

5. Formal complaint to the Independent Media Commission by UNIOSIL against New Vision and Unity Radio

The Independent Media Commission considered a letter of complaint from Mr. Vandi C. Minah, former Legal Adviser of UNIOSIL titled: '**Formal Complaint to the Independent Media Commission**'. This complaint was made against the SLPP Unity Radio (FM94.9) and the New Vision Newspaper.

Mr. Minah stated in the letter of complaint that on Wednesday 12th September 2007, the SLPP Unity Radio station (FM94.9) broadcast a statement between 10.00am and 11.00pm concerning the presidential election results. During the course of the broadcast, Mr. Carlos Valenzuela, the Chief Technical Advisor for the United Nations Electoral Assistance Team, was identified by name and threatening remarks were made against him.

He further stated that on 13th September 2007, the New Vision Newspaper published a highly inflammatory article entitled 'Figure tampering at NEC - UN Volunteer implicated' on page 1 and 10 of the newspaper. He said the article identified two United Nations staff members, Mr. Lamin Lighe, the UNV Data Centre Officer (referred to as 'Lamin') and Mr. Shalva Kipshidze, the NEC Data Centre Manager as agents of the regime change agenda in Sierra Leone. The article accused them of electoral fraud and manipulation of the results.

After lengthy deliberations, members resolved that since the issue of the elections and regime change were now behind us, it would be good for the two parties to accept reconciliation and put the whole episode behind them. Both parties agreed.