
PLAIN PREACHER ▼

While responding to our question, 'can she be trusted to conduct a free, fair and transparent election in 2012?', the Chief Electoral Commissioner, Dr. Christiana A.M. Thorpe referred the question to the people of Sierra Leone who she said must provide the answer. Accordingly, SierraEye threw back the question to the public and their responses make interesting reading.

Good to live with the devil you know than the angel you do not know Dominic K. Vandi former SLPP member of parliament ▼

Human beings are prone to changes. Human beings are not static. People may have done something wrong and over the years or months they may realize their mistakes and then correct them. If you say you are going to remove Dr. Christiana Thorpe at this point in time it may open up a lot of suspicion that may not augur well for the country. It may even be that the person who would be appointed would need to comprehend fully what elections are all about.

Dr. Thorpe is no longer new in the election arena. She may have her own pitfalls but it will be good to live with the devil you know than the Angel you do not know. I personally have no problem with her conducting the 2012 elections. She has intimated that NEC would introduce the Biometric system of registration. The process itself is a fine idea; it only demands a lot of voter education and sensitization of all the stakeholders.

Image laundering Mrs. Fatmata Kamara Secretary/Data Imputer, Tengbeh Town Freetown ▼

The Chief Electoral Commissioner may likely embark on washing her image clean in the eyes of those who distrust her. I believe the coming elections will prove just that. She is a woman who believes in herself. So I think she can be trusted on those grounds. That is more the reason she is adopting the Biometric system of voter registration to bring fair play into the overall electoral process.

Probably she would prove to her critics that she is not what they think of her. She could be discredited by some political parties; based on that she would now do the right thing. Before the 2007 elections no party raised an eye brow on her electoral activities. Now she is being constantly hunted by her actions in 2007. The Chief Electoral Commissioner will not want a repeat of that anymore. I believe the chairperson would clean her image this time round. I trust her to conduct this election.

Every person deserves a second trial Rev. Catherine Cox, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Freetown

Appointment into leadership positions come from God. What God proposes no man disposes. If we say we can not trust Madam Thorpe it may appear that we are contesting the judgment of God. To me she deserves that position, she is trust worthy. She may have gone too far invalidating some results in the 2007 polls; that was also the plan of God because it had been destined that President Koroma would lead this nation. God used her to fulfill His plans for the country. I am happy that her commission would be using the Biometric system of voter registration which the facial features and the finger prints of the electorate would be computerized. This would add credibility to the elections. If she has been so deceitful I do not believe she would want to employ this method of voting any longer. Let us trust her. Even to God every human being is given a second chance to either repent or wallow in sin. Our God is a patient God. We also need to be patient with God's appointees.

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Christiana Thorpe is a woman of substance

Edith O. Stobber, Head of Department, Guidance and Counseling St. Helena Secondary School, Kissy Freetown ▼

I have complete confidence in her as a woman. We women can take our stance. Some time we are looked down upon, but I am sure Madam Thorpe is doing the right thing. She has done the right thing in the past years although she was criticized but she did the correct thing. And I know she will do the same for this election that will be conducted in 2012 and I am completely in line with all what she has done. I am confident that she will succeed again. As far as the Biometric system of voter registration is concerned, we are living in the world of technology. We should improve now. We should change the old system; she should be in line with what obtains in other states. We know that the world is a global village. We have to do exactly what is going on in other countries; we need to improve. I have no iota of doubt in her. I trust her and Sierra Leoneans should repose confidence in her for a better Sierra Leone.

Madam Thorpe is the best Chief Electoral Commission we have ever had.

Santigie M. Koroma, a concerned citizen, Freetown ▼

The Chief Electoral Commissioner, Dr. Christiana Thorpe is the best Chief Electoral Commissioner this country has ever produced. She is a woman of integrity who lives by the rule of engagement. It was due to her integrity and commitment to nation building that the previous SLPP Government nominated her as Chief Electoral Commissioner. She has proved to the world that Sierra Leone is bigger than any one political party by her actions in the 2007 polls. Although she was debunked by a section of people in the country, Dr. Thorpe gained international recognition. The international community especially the sub region is making use of her expertise. Just few weeks ago she led a delegation of ECOWAS Team to Gambia. That tells us that she did the correct thing in the 2007 elections. I therefore have no reason to doubt her credibility in this coming election. If the international community can trust her I believe we should trust her judgment and allow her to run this election. She has introduced a new system known as the Biometric method of voter registration. This is the best method meant to minimize corruption in our elections. If she was dubious before she would not think of that any more. I trust her and the nation should trust her.

Christiana Thope is a bias commissioner.

W. B. Tucker, Willies Enterprises, Freetown ▼

I personally cannot trust her to conduct the coming elections. She has already demonstrated her biasness in the 2007 elections by unconstitutionally denying victory to the SLPP. She was never given the power to invalidate votes. Yet she went on to do it.

Later, after causing the damage, she went round asking parliament to grant her the power to invalidate votes. If she knew she didn't have the power to do so, why did she do what she did? And you are asking if we can trust her to misbehave again? No, I don't trust her. What would stop her repeating the same thing in 2012 but in a different fashion? I can't trust her with our elections any more. ■