

My Vote, My Life



Sierra Leone Elections 2018

Citizens' Manifesto

Wetin Wi Di Pipul Want!

Let our votes change our situation!



Partners



Sierra Leone Elections 2018

'My Vote, My Life' Citizens' Manifesto

FOREWORD:

The Power of Our Vote!

In the name of the Most High Allah/God, and with His blessing, and help, and in line with our country's Constitution which guarantees people's participation in the making and exercise of power, we present you this Citizens' Manifesto which embodies our aspirations for meaningful elections in March 2018. We thank God for guiding our Steering Committee, the 720 organizations and the thousands of ordinary citizens consulted on this document.

Over the last 56 years of independence, Sierra Leone has gone through good times and bad times. Considering our experiences over these years, we have produced this Manifesto as the joint-will and commitment of all classes of citizens to support political parties with concrete ideas that will help their candidates be more responsive to citizens' aspirations. Seeking citizens' views on these issues made us put aside our busy schedules in the last two months to consult with fellow Sierra Leoneans across age, gender, religion and social standing, to document their aspirations, hopes and fears for the next five years. Our active involvement as civic leaders in the governance of our country is an affirmation of our commitment to strengthen peace and stability and support national development strides.

This Citizens' Manifesto, titled '**My Vote, My Life**', presents the national and district level resolutions of citizens on seven priority areas for the country.



Sheik Alhaji Abu Bakarr Conteh
President, Inter-religious Council

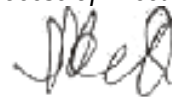


Abu Brima – *Director NMJD*
Deputy Chair

Co-Chairs, Citizens' Manifesto National Steering Committee



His Grace Dr Edward Tamba Charles
Arch bishop, Archdiocese of Freetown



Maude Peacock – *President Women's Forum*
Deputy Chair

We present this resolution to the aspiring generation of political leaders and humbly request that they subscribe to them, and work to accomplish them during and after the 2018 general elections. We believe that by responding to our resolutions in this Manifesto, political parties and the next administration can change the face and purpose of politics in Sierra Leone. We know that with support from our government, political parties and election management bodies all seven priorities are achievable.

As religious and civic leaders, we are aware of our sacred duty to guide our secular leaders spiritually and prepare them to serve mankind in the fear of God and to do what is right for humanity. Thankful for God's tremendous blessings on our rich country, and for being a friendly and tolerant people, we are grateful that once again, we are coming together to peacefully elect our next set of leaders that will manage our resources and provide us the happiness befitting God's purpose for Sierra Leone.

We call on all Sierra Leonean voters to make sure they know what is in the Manifesto and to make it an important part of their engagement with political parties and the succeeding administration.

Introducing the Citizens' Manifesto for Sierra Leone

The Citizens' Manifesto for Sierra Leone is a non-partisan public-interest initiative that unifies well-meaning civic leaders behind a document that provides space for ordinary people to have their priorities and expectations feed into manifestos of political parties. Through this Manifesto, citizens can contribute to agenda-setting in national conversations on the quality of leadership they want for Sierra Leone between 2018 and 2023. This initiative is important at a time when political parties are preparing their manifestos to start campaigning.

For a country that is low on the human development index, we note that it is easy for everything to become a priority in our development planning, leading to a bulky document without clear direction. Learning from experiences in other countries, this Citizens' Manifesto for Sierra Leone 2018 has been produced as a simple and straightforward document that is easily

accessible to citizens with outcomes they can easily measure.

The manifesto makes seven demands on political parties and aspiring leaders. The first six demands are focused on the leadership standard citizens are looking for, with emphasis on qualities such as commitment to inclusive politics, political will to fight corruption and equitable resource distribution.

Only one demand focuses on the expectation of citizens in the first year for the new administration.

The standards we demand in this Manifesto are based on the belief that good politics breeds good governance and productive leaders. It is not surprising therefore that it lays more emphasis on leadership behaviour change than on a long list of material wishes of citizens. The seven priority areas or resolutions are as follows:

1. Asset declaration

We demand that presidential and MP candidates declare their assets on or before nomination for the 2018 elections. Moreover, our next president and MPs of the incoming Parliament should declare their assets publicly annually. We believe that asset publication by politicians shows political commitment to the fight against corruption. It will help electorates identify politicians ready to provide honest service to communities rather than seeking political power for personal enrichment. Corruption is one of the biggest drivers of hate and division and a threat to our national progress.



2. Women's political representation

We demand that political parties and presidential candidates commit to allocating at least 40 percent of local council and parliamentary nominations to women. We believe that increased women's representation in governance will help change the face of politics and improve the quality of representation in parliament and communities. Women currently occupy only 11 percent of parliamentary seats although they make up over half of the population of Sierra Leone.



3. Youth political representation

We want political parties and their presidential candidates to consider allocating at least 15 percent of local council and parliamentary nominations to young Sierra Leoneans under 35 years. Currently no young person below 35 years is represented in parliament. At the same time, a large number of university graduates go jobless for years while many youth are mobilized for political violence. This Citizens' Manifesto calls on political leaders to take action to reclaim youth from violence and include them in leadership positions.



