



HRCSL AND ACC SIGN MOU

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) and the Anti-Corruption Commission of Sierra Leone (ACC) have on Wednesday 26th February, 2020 at the ACC HQ signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the fight against corruption.

The Director of Public Education at the ACC, Patrick Sandi in the fight against corruption, they look out for partners and that the HRCSL was such special partner. He said the effects of corruption would have an impact on the enjoyment of human rights.

In her statement, the Chairperson of HRCSL Patricia Narsu Ndanema said the signing of the MOU brought to fruition a commitment she made to the African Union and the Network of National Human Rights Institutions approximately 6 months ago in Addis Ababa. At that meeting, she disclosed that extensive discussions were held on corruption in Africa, and one of the topics discussed was 'The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in the Fight Against Corruption'.

The Chairperson further disclosed that the ACC was publicly recognized for its active role played in the fight against corruption in Africa. "I felt proud and I sent a text to Commissioner stating that 'you have just made me proud in my current location'. So congratulations to the Commissioners and their formidable team, keep up the good work, we are really proud of you". She said.

Commissioner Narsu Ndanema went on to state that signing an MOU with the ACC was no mistake. "The HRCSL is mandated by its Act to collaborate with other institutions intervening in the field of human rights and the ACC is just one of such institution. It's clear that the work of the ACC is directly linked to the enjoyment of rights because we all know that where corruption prevails, the enjoyment of rights is totally eroded". She pointed.

Reminding about the mandate of the HRCSL, she stated that it is to protect and promote human rights while stressing that Sierra Leone has its human right state obligations to protect, respect and fulfil human rights. In fulfilling human rights, she explained it meant that the enabling environment has to be created by government for right holders to enjoy their rights.

"Take for e.g. the right to health which constitutes basic elements for its enjoyment, availability of trained and qualified doctors and nurses, availability of drugs, good diagnostic machines, other basic logistics and a host of other things. Now if for example essentials such as drugs are diverted, that is corruption and the intended beneficiaries out there will be denied the enjoyment of that right because of a corrupt practice".

"So as we sign this MOU today, I remain very optimistic on behalf of the HRCSL that both Commissions will be committed to the objectives for which this MOU was established". She committed.

The Deputy ACC Commissioner Augustine Foday Ngobie whilst expressing delight for the MOU, emphasized the roles of the two institutions was to ensure that human dignity and respect for human rights are maintained.



The MOU outlines the principles of collaborative engagement and partnership between the two institutions and it is prepared on the basis of the mutually agreeable issues that emerged during the meeting held on Tuesday 28th January 2020 at the ACC premises involving a cross section of the senior management and staff of both institutions.

In the context and justification of the MOU, it is agreed that the two institutions are both required to regularly engage in public education and outreach programs across the country in order to get both duty bearers and rights holders understand the mandate and operations of both institutions.

It also seek that while the ACC works to achieve a less corrupt society, the HRCSL works to ensure the economic social and cultural rights are realized for the benefit of all, it ties up with one of the aspirations of the HRCSL for the realization of those rights which can be achieved in a less corrupt society.

Both institutions have agreed to undertake activities to promote good governance and respect for human rights and to provide mutual support and assistance as well as do referrals on matters relating to their mandates which can be best handled by the other and provide guidance on good practices.