



# NATIONAL ELECTION WATCH

A Coalition of Civic and Non-Governmental Organizations

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## 5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023 – ANALYSIS OF OFFICIAL RESULTS RELEASED BY THE ECSL.

As a component of its comprehensive observation strategy for the 2023 General Elections, NEW has undertaken analysis of official results data released by the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) to complement direct observation of pre-election and election-day processes and the Process and Results Verification for Transparency (PRVT).

In comparing the parliamentary election results announced by ECSL to district-level presidential election results circulated immediately after the final presidential election results announcement on Tuesday, 27th June 2023, NEW has noted large inconsistencies in turnout and vote shares between the presidential and parliamentary election in multiple districts, which will require further clarity by ECSL.

This analysis further underscores findings that the official results announced for the presidential election do not align with the true ballots cast at polling stations as indicated by the PRVT. NEW reiterates its call for ECSL to release all polling station level results to increase transparency and allow for further independent analysis.

### **The following findings are derived from analysis of official election results for the parliamentary and presidential elections as published by the ECSL:**

**Turnout:** There are a total of 3,374,258 registered voters across 16 districts in Sierra Leone, official results show roughly 83% turnout rates for both the presidential and parliamentary elections (2,800,691 ballots cast for the presidential and 2,789,939 for the parliamentary). While overall turnout was relatively stable between the two elections, within districts, the turnout rates varied between the two elections. For example:

- In 4 districts in the North (Falaba) and South (Bo, Bonthe, Moyamba), turnout was significantly lower in the parliamentary election as compared to the presidential: Falaba (23.8% lower for parliamentary), Bo (13.7% lower), Bonthe (15.4% lower), Moyamba (17.1% lower)
- In Western Area, 47,200 voters in Western Area Rural and 78,805 voters in Western Area Urban cast ballots in the parliamentary election but not the presidential (13.8% higher and 13.2% higher, respectively).

Region	District	Registered Voters	Parliamentary Turnout (Ballots cast)	Parliamentary Turnout (% of Registered Voters)	Presidential Turnout (Ballots cast)	Presidential Turnout (% of registered voters)	Difference in Ballots Cast between Parliamentary and Presidential Elections	Difference in turnout rates between Parliamentary and Presidential Elections
East	Kailahun	192,333	179,095	93.1%	185,168	96.3%	-6,073	-3.2%
East	Kenema	318,306	286,754	90.1%	303,551	95.4%	-16,797	-5.3%
East	Kono	174,036	124,129	71.3%	125,719	72.2%	-1,590	-0.9%
North	Bombali	206,380	154,111	74.7%	158,928	77.0%	-4,817	-2.3%
North	Falaba	69,170	39,018	56.4%	55,483	80.2%	-16,465	-23.8%
North	Koinadugu	85,209	53,273	62.5%	55,010	64.6%	-1,737	-2.0%
North	Tonkolili	207,525	156,214	75.3%	156,700	75.5%	-486	-0.2%
Northwest	Kambia	152,642	103,393	67.7%	111,030	72.7%	-7,637	-5.0%
Northwest	Karene	100,296	75,490	75.3%	73,553	73.3%	1,937	1.9%
Northwest	Port Loko	237,021	170,035	71.7%	173,582	73.2%	-3,547	-1.5%
South	Bo	317,216	247,368	78.0%	290,713	91.6%	-43,345	-13.7%
South	Bonthe	107,645	86,411	80.3%	102,936	95.6%	-16,525	-15.4%
South	Moyamba	150,402	108,392	72.1%	134,102	89.2%	-25,710	-17.1%
South	Pujehun	115,925	113,156	97.6%	107,121	92.4%	6,035	5.2%
West	Western Area Rural	341,870	336,664	98.5%	289,464	84.7%	47,200	13.8%
West	Western Area Urban	598,282	556,436	93.0%	477,631	79.8%	78,805	13.2%

**Vote Shares:** Some districts showed large differences in voting patterns between the presidential and parliamentary elections.