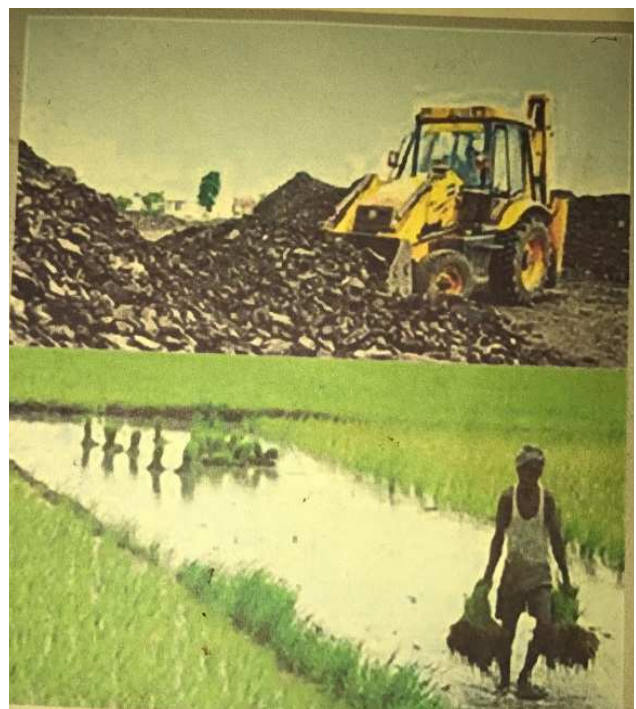
4. Representation of persons with disabilities (PWDs)

We want political parties and their presidential candidates to consider allocating at least 5 percent of local council and parliamentary seats to persons with disability (PWD). Although many PWDs in all walks of life have proven to be productive, they are the most excluded in the politics of Sierra Leone. There are no PWDs represented in local councils and parliament. Political parties are requested to develop policies on PWDs and to take concrete steps to bring them in governance and leadership.



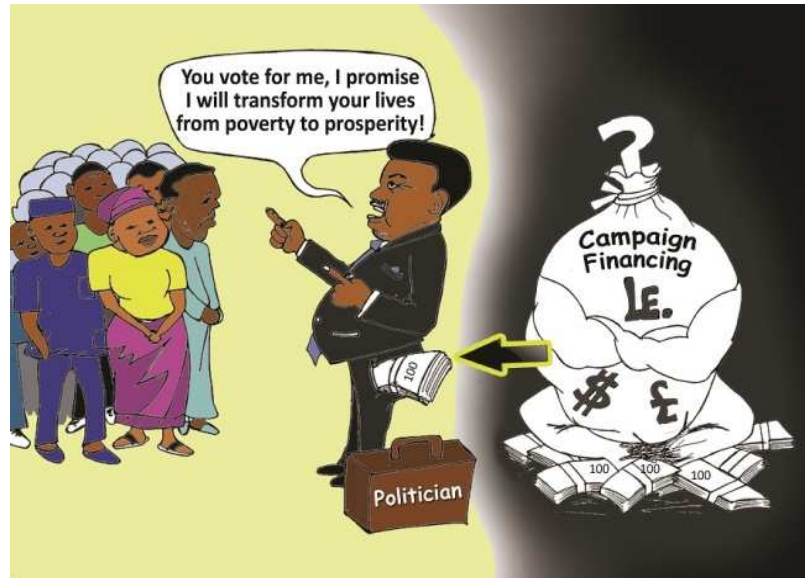
5. Citizens' shares in mining and agricultural investments

We want presidential candidates to commit their parties to reviewing existing mining and large scale agricultural land acquisition agreements with the view to increasing the stakes and benefits of affected communities in line with the Africa Mining Vision. While a lot of progress has been made in the review of land and mining laws, Sierra Leone's mining communities and land owning families are yet to have a decent share of the country's natural resource wealth. Communities have little say in the decisions about mining revenue and acquisition of large scale agricultural lands in rural areas. Lack of shared control over decisions about mining and large scale land ownership is contributing to instability and poverty in rural areas, leading to mass migration and congestion in our cities.



6. Transparency in campaign financing

We want presidential and parliamentary candidates to conduct transparent campaign financing by opening campaign accounts in recognised banks and ensuring that all donations and support from local and foreign businesses and government officials and departments are made public. We believe that if politics is kept at an affordable level and campaign financing is transparent, public institutions will be more accountable to the electorate, vote buying will be minimised, and there will be a more even competitive platform for economically disadvantaged groups such as women, youth and persons with disability.



7. Commit to the following targets in the first year of your administration

a) Pass a Minimum Standards Law that guarantees Sierra Leoneans the right to food, housing, health and education and develop a plan of action for implementing the law.



