

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF SIERRA LEONE**



**2016**

**REPORT  
MACRO-MONITORING EXERCISE IN KABALA, KOINADUGU  
DISTRICT**

**Macro-Monitoring Team**

**Human Rights Commission - Sierra Leone**

**6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) is the national institution with the overall mandate to protect and promote human rights in the country. One of its statutory functions as stated in Section 7(2)(f) is to “monitor and document human rights in Sierra Leone”. Section 9 (1) of the HRCSL Act, provides that “A member of the Commission or any person authorized in that behalf by such member, shall have access to all government offices, facilities and places of detention, including prisons, police cells, remand homes and probation facilities, in order to investigate a human rights matter initiated by the Commission or brought to the attention of the Commission as well as access to any non-classified information in government documents”.

Macro monitoring is undertaken once or twice a year during which Commissioners join staff of the Directorate of Monitoring and Research to conduct holistic monitoring of detention facilities and engage authorities in these facilities. The findings of the monitoring exercises are utilized by the Commission to make recommendations which are submitted and discussed with relevant authorities for implementation, and are also published in the Commission’s Annual State of Human Rights Report which is presented to H.E The President and the Speaker of Parliament.

Kabala is under the jurisdiction of the Commission’s northern region office which is in Makeni. However, due to logistical constraints, and the distance between the two districts, Kabala is not regularly visited by the Commission. As a result, does not get firsthand information about the human rights situation in the district, but relies on reports from the District Human Rights Committee and other sources.

In 2014, the Correctional Services Act was enacted, transforming the Sierra Leone Prisons to Correctional Service. In 2015 the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners was reviewed and renamed the Mandela Rules. Also in 2015, the African Commission adopted the Guidelines on the Conditions of Arrest, Police Custody and Pretrial Detention in Africa (also known as The Luanda Guidelines), during the 56th ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights.

The monitoring exercises will provide the commission with firsthand information on the human rights situation in Kabala as well as the opportunity to share and discuss contents of the Mandela Rules and Luanda Guidelines with heads of the various detention facilities in the district and to

assess how much progress has been made in the implementation of this new Act. It will also serve as a basis for making recommendations and engaging relevant authorities and also for providing remedies to inmates.

### **1.1 AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

The aim of these monitoring visits is to assess the human right situations in Kabala and the administration of justice.

### **1.2 OBJECTIVES:**

- To assess how much progress has been made in the implementation of Correctional Services Act 2014;
- To assess compliance with the International Standards Minimum Rules for places of detention;
- To engage heads of institutions in the administration of justice generally and also to introduce the Mandela Rules and Luanda Guidelines;
- To strength the relationship between the Commission in particular the HRCSL Northern Regional Office and the Police, Correctional Officials, Authorities in the Health sector, CSOs and other key stakeholders in the district;
- To produce monitoring report on the human rights situation and proffer recommendations that will eventually feed into the 2016 edition of the Annual State of Human Rights in Sierra Leone Report.

### **1.3 COURTESY CALLS**

It is in view of the above that on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) visited the township of Kabala in the Koinadugu district to monitor the human rights situation in the district. Mindful of its respect for authority HRCSL paid courteous homages by first meeting with two host Paramount Chiefs of Wara Wara Yagala and Sengbeh Chiefdoms in the persons of PC Gbawuru Mansaray III and Hon PC Alie Balansama Marrah III respectively, whose two chiefdoms traverse the Kabala Township. The meetings were convened separately in the presence of their sub-chiefs and a cross section of their Chiefdom Council elders.

The team led by the HRCSL Chairperson and his deputy presented '*white envelopes*' to both Paramount Chiefs as customs and traditions demands to officially inform them of the Commission's presence in Kabala; but more importantly to inform them about the Macro-monitoring activities that will be undertaken by the Commission.

The HRCSL Chairperson further informed them of the different institutions that will be the focus of the monitoring exercise namely; the Police and its detention facilities and FSU, Correctional Centre, Local Courts Lock-up and the Kabala Government Hospital. He also informed them that his team will also use the opportunity to engage the various CSOs in particular the Koinadugu District Human Rights Committee (KoinDHRC), key heads of government institutions, local authorities including the District Council to share the critical findings from the monitoring and then proffer recommendations using the human rights based approach.

The HRCSL Chairperson used the opportunity to particularly welcome PC Gbawuru Mansaray III of Wara WaraYagala Chiefdom on his return to his Chiefdom following his recent trip to the USA.

The Paramount Chiefs on their part, welcomed the team and thanked the Commission for coming to Koinadugu to undertake such an activity. As a sign of appreciation and to say 'welcome' to the team, PC Alie Balansama Marrah III and his Council presented the team with the traditional kola nut placed in a jar of water.

