



Media Reform Coordinating Group-Sierra Leone

27th June, 2023

MEDIA SITUATION ROOM REPORT FOR TUESDAY 27TH JUNE, 2023 (POST-ELECTIONS DAY)

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL ANALYSES

Our monitors' report of Tuesday June 27th captured the speculations and counter speculations after yesterday's announcement of 60% of results from the five Regional Tallying centres. Some quarters of the main opposition, the All People's Congress Party (APC) have questioned the authenticity of the tallied 60% which was pronounced by the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL). Others believe that the APC will emerge victorious when the remaining 40% would have been announced.

We observed that members of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) were forecasting what they see as 'a resounding victory' and; five more years in governance for Julius Maada Bio. All of this was happening at a time when the ECSL was yet to announce the remaining 40% of tallied results.

There were sections of the media that were still making projections; and mathematical calculations, for a win/loss or run-off situation.

There were also reports about some unrest at Masiaka (47 Miles outside Freetown); with video circulating on WhatsApp showing some angry youths mounting road-blocks, saying no vehicles will be allowed to ply the routes. The video also showed one youth that is believed to have been shot dead. It was reported that teargas was used to disperse what was seen as some illegal gathering. The reaction of the youths at Masiaka; may not be unconnected with the announcement of the 60% of tallied Polling Stations, by ECSL.

Later on Tuesday 27th June 2023, ECSL declared Julius Maada Bio of the SLPP as winner of the June 24th elections, having polled, 1,566,932 (56.17%) of valid votes, defeating the main challenger, Samura Kamara of the APC who polled 1,148,262 (41.16%) of valid votes.

CONCLUSION/GENERAL OBSERVATION

Unverified information and fake pronouncement of results are still prevalent on social media especially Facebook, TikTok and WhatsApp, mostly by either APC or SLPP supporters and sympathizers.

There were reports about how certain people faced challenges in understanding the 60% of tallied polling stations results that were read out on Monday June 26th, 2023.



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This caused some misinformation because there were unverified proclamations about who may have won the elections even before the final announcement of the additional 40% of results.