JUDICIARY
CRC Sub-Committee Progress Report
2014
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Judiciary Sub-committee under the leadership of Justice V. V. Thomas visited various stakeholders from August – November 2014, to introduce the Public Submission Forms and encourage them to take part in the Constitutional Review process.

This Committee is established to review the provisions and related clauses of the Constitution of Sierra Leone pertaining to the Judicial Branch; examine the Report of the Peter Tucker Constitution Review Commission in a similar manner and make recommendations to the CRC. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Committee may be guided by Sierra Leone constitutional history and such other knowledge gathered from external sources on constitutionalism.

In a Technical Workshop for the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) members on the 6\textsuperscript{th} – 7\textsuperscript{th} February 2014, it was agreed that all committees will visit stakeholders around the country. The Consultations was to start in April 2014 but due to the Ebola situation in the country it was deferred. However, in order not to stop our work it was agreed that, committees must go ahead with their consultations with MDAs/ Institutions in the Western Area.

In total the Judiciary sub-committee visited fourteen (14) MDAs/ Institutions for 2014 and hopefully will visit more in 2015 before launching its consultations in the Provinces.
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CONSULTATIONS WITH THE JUDICIARY AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ON THE 19TH & 24TH AUGUST 2014

Visits to the above institutions were made on the 19th August 2014 to the Ministry of Justice and on the 24th August 2014 to the Judiciary by sub-committee members that included: Hon. Justice V. V. Thomas (JSC), Ms. R.B. Cowan and Mr. Morgan.

At the Ministry of Justice, the team was received by the Permanent Secretary and in readiness for the meeting was a group of Senior Counsel including the Ag. Director of Public Prosecutions and other members of the Ministry.

The main purpose of the meeting was to consult with the workers of the ministry and sensitize them about the sub-committee’s work introducing the submission forms in the process. We had a very interactive session going through the submission form with them and by the end, the chairman encouraged and informed the Ministry representatives that they are expected to compile and forward a detailed report to the CRC.

At the Judiciary, The Hon. Chief Justice welcomed the sub-Committee team which included Hon Justice V.V. Thomas, Ms. R. B. Cowan and Mr. Morgan to her conference room where the meeting was held. In attendance were Judges from various courts, the Deputy Master and Registrar and Magistrates.

We had a very fruitful and fulfilling meeting with the Judiciary team. The session included our Chairman giving a brief synopsis of our task and encouraging an open discussion in areas that were of interest to their institution whilst going through the themes in the submission form.
In concluding, copies of the working documents which include the submission forms, the joint
document of the Constitution and the Peter Tucker Report were given to them and the
Chairman thanked the Chief Justice and her team for having us and informed them that a
detailed report of their submission is to be sent to the CRC.

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SIERRA LEONE POLICE (SLP) AND THE
SIERRA LEONE PRISONS SERVICES ON THE 24TH AUGUST 2014

Messers Victor Horton and Francis.L. Keili met with the hierarchy of the Sierra Leone Police in
their Executive Management Board meeting room in August 2014.

The team was cordially received by the hierarchy of the SLP and was accorded the opportunity
of explaining the purpose of the visit and also took them through the submission form which
they were supposed to answer.

The session was followed by questions and clarifications and they in similar vein asked for a
one week period for them to comprehensively fill the submission form.
The SLP duly compiled and forwarded the filled in questionnaire to the sub-committee for submission to the Chairman.

At the Sierra Leone Prisons Service Messers Victor Horton and Francis Keili met with the senior management of the SLPS. The thrust of the meeting was to explain and deliver the submission form that was designed by the sub-committee. The team spent about two hours with the Prisons Management explaining the thematic questions and a few clarifications were sought.

Having gone through the questions the submission form were left with the Prison management to answer and fill and a one week time lapse was accorded to them.

They duly filled the questionnaire and forwarded it to the team for onward submission to the Chair of the sub-committee.

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN ON THE 30TH SEPTEMBER 2014

On the 30th September 2014, a segment of the Judiciary sub-committee visited the Office of the Ombudsman. In attendance were the following committee members-

Hon. Justice V.V. Thomas (JSC), Mr. E. V. Morgan, Mr. V.W Horton, Ms. G. Benedict, Mrs. I. J. Kabbah, Alhaji U. A. Sesay (CRC Members) and Ms. R. B. Cowan (LTA), Ms. M. Massaquoi (Admin Assistant CRC)

At the office of the Ombudsman, the team was received by the Director Mr. D. Cole and in readiness for the meeting was a group of Senior and Junior staff members including their Legal Officer, Executive Secretary and Investigators.

