



HRCSL EXTENDS REFERRAL PARTNERSHIP FORUM TO THE EASTERN REGION

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) on Wednesday 10th November 2021 officially launched the Eastern Region chapter of the Referral Partnership Forum at the Regional Office in Kenema.

According to Winston Shaka Sesay of the Directorate of Complaints, Investigations and Legal Services (DCILS) in the Commission, the forum was established in 2016 to build synergy with institutions to address matters of human rights that does not fall within the mandate of the Commission. He added that partners in this forum also refer matters to the Commission and they provide a report during the partnership meeting which is held quarterly to review matters handled by the forum. "The partnership forum is meant to receive updates from partner institutions to which the Commission referred cases. Since its creation in 2016, we have recorded tremendous successes with regards cases referred," he said.





On behalf of the referral partners which includes Sierra Leone Legal Aid Board, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Office of the Ombudsman and the Ministries of Social Welfare and Labour and Social Security, amongst others, Augustine Sannoh welcomed the establishment of the forum in that part of the country. He said, "we will participate in this forum fully because it is only when rights are guaranteed that individuals and society can live in peace."

Chairperson of the HRCSL, Patricia Narsu Ndanema spoke about the importance of collaboration which is provided for in the Commission's Act of 2004. The Chairperson said, "The enjoyment of human rights is not a one-man show, it is a collective responsibility. The referral partnership in Freetown is amicably working and we thought it fit to establish another in Kenema because there is an active group of people here working on human rights issues."



While officially launching the forum, Oversight Commissioner for DCILS, Commissioner Hassan Samba Yarjah emphasized that the partnership forum should ensure it provides a tangible result. "Let us do our best in making sure that we work positively in impacting the lives of people that come to us."