- b)** Develop a policy on national cohesion that outlaws all forms of discrimination (regional, ethnic and other forms) in the distribution of resources and public office appointments.
- c)** Ensure 20 percent of our annual domestic revenue is spent on education; institute punitive action for poor teaching services, abuse of girls and corruption in schools; and officially recognise the role of non-state education providers (mission schools, private schools and community schools).
- d)** Allocate 20 percent of domestic revenue to healthcare and extend free healthcare to the aged and persons living with disability.
- e)** Repeal the criminal libel law.
- f)** Execute programmes to save our environment including ensuring proper waste disposal, limiting street trading and responding to threats from mining and construction work.

How we developed our manifesto



The following participatory approaches were employed in developing this Manifesto:

A. Identification of the issues for the manifesto

The issues presented in this manifesto were derived from a study conducted by the Standing Together for Democracy Consortium in March 2017 on Citizens' Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices towards Politics and Elections. The study identified the policy priorities the next political leaders should focus on. Data collection was conducted randomly in the entire country and across all 14 districts. A sample size of 3,360 respondents, 18 focus-group discussions (FGDs), dozens of key-informant interviews (KIIs), participant observation, and a desk review of relevant secondary literature informed the basis of the report findings and conclusions.

B. Establishment of a governance structure for the Manifesto

We established a Steering Committee (SC) to direct the affairs of the Citizens' Manifesto. Our SC comprised 48 institutional heads drawn from civil society, media, private sector, informal networks and the religious sector. The SC was responsible for outlining the approach for the Manifesto development including our media engagement and the district consultations. The SC was chaired by a leadership group of 7 organisations with the Inter-religious Council leadership serving as co-chairs, assisted by the

heads of NMJD and the Women's Forum. The SC membership was divided into two committees: a communications committee represented by the media actors and a Task Force of facilitators that managed the consultations in the districts. The Institute for Governance Reform (IGR) provided secretariat support for the SC. At least 20 planning meetings were held by the leadership group, steering committee and various sub committees throughout the development of this document.

C. Selection of Participants for the consultations

Participants in the Consultation and Consensus Building process were drawn from a wide range of actors reflecting the character of the district. A criterion for selection was developed by the Steering Committee. District level participants comprised youth groups, women's groups, traditional leaders, landowners, artisanal miners associations, security forces, professional bodies (Sierra Leone Labour Congress, BAR Association, Teachers Union, Medical Associations), Secret Society Leaders, Disabled Persons Associations, Motor Drivers Union, Motorbike Riders, Student Unions, Market Women and Traders, "Attaya" Bases, informal sector groups such as "sand-sand" boys or Sweizy Jewellers, and social club representatives. Civil society leaders/focal persons in the districts were brought to Freetown and trained on the selection process. Participants

were selected from 14 Electoral Districts targeting a minimum of 50 citizens per District. Western Area Urban had two groups, raising the number of consultations to 15 country-wide. A total of 720 representatives of organisations were involved in the nationwide consultations and consensus building.

D. District Level Consultation and Consensus Building Process

We conducted 15 consultations in all 14 districts with 720 groups in the country. Facilitators were drawn from the Leadership Group and the Task Force of the Steering Committee. In each consultation, facilitators explained the seven issue areas arising from the Knowledge Attitudes and Practice (KAP) Survey and the Steering Committee. The seven issue areas were simplified and represented by symbols to ensure the process was friendly to all including low literate participants. The abridged version of the issue areas and the symbols were displayed on a flip chart (as shown in the District Results) and participants were asked to score and rank their priorities from highest to lowest based on their cumulative individual votes. To avoid elite capture of the process, voting was done in front of a camera.

Each participant had seven ballots to distribute among the seven issues placing more weight on the issues that are more important to them. The ballots were colour coded by gender to help identify the different priorities of men and women in every district. After the voting, the District consensus ranking was done collectively by the group by counting the vote cast for



every issue.

At the end of the rankings, facilitators asked participants if there were important additional issues not captured by the exercise but which they strongly felt should be included. Almost every district raised additional issues they considered important which was added to the District Consensus Document. This document was then signed by every participant and served as the manifesto for the district. This report presents a synthesis of the signed copies of the consensus document for every district.

OUR RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions of this Manifesto are presented in two ways: a) national resolution, which summarises all 15 consultations in the districts, and (b) district consultations, which provides a pictorial representation of the resolutions.

AGGREGATE NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS

We consider all seven priority areas in this Manifesto extremely important. However, we noted that priorities differed by community across the country, with some issues emphasised over others depending on the community. Collectively, the strongest call was made for the inclusion of marginalised groups with 15 percent youth inclusion securing the highest (85) points, followed by women inclusion (80 points). District

peculiarities are fully reflected in the consultations. While consultations in the Western Area strongly called for publication of assets by Presidential and MP candidates, citizens in mineral resource rich districts (Bonthe, Tonkolili, Kenema, Kono and Port Loko) and areas with commercial agriculture activities such as Pujehun, made stronger calls for shared control of revenue from investments in land and mineral resources. Participants in the Western Rural District also strongly called for land issues to be addressed. Five recurring additional or special priorities for individual districts were (a) for the new administration to reconsider the toll road; (b) better road networks, (c) increased access to electricity (d) addressing the rising prices of commodities and e) improved access to security and justice. Kono district in particular made a special call for improved access to justice and security.

