - (i) The Regional Chairman
  - (ii) The Regional Vice-Chairman
  - (iii) The Regional Secretary
  - (iv) The Regional Organizing Secretary
  - (v) The Regional Women's Leader
  - (vi) The Regional Young Generation Leader
  - (vii) The Regional Financial Secretary
  - (viii) The Regional Treasurer
  - (ix) The Regional Publicity Secretary
  - (x) One Elder
  - (xi) Regional Imam
  - (xii) Regional Chaplain
  - (xiii) All Branch Chairmen
16. The Regional Executive shall be elected by biennially.
17. These Rules and Regulations are approved by the National Executive Council (NEC) at its Meeting held at the Party National Headquarters on this 10th January 2016.

Signed:.....

**CHIEF BAI SEBORA SOMANOH KAPEN III,**

*National Chairman and Leader*

*Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP).*



## Govt. Notice No. 18

**REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS (CODE OF CONDUCT) GOVERNING DISCIPLINE AND COMPORTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE SIERRA LEONE PEOPLE'S PARTY (SLPP)****A. INTRODUCTION**

Membership of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) bestows rights, privileges and obligations. For example, under the provisions of the SLPP Constitution 1995 (as amended), a member has the right to vote and be voted for in any executive position in the administration of the Party. Also, under the provisions of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 (Act No. 6 of 1991), a member is eligible to be elected as a Councillor, Mayor or Member of Parliament under the symbol of the Party. Even higher than that, a member of the Party is also qualified for election to the highest office of the land, the Presidency of Sierra Leone, as enshrined in the provisions of Sections 41 and 42 of the 1991 Constitution.

2. Members are also entitled to enjoy freedom from tyranny and dictatorship, the highest standards of patriotism, tolerance, probity, accountability and transparency from the leadership of the SLPP in the Party's quest to make our country a bastion of peace, democracy and progress as well as a respecter of the rule of law, social justice and equal opportunity for all.

3. In return members of the Party bear correlative obligations. They are individually under a duty to uphold and display the highest standards of behaviour and conduct towards the Party, its officials and the general public at large, in addition collectively to ensuring that the internal organisation of the Party is in conformity with democratic values and principles and that its aims and objectives are consistent with the provisions of the National Constitution. This duty is even greater for members who hold public office for which membership of the Party is an essential requirement, such as a Councillor, Mayor or Member of Parliament. These together constitute the bedrock upon which loyalty, discipline, values, and success of the Party as a whole are grounded.

4. The Founding Fathers, in their time, did their utmost. They founded the Party 64 years ago, on 27 April 1951, and brought our country to political independence 10 years later, on 27 April 1961. They had as one of their aims, moulding and uniting the diverse and various natural components of the nation into the ethic of "One Country, One People", encapsulating the highest of all aspirations of its peoples.

5. That aspiration remains its abiding hope. In those 64 years some of the officials charged with the trust of fulfilling the Party's aspirations have in their avarice treated its resources as their own personal property at the expense of the suffering common man and woman. This must stop. And the Rules and Regulations embodied in this Code of Conduct are therefore designed to bring such capriciousness to an end, replacing it henceforth with clear and succinct rules and guidelines to govern the conduct and behaviour of Party members and officials. Success in running the affairs of the Party will remain forever elusive as long as a Code of Conduct is not firmly established. It must therefore be accepted by all members as the desiderata for the Party's strength and credibility.

6. The Founding Fathers also, from the very inception, consciously eschewed violence as an instrument of Party policy. Notwithstanding that they were faced with daunting challenges and provocations from the then colonial administration, they resolutely embraced as absolutely fundamental their sacred beliefs in non-violence, in the maintenance of law and order, respect for the rule of law and the preservation of good local customs and traditions. These beliefs crystallised into the ethos of the SLPP and made it a political party like no other in West Africa. They remain as valid today as they have ever been, and they must continue to guide, inform and mould the conduct and practice of our Party and its members, particularly under the new democratic dispensation enshrined in our National Constitution of 1991. Accordingly, it behoves all members of the Party not merely to proclaim adherence to these fundamental beliefs and principles, they should also exemplify by deed and manifestation their unflinching fidelity to them at all times.

**B. LEGAL BASIS**

7. The SLPP Constitution 1995 (as amended) stipulates in Clause 2 (4) that:

"Each member, on admission, is deemed to have accepted the Principles, Programmes and Constitution of the Party and to have agreed to conform to the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the Party. Each member is obliged to obey all lawful directives from officials of the Party and to pay the prescribed dues promptly and regularly."



