



June 27, 2023

STATEMENT ON TENSIONS IN SIERRA LEONE IN THE WAKE OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS.

The Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) is deeply concerned about reports of tensions and threats of violence in Sierra Leone as the country awaits the results of what appears to be a keenly contested election.

Two days ago, there were media reports that the police had fired guns and teargas on the headquarters of the Sierra Leone Peoples' Party (SLPP) to disperse jubilant party supporters allegedly celebrating the 72nd anniversary of the formation of their party without police permit.

There have also been reports that a supporter of the All People's Congress (APC) has been shot dead by the police amidst claims by Samura Kamara an opposition candidate that there have been cases of ballot stuffing and voter suppression.

Tension has been rising steadily since last Saturday's election and assurances by the Electoral Commission that vote tallying would be completed in 48 hours and that the results will truly reflect the genuine choice of the people have not helped.

The SMG calls on all stakeholders in the election to avoid inflammatory actions that could lead to national destabilization and the worsening of the plight of the people of Sierra Leone who continue to suffer the effects of a civil war which led to the death of hundreds of thousands of citizens and a bankrupt neo-liberal order.

We wish to state emphatically that the path to the salvation of the masses of Sierra Leone from poverty, ignorance and disease does not lie in violent confrontations over disputes about which neo-colonial leaders should assume power. In our view the pursuit of the Pan-Africanist agenda under the broad banner of Socialism is the only option which will lead to the freedom of all the people of Africa from underdevelopment.

The SMG insist that West Africa, cannot afford another conflict in the face of growing Insurgency in the Sahel, the Boko Haram violence in Nigeria and secessionist threats across the sub-region.

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SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA (SMG)

We urge all Sierra Leoneans and pillars of power in the sub-region to work seriously to avoid another needless conflict, and to ensure that the will of the people of Sierra Leone will prevail at all times.

The peoples of West Africa need to unite in pursuit of the grand objectives of Pan-Africanism and Socialism put forward by our heroes, Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Modibo Keita and Ahmed Sekou Toure.

Kwesi Pratt, Jnr.

General Secretary.