The Paramount Chief of Neini Chiefdom, PC Foday Jalloh also joined his colleague Paramount Chiefs to express deep sentiments on the work of the Commission. As a one-time employee of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), he acknowledged the establishment of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone as one of the imperative recommendations of the TRC and how the Commission has contributed to the protection and promotion of human rights in the country. He also among other things mentioned efforts aimed at restoring the dignity of women and that of the youths in terms of access to education.



*The HRCSL RSHRO (North) Presenting a copy of the SoHR 2014 Report to the Paramount Chief of Neini Chieftom in Koinadugu district.*

The host Paramount Chiefs catalogued to the team the number of strides they have made to foster development, peace and stability in the district. These among others include –

- Success in bridging the gap between the Paramount Chieftaincy and the people by keeping close contact with them at all times;
- Success in putting government functionaries on their toes getting them to be proactive in responding to emerging developments in the district as evident during the Ebola Outbreak in which the district recorded the least number of infections nationwide;
- Efforts towards protecting human rights and promoting good governance in the district, commending the role of organizations such the Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CDHR) and Campaign For Good Governance (CGG) in raising awareness through community outreach and radio panel discussions on topical issues;
- Also putting women in elective positions, pointing to the recent appointment of a female Town Chief which has opened the space for increased gender parity in the district.

In the end, Mdm. Gloria Bayoh, the Regional Officer (North) presented the State of Human Rights in Sierra Leone 2014 Report and the HRCSL Act 2014 to the host PCs on behalf of the Commission.

## **2.0 SIERRA LEONE POLICE (SLP)**

### **2.1 Visit to the Kabala Police Division**



*HRCSL Monitoring team visiting the Kabala Police Divisional HQ to commence the first leg of the Macro-monitoring exercise of detention facilities on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016.*

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016, the HRCSL team visited the Kabala Police Division in Kabala Township to monitor the detention facilities and to assess the welfare of suspects in custody. The team also used the opportunity to assess and evaluate the management and operations of the police in the district. The team used the HRCSL's Monitoring tool to collect the data.

### **Background Information**

The Kabala Police division is located along Hospital Road in the township sector of Wara Wara Chiefdom. Adjoined to the station is the Family Support Unit (FSU). The Head of the Division is Supt. Alimamy Bangura, the Local Unit commander, who was away at the time of the visit. The

team had audience with the officer-in-charge, Insp. Alex B. Turay who is the Support Officer in the Division.

#### **a) Station Records**

##### ***Findings***

At the time of visit, station records revealed as follows;

- 15 suspects in custody (13 males and 2 females);
- 5 male suspect already charged to court and 10 being investigated for various offences such as larceny, assault, wounding and for traffic offences;
- The facility has 2 holding cells; i.e. one for male and the other for female suspects. However, it was explained that when there is overcrowding in the male cell, arrangements are made for suspects to be transferred to the female holding cell while the latter if there is any at the time will be moved and placed under open detention.
- The total number of personnel attached to the division is 108 officers (100 males and 8 females with 3 attached to the FSU) These statistical figure shows a greater disparity in the number of male and female personnel in active service in the district;
- There were 15 officers on duty at time of visit with 13 males and 2 females

#### **b) Complaints Procedure**

##### ***Findings***

- The station has a complaints dairy in which entries of cases were done;
- Statements were obtained as and when reported;
- There are no standing interpreters at the police station and most times relatives of complainants/suspects serve as interpreters during interrogation;
- Suspects are arrested most times on arrest warrants;
- Relatives are informed of the arrest to their loved ones;

### **c) Investigation and Arrest Procedure**

#### ***Findings***

- Investigation and arrest procedures were followed except that the working tools such as the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and the Criminal procedure Act 1965 are not easy to come by and sometimes militated against their work in terms of referencing relevant sections;
- Statements from complainants and suspects are obtained contemporaneously meaning one officer does the interrogation and the other the written statement;
- Statements are obtained by the free will and self-volition of the suspect;
- Suspects are often conveyed to court in police vehicles although in the absence of a vehicle, they are made to walk to court in handcuffs;
- The SLP in Koinadugu have not established partnership with the Legal Aid Board; so the rights to legal representation is yet to be realized in this part of the country;
- Police bail for misdemeanor offences is granted in line with the stipulated conditions of bail and the surety is required to produce suspect in court.

### **d) Access to medical and other Hygienic Facilities**

#### ***Findings***

- The station does not provide medical services to suspects; though sometimes, depending on the severity of the ailment or injury, senior officers do pay on humanitarian grounds for medical services from their coffers;
- The facility has a borehole that provides safe drinking water to suspects as well as officers;
- Toilet facility that is available is only for suspects' use and there is none for officers;
- Bathing facility is extended to all suspects on request;
- There are no bedding facilities in the cells;
- There is a work service officer who is paid by government to provide cleaning services to the police premises and the rest of the detention facilities.