8. In Clause 2 (5) of the Constitution it is stated that:

"Any member of the Party:

- (a) who disobeys or neglects to carry out a lawful instruction from the Party or any of its officials; or
- (b) who conducts himself/herself in any manner which is likely to bring ridicule, hatred or advocates any opinions contrary to those of the Party; or
- (c) who contravenes any of the provisions of the Party's Constitution, shall be liable to be dealt with as laid down in the Rules and Regulations of the Party."

9. In Clause 4 (B) (5), the National Executive Council (NEC) is empowered, inter alia, to:

- "(b) enforce the Constitution, Standing Orders and Rules of the Party, and to take any action it deems necessary for such purpose whether by way of disaffection of an organization or expulsion of an individual or otherwise. Any such action shall be reported to the next Annual Conference of the Party;
- "(c) see that its officers and members conform to the Constitution, Rules and Standing Orders of the Party."

#### **C PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

10. This Code of Conduct hereby stipulates the following principles and procedures for enforcing discipline within the Party. They include the following:

- (i) A member to whom much is given, much is expected.
- (ii) Procedures shall be just, fair and transparent and shall conform to the basic norms of natural justice. A member accused of wrongdoing shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty.
- (iii) An aggrieved member shall give primacy to party processes and procedures in the resolution of party disputes. An aggrieved member shall exhaust all available remedies within the Party before seeking redress outside the Party framework.
- (iv) Elected representatives, officials and members of the Party shall always respect and obey the lawful decisions and directives of the Party.
- (v) All structures of the Party, including Diaspora branches/regions, shall operate and function under the guidance, authority and supervision of the superior organs of the Party (i.e. National Party Conference, National Executive Council and National Executive). They shall avoid confrontation and action that is not in keeping with the decisions and directives of the superior organs of the Party.

#### **D. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARTY MEMBERS AND OFFICIALS**

11. All members and officials of the Party shall comply with the following code of conduct:

- (i) Adhere to the provisions of this Code of Conduct, the Party Constitution and all other Rules and Regulations governing the Party.
- (ii) Ensure that the unity, cohesion and interests of the Party prevail over personal interests at all times through civility, mutual respect and good friendship with fellow Party members.
- (iii) Defend the Party, its policies, programmes and decisions mindful of the principle of collective responsibility and propagate accurate and credible information in the best interests of the Party at all times.
- (iv) Obey and implement all lawful decisions and directives of all organs of the Party.
- (v) Show loyalty and commitment to the Party and serve as a model in order to persuade others to join the Party.
- (vi) Make it a point of duty to register as a voter and to vote in all public elections and persuade others interested in the Party to do likewise.
- (vii) Pay all prescribed Party dues as are applicable to their category of membership promptly and regularly.



**E. CONDUCT: ACTS, OMISSIONS AND SITUATIONS WARRANTING PARTY DISCIPLINE**

12. Acts, omissions and situations warranting the application of disciplinary measures against any member (s) of the Party shall include the following:

- (i) Breach of the provisions of the Party Constitution, Rules and Regulations and this Code of Conduct.
- (ii) Failure to comply with or negligence in the execution of lawful decisions, policies and directives of the Party.
- (iii) Insubordination to higher authority of the Party.
- (iv) Unauthorised disclosure of classified confidential Party information.
- (v) Conduct or activity likely to cause embarrassment, avoidable financial loss, hatred, ridicule or contempt to the Party, its officials or its members.
- (vi) Acts or omissions including inactivity by an executive member at any level, likely to impact adversely on the effectiveness of the Party's functions, policies, programmes and strategies.
- (vii) Unauthorised use, disposal or conversion of Party funds and assets or any part thereof or failure to account for or return same when directed by the Party....
- (viii) Unauthorised use for personal gain of the name, motto, logo or other insignia of the Party to raise funds or collect monies or goods of any kind from members of the Party or from the general public.
- (ix) Resorting to the media to propagate views or opinions about the Party that are not authorised by the Party.
- (x) Resorting to the courts on party matters, particularly when it is likely to bring the Party into disrepute, ridicule or disaffection, without first exhausting all the remedies available within the Party.
- (xi) Being in arrears of payment of applicable prescribed party dues for a period in excess of three (3) months.
- (xii) Misappropriation of Party funds.
- (xiii) Non-fulfilment by elected representatives or officials of the Party of promises, undertakings and commitments made to the Party.
- (xiv) Use of violence or threat of violence particularly when it is likely to bring the Party into disrepute, ridicule or disaffection.
- (xv) Non-compliance by elected representatives, officials and members of the Party with lawful decisions and directives of the Party.