Table 1: National Resolution

CITIZENS' MANIFESTO – NATIONAL RANKING OF RESOLUTIONS																
ISSUES	BOM	KA M	KO I	POT	TON	K O N	KAI	KEN	BO	PUJ	MOY	BON	WR	F/TWN EAST	F/TWN WEST	TOTAL
15% of nominations to be YOUTH	7	5	7	6	6	4	7	3	7	6	6	7	3	6	5	85
40% of nominations to be WOMEN	6	6	6	7	7	6	4	7	5	4	7	4	6	5	6	80
Candidates to Publish their Assets	6	4	1	5	4	5	5	4	6	3	3	6	7	4	7	63
Citizens to have joint ownership of large scale mining and agricultural Projects	4	2	3	5	5	7	1	6	3	7	5	6	4	2	3	63
Commit to key Results in the First Year	2	7	5	3	4	4	3	5	1	5	1	4	2	3	2	49
5% of nominations to be PWDs	1	3	4	1	2	1	6	1	3	2	5	2	1	7	4	43
Transparent Campaigns and open Campaign Accounts	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	2	1	4	1	1	27

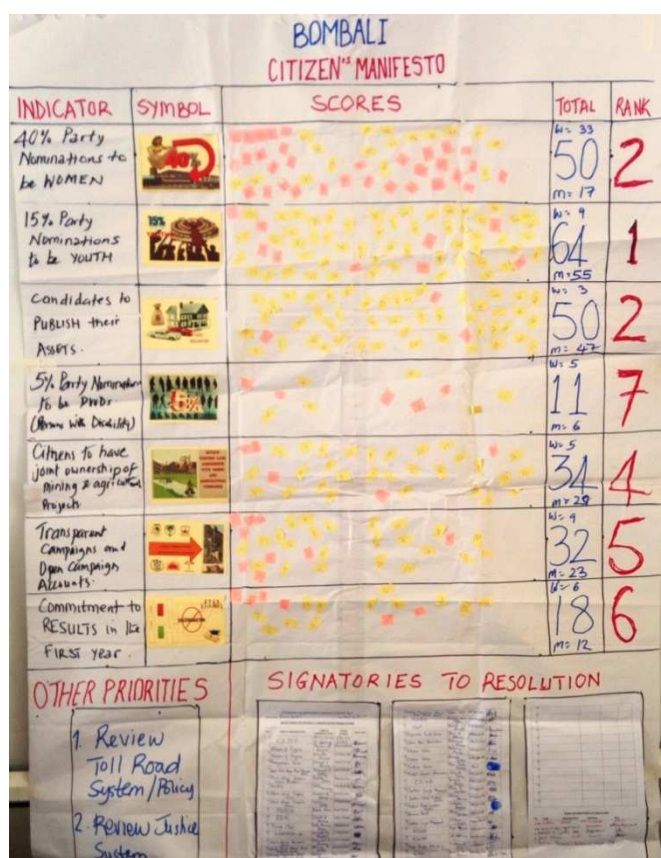
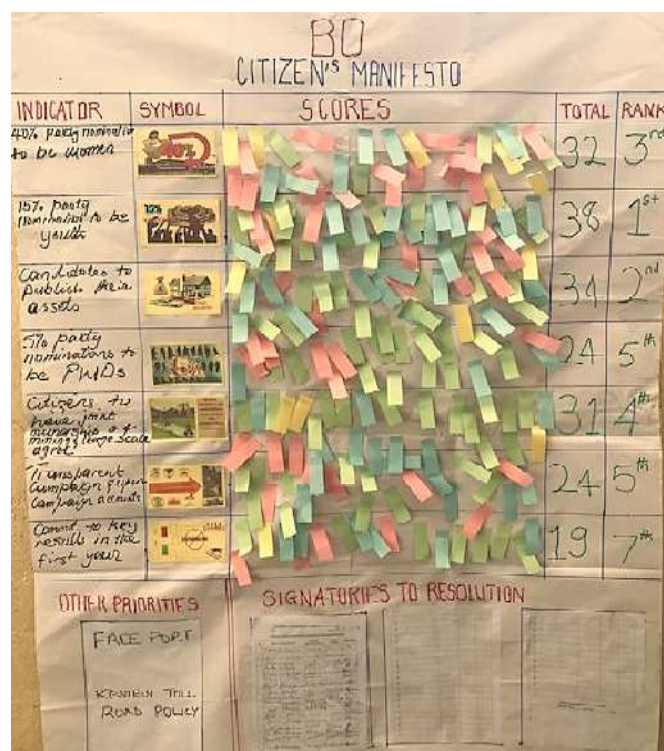
¹ For each district, issues with the highest number of support, received seven points with the next issue receiving six points, to one point, in descending order. These points were then aggregated to determine the collective order of issue importance

District Resolutions

In this section we present the resolutions of all 15 consultations in the district in alphabetical order:

BO DISTRICT

The top most priority for Bo district was the 15 percent allocation of party MP and local council tickets to youth followed by asset publication by politicians and the inclusion of more women in governance positions. Other issues of importance was free ports and the revision of toll road policy.



BOMBALI DISTRICT

The district's major manifesto priorities were: Youth Nomination for Party Symbols, 40 percent Women Candidates and Asset Publication by Candidates. Review of the toll road system and the strengthening of justice delivery were among the additional issues the people of Bombali want the next administration to address.

BONTHE DISTRICT

Giving 15 percent of nominations to local council and parliamentary seats to young people was the top-most issue in Bonthe district. This was followed by joint ownership of large scale agricultural investments and mineral resources, and publication of assets by party candidates. Road network construction and electricity provision are among other pressing priorities in Bonthe. Bonthe is one of the world's highest producers of rutile. However Bonthe has some of the worst road networks in Sierra Leone and services in riverine areas are among the poorest in the country.

INDICATOR	SYMBOL	SCORES	TOTAL	RANK
40% Party Nomination to be Women			47	4 th
15% Party Nomination to be Youth			52	1 st
Candidates to publish their assets			48	2 nd
5% Party Nomination to be PWDs			45	6 th
Citizens to have joint ownership of Mining and Large scale Agriculture			48	2 nd
Transparent campaign and open campaign accounts			30	7 th
Commit to key results in the first year			47	4 th

OTHER PRIORITIES	SIGNATORIES TO RESOLUTION
Construct Road network	
Electricity	

INDICATOR	SYMBOL	SCORES	TOTAL	RANK
Commit to key results in the first year			36	5 th
5% Party Nomination to be Youths < 35 years			56	1 st
40% Party Nominations to be Women			40	4 th
ASSET PUBLICATION/DECLARATION			44	3 rd
CITIZENS TO HAVE JOINT OWNERSHIP			31	7 th
MINING/LARGE 5% PARTY NOMINATIONS TO BE PWDs			48	2 nd
TRANSPARENT CAMPAIGNS SEPARATE BANK ACCOUNTS			35	6 th

OTHER PRIORITIES	SIGNATORIES TO RESOLUTION
1. ROADS	
2. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY	

KAILAHUN DISTRICT

The top three manifesto issues-in Kailahun were, **15 percent political representation for youths, followed by five percent representation for PWDs and Asset Declaration** in that specific order. Roads and electricity were among the additional priorities identified by Kailahun.

Kailahun has a very vibrant youth population and has been at the heart of political disturbances in the last 10 years. The Ebola epidemic started in Kailahun and it was also the district, where the first gun shots of Sierra Leone's civil war were fired.

KAMBIA DISTRICT

The people of Kambia want the next government to first and foremost commit to the delivery of key services in the first year of the administration. The second most important manifesto priority was the nomination of 40 percent women candidate by political parties, followed by the award of 15 percent of party symbols to persons below the age of 35.

Kambia is the only district that prioritized delivery of services by the next government over issues such as representation and accountability. The district's inhabitants are mostly engaged in agriculture and trading activities.

KAMBIA CITIZENS' MANIFESTO				
INDICATOR	SYMBOL	SCORES		
40% Party Nominations to be Women			TOTAL	RANK
15% Party Nominations to be YOUTHS			66 W=38 M=28	2
Candidates to Publish their Assets			64 W=35 M=29	3
5% Nominations to be PWD (persons with Disability)			42 W=34 M=8	4
Citizens to have joint ownership of mining & large scale agricultural projects			25 W=17 M=8	5
Transparent Campaign and Open Campaign Accounts			17 W=13 M=4	6
Commit to key Results in the first year			12 W=6 M=6	7
			88 W=49 M=39	1
OTHER PRIORITIES		SIGNATORIES TO RESOLUTION		
1. Peace before, during & after Elections 2. Toll Road System Review				

KENEMA DISTRICT CITIZENS' MANIFESTO				
INDICATOR	SYMBOL	SCORES	TOTAL	RANK
Candidates to Publicly Declare their Assets			43	4 th
Citizens to have joint ownership of mining & large scale agricultural projects			47	2 nd
40% Party Nominations to be Women			53	1 st
15% Party Nominations to be YOUTH			37	5 th
5% Party Nominations to be PWDs			18	7 th
Transparent and Open Campaign Accounts			20	6 th
Commitment to key results in the first year			45	3 rd
SIGNATORIES TO RESOLUTION		OTHER PRIORITIES		
		1. ROADS 2. SECURITY		

KENEMA DISTRICT

In Kenema district, 40 percent Party Nomination of Women Candidates was the top priority. This was followed by a review of mining and agricultural land ownership laws/policies. A commitment to the issues raised in the key government deliverables within the first year completed the top three priorities. Kenema district is rich in mineral resources, particularly diamonds, and is home to the Gola Forest. Although there is only one female parliamentarian from the district, there was a strong demand for more women representation in governance. Kenema has also experienced political disturbances culminating in a recent murder of one opposition activist by a rival group.