## **e) Feeding**

### ***Findings***

- The Kabala Correctional Centre provides food ration to suspects in police custody once per day during lunch time.
- Complainants and sometime relatives of suspects do provide food on the condition that they must taste it before it is passed on to the suspect.
- Breakfast services in the Correctional Centre are not extended to the detainees in police custody.

## **f) Logistics**

### ***Findings***

- The division has three vehicles i.e. one fully operational, the other partly and the third absolutely grounded;
- No maintenance cost is incurred at the division as the vehicles are either sent to Makeni or Freetown and it takes time to be sent back to the field;
- Stationery for operations is supplied though it is inadequate to support the inflow of complaints coming to the station;

## **General**

### ***Other Findings***

- The police division received the sum of One Million Leones as direct subsidy from government per quarter and it is oftentimes delayed;
- The police do receive small support from mining companies, *Blue Horizon Gold Mining Company* in the form of fuel, tyres and other consumables to expedite their work;
- The division is under staffed, ill –equipped and under-resourced in relation to its coverage of the country's largest district, the size of the population and also on the part of some police personnel who do not want to be deployed due to the remoteness of the district and finally the rapid rate of retirement and slow nature of the replacement process;

- The Kabala and Mongor divisions are the only two divisions in the district. The Kabala Division has Two stations – Kabala and Fadugu and four posts in Yeifi, Kondabaya, Bafordia and Dougolia;
- The Station was noted to run a two shift system of 12 hours each instead of the conventional three shift system of 8 hours per shift.

## 2.2 THE FAMILY SUPPORT UNIT (FSU) - KABALA POLICE STATION

The NCO Crime – Const. Rafael Bangura

### *Findings*

- Physical assaults such as beatings, sexual penetration – though occasional are the frequent reported cases to the FSU;

### **FSU statistics:**

No.	Item	M	F	T
1.	Complaints received in the past three months	17	65	82
2.	Complaints referred to court	4	5	9
3.	Complaints mediated and kept in view		19	19

- All cases for which investigations are completed are charged to court.
- The Service Charter by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) posted in front of all government hospitals requires that no cost is paid by complainants for all cases of Sexual Penetration but this has not been adhered to;
- Medical form to further investigations for case of Domestic Violence are reported being paid for by complainants/ victims of SGBV;
- The same also applies to Pregnancy Tests for victims of Sexual Penetration;
- There is undue delay in cases referred to court as a result of late endorsement of medical forms;
- Amount of money charged for endorsement of forms for domestic violence and physical assault is not affordable by some complainants;
- There is logistical constraint, the Unit vehicle is grounded and in need of serious repairs;
- There is only one motor bike and that could not serve more than one emergency at a time.

- There is only a room assigned to all the sections in the unit. The Crime Officer and the Social Workers are all cramped in a single room and victim's privacy is not ensured;
- Support has been sought from DFID to fund a project towards the construction of a structure that will accommodate the FSU;
- Inadequate supply of stationery for the unit;
- On the endorsement of medical forms, theLUC was reported to have raised the issue with DISEC;
- The absence of a Rainbow Center in Kabala also was noted as a militating factor in the investigation of sexual penetration cases.

### **Recommendations**

- To increase office accommodation so that the various sections can guarantee the privacy of victims of SGBV; especially for Juvenile victims in contact with the law;
- The FSU being a Unit of records be given some attention in respect of stationery to keep a thorough and proper record of complaints received;
- Additional vehicles and motor bikes be provided for the unit;
- The Medical Supt. should be engaged on the issue of the endorsement of medical forms for SGBV victims so that the FSU could expedite its investigation and charge to court based on credible evidential proof.

## **3.0 THE SIERRA LEONE CORRECTIONAL SERVICE**

### **3.1 Kabala Correctional Centre**

**[Insert photo of the facility]**

#### **Background**

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016, the HRCSL team also visited the Kabala Correctional Centre which is located around the Hospital Road area close to the police, the hospital and the Magistrate Court. The visit was in consistent with the HRCSL macro-monitoring activities of some of the detention facilities in Kabala. As in the case of the police, the team also used the opportunity to assess the situation of the Correctional Centre detention facilities, the welfare of inmates and the working conditions of Correctional Centre officials in the district. The team used the HRCSL's Monitoring tool for Correctional Centre to collect the relevant data.

The Correctional Centre manager, Mr. Tamba Ngaujah and his Correctional Centre Officers were noted to be very cooperative and therefore support the HRCSL team in the information gathering process and the data recorded into the HRCSL monitoring tool.