**F. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES**

13. Disciplinary measures that may be taken by the Party against a member may include the following:

- (i) Warning
- (ii) Inquiry
- (iii) Reprimand
- (iv) Fine
- (v) Ineligibility to vote in any Party election
- (vi) Ineligibility to hold office in the Party
- (vii) Suspension for a specific period
- (viii) Removal from office in the Party
- (ix) Expulsion from the Party



**G. STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEES**

14. There shall be established for each level of administration of the Party a Disciplinary Committee the composition of which shall be as follows:

- (1) Constituency Level:
  - (a) Five (5) resident constituency stakeholders (including one former MP and one sitting member of Parliament or a person who contested at the last Parliamentary election). The Constituency Secretary or other person appointed by the Constituency Executive shall serve as Secretary.
  - (b) Disciplinary measures: Warning, Inquiry, Reprimand and Fine
- (2) District Level:
  - (a) Composition:
    - (i) One Elder to be appointed by the District Executive
    - (ii) One Representative of a Local Council or a member who contested for the Local Council
    - (iii) One sitting Member of Parliament from the District (where applicable)
    - (iv) One former Member of Parliament
    - (v) One Stakeholder to be appointed by the District Executive
    - (vi) The District Secretary (to serve as Secretary to the Committee)
  - (b) Disciplinary measures: Warning, Inquiry, Reprimand and Fine
- (3) Regional Level:
  - (a) Composition:
    - (i) One Elder to be appointed by the Regional Executive
    - (ii) Mayor or Chairman of a Local Council or, where is none, a member who contested for Mayor or Chairman of a Local Council
    - (iii) One sitting Member of Parliament from the Region (where applicable)
    - (iv) One former Member of Parliament from the Region
    - (v) One Regional Trustee from the Region
    - (vi) Regional Secretary (to serve as Secretary to the Committee)
  - (b) Disciplinary measures: Warning, Inquiry, Reprimand, Fine, Ineligibility to vote in any Party election, Ineligibility to hold office in the Party
- (4) National Level:
  - (a) Composition:
    - (i) A Chairman (Party member with a legal background to be appointed by the National Executive)
    - (ii) Four National Trustees (one from each Region to be appointed by the National Executive)
    - (iii) One Elder (to be appointed by the Elders Council)
    - (iv) One Member of Parliament (to be appointed by the Parliamentary Council)
    - (v) One former Member of Parliament
    - (vi) Assistant National Secretary-General (to serve as Secretary to the Committee)



- (b) Disciplinary Measures: all or any of the measures listed in Clause F above.
- (5) The Constituency, District and Regional Disciplinary Committees may recommend disciplinary measures outside their competence to the next hierarchical level.
- (6) Reports of Disciplinary Committees shall be immediately submitted to the National Secretariat.

#### **(H) PROCEDURE**

- (1) A member who is aggrieved or who believes an official or another member of the Party is in breach of a provision of this Code of Conduct or of the Party Constitution or Rules and Regulations may lodge a petition in writing to the appropriate Executive Committee to seek redress.
- (2) The Executive Committee shall within seven (7) days of the receipt of the petition refer it to the Disciplinary Committee at their level. The Disciplinary Committee shall complete its investigation and submit a report of its findings and recommendations not later than twenty-one (21) days.
- (3) Where a complaint is against a member of the executive at any level, the petition shall be made to the next higher level.
- (4) Where a complaint is against a National Officer, the petition shall be made to the National Executive.
- (5) Appeals against a decision of a Disciplinary Committee at any level shall be made to the Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee of the next higher level and the Disciplinary Committee of that level shall sit in an appellate capacity.
- (6) Appeals against the decision of a Disciplinary Committee at the national level shall be made to the National Executive.
- (7) Appeals against the decision of a Disciplinary Committee at the national level shall be dealt with by an Appellate Disciplinary Committee appointed for that purpose by the National Executive Council and shall consist of members who have not previously served as members of any Disciplinary Committee that dealt with the matter and shall comprise the following:
  - (i) A Chairman (member of the Party with a legal background)
  - (ii) Four (4) National Trustees
  - (iii) Two Elders of the Party
  - (iv) One Member of Parliament
  - (v) One former Member of Parliament
  - (vi) National Secretary-General (to serve as Secretary to the Committee)

Approved by the National Executive Council of the SLPP on the 8th day of August 2015.

Signed:.....  
**CHIEF BAI SEBORA SOMANOH KAPEN III,**  
*National Chairman and Leader*  
*Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP).*