



HRCSL MONITORS SECOND PHASE OF COVID-19 3 DAY LOCKDOWN

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) monitored the second lockdown in the fight against COVID-19 from May 3rd to May 5th, 2020.

In the Northern Region, Commissioner Dr. Gassan Abess led the regional officers and monitored the observance of public compliance and the respect of the standard operational procedures by the security sector. In addition, the team monitored the humanitarian support to vulnerable groups particularly persons with disability.

The monitoring team visited the Makeni Male Correctional Centre, the homeless along the streets of Makeni and the Magbetteh Polio Camp which housed over 200 polio affected persons.

While engaging the homeless, the monitoring team was informed that they received food from the Ministry of Social Welfare. The Vice Chairperson of the Magbetteh Camp confirmed that they received cash from NACSA as government support to the needy. At the correctional centre, the Commission was informed that there was stability in service delivery despite the overcrowding and poor ventilation affecting inmates.

In Freetown, Commissioner Simitie Lavaly and team monitored the supply of water in various communities as well as the Connaught hospital and the Central Police station. At the Central police, it was observed that there were several male inmates and 1 female private security in detention. 2 males had been arrested on the first day of the lockdown, whilst 4, including the female, were arrested on the second day for offences not related to the lockdown. The officers were encouraged to grant bail to those arrested during the lockdown as well as those who had spent sometime in the cells due to lack of court sittings.

At the Connaught hospital the team spoke to Dr Mohamed Bawoh, the secretary to the hospital. He said he had just received the regular supplies for the hospital. Unlike the first lockdown, people visited the hospital for treatment. Suspected COVID-19 patients were kept in a separate location until test results were out and they are then sent to treatment centres elsewhere if they were positive.

The team also observed the supply of food to vulnerable persons.

On the third day of the lockdown, Commissioner Abess and the Northern Region officers visited Lunsar Town and Feradugu in the North West Region to observe and assess incidences.

In Lunsar, the team engaged the security personnel and some residents on the three days lockdown and the circumstances that led to the burning and vandalism of the residence of the Paramount chief, vehicles, police facilities and the petrol station.

The newly assigned LUC. Supt. Murana Kamara was also engaged together with his team at the Lunsar Police station.

Commissioner Hassan Samba Yarjah, incharge of Regional Services and the Deputy Director in the Eastern Region, Sylvester Sidi Kallon also monitored the lockdown. In Kenema, the Commissioner and team along with the district human rights committee, monitored food supplies to quarantined homes, checkpoints, health and other essential service delivery. The



Deputy Director in the Southern Region, Mohamed Tiamieu Fofana and staff also did similar monitoring.