#### **a) Facility Records**

##### ***Findings***

- At the time of visit, there were 50 inmates (all males) incarcerated in the following categories: (Inmates convicted – 33; On Remand – 11; On Trial – 6). Out of this number, six inmates have received their Indictment Notices for their cases to be transferred to the High Court in Makeni.
- The number of Correctional Officers at the time of visit was seven i.e. 4 males and 3 females; but the total number is twenty-five; i.e. 17 males and 8 females.
- The Centre is operated in a three shift system i.e. 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.
- No remand inmate have spent more than six months at the Correctional centre; the highest is five months and is currently remanded on the count of murder.

- Convicted inmates sentenced to long prison terms are transferred to Makeni for onward transfer to Mafanta or to the Pademba Road Correctional Centre

## **b) Admission Procedures**

### ***Findings***

- No inmate is admitted without a valid court order
- Relatives of inmates are normally informed of their admission;
- On admission, the inmate is handed over to the yard manager who will brief the inmate on the rules and regulations of the Centre and also provide inmate psycho-social counselling. Then to the guard master who provides the inmate beddings, toiletries etc.
- Items brought to the Centre by the inmates are received and recorded in a Property Record Ledger;

## **c) Detention Facilities**

### ***Findings***

- There are twelve holding cells within the facility i.e. 10 holding cells for males and 2 for females;
- At the time of visit, only nine cell were occupied by inmates;
- Average of seven inmates are place per cell;
- The cell space was noted to be very small and poorly ventilated;
- The cells have mattresses that are shared two per inmates;
- No mosquito repellants measures are put in place to protect inmates from malaria infection;

#### **d) Internal Discipline**

##### *Findings*

- There is a separate cell to place inmates as a form of punishment;
- Other disciplinary measures include a reduction in the day-ration of the recalcitrant inmate which will be followed by a warning.
- Punishable offence among others include fighting, use of abusive languages and threatening remarks;
- There are various means to communicate to inmates from officer to inmate or through their peers normally called 'captain' 'red band' 'general' or 'provo'
- Dispute/conflict can also be resolved through these categories of their inmate peers

#### **e) Feeding**

##### *Findings*

- Adequate food is provided to all the inmates; i.e. Breakfast is mainly bread and tea at 9:00 a.m. and double ration mainly rice and source to cover for lunch and dinner at 3:00 p.m.
- Special diet was reportedly provided for persons with special dietary needs including persons medically diagnosed with certain ailments like diabetics, malnutrition and hypertension.

#### **f) Health and Hygiene**

##### *Findings*

- The facility has never experienced any form of disease outbreak (*during the Ebola outbreak in 2014-15, the facility was insulated with stringent Ebola prevention procedures*)
- There is a Medical Unit run by a nurse who diagnoses, prescribes and administers drugs to inmates with less serious medical cases;

- The unit operates three times a week except for emergency cases which may warrant the nurse to do extra hours;
- Medical ailments frequently reported by inmates are malaria, body pains, headache common flu;
- Referral cases are sent to the Kabala Government Hospital especially when they are beyond the medical expertise of the nurse in attendance at the facility;
- Correctional Centre Manager and sometimes senior officers at the centre do pay medical bills for ailing inmates on humanitarian grounds especially if the drugs prescribed are not available at the centre's medical unit;
- The facility has a hand pump that provides safe drinking water;
- The cells have toilets - two are broken and in need of maintenance;
- Inmates are provided toiletries, convicts were also provided with the normal prison outfits to distinguish them from the remand and other categories of inmates;
- Inmates have access to bathing facilities.

**g) Education and Recreation**

***Findings***

- New inmates are exposed to live skills such as tailoring (facility has 3 machines) and bakery;
- Adult literacy skills in the form of spellings and writing are also provided;
- Football is the only recreation activity undertaken by inmates and is done on Sundays;
- Post detention integration of inmates was normally done through counselling, after serving their sentences provided with transportation and a document to certify their release.
- No inmate is allowed to work while on detention;
- No compensation is provided for inmates after serving their sentences.

## **h) Incident Records**

### ***Findings***

The incident records show the following:

- There has been no death in the facility since 2007;
- Have not experienced any jail break since 2005;
- No confrontation with the community people since the construction of the new facility in 2002;
- There are frequent disputes and confrontations among agitated inmates but are normally settled either by the correctional officers or their designated fellow inmates commonly known as ‘captains’ ‘redbands’ or ‘provos’

## **i) Social Relations and After-Care**

### ***Findings***

- Visitations from family and friends are allowed on every Tuesdays and Fridays between 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 a.m.;
- Other days of visitations are contingent on exceptional cases of emergency in events such as deaths or serious ailments that may require the attention/support of relatives and friends;

## **j) Training and Condition of service for Correctional Officers**

### ***Findings***

- Capacity building programs are provided though not too frequent to meet the challenges of the current transformation from prison services to correctional Centres;
- Kinds of training provided mainly had to do with the handling and processing of warrants and other documentation during the reception of inmates to the facility;
- Challenges encountered at the Centre are as follows: Understaffing, lack of power supply;

