THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF SIERRA LEONE

CONCERN OVER THE WITHHOLDING OF 47,454 RESULTS BY THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL (WAEC)

FREETOWN

Monday, 2nd November, 2026

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) is gravely concerned over the withholding of results of **47,454 candidates** who sat to the May/June 2026 West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) as announced by the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Mr. Conrad Sackey on Tuesday 27th October, 2026.

During the announcement, the Minister stated that in 2025 WAEC withheld **13,237** results. HRCSL further notes that, **27,097; 33,238** and **20,000** results were withheld in 2024, 2023 and 2022 respectively.

While HRCSL strongly condemns examination malpractices in all forms, the Commission is however deeply concerned that this systemic pattern of withholding results gravely affects the enjoyment of the right to education and results to attendants' social problems.

HRCSL therefore recommends preventive mechanisms, accountable and transparent systems to fighting exam malpractice and protecting the integrity of the exams.

HRCSL will engage relevant stakeholders and further review the state of affairs in determining the threshold for a public inquiry in accordance with its Complaints, Investigations and Inquiries Rules, 2008.

HRCSL continues to assure the general public of its unwavering commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights of all in the country.

END

Signed:



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Patricia Narsu Ndanema (Mrs.)

Chairperson

For more enquiries please contact:

HRCSL Communications Directorate or

info@hrc.gov.sl

+232-79-481520