

WORKING UNDER THE THREAT OF EBOLA
STATEMENT DELIVERED BY BISHOP J.C HUMPER

AT THE

Training Workshop on the Methodology for Engaging in
Regional, Districts and Diaspora Consultations

"Seeking the voices, views and opinions of SLPP membership at all levels in the Design Process of a Family Dialogue Conference"

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY, 2015, AT THE SLPP
PARTY HEADQUARTERS, FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE**

Mr. chairman, chair and leader of the SLPP, chairperson of the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC), national executive officers, our young party faithful's, the Press, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, and workshop participants, I greet you all in the name of the triune God, whose blessings I beseech on us all now and forever more, Amen!

I wish to start by expressing my profound and sincere appreciation to all of you, particularly those who have travelled all the way from the provinces to attend this induction workshop. At a time like this when our Government, the people and the nation at large, are all grappling with the scourge of the Ebola national crisis. I ask that we all stand up to observe a minute of silence for all those we have loss or who are currently suffering to survive the EBOLA virus.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PARTICIPANTS

On behalf of the TFT, I want to say, we are very thankful to the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) for creating the political space for me and my colleagues to lead and drive a

process of uniting and reconciling the SLPP. I also want to give credence to the Campaign for Unity team (CUT) for assiduously working to provide strategic technical advice, logistics, funding and secretariat support to the Technical Facilitation Team (TFT), which I happen to lead along with Dr. Morie Manyeh as co-chair.

As some of you may be aware, the Technical Facilitation Team is made up of a crop of eminent party faithful's who are determined to broker unity and reconciliation in the SLPP. We believe with your collective support, and in fairness, independence and integrity, we are all bound to collectively succeed in achieving long lasting unity in the SLPP. Unity as a foundation for winning the upcoming 2016 Local Government Election as well as the Parliamentary and Presidential Elections in 2017/18.

Please allow me to take your minds back about the TFT. The Technical Facilitation Team (an intra-party Mediation Team) was established in June 2014, with the mandate to assist the PPRC in the design of a family dialogue or a framework through which a political consensus aimed at uniting the SLPP can be achieved. Under the direct oversight of the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC), the Technical Facilitation Team has been working assiduously to put in place appropriate conditions for a productive and inclusive SLPP dialogue and reconciliation conference to take place. In keeping with the call for the independence of its membership, each member of the TFT is expected to adhere to the principles of political and social ethics, impartiality, objectivity, openness/transparency, and mutual trust to re-engineer fraternal and supportive relationships amongst aggrieved party members, party structures and institutions.

Based on our Terms of Reference (ToRs), and despite the threat of the Ebola Virus epidemics, the TFT has continued to work consistently to achieve the intended desire of our unity and

reconciliation conference; a conference which will hopefully take place in the immediate post Ebola period. Overall, considerable progress has been made in the process of building a consensus for such an inclusive dialogue conference to take place. The TFT has been able to successfully engage senior party key stakeholders, including Members of Parliament, Ambassador Allie Bangura and other petitioners. A consensus is emerging for united SLPP. This achievement may appear small, but the activities carried out have been critical and the most politically sensitive compared to the remaining activities in the design and preparatory process for the family dialogue.

That said, the next outstanding tasks that need to be accomplished to complete the design and preparatory phase includes: First, the need to seek the voices, views and opinions of the SLPP executives at the regional, district, constituency and zonal levels as well as the entire party membership, including the voice of the diaspora branches and membership. Consulting with these party structures and organs will certainly help to build a more legitimate and inclusive process around the importance of a dialogue conference as well as help to control and effectively manage the agenda for dialogue.

As expected, the TFT would have long completed this task. However, with the emergent of the EBOLA crisis, these consultations had been delayed. Hence, in order for the TFT to fulfil this criteria and requirement in the design process, as part of our mandate in line with our Terms of Reference, we have call upon you to attend this induction workshop; to introduce you to the approaches and methods we intend to adopt in engaging and seeking the views of the regions, district, constituency and zonal memberships.

To achieve this, I hereby request your diligent service and commitment to this process, and we trust with your loyalty to carry out this task effectively and efficiently for the sake of our party, we shall success in uniting and reconcile all our membership.

The unity and reconciliation that we all crave for in SLPP can hardly be achieved without obtaining the voices, views and opinions of the general membership. There are still more issues to address than we initially thought; reason why this methodology workshop which you have been called to attend is consider extremely relevant in order to ensure the views and opinions of every member is included and reflected in the agenda setting for the family dialogue conference. You are all being encouraged to invest undivided attention and loyalty to this process.

Before I conclude let me once again take this opportunity to thank members of the Campaign for Unity team, both at home and abroad for their continued steadfastness in terms of financial and strategic advisory support to the TFT. Without this support, for sure it would have not been possible to come this far. In a similar context, I want to use this opportunity to appeal to the entire membership of the SLPP to start to engage with the PPRC/TTF process. We need your support to ensure we successfully accomplish our mandate. It is only with your collective and genuine support we can be able to sufficiently translate our PPRC mandate for the entire membership.

We thank you all very much for listening and may God guide and protect us all from the ravages of the Ebola epidemic, and ensure UNITY at all cost in the Sierra Leone Peoples Party; the party that brought independence, peace and established functional state

Institutions to date.

Wish you a successful deliberation at the workshop

ONE COUNTRY! ONE PEOPLE!

Long Live SIERRA LEONE

Long Live SLPP