- In the area of mobility, the facility oftentimes solicit support from the SLP but the challenge with that is the fact that, they are often asked to provide gallons of fuel and other lubricants for the use of their vehicles;
- Since taken over and Correctional Center Manager in April 2016 to date, the facility has never received subsidy from the central government;
- Prison Watch and the religious bodies have been visiting the Centre during the last three months;
- The centre does receive support from Christian groups during Christian holidays in the form of clothing, money and other consumables on behalf of inmates
- Pastors and Imams are allowed to pay regular visits to the facility
- The facility hardly receive inmates with physical and mental disabilities;

### **3.2 Kabala Chiefdom Local Court**

On 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016, the HRCSL team visited the Kabala Local Court in Wara WaraYagalla Chiefdom where it inspected the Local court Lock-up. The Lock up was empty at the time of visit. The team was told that, the facility is also used to keep exhibits that are tendered in court. The team then held discussions with the Local Court Supervisor, the Chiefdom Treasury Clerk and a number of Local Court Authorities.



***HRCSL Micro-Monitoring team engaging the Local Court Officials on findings borne out of the macro-monitoring exercise on 8th June 2016 at the Kabala Local Court.***

The HRCSL Chairperson thanked the Local Court Authorities for creating the space for civil Society Organisations in the district to operate. He further expressed the hope that the level of collaboration between the Local Court and the District Human Rights Committee (DHRCs) in particular will grow from strength to strength. In brief, the HRCSL Chairperson explained to the Local Court Officials the laws of equity and natural justice which must be seen to apply in their daily adjudication of cases.

### ***Findings***

- Matters to come to the local court are mainly: woman palaver, land/bush cases abusive language, debts, for key among others is micro-credit debt recovery; and divorce
- Matters of domestic violence and rape are referred to the police;
- For someone to be committed to the Correctional Centre from the Local Court lock up, a warrant must be signed by the Local Court Supervisor;
- There are bye-laws in place to curb anti-social behavior in the communities;
- Often times, persons found guilty of civil offences are fined and ordered to provide items such as rice, oil palm, a cow depending on the severity of the offence in lieu of money; especially if the insult is against an authority;
- Cases linked with micro-credit are common and widespread. In such cases punitive action is sometime difficult to be instituted especially if the defaulter is a pregnant woman;
- With the transfer of the Local court Administration to the Ministry of Justice, the Government took the responsibility to pay the Paramount Chiefs, and the Native Administrative Police ( who earns a minimum salary of Le 500,000) and leave out the Local Court supervisors, Chairmen (Le 136,000 - salary) and Local Court Clerk (Le 175,000 - salary) who are paid far less than their juniors the Native administrative Police; thus creating dissent and acrimony in the native Administrative justice system
- Local court fines according to the Treasury clerk are limited to Le 100,000. He receives all payment and prepares the financial payment for the month;
- Women are drafted into the local court panel but are not remunerated in any way; this applies to the Chiefdom '*Mammy Queens*'

## ***Recommendations***

- The issue of micro-credit therefore calls for a review of the process of awarding loans to pregnant women who cannot be imprisoned as a result of their physical status;
- There is need to review the Local Court Act with a view to harmonise the payment of remunerations of the various local court officials;
- More women should be drafted into the local court panel where they should be seen to hold key positions in the native administration of justice;
- Court fine should be brought in tandem as stipulated in the Local Court Act

## **4.0 HEALTH SECTOR**

### **4.1 Kabala Government Hospital**

On 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016, the HRCSL team had a Meeting with the Medical Superintendent Dr. Caesar Charley. A brief introduction was made by the HRCSL Chair and his team, followed by introductions of the hospital officials.

The Medical Supt. welcomed the Commission to the Kabala Government Hospital as he appreciated the fact that Commission was there to monitor the situation of the facility and the welfare of patients. He assured the team of his cooperation and vouched that the facility is operating and will continue to operate within the required procedures of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

HRCSL Chair in response made brief references to the concerns raised by the police FSU in Kabala which had to do with the Hospital Management. He Chair raised issues of delays in the endorsement of the medical reports of alleged victims of Sexual Penetration. The allegation was that the Medical Supt. has only a day (Friday) in the week that is set aside to endorse and certify all medical certificates for police to further with their investigation.

The concern of the FSU is the loss of evidence if the victim is not examined within three or four days. The courts sit most often mid – week and if the forms are endorsed on Friday and weekends are no working days, it will mean that if a victim of sexual penetration reports on Monday, then

she would have to wait until Friday before any medical endorsement is issued and five days for any case of sexual penetration will mean losing the evidence.

