

A JOINT COMMUNIQUE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR UNITY TEAM–SIERRA LEONE PEOPLES PARTY (SLPP)

A CALL FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PPRC REPORT

“WE WONT RELENT, WE WILL CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FOR AN END TO THE CURRENT IMPASSE WITHIN THE SIERRA LEONE PEOPLES PARTY, (SLPP).”

“ The conflict or trying time you are now going through begs the question of your Party’s motto: One Country, One People; in this sense, if you do not have unity in your Party how can you unite the country if the opportunity comes the Party’s way. We urge you, please let your appetite to unite the Party outweigh your belligerent and selfish desires.” (Excerpt from the conclusions of the PPRC report, paragraph one, pages 34/35)”.

1 On Saturday, 11th January, 2014, The Campaign For Unity Team (CUT), a Students, Grassroots and Youth advocacy movement, “ *Lek we wok for CUT across all ethnic and regional divide*” within the Sierra Leone Peoples Party(SLPP), met in Freetown, and discussed the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Report of the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) on the SLPP; a report published following a review of the complain lodged by some aggrieved members of the SLPP to the PPRC, contesting the outcomes of the Election of National Party Officers during the recent National Convention held in Bo, 17 August, 2013. Over 30 senior CUT representatives (women and men) drawn from the Western, Eastern, Southern, and Northern regions attended the one-day consultative meeting.

2 Our entire CUT membership, both at home and abroad, would like to first take this opportunity to sincerely extend a Happy New Year 2014 greeting to the leadership, past and present, former ministers, Honorable Members of Parliament, stakeholders, local government authorities, party members in the Diaspora and the entire membership of the Sierra Leone People’s Party. In this 2014, we pray for God’s/Allah’s divine intervention in our drive to unify the SLPP for victory come 2017/18 National Elections, Amen/Amin!

3 The meeting welcomed the PPRC report, and agreed that, the Campaign for Unity Team (CUT), as an independent, impartial, objective, trust and relationship building, dedicated students, grassroots and youth movement of the Sierra Leone People’s Party, should continue to engage and advocate for the recommendations proposed by the PPRC to be immediately considered for implementation by all parties;

4 The meeting noted that CUT’s initial activities have been generally recognized by senior party stalwarts as laudable, especially those carried out during the National Party Convention held in Bo. Many party members have said, “ Thanks to CUT for organizing a successful two days delegates political outreach and canvassing event: a street parade and caravan show involving over 1,500 unifiers (men and women) drawn from our regional CUT offices: Western

area, North, East and Southern regions; the series of radio and panel discussions sponsored on KISS 104 Radio Station in Bo, before and after the convention, which helped reduce tensions, nurtured resilience and increased level of awareness amongst delegates and the entire membership, where panelists stressed the importance of political tolerance and the need for unification of the SLPP. Members also noted that the two-day strategic planning retreat held on 23 and 24 August, 2013, also contributed to the development of a coherent engagement strategy on how students, grassroots and youths of SLPP can continue to engage in activities aimed at building trust, relationships and unifying the SLPP. All of these activities culminated to the release of a joint communiqué on 29th August 2013, copies of which were distributed to the PPRC, the SLPP National Executive Council (NEC), Parliamentarians, aggrieved individuals, and the media. Hence, such exercise formed the basis for our continued engagement with the work of the PPRC in its drive to resolve the ongoing impasse within the SLPP;

5 In recent time, CUT provided a minimal financial support to the Party Secretariat, which contributed to a successful outcome of the National Executive Committee Meeting, held on 29 and 30 November, 2013. All of these efforts are part of CUT's continued activities aim at unifying the SLPP. Despite these initial efforts, CUT believes that the present intra-party political climate is divisive, full of mistrust, characterized by petition, court cases, leadership wrangling and struggle, infighting, trading on unnecessary internet propaganda of hate and media calumny.

6 CUT holds the opinion that all stakeholders must work to build trust and relationships amongst each other; they must put aside all personal ambitions that are undermining the party's overall aspiration to win in the 2017/2018 national elections. In this regard, CUT therefore pleads with the aggrieved parties and individuals to immediately consider working with the present national executive to establish the Joint Reconciliation Committee (JRC) as recommended by the PPRC report. We believe that the JRC will help to translate the main recommendations of the PPRC report into an implementable roadmap. These recommendations include:

- a *The appointment of a 10-man committee to reconcile the various factions.*
- b *Chief Sumano Kapen, Chairman and Leader of the Party, and Ambassador Alie Bangura, agree on the 10 man reconciliation committee. Members of the ongoing Reconciliation Committee are eligible for appointment or selection to the Committee;*
- c. *That Chief Sumano Kapen, Ambassador Alie Bangura and other non-aligned members, agree on the appointment of the Chairman outside the 10-man committee member appointed;*

- d Ensure a Secretary to the Joint Reconciliation Committee(JRC),is appointed jointly by Chief Sumano Kapen, Ambassador Alie Bangura and other non-aligned members, outside the membership of the Committee.;*
- e The Secretary General and Treasurer make all relevant documents available to the JRC Committee.*
- f The JRC Committee to start work or deliberations – two weeks from the date of the reading of this report;*
- g The Committee/JRC to submit its report to the Chairman and Leader 1st Petitioner, Alie Bangura and the Political Parties Registration Commission six weeks after the commencement of the sittings of Committee.*
- g The PPRC to facilitate a meeting between Chief Sumano Kapen, Chairman/Leader and 1st Petitioner, Ambassador Alie Bangura for the purpose of setting up the Reconciliation Committee.*

7 CUT is of the view that the question of any court actions that might delay the process of implementation of these recommendations should be reconsidered or at best suspended in the interest of our beloved party. We call for an urgent SLPP family “Consultative Dialogue Conference on Unity and Reconciliation”, to discuss the PPRC report, with the overall objective of building a consensus and agreeing on concrete decisions and steps on how to take forward the PPRC recommendations. CUT stands ready to mobilize resources, both human and financial, to organize such a Family Consultative Dialogue Conference.

