

## **PROFILE: COMMISSIONER RASHID DUMBUYA**

Rashid is a lawyer by profession, a member of the Sierra Leone Bar Association, an Associate lecturer at the Department of Law, Fourah Bay College University of Sierra Leone as well as an International Human Rights advocate and Public Defender. He currently serves as Commissioner in the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone and the legal and Human Rights Advisor for both Prison Watch Sierra Leone and Every Child Matters-(SL). Rashid holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree and Bachelor of Laws Honours Degree from Fourah Bay College University of Sierra Leone as well as an LLM Degree in International Human Rights Law from the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa and an LLM Degree in Petroleum Law and Policy from the University of Dundee, Scotland, United Kingdom. He has also been recently certified as Fellow by the Dean of Law, Kabarak University School of Law, Republic of Kenya.

Rashid has strong expertise in Environmental Impact Assessments projects, strategic impact and public interest litigations, human rights and the extractive industries, project planning development and research, advocacy on juvenile justice, women and prisoners' rights, drafting, resource mobilization and networking. His experiences also cover capacity building and development of civil society organisations, the youths and children as well as the media and press freedom. Rashid further holds several post-graduate certificates in key areas like International law, Disability Rights, Justiciability of Socio- Economic Rights, Sexual Minority Rights, Intellectual Property Rights and Police Oversight and Accountability in Africa. He has also participated in international human rights debates and presentations in the British House of Parliament, Harvard University, the University of Mauritius and the EUIC's Global Classroom in Venice, Italy.

Working with both national and international organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme, the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Equal Opportunities Commission of Mauritius, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, the UN Sustainable Energy For All Forum in New York, the Business and Human Rights Forum in Geneva and as State Prosecutor in the Anti- Corruption Commission of Sierra Leone has helped enhanced Rashid's research and human rights advocacy skills greatly. Being a lecturer has further improved his capacity building skills and research techniques. He can work effectively in English and partly in French. Rashid currently holds the record as the youngest Commissioner to have been appointed to the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone since its inception.

His strength lies in helping organisations design effective project proposals, drafting and reviewing contractual agreements, promoting human rights work, advocating for compliance to international treaty obligations and undertaking legal research in order to ensure greater impacts to targeted groups and also help access competitive donor funding.