The MS therefore responded to the concerns raised:

- That most of the time he is out of the hospital on official duty except on Fridays when he would have time to pay attention to SGBV cases;
- The issue of patients leaving the facility while being admitted without the consent of the medical staff was noted as a concern. He mention a case in which a mother whose child was admitted for ingesting poison smuggled it out of the facility for some preferred medical care and the child died later on. The Doctor refused to issue the police a medical certificate because he could not ascertain at the time the true cause of the child's death.

The team submitted copies of the State of Human Rights Report in Sierra Leone and the Commission Act to the Medical Supt.



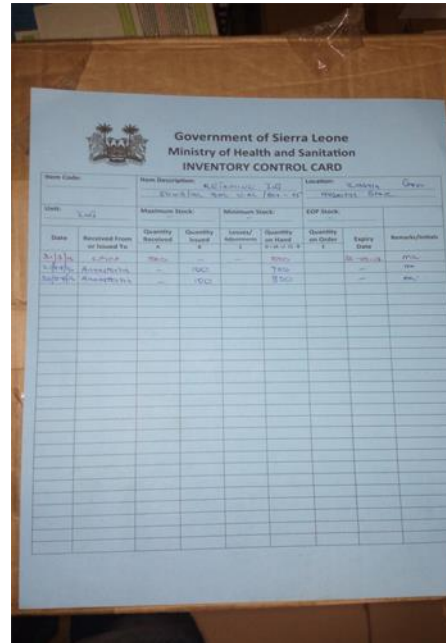
***The Regional Officer – North Mrs. Gloria Bayoh handing over the SOHRR to Dr. Caesar Charley of Kabala Government Hospital***

Following the interaction with the Medical Supt, the Monitoring team conducted a full blown inspection of the following units attached to the facilities

## 1. THE DRUG STORE

### *Findings*

- The Hospital Drug store which was managed by one Martin Kargbo (Store keeper);
- The drugs are shipped to the facility's store from the Central Medical Stores in Freetown;
- The same drugs are dished out through a completed Requisition Form presented by a nurses to demand drugs as perrequisition;
- Requisition is normally made on a monthly basis and followed by returns from the various wards back to the store.



***A portion of the Drugs and the Supply form in the Stores room for the Hospital Drugs.***

## **2. THE CHILDREN'S WARD (Nurse in charge: Charles Jormoh)**

### ***Findings***

- The ward is managed by the Ministry of Health (MoH) in partnership with MSF (Medicines San Frontier);
- No. of beds in the ward - 30;
- No. of patients at the time of visit – 22;
- No. of Nurses on duty – 5 ( Comprising of MoH staff and MSF staff);
- Common sickness in the ward – Malaria and Malnutrition;
- No. of Hygienists – 3;
- Privacy – There are two screens in the ward to attend to emergencies;
- The Nurse in Charge confirmed to the team that a memo has been sent to the hospital to treat persons with disability free of cost. He mentioned that this has begun;
- The Free drugs from MSF cover the ages from a-day old to 12 years. This drugs are not part of the Free Health Drugs but it compliments it and the age requirement is not in line with the Free Health Care.

## **3. THE MATERNITY WARD - POST NATAL (Nurse in charge – Sis Margaret M. Conteh)**

### ***Findings***

- No. of Beds – 9
- No. of patients – 9
- No. of Nurses – 7 (2 mid wives; 4 Nurses; 1 Nursing Aid) per shift.
- Privacy – there is 1 bed screen
- Late arrivals of pregnant women to the unit
- No Mosquito net at the Anti natal ward and therefore most mothers are infected with the malaria parasite and upon delivery their children are also with the malaria parasite.

#### **4. POST AND ANTI NATAL WARD II (Nurse in charge – Antonia M. Kargbo)**

##### ***Findings***

- No. of beds – 13
- No. of Patients – 8
- No. of Nurses on duty – 2 per shift
- Privacy – There is a screen available
- Food – Thrice daily

#### **5. THE HOSPITAL MATRON ( Frances Pearce)**

The Matron led the team conducted tour of the hospital

##### ***Findings***

- No. of Nurses in the Hospital – 58 (among these are 12 volunteers);
- Total No. of staff – 120 (Including the support staff, the nurses, CHOs, the Doctors and the Sisters);
- Verification is ongoing as volunteers have received forms from the Public Service Commission and have been filed with the assistance of the Commission; though some are still to be verified
- Constant water supply remains a major constraint though efforts to construct boreholes are currently underway;
- Human Resource (Staff strength), very inadequate;
- Local area staff motivation in terms of payment of remote allowances is non – available;
- Transportation facility to carry staff to work and from work is non-existent.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- To expedite the verification process with a view to increase the dwindling medical staff strength;
- Provide remote allowances to motivate medical staff working in this remote part of the Country.

