



Commonwealth Secretary-General

23 July 2018

Dear Prof Mchunu

I am writing to express my appreciation for your participation in the Commonwealth Observer Group for the 2018 General Elections and the run-off Presidential elections in the Republic of Sierra Leone, and to send you a final copy of your Group's Report.

I was encouraged by the Group's overall assessment that the electoral process as a whole, was credible, transparent and inclusive. The Group commended all Sierra Leoneans for the peaceful and orderly exercise of their franchise, which demonstrated their commitment to a sustainable and peaceful democracy. In particular, the Group noted the participation of the elderly and disabled voters, and the presence of women and youth as voters and officials. It was also noteworthy that the Group commended local peace efforts by the Peoples Political Party Registration Commission (PPRC), which led to the signing of the Freetown Declaration, a pledge for peace and non-violence. These public commitments and other efforts were instrumental in ensuring a peaceful environment during the elections.

It is my hope that the recommendations which the Group has offered will be received in the Commonwealth spirit of constructive engagement and that they will improve the quality of electoral processes and conduct of elections in the Republic of Sierra Leone.

I am separately forwarding copies of the Report to the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, the National Electoral Commission and the leaders of the main political parties. As is standard practice, the Report will also be shared with all Commonwealth governments and it will thereafter be made public.

Please accept my renewed thanks and appreciation for your service to the Commonwealth.

The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC

Prof Mandla Mchunu
2nd Floor, Cornerhouse
77 Commissioner Street
Johannesburg 2001
SOUTH AFRICA