KOINADUGU DISTRICT

The top three citizens' priorities for Koinadugu are: 15 percent allocation of symbols to youths, 40 percent allocation of party symbols to women and the commitment of the next government to key results in the first year. Expression of youth voices has been a major issue in Koinadugu. In 2016, the district headquarter, Kabala town, was the scene of a bloody stand-off between the youths and authorities over the failure to construct a youth resource center as promised.

KONADUGU CITIZEN'S MANIFESTO				
INDICATOR	SYMBOL	SCORES	TOTAL	RANK
40% Party Nominations to be WOMEN			WS: 30 75 MS: 45	2
15% Party Nominations to be YOUTH			WS: 14 79 MS: 45	1
Candidates to Publish their ASSETS			WS: 2 20 MS: 18	7
5% Party Nominations to be PWDs			WS: 4 41 MS: 37	4
Disasters to have joint Ownership of Mining and Agriculture Projects			WS: 3 36 MS: 33	5
Transparent Campaigns and Open Campaign accounts			WS: 2 26 MS: 24	6
Commit to results in the FIRST YEAR			WS: 6 45 MS: 39	3
OTHER PRIORITIES		SIGNATORIES TO RESOLUTION		
1. Access to Justice 2. Improved Communication Systems (Radio, TV, Internet, Radio etc.)				

KONO CITIZEN'S MANIFESTO				
INDICATOR	SYMBOL	SCORES	TOTAL	RANK
POINT MEMBERSHIP OF MINING AND LARGE SCALE AGRIC			90	1st
40% PARTY NOMINATIONS TO BE WOMEN			68	2nd
COMMIT TO KEY RESULTS IN THE FIRST YEAR			43	4th
15% PARTY NOMINATIONS TO BE YOUTHS			43	4th
TRANSPARENT CAMPAIGNS			33	6th
SEPARATE ACCOUNTS FOR CAMPAIGNS			30	7th
5% PARTY NOMINATIONS TO BE PWDs			53	3rd
ASSET DECLARATION				
OTHER PRIORITIES		SIGNATORIES TO RESOLUTION		
1. ENHANCED SECURITY 2. SPEEDY JUSTICE DELIVERY				

KONO DISTRICT

The issue of 'Mining and Large Scale Agricultural Projects' took centre stage in Kono. The second and third priorities respectively were 40 percent allocation of seats to women and Assets Declaration. Although some of the largest diamond discoveries in the world have been made in this district, the region remains one of the most underdeveloped in the country. Kono has been the hot bed of political violence since 2007. Additional special priorities selected by Kono citizens were enhanced security and speedy delivery of justice as their special priorities.



MOYAMBA DISTRICT

Boasting of 50 percent women members of parliament (the highest of any district) and being historically a hub for female leadership, Moyamba voted overwhelmingly in favour of giving 40 percent parliamentary and local council seats to women. This was closely followed by the call for 15 percent youth representation, five percent representation of persons with disabilities, along with citizens joint ownership of agriculture and large scale mining agreements. Road network and electricity services were raised as additional needs. A good share of land in Moyamba district has been leased to the Rutile Company.

MOYAMBA CITIZEN'S MANIFESTO				
INDICATOR	SYMBOL	SCORES	TOTAL	RANK
40% NOMINATION TO BE WOMEN			83	1 st
15% NOMINATION TO THE YOUTH			78	2 nd
5% PARTY NOMINATION TO BE PWD			34	3 rd
CITIZENS TO HAVE JOINT OWNERSHIP OF MINING AND AGRICULTURE			34	3 rd
TRANSPARENT CAMPAIGN FINANCING			27	6 th
CANDIDATES TO PUBLISH THEIR ASSETS			29	5 th
COMMIT TO KEY RESULTS IN YEAR ONE			14	7 th
OTHER PRIORITIES		SIGNATORIES TO RESOLUTION		
Road Electricity				

PORT LOKO CITIZEN'S MANIFESTO				
INDICATOR	SYMBOL	SCORES	TOTAL	RANK
40% Party Nominations to be Women			67	1
15% Party Nominations to be Youth			59	2
Candidates to Publish their Assets			53	3
5% Party Nominations to be PWDs			23	7
Citizens to have joint ownership of mining and large scale agricultural assets			53	3
Transparent Campaigns a open Campaign accounts			34	6
Commit to key Results in the first year			40	5
OTHER PRIORITIES		SIGNATORIES TO RESOLUTION		
1. PRESIDENTIAL / GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES DEBATE 2. Review Toll Road System				

PORT LOKO DISTRICT

Increased number of party nomination to women, 15 percent youth nomination for Party Symbols, asset publication of party candidates and joint ownership of mining and large scale agricultural resources emerged as the top manifesto priorities for citizens of this district. Port Loko is rich in Iron Ore and home to the country's only international airport. However, it is one of the most underdeveloped places in Sierra Leone. Much of the district, with the exception of the townships of Lungi and Port Loko, has no electricity or proper water supply. A large number of residents of Port Loko migrate to nearby Freetown for access to basic social services. There was consensus on review of the toll road policy as an additional priority.