- The Hospital should provide utility vehicle for the hospital staff residing in distance places and who need to attend to emergency cases.
- Increase the number of Doctors by bonding new doctors from the university who have benefited from the government's grant-in-aid

At the end of exercise, copies of the SoHR report in Sierra Leone, 2014 edition was also presented by the team to the Matron.



*The SHRO North handing over the SoHR in Sierra Leone, 2014 to the Matron of the Kabala Hospital*

## **5.0 ENGAGEMENTS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs)**

### **5.1 Meeting with the Koinadugu Districts Human Rights Committee (KoinDHRC)**

The HRCSL monitoring team also took the opportunity to meet with a cross section of (KoinDHRC). The meeting sought to bolster cooperation between the two entities and to drum up support in terms of its work interfacing with the relevant stakeholders in the district. The HRCSL team briefed the Committee on the purpose of the macro-monitoring exercise and the necessity to co-opt the CSOs in the exercise. In return, some members of the Committee brief the Commission on some of the inhibiting factors that hamper their work in the district.



***HRCSL Macro-monitoring team engagement with a cross-section of the Koinadugu District Human right Committee during an information sharing session on critical human rights issues in the district***

Below were some of the issues raised that were deliberated upon:

#### **1. Rule of Law:**

- **The absence of a Resident Magistrate in the District**

The district is still without a resident magistrate despite repeated advocacy from CSOs to station one in Kabala. The Magistrate Court in Kabala is continually being placed in circuit alongside the Makeni, Kamakwei and Magbruraka Magistrate Courts under the jurisdiction of the itinerant Magistrate who is in resident in Makeni and who seldomly sits court in Kabala. When he sits prompted long distances to be covered by complainants and witnesses to attend court.

- **Local Courts**  
The local courts are still being supervised by the Chiefs despite the government decision to bring all local courts under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice. The Chiefs by asserting their authority over cases presided by the local court has led people to resort to other desperate measures such as witchcraft and sorcery in search of swift justice.
- **Lack of Remand home for juvenile offenders in the district**  
The absence of a Remand Home and Approved School in the district continues to create a rift between the officials of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs (MSWGCA) and families of children in conflict with the law as these perpetrators are taken to Freetown. This action by MSWGCA makes visitation by family members to their loved ones a challenge in term of the cost of transportation and accommodation that is involved in making such ventures.

## 2. Rights of Vulnerable Groups

- **Lack of safe homes for victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)**  
The absence of ‘safe homes’ or temporal sanctuaries for victims of SGBV continues to promote the culture of impunity. There are reported cases of victims forced to co-habit with their abusers in communities simply because they do not have anywhere to go. In fact in Semgbeh Chiefdom, a bye law is reportedly passed that any reported case of SGBV, will automatically result to community isolation of the victim and her relatives. The recommendations in the Sexual offences Act 2012 are still to be implemented.
- **Delays in the endorsement of medical reports**  
The need for the expeditious investigation of SGBV matters was attributed to delays in the endorsement of medical forms by a designated Medical Doctor. Also the longstanding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the SLP and the Medical Doctor needs to be revisited to increase coordination between the SLP and District Medical Office in dealing with SGBV cases. This is significant because delay in endorsement oftentimes lead to loss of medical evident.

- **Compromise on SGBV Cases**

Parents and relatives of victims of SGBV are clearly noted to compromise by resorting to out-of-court settlements in the form of compensation or forced to marry the alleged perpetrator. This action of impunity is often demonstrated without due regard to the sentiments of the victim.

- **Teenage Pregnancy**

The proliferation of social activities in schools continue expose young school going girls to early and teenage pregnancy. Contests such as '*Teacher designers contest*'; '*NPSE Nite*'; '*Miss Koinadugu*' to name a few are noted as side attractions coupled with peer group pressure responsible for the high rate of teenage pregnancies in the district. At some point, the Deputy Director of Education had some engagement with school on the subject since it is the school that are singled out as being responsible in organizing such activities. Efforts are underway with the District council on how such activities could be barred.

### **3. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights issues**

- **Religion and Human Rights**

There are certain religious precepts that are reported to have serious consequences in the enjoyment of human rights in the district. Some of the cases adjudicated in the local court have strong religious sentiments.

