



## Media Reform Coordinating Group-Sierra Leone

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28<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

### MEDIA SITUATION ROOM REPORT FOR WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2023 (POST-ELECTIONS DAY)

#### INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL ANALYSES

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023, being observed as the Muslim Feast of Eid ul Adha (a public holiday, throughout the country); Radio and Television stations, provided more coverage of the activities marking the feast day; than for the post-declaration of the Presidential Results. On the other hand; Newspapers did not make it to the newsstands.

The *African Young Voices TV*; however, ran a post-elections programme. The panelists, observed the need for peace and reconciliation after the elections; as well as pursuing the legal approach for addressing grievances.

Social media was also awash with comments and arguments regarding the outcome of the Presidential Elections. In the hours after the final announcement of results were pronounced; and Julius Maada Bio declared winner; APC's Samura Kamara published on Facebook and Twitter that the results lack authenticity and transparency. He cited irregularities on the part of Sierra Leone's Electoral Commission.

On other Social media fora; WhatsApp, Facebook and TikTok, APC supporters and sympathizers held the view that the result was not a reflection of what they referred to as 'the people's will.' SLPP's supporters however accepted the ECSL's pronouncement. Some members of the SLPP remain in jubilant mood to the extent of targeting APC members with provocative and inciting messages.

Videos were also circulating on social media, mostly shared by APC faithful, alleging that some of their supporters were being harassed and chased out of their abode. The Office of National Security (ONS); however in a Press Release debunked the allegations; and described the videos being circulated, as 'very old events'; and urged the public to ignore them.

Our Eastern Region Monitor reported that *Kamboi Agriculture Radio 92.5 FM*, yesterday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 6:00 P.M, started playing provocative music and songs, following the announcement of the presidential results.

The station was immediately called and advised against airing out messages that promote conflict, incitement and public disorder. The station was advised to operate within the IMC Media Code of Practice.

Other parts of the country were peaceful with people going about their normal businesses.



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### CONCLUSION/GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Speculations are rife on social media, regarding the outcome of the Freetown Mayoral Race. The Electoral Commission, is yet to declare a winner largely between Yvonne Aki-Sawyer of the APC; and Mohamed Gento Kamara of the SLPP.