3rd October 2012: The Chairman of the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) Hon Justice M.E. Tolla Thompson on Tuesday 2nd October 2012 made an unannounced visit to the offices of the Peoples Movement for Democratic Change Party (PMDC), United Democratic Movement (UDM), the All Peoples Congress (APC) and the Sierra Leonean Peoples Party (SLPP).

Addressing Party Officials, Hon Justice Tolla Thompson says his visit is part of the commission’s plans to get first hand information on the activities and the day to day running of political parties. Political Parties operations, the chairman says, is an ongoing and serious business. The existence of the PPRC as a constitutional creation underscores this, he concluded.

Speaking on the Conduct of Political Parties, the Public Relations Officer, Lucien Momoh reminded political parties of Sections 21 (2) of the Political Parties Act of 2002 which provides that political parties shall submit to the commission within sixty days after the declaration of results:

“a detailed statement, in such form as the Commission may prescribe of all expenditure incurred either by the party or a candidate put up or supported by that political party
specifying the manner in which the expenditure was incurred”

The meetings also discussed:

- Political Tolerance and Non Violence
- The Training of Political Party executive & Party Agents
- The Possibility of State Funding of Political Parties
- The Importance of Political Parties in a democratic change as well as
- Intra Party Dialogue

During these visits, the chairman met with PMDC National Secretary General William Tucker, PMDC National Publicity Secretary Muniru Koroma, UDM Leader and Flag bearer Mohamed Bangura, UDM National Secretary General Sulaiman Bai Sesay, APC Western Area Chairman Hon Minkailu Mansaray, APC Deputy Regional Chairman Western Area Hon Pat Sowe, and SLPP National Secretary General Sulaiman Banja Tejan Sie.

The PMDC, UDM, APC, and the SLPP pledged their party’s support and cooperation towards the work of the Commission. He shall be visiting other Political Parties in due course.