



Guidelines *for* **ELECTION OBSERVERS**

Election of
President, Parliament
and Local Council
Sierra Leone
7 March 2018
7am - 5pm

For more information about
the National Electoral
Commission,
please visit:
www.necsl.org

Election observers may visit any polling centre in Sierra Leone. However, they must adhere strictly to National Electoral Commission (NEC) rules. These rules are intended to facilitate the work of observers while preserving the rights of the Sierra Leonean people to vote in secrecy and without interference.

Domestic observers will be accredited either by the NEC Headquarters or District Electoral Offices, in the district in which they are based. International observers will be accredited by the NEC Headquarters in Freetown only.

Observers must always, while carrying out their duties, wear their NEC-issued accreditation badges. All observers must act impartially; and neither national nor international observers may wear or carry any sign that associates them with a particular political party or candidate.

There may be one observer from every national organization, and two observers from every international organization in a polling station at any time. National observers may only vote at the polling station in which they are registered.

Observers may enter a polling station when polling officials arrive. They may move between polling stations and centres; and may witness every stage of polling and counting, with exception of watching voters mark their ballots. However, they must not interfere. They must not assist voters - including voters with disabilities - when they are marking ballot papers, and must not touch any polling material.

Any irregular or questionable activities should be recorded in observers' journals.

Observers may record the number votes received by each party/candidate in their journals; and they may make their own record of seal numbers or of any other relevant details relating to the electoral process. They may sign the Reconciliation and Results Form after counting and may either obtain a copy or photograph the Form.

Upon completion of the counting, observers will be allowed to follow election materials to District Electoral Offices, using their own modes of transport.

Failure to comply with these or other relevant NEC guidelines may result in the observer being directed to leave the polling station; and no part of the polling process will be affected by the absence of observers at polling stations or centres.