



## **HRCSL & NDMA AGREE TO COLLABORATE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS**

A team from the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL), led by Commissioner Simitie Laval, on 15th February had an engagement with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) on possible collaboration on disaster management and climate change issues.



During the engagement in the conference room of NDMA at Aberdeen, the two institutions agreed to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the mitigation of climate change hazards. NDMA also expressed willingness to work with HRCSL on human rights-based approach to disaster preparedness, prevention and management.

Commissioner Simitie Laval, who led the HRCSL team, spoke about the establishment of a Directorate of Climate Change and Information Services in response to the current impact of climate action on the enjoyment of human rights in the country.

She stated that climate change mitigation and adaptation requires a collective efforts of all players, as it's impact may infringe on the enjoyment of many rights.

Director General of NDMA, Lieutenant General (Rtd) Brima Sesay described the engagement as important, noting that human rights issues and the agency's job in responding to disasters cannot be separated.



He expressed joy for the establishment of partnership with HRCSL as it would help in jointly educating the public on their rights and responsibilities, especially adhering to environmental laws and disaster preventive measures.