



## **HRCSL COMMISSIONERS ON OUTREACH ACTIVITIES IN THE REGIONS**

Commissioners of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) on Monday 13th May, 2019 undertook a regional tour in Makeni by engaging the Paramount Chief PC Bai Shebora Kasanga II, the AIG North East Ambrose Sovula and his Local Unit Commanders, the Resident Minister North, Hon. Abu Abu and members of the Provincial Security Committee in Bombali.

The Commissioners later meet with the Bombali District Human Rights Committee and on Tuesday 14th May, held similar outreach activities in Port Loko.

The Commissioners undertook a human rights outreach to the regions so that the populace gets to know the new policy drivers of the country's human rights architecture and their vision for human rights in the country.

The tour was also for them to have a sense of the prevailing human rights challenges across the country and how they can be best addressed in fulfillment of the mandate they have set themselves to implement as enshrined in the HRCSL Act 2004.

It also gave an opportunity for them to interface, share experiences and practice directives with relevant interlocutors and key stakeholders engaged in human rights work in the regions.

It would be recalled in September 2018, following a public notice from the Office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice; commenced the legitimate process of the recruitment of five Commissioners for the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone. A selection panel was set up in which five out of seven candidates were appointed by the President. The five appointees were later approved by parliament to be followed by an oath of office before the President. The outreach/regional tour will continue in Moyamba, Bo, Kailahun and Kenema respectively.

Continuing with the engagements and outreach activities in the regions, the Commissioners on Thursday 16th May, 2019 held collaborative meetings with the Western Rural District Human Rights Committee, the Chairman of the Western Rural District Council and the Western Rural District Security Committee, the resident Magistrate in Waterloo and the Headman. The Commission also undertook a public education at Pathway Academy Secondary School in Benguema.

On Monday 27th May, 2019 the Commissioners continued their regional tour in Kenema, East of the country by engaging the Paramount Chief Kapuwa of Nongowa Chiefdom, the AIG East, FN Bundor and his Local Unit Commanders and the Resident Minister East, Hon. Andrew Ansu Fatorma.

The Commissioners also monitored the Kenema Correctional Centre to assess the human rights concerns and conducted a public education at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Secondary School. They also met with the Provincial security committee and the Kenema District Human



Rights Committee. The Commission wrap up its regional engagements in Kailahun on Tuesday 28th May, 2019.

During the outreach in Kailahun, the Commissioners conducted a public education at the National Secondary School, and had engagement with the Chiefdom Speaker of Luawa, the SLP Commanders in Kailahun and Pendembu and the Kailahun District Security Committee. HRCSL also monitored the Kailahun Correctional Centre as well as engaged the Kailahun District Human Rights Committee and the District Medical Officer