PUJEHUN DISTRICT

In Pujehun, citizens' joint control over mining resources and large agricultural investments was cited as the most important issue, followed by 15 percent inclusion of youth in governance. Revision of toll road policy emerged as a special priority for the next administration. Agriculture serves as the major economic activity of most residents of Pujehun, with the district being home to the multinational agricultural company, Socfin. In the past six years, there has been stand-offs between some community people and the agricultural company over land ownership and revenue from oil palm plantation leading to imprisonment of some community leaders.



TONKOLILI DISTRICT

The name Tonkolili is synonymous with Iron Ore resources. A review of existing mining and agricultural policies for better citizen benefit ranked among the top three manifesto priorities ahead of the 2018 elections.

The first two priorities mentioned were: 40 percent women nominations and 15 percent symbol allocation to persons under the age of 35 respectively. Additionally, the district wants the next administration to address inflation and improve road network in the district.

WESTERN RURAL DISTRICT

Asset publication by political candidates was strongly endorsed in the Western Rural District consultation. This was followed by 40 percent nomination of women for parliamentary and local council seats and the call for increased citizen control over decisions and ownership of land for large scale agriculture and mining. Waterloo is one of the most densely populated areas in Sierra Leone with high incidences of crime arising from land contention. Western Rural currently has four representatives in parliament, none of whom is female. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation situation remains poor. The district wants the next administration to conduct thorough consultations on development initiatives in design and implementation.

WESTERN AREA RURAL CITIZEN'S MANIFESTO

INDICATOR	SYMBOL	SCORES	TOTAL RANK
Community driven decision making		64	1 st
Provision of Mining large scale land		41	3 rd
40% Candidates for Youth Members		45	2 nd
50% Candidates for Youth Members		38	5 th
50% Candidates for Youth Members		33	7 th
Nomination by Political Parties		40	4 th
Provision of safe drinking water		38	5 th

OTHER PRIORITIES

SIGNATORIES TO RESOLUTION

WESTERN AREA URBAN-EAST CITIZEN'S MANIFESTO

INDICATOR	SYMBOL	SCORES	TOTAL RANK
Local representation for the district and for community administration		24	1 st
Provision of Mining large scale land		10	6 th
Provision of Mining large scale land		28	3 rd
Provision of Mining large scale land		31	2 nd
Provision of Mining large scale land		36	1 st
Provision of Mining large scale land		5	7 th
Provision of Mining large scale land		13	5 th

OTHER PRIORITIES

SIGNATORIES TO RESOLUTION

FREETOWN EAST

The call for political inclusion is very strong in Freetown. The East end of Freetown voted strongly for greater representation of persons with disability in political office. This is followed by endorsement of 15 percent youth representation and 40 percent seats for women, in that order. Freetown East is the most densely populated part of Freetown with high levels of urban poverty and a heavy youth population. The district has the largest number of parliamentary seats in the country, yet there is no youth representation and only one woman member of parliament.

FREETOWN WEST

Freetown West voted resoundingly for presidential and parliamentary candidates to publish their assets before nomination. This was followed by a vote for increased representation of women and youth. Western Freetown is the seat of the government of Sierra Leone and by far the most elite part of the country. The area is relative better off in access to service delivery compared to the rest of the country.

INDICATOR	SYMBOL	SCORES	TOTAL	RANK
100% Representation of Women	[Symbol]	44	52	2
100% Representation of Youth	[Symbol]	42	42	3
Commitment to Publish Assets	[Symbol]	67	67	1
100% Representation of Youth	[Symbol]	21	21	4
100% Representation of Youth	[Symbol]	20	20	5
100% Representation of Youth	[Symbol]	14	14	7
100% Representation of Youth	[Symbol]	15	15	6



Potential Constraints to the Citizens' Manifesto

This section highlights five important issues that can potentially undermine the resolutions in this Manifesto:

1. ELECTION MANAGEMENT BODIES MAY HAVE LIMITED ROOM AND MANDATE TO PROMOTE THE CITIZENS' MANIFESTO:

Ideally, institutions such as of the Political Parties Registration Commission, the National Electoral Commission, the police and Judiciary should be the main drivers of the reforms proposed in the Manifesto. However, while there is great commitment among the leadership of EMBs to embrace reforms, some institutions have severe limitations in terms of their mandate, operational capacity and funding to carry out their core duties and take on additional responsibilities.

2. ELECTORAL VIOLENCE MAY HAMPER THE UPTAKE OF THE CITIZENS' MANIFESTO BY WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITY:

Electoral violence could limit participation of women, youth and PWDs. We note that even after holding three consecutive post-war elections, violence is still infused in Sierra Leone's political process. We gathered from the consultations that there are many unsolved grievances in communities, which could be potentially exploited by political actors.

