

### **Complaint by Mr. Henry T. Kpakoi against Joseph Kamanda**

The Commission conducted two hearings on a complaint received from Mr. Henry Tamba Kpakoi of Komba Kpakoi House captioned '*Berewa's Bodyguard Arrested with Loaded Pistol in the NEC Office before announcement of Results*'.

The complainant stated that an article was downloaded from the Cocorioko website in which Mr. Joseph Kamanda, a freelance journalist in Sierra Leone, reported that before the official announcement of results for the Presidential Election, "Police in Freetown had arrested the security personnel attached to the defeated SLPP Presidential candidate Solomon Berewa at the main entrance of the NEC Media Tally Centre at the British Council. According to the report, the security personnel was about to carry out an operation in the interest of the Pa." The article alleged that Mr. Kpakoi who was in a green discovery Landrover was caught with a loaded pistol trying to access the Conference Hall where the Chief Electoral Commissioner was about to read the final Presidential results.

After conducting three hearings of the complaint during which the committee considered all available evidence, it was clear that Mr. Kpakoi did not have a loaded pistol in his possession, nor was he on a mission to assassinate the Chairperson of NEC.

The Board therefore advised Mr. Joseph Kamanda to publish a retraction of the offending article in the Cocorioko website and forward a copy of the retraction and a letter of apology to the complainant. This directive was carried out to the satisfaction of Mr. Henry T. Kpakoi.