

HRCSL ENDS STAFF RETREAT

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) on Saturday 28th September 2019 ended a retreat that began on Thursday September 26th, 2019 at the Pearl's Residence and Restaurant, Lumley beach.

The retreat is coming after the HRCSL last held one in 2015. During the retreat the Commission had the opportunity to review its previous work as per the strategic plan 2016-2020, considered its successes, challenges and the way forward.

The Commission also played host to the second Chairman of HRCSL, Mr. Edward Sam who gave a motivational speech on how they began as the first set of Commissioners; how they went through to secure the first Grade A Status and also holding the Commission's first Public hearing that involved 311 ex-soldiers termed as chronically ill and mentally imbalanced. The first Executive Secretary of HRCSL, Mr. Abraham John also gave an insight in to the relationship between the Executive Secretary and Commissioners on one hand, and the staff on the other hand.

The Section Director of Amnesty International-Sierra Leone, Mr. Solomon Sogbandi focused on some of the activities undertaken by the HRCSL in the realization of human rights. He also called on the HRCSL to always consider its mandate of protecting and promoting human rights of everybody in the country.

The retreat also saw in presentations from the Executive Secretary, Mr. Joseph B. Kamara reflecting on the HRCSL Vision and Mission statements and core values; presentation on the HRCSL strategic plan 2016-2019 by the Director of Programme, Planning & Evaluation- Mr. Mohamed Kuyateh. There were updates from the various Directorates, Units and Regional offices on their activities, successes and challenges. Discussions followed after each presentation. The five Commissioners are also providing oversight responsibilities of the various directorates which also gave them the opportunities to provide responses after each directorate presentation

The Vice Chairman of HRCSL- Victor I. Lansana Esq. did a working presentation on understanding the HRCSL Act. That exercise was followed by a group work and presentations on the chapter three of the 1991 constitution drawing a synergy with the HRCSL Act. .

The Commission also invited Mr. Charles Vandy, the Director of Gender in the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs to present on the Medium Term National Development Plan- Cluster 5. The Commission used the opportunity to validate a tool on monitoring rights to education developed by the Directorate of Monitoring and Research.

At the end of the retreat, the Chairman of the HRCSL Chairman, Mrs. Patricia Narsu Ndanema whilst applauding the staff, she emphasized the need for renewed vigor and commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights in Sierra Leone.



Cross section of staff and present and past Commissioners