- In Falaba, APC received a significantly higher percentage of the vote share in the parliamentary election (43%) as compared to the presidential (27%). Conversely, SLPP

received a lower vote share in parliamentary election (51%) as compared to the presidential election (67%).

- In Karene and Port Loko, APC received a significantly lower percentage of the vote in the parliamentary election (72% and 60%, respectively) as compared to the presidential election (84% and 80%, respectively). Conversely, SLPP received a higher percentage of the vote in the parliamentary election (26% and 36%, respectively), as compared to the presidential election.

Region	District	APC votes in Parl. Electio n	APC Vote Share in Parl. Election	APC Votes in Pres. Election	APC Vote Share in Pres. Election	Difference in APC Vote Share between Parl. and Pres. Election	SLPP votes in Parl. Election	SLPP Vote Share in Parl. Election	SLPP Votes in Pres. Election	SLPP Vote Share in Pres. Election	Difference in SLPP Vote Share between Parl. and Pres. Election
East	Kailahun	6,813	3.8%	8,842	5%	-1.0%	171622	96.2%	172477	93.5%	2.7%
East	Kenema	11,541	4.0%	21,038	7%	-2.9%	271066	94.9%	276163	91.3%	3.6%
East	Kono	32,067	25.9%	33,202	27%	-0.7%	74290	60.0%	80222	64.1%	-4.2%
North	Bombali	140,566	91.6%	144,358	91%	0.4%	10361	6.8%	10584	6.7%	0.1%
North	Falaba	16,666	43.0%	14,939	27%	16.0%	19646	50.7%	38064	68.8%	-18.2%
North	Koinadugu	33,127	62.5%	34,678	63%	-0.7%	16036	30.3%	17465	31.9%	-1.6%
North	Tonkolili	125,015	80.4%	129,915	83%	-2.7%	20299	13.1%	19580	12.5%	0.5%
Northwest	Kambia	57,970	56.4%	64,564	58%	-2.1%	35164	34.2%	40580	36.7%	-2.5%
Northwest	Karene	54,058	72.0%	61,395	84%	-11.9%	19540	26.0%	9020	12.3%	13.7%
Northwest	Port Loko	101,142	59.8%	138,923	80%	-20.6%	60071	35.5%	27241	15.8%	19.7%
South	Bo	24,148	9.8%	23,112	8%	1.8%	215025	87.2%	261865	90.4%	-3.2%
South	Bonthe	4,154	4.8%	2,815	3%	2.1%	81894	95.2%	98445	96.0%	-0.8%
South	Moyamba	18,825	17.5%	19,740	15%	2.7%	85759	79.5%	109258	81.8%	-2.3%
South	Pujehun	4,961	4.4%	2,845	3%	1.7%	105113	93.4%	102068	95.7%	-2.2%
West	Western Area Rural	175,410	52.3%	157,173	55%	-2.2%	151670	45.3%	126507	43.9%	1.4%
West	Western Area Urban	307,479	55.4%	290,723	61%	-5.7%	239403	43.1%	177393	37.3%	5.9%

Invalid ballots were fairly consistent across districts in both elections, with rates of invalid ballots that are inconsistent with historical trends. Rates of invalid ballots in official results released by the ECSL were approximately 0.4% for both the presidential and parliamentary elections.

Rates of invalid ballots have historically been higher in parliamentary elections, with 7.4% in 2018 and 7.3% in 2007. As noted previously, the official results for the presidential election also indicated a rate of 0.4% invalid ballots. This is more than 10 times lower than the PRVT projection and the rate of invalid ballots for previous presidential elections. The PRVT demonstrated that the rate of invalid ballots for this election was 4.8% with a margin of error of +/- 0.4%, in line with previous first round presidential elections (5.2% in 2018, 4.7% in 2012, and 7.3% in 2007).

*National Election Watch (NEW) is a coalition of local and international organizations in Sierra Leone with a common objective of supporting credible and peaceful elections.*

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