



EISA TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT MISSION TO THE 27 MARCH 2018 PRESIDENTIAL RUN-OFF ELECTION IN SIERRA LEONE

ARRIVAL STATEMENT

Issued in Freetown on 23 March 2018

The presidential run-off election presents Sierra Leoneans an opportunity to complete the process of electing the next President of the Republic, as the 7 March 2018 election did not produce a winner as required in article 42(2e) of the constitution of Sierra Leone. Sierra Leoneans have demonstrated their commitment to deepening and consolidating democracy through their high turnout (84%) and peaceful conduct during the first round of the election. It is our hope that the parties and candidates will remain committed to ensuring a peaceful transition in the country. The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) is pleased to be part of this critical electoral process in Sierra Leone.

The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) announces the arrival of its Technical Assessment Mission (TAM) in Sierra Leone to observe the presidential run-off election that is scheduled to be held on 27 March 2018.

The EISA TAM is in Sierra Leone to conduct an independent assessment of the integrity of the electoral process. The TAM's assessment methodology is guided by its commitments within the framework of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation. The EISA TAM will assess the extent to which the electoral process complies with the principles and obligations for democratic elections stipulated in the following international benchmarks: the OAU/AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections; the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; and the Principles for Election Management, Monitoring and Observation (PEMMO).

The deployment of this mission builds on EISA's assessment of the process that began with the deployment of a pre-election assessment in November 2017 and the deployment of a short term observation mission during the 7 March 2018 election. The TAM will focus on assessing key aspects of the process and the context of the runoff election such as the legal framework and the technical preparedness of the National Electoral Commission (NEC). On election day, members of the mission will visit polling stations in Freetown and Port Loko.

The EISA TAM is led by His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, former President of the Republic of Nigeria, and Ms. Ilona Tip, EISA's Operations Director as the Deputy Head of Mission. They are supported by a team of four experts drawn from civil society organisations. The EISA team will remain on the ground until 29 March 2018.

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