3. WINNER TAKE ALL POLITICS COULD LIMIT UPTAKE OF ALTERNATIVE POLICY PROPOSALS:

We note a worrying trend wherein some politicians paint the outcome of the elections as a zero sum game, or as a contest between currently included and excluded groups.

Access to elective office will result in resources channeled to groups in support of one party and deprivation for the group that lost. This raises the stakes of competition and can heighten the chances for violence. Moreover, if winning of elective office continues to be seen as key to livelihood for an entire clan or ethnic group, the appeal for political inclusion could be minimal, with the continuation of politics as usual. There is need for aggressive conflict prevention campaigns and a move away from the perception that political success is the sole driver of development considerations.

4. POLITICAL PARTIES INGRAINED IN OLD MINDSETS:

Noting that some political institutions lag behind the shifts in mindset that is taking place among citizens as embodied in the seven proposals in this Manifesto, we envisage that some groups could resist the demands in the Manifesto. There is weak internal democracy in many parties to the point that political power in some parties remains personalised which may hinder calls for inclusion and openness.

5. FUNDING FOR OUTREACH TO CITIZEN GROUPS:

Lack of funding for outreach activities could affect the momentum in community mobilisation to promote and monitor the Citizens Manifesto in electoral competition at all levels.

Recommendations

- 1.** We observed that security officers face severe logistical constraints that affects their preparedness for the 2018 elections. Giving these logistical constraints we recommend that government consider increasing budgetary allocation to the security sector to enhance their operations.
- 2.** Steering Committee to hold special sessions with political parties to share the provisions of the Citizens' Manifesto and solicit commitment.
- 3.** Steering Committee to hold special sessions with Election Management Bodies to discuss the implementation of the Citizens' Manifesto provisions.
- 4.** PPRC to support political parties to develop policies on inclusion of women, youth and PWDs, with resources and power to monitor and enforce compliance.
- 5.** Campaign financing laws be implemented at the level of the political parties and the State, with monitoring by PPRC.
- 6.** Government through the Office of National Security and the Political Parties Registration Commission should work with political parties and the Sierra Leone police to commit to peaceful campaigns by not engaging in any acts of violence against political opponents, both in other parties and one's own, avoiding the use of thugs, and ensuring that state security forces are neutral. Any violent acts should result in sanctions by the PPRC.
- 7.** Steps should be taken to resolve existing community tensions identified during our consultations to prevent such situations from escalating into large scale violence during elections.
- 8.** The National Electoral Commission should take steps to make politics affordable by reducing candidature fees for President, Parliamentarians and Local Councilors to the equivalent of one-month salaries of those offices. Parties should commit to reducing or removing candidature fees for women and youths vying for symbols in their parties and paying fees for these populations in the national competition.
- 9.** Civil society stakeholders in elections should track and share commitments made by political parties as well as progress toward these commitments.
- 10.** The steering committee should generate additional resources for the popularisation of the Citizens' Manifesto as an empowerment and civic education programme in rural and remote communities.
- 11.** Government should revisit the financing of election with the view of making the electoral process less expensive and ensure there is special and adequate funding for elections activities. Sierra Leone should take steps to make the country the principal financier of its elections.

Steering Committee

1. President Sierra Leone Union on Disability Issues
2. Sierra Leone Commercial Motor Bike Riders Union
3. Sierra Leone Women's Forum
4. Council of Churches in Sierra Leone
5. President, Inter Religious Council
6. Executive Director Action Aid Sierra Leone
7. Abu Brima-Network Movement for Justice and Development
8. Executive Director - Center for Accountability and the Rule of Law
9. Archbishop Tamba Charles – Head of Archdiocese of Sierra Leone
10. Emmanuel Saffa Abdulai - President Renaissance Movement -
11. Bishop Abu Koroma – Flaming Evangelical Ministries
12. Mr. Joe Rahall – Director Green Scenery Sierra Leone
13. President -Sweizzy Jewellers
14. President - Sierra Leone Association of Journalists
15. Manager – AYV Radio and Television
16. President – 50/50 Group
17. ManjiaKargbo - President Power Women 232
18. Manager Radio Democracy 98.1 FM
19. Manager Culture Radio
20. Martha Kargbo – Sky Radio
21. Tiana Alpha – WIMSAL
22. President Sierra Leone Bar Association
23. Ransford Wright – Independent Radio Network
24. President National Union of Sierra Leone Students
25. Sierra Leone Market women's Association
26. Lamrana Bah - President Reporter's Union
27. Director – Campaign for Good Governance
28. Mamoud Tarawallie Team Leader Standing together for Democracy Consortium
29. Director – Center for Coordination of Youth Activities
30. Edmund Abu – Native Think tank
31. Director General - Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation
32. Academic Staff Association – Fourah Bay College
33. Emerson Bockarie – Sugar Entertainment
34. Jimmy Bangura – Paradise Records
35. Collabo –All Stars President
36. Wahid – Artists for Peace
37. Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce
38. Julius Spencer – Premier Media
39. Rev. James Lahai-National Elections Watch
40. Cecilia Mattia-National Advocacy Coalition on Extractives