8 We call on the international community, including the United Nations/UNDP, Mano River Union Secretariat, ECOWAS, and the International Financial Institutions (ADB and the World Bank country offices), the European Union, US, UK/DFID, Diplomatic Embassies, to reinforce the PPRC and CUT to achieve our intended desire: Working towards unifying and strengthening Political Parties, as viable agents of political and economic transformation in fragile states, such as Sierra Leone.

9 We call on the collective wisdom of our past leaders especially the elders without exception for their urgent intervention to ensure that the party restrains from unsavory language and discourse that might further widen our differences. We all owe it to our membership that the legacy we have to leave behind must be reflective of those that were left by our fore fathers “UNITY IN DIVERSITY”.

10 CUT strongly feels the priority of the party today is for us all to relentlessly pursue unity and reconciliation efforts. For CUT, we believe it is too early to talk about the contest for a Flag bearer of our party. The first step must be strengthening the party structures and institutions. With a unified front and strengthened party administrative structures and institutions at the zonal, constituencies, district, regional and national levels; we can work to achieve our desired political

aspirations, whether to serve as counselors, parliamentarians, mayors or a presidential candidate. We must work to adhere to reconciliatory languages and behaviors consistent with the core values of our beloved party and the people of Sierra Leone.

11 In concluding, the 11th January CUT meeting stressed the importance of reminding all party members and stakeholders that we must take after late President Nelson Mandela's 'Unity, reconciliation and forgiveness drive and vision for South Africa'; such strategic thinking and vision must be the only way out for the SLPP. As the oldest political party in sub-Saharan Africa (only compared to the ANC), a party that pioneered our independence in 1961, and the architect of sustainable peace in Sierra Leone, after 11 years of violent civil war, we need to stay focused, guided and inspired by those achievements and morale values we had imbibed.

12 CUT, as a students, grassroots and youth movement, stands ready to establish and serve in a functional Secretariat to support the work of the Joint Reconciliation Committee(JRC). We believe we have devoted members of our team, both home and abroad, that have the experience, contacts and ability to assemble secretariat staff that can reinforce the JRC in facilitating unity and reconciliation efforts within the SLPP.

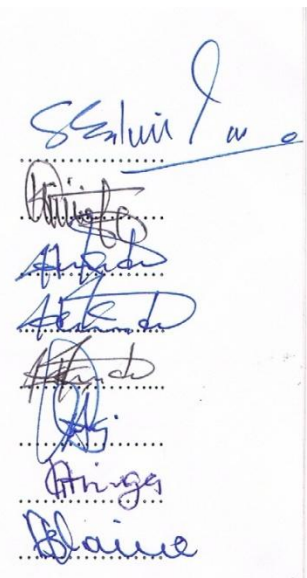
13 We consider the Campaign for Unity Team's (CUT) engagement strategy with the SLPP as a laudable venture, and therefore call on its founding members at home and abroad, to continue to work to sustain such a wonderful initiative: "SLPP is only as strong as its membership is united, as weak as they are divided". With "Unity" we are bound to take State House come 2018.

LONG LIVE SLPP AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.-

END

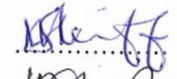
SIGNED

1. Sheik Salim Feika, National Students Coordinator, SLPP:
2. Dwight Z.K Sheriff, SLPP, Western Area Student Leader:
3. Saidu Alie Lakkoh, Regional Students Coordinator, SLPP, North:
4. Elogima Ibrahim Kokofele, Regional Students Coordinator, SLPP East:
5. James Fawundu, Regional Students Coordinator, SLPP, South:
6. Alex J. Mammy, President, SLPP- FBC Campus
7. Madam Geeta Hinga, President, MMCET, Congo Cross Campus:
8. Francis Sagba Lamin, President, SLPP, NUC, Bo Campus:

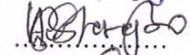


Handwritten signatures of the eight individuals listed on the left, each written over a dotted line. The signatures are: Sheik Salim Feika, Dwight Z.K Sheriff, Saidu Alie Lakkoh, Elogima Ibrahim Kokofele, James Fawundu, Alex J. Mammy, Madam Geeta Hinga, and Francis Sagba Lamin.

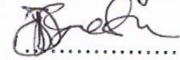
9. ^{Mustapho} Mohamed Sheriff Vangahun, President, SLPP, IPAM Campus:



10. Abdurahman S. Kargbo, Rep. of CUT, University of Makeni (UNMAK)



11. Desmond J. Fofanah, Moriba Town Youths Emp. Org, Bo:



12. Mr. Amadu Barrie, Grassroot Representative, Bo:



13. Brima Lansana, President, SLPP NUC, Freetown Campus:

