

POLITICAL PARTIES CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Political Parties Code of Conduct agreed to on 20th of October 2006 at a meeting on the code of conduct for political parties, candidates and supporters at the Miatta Conference Center and signed by the following political parties:

PREAMBLE

2. Nothing the recent violent past of Sierra Leone, and the need for continued peace, and given the desirability for a free, fair, peaceful and well - regulated election and the avoidance of aggravation of ethnic tension and political discord, we agree and accept:
 - a) That a code of conduct for political parties, taken to mean all registered political parties in Sierra Leone, will generally respect and contribute to the holding of a peaceful free and fair election.
 - b) To subscribe to the code of conduct and, to the very best of our ability, to comply with and to take all reasonable steps to ensure its full observance
 - c) To adhere/uphold conditions conducive to the conduct of free, fair and democratic elections within a climate of democratic tolerance in which political activities may take place without fear of coercion, intimidation or reprisals.

APPLICATION OF THE CODE

3. In this code, "**Political Parties**" includes:
 - a) Any entity registered with the political parties registration commission as a political party
 - b) The leader, officials, candidates, members, agents, supporters. And representative of any entity that has subscribed to this to this code of conduct.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE

4. All political parties that have subscribed to this code":
 - a) Are bound by the code, and must, therefore, instruct its leaders, officials, candidates and members to adhere to the terms of the code; and dissuade its supporters from breaching the code.
 - b) Will not make false, frivolous or vexatious complaints or generally abuse the right to complain about violations of the code,
5. The leader of a party that has subscribed to this code will instruct the party's officials, candidates, members and supporters to observe the code and ensure compliance.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW AND ELECTION PROCESS

6. All political parties that have subscribed to this code will adhere to existing laws, rules and regulations.
7. All political parties that have subscribed to this code will co-operate with election officials to ensure:
 - a) The safety and security of electoral officials, party agents, accredited election Observers and election materials such as ballot papers, ballot boxes, etc. before during and after the polls;
 - b) Respect and co-operate with official or accredited election observers in maintaining the secrecy of the voting.
8. All political parties that have subscribed to this code shall inculcate respect for human rights, the pursuit of liberty and tolerance of divergent opinions amongst the citizenry.

CAMPAIGNING CONDUCT

9. No Political Party or its candidates, member or supporter that has subscribed to this code shall indulge in any activity which may create or aggravate tension between race, gender, ethnicity, language, class, region or religion.
10. All political parties that have subscribed to the code of conduct shall have the right to present their political principles and ideas without intimidation or threat. However, criticism of other political parties, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programmes, past record and work. Parties and candidates shall refrain from unfounded criticism of any aspect of private life, not connected with public activities of the leaders or workers of other parties. Criticism of other parties or their workers based on unverified allegations or distortion shall be avoided.
11. All political parties that have subscribed to this code shall respect the right and freedom of other political parties to campaign and to disseminate their political ideas and principles without let or hindrance. There shall be equal access to the state media. Journalists who are engaged in their professional activities shall have a free hand to do so without any intimidation.
12. All political parties, candidates, agents and party entities that have subscribed to this code shall not obstruct, disrupt, break up or cause to break up, meetings or rallies organized by other political parties and candidates; nor should they interrupt or prevent speeches and cause the destruction of handbills, leaflets, and the pasting of posters by other political parties and candidates. However, the posting of these handbills, leaflets, and posters must be with the consent of the owners of the properties.
13. All political parties that have subscribed to this code shall in accordance with the Public Order Act 1965 notify the Inspector General of Police/ Paramount Chiefs of any meeting or rally. The

Police/Paramount Chief should ensure that no preferential treatment is accorded to one political Parties or a particular candidate to the detriment of other parties that have subscribed to this code of conduct.

14. All political parties that have subscribed to this code shall not use state power, privilege or influence or other public resources for campaign purposes.
15. All political parties that have subscribed to this code shall desist from coercing or offering pecuniary gains or other kinds of inducements to individual or group of individuals to vote for or against a particular party candidate, or to abstain from voting.
16. All political parties that have subscribed to this code shall not make use of the radio/television stations or convene or hold political activity twenty four hours prior to polling day.

INTIMIDATIOJ AND VIOLENCE

17. All political parties that have subscribed to this code accept that intimidation, in any form, is unacceptable, and leaders of these parties will direct their officials, candidates, members and supporters not to intimidate any person at any time.
18. All political parties that have subscribed to this code shall ensure that they do not coerce or intimidate Paramount Chiefs or their sub chiefs, or any other authority to deny any political party the right to access to any chieftom for political functions.
19. All political parties that have subscribed to this code shall raise any private force or militia or use the regular army or other forces to intimidate and gain political or electoral advantage.

COMMUNICATION AND MONITORING ADHERANCE TO THE CODE

20. All political parties that have subscribed to this code will make every effort to maintain communications with other political parties that have subscribed to this code.
21. An aggrieved political party, candidate or supporter may submit a written complaint addressed to the Secretary of the Political Parties Registration Commission.
22. A committee, chaired by PPRC and comprising representatives of political parties, a representative of Sierra Leone Police, two representatives from Civil Society, two representatives from the National Commission for Democracy and two from the Inter Religious Council to function as a forum for discussion of issues of common concern, including breaches of the code before, during and after the elections.
23. All political parties that have subscribed to this code, Civil Society and the Media shall ensure the dissemination of the issues raised in the code widely throughout the length and breathe of the Country.

PUBLIC AND COLLECTIVE SUBSCRIPTION TO THE CODE

24. We, the undersigned representatives of political parties, hereby publicly and collectively subscribe to this Code of Conduct.

Political Party	Name, Party Official(print)	Signature of Party Official	Date
APC	Ernest Bai Koroma		23/11/06
NDA	Cherinor M Bah		23/11/06
PLP	Hon. Dr. Kandeh B Conteh		23/11/06
PDP	Abdulai B Bangura		23/11/06
PMDC	Alfred E Rogers		23/11/06
RUFP	Jonathan Kposowa		23/11/06
SLPP	Alhaji UNS Jah		23/11/06
UNPP	OB Conteh		23/11/06
CPP	Andrew Turay		19/06./07