- The new phenomenon of boys and young adult males organizing themselves into cliques was noted as a worrisome development by the authorities. While the authorities recognized it as a foreign import from the city, efforts are underway to combat it

- **Right to Health**

The Free Health Care scheme was noted to be in crisis due to the short supply of drugs and sometimes stocks not coming on time to the Health Centre. The issue of nurses and Community Health Officer (CHOs) engaging in drug peddling and owning private pharmacies was noted to be responsible for the quick shortage of supplies;

- Also, the difficulty to distinguish drugs assigned to the Free Health Care system from those on cost recovery system makes it simple for unscrupulous medical personnel to divert these drugs;
- The implementation of the Persons with Disability (PwD) Act 2011 granting PwDs access to benefit from the Free Health Care System was noted as a welcome development in the district.
- **Right to Water**  
The access to safe drinking water was noted as a challenge in the district save for the quick intervention of SALWACO with its rural water supply initiative in which civil work is currently underway to bring water from Musaya to the Kabala Township. Meanwhile, people are encouraged to apply chlorine to purify their well water sources. OXFAM, an International NGO continues to drill boreholes in the district and sensitizing the community on the use of water boreholes;
- The local production of safe and drinking water is yet to be improved in terms of quality. The absence of a standard bureau in the district continue to undermine the quality control on water production in the district.

#### **4. Defending Human Rights Defenders**

##### *Intimidations of Committee Members by local authorities*

- CSOs, in particular members of the KoinDHRC continues to come under threats and intimidation from government functionaries. They were oftentimes meted with stiff resistance from local authorities who continue to remain impervious to change. There are reports in which the Committee came under serious intimidation and mudslinging from some local authorities who deliberately refused to reinstate their sub-chiefs suspended for flouting the Ebola Local Bye-laws.
- It was agreed that the HRCSL Regional Office in Makeni works closely with the KoinDHRC in terms of collaboration and sharing information and to communicating such information to the Commission for further action.
- Perception of human rights by the public is still to be improved upon and tradition continues to overshadow rights and responsibilities

## **6.0 ENGAGEMENT WITH THE DISTRICT LOCAL COUNCIL**

### **6.1 Meeting with the Chief Administrator (CA) – Koinadugu District Council**

The HRCSL monitoring team met with the Chief Administrator of the Koinadugu District Council Sahr E. Yambasu to share some of the findings identified during the two- day macro-monitoring exercise. The HRCSL Chair also used the opportunity to officially introduce the HRCSL Regional Officer (North).



*The HRCSL Chairperson and team holding fruitful discussions on the findings borne out of the Macro-monitoring exercise in Kabala with Mr. Sahr E. Yambasu – Chief administrator Koinadugu District Council*

Some of the issues shared as finding are as follows:

- **Shortage of clean and safe drinking water in the district –**  
The Chief Administrator (CA) catalogued the efforts made by government and international donors to bring pipe borne water to the district. The Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO) is currently working on a gravity water system that will supply the township and its surroundings. Also DFID and the ADB has funded the drilling of 22 boreholes in various chiefdom in the district, Bafordia, Kasongo and Yeifi chiefdoms are also major beneficiaries of the gravity water harvesting project.

- **Issues of teenage pregnancy, child mothers–**  
The CA acknowledged these issues as a social malaise and attributed the causes to a variety of factors. Firstly, the rise and unregulated entertainment industry; secondly, ascribed the cause to poor parenting and thirdly, the school which is supposed to shape morals are the ones promoting show businesses
- **Early and forced marriages–**
- Illiteracy and poverty are major contributing factors as some parents continue to perceive the role of the girl-child as being in the kitchen and not in the classroom.
- **The issue of boys and young adult males forming themselves into cliques –**  
recognized cliques as a social import from the cities and would try as a council to nip it in the bud.
- **The need to improve on the health sector –**  
Acknowledged role of MSF which has improved in the provision of medical care in the district through the provision of drugs and the deployment of foreign medical practitioners. The emergence of MSF has bolstered the Free Health Care initiative and the NGO is working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health.
- **The non-payment of school subsidies by government –**  
Reported that community assisted schools have stopped benefiting from the government supported subsidies. There are schools with teachers who have not been approved and as a result have not been receiving salaries. For teachers who have been approved, delays in receiving salaries was a major challenge. The schools are few and far between and in some instances children had to walk an average of ten kilometers every day to go to school and back. The NGOs ‘IBIS’ have been providing training needs for teacher that have been approved by government while ‘CRS’ continues to institute the school feeding program to keep children at school and on the other hand encourage the retention of girls in schools by introducing the take-home food initiative.

## **5.0 SOME KEY RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE MACRO-MONITORING**

1. The correctional center authorities should provide skills training materials like more sewing machines, carpentry and welding equipment to train inmates in the various skills to

prepare them for a smooth community reintegration when they shall have served their prison term;

2. Government should develop a policy that should authorize Hospital Matrons and Community Health Officers to be endorsing medical forms to ease the pressure off the Medical superintendent;
3. To follow up on Ibrahim Koroma's case and to fast track his release from the Correctional Centre;
4. The HRCSL Regional Office (North) should work with the Chairperson Koinadugu District Human Right Committee to develop a video clip on his impression about the HRCSL effort to secure his release;
5. DCILS should working with Richard M'bayo and Abdulai Yollah Bangura in writing a letter to the High Court Registrar of Makeni to secure the release of Daniel Koroma.