The main purpose of the meeting was to consult with the staff and sensitize them about the sub-committee’s work introducing the submission forms in the process. We had a working session going through the submission form with them and there were a lot of questions posed and concerns brought which the Chairman encouraged them to include in their report.

The Chairman had prepared several questions which he posed at the Ombudsman team that they probably will wish to comment on in their response to the consultation by the sub-committee. The Director asked if they could have a copy of the questions as it would be helpful to them when compiling their report. It has been forwarded to their office via the Ombudsman.
At the end of our session the Chairman informed the Director that they are expected to compile and forward a detailed report to the CRC within a two week period.

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SIERRA LEONE ON THE 2ND OCTOBER 2014

At the Human Rights Commission Sierra Leone, (HRCSL) the Judiciary sub-committee made their visit on the 2nd October 2014. The sub-committee team which included:

- Hon Justice V.V. Thomas (Member)
- Mr. V. Morgan (Member)
- Mr. V. Horton (Member)
- Mrs. G. Benedict (Member)
- Mrs. I. J. Kabbah (Member)
- Alhaji U. A. Sesay (Member)
- Ms. R. B. Cowan (LTA)
- Ms. M. Massaquoi (Admin Asst.)
- Mr. Julius Cole (Admin Asst.)
We were welcomed to the HRCSL conference room by the Commissioners where the meeting was held. In attendance were Commissioners, Administrative Assistants and members from other areas of the commission. We started off with silent prayers.

We had a very fruitful and fulfilling meeting with the Human Rights Commission team. The session included our Chairman giving a brief synopsis of our task and encouraging an open discussion in areas that were of interest to their institution.

At this juncture, they craved our indulgence to vary our agenda by allowing them a few minutes to do a presentation they had prepared prior to them receiving the submission forms. The presentation was done by one of their Commissioners (Mrs. King) She gave a summary of areas that their institution identified needs to be amended or added to the 1991 constitution like the composition of the Judicial and Legal Service commission and issues dealing with the superior court of Judicature.

After their presentation, Justice Thomas explained the submission form highlighting various themes therein.

In concluding, copies of the working documents which include the submission forms, the joint document of the constitution and the Peter Tucker Report were given to them and the Chairman thanked the Commissioner and her team for having us and informed them that a detailed report of their submission is to be sent to the CRC.
CONSULTATIONS WITH THE INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (IRC) ON THE 8TH OCTOBER 2014

Hon. Justice V. V. Thomas (JSC), Mr. E.V. Morgan, Mr. V.W Horton, Ms. G. Benedict, Mrs. I. J. Kabbah, Alhaji U. A. Sesay (CRC Members) and Ms. R.B. Cowan (LTA), Ms. M. Massaquoi (Admin Assistant CRC) are the members of the Judiciary sub-committee that paid a visit to the Inter-Religious Council at 11am on the 8th October 2014.

At the IRC, the team was welcomed by Alhaji U.N.S Jah. We started off with prayers by Father Davies (catholic mission). Amongst the stakeholders were members from various constituent bodies of the IRC, Catholic Mission and various other bodies.

The main purpose of the meeting was to consult with the IRC as they are regarded as a major stakeholder for the constitutional review process and to sensitize them about the sub-committee’s work introducing the submission forms in the process.

The Chairman thanked them for having us and he continued by informing them that as a sub-committee of the CRC our mandate was to present the public submission forms and sensitize them about the current Constitutional Review Process and what is expected from them as stakeholders and as Sierra Leoneans.
Whilst explaining the themes in the form and briefing them on their expectations, there were a lot of issues in various areas the IRC team brought up and these developed into a productive discussion.

Justice Thomas told them that it would be appreciated if they could complete the submission forms and do a report that would be presented to the CRC after consultation with their various groups whom they were representing.

They were presented with extra copies of the joint 1991 Constitution and The Peter Tucker Report of 2008. He also gave them submission forms for the other sub-committees and encouraged them to send their views on them even if the groups do not visit them.

At the end of our session the Chairman informed the Director that they are expected to compile and forward a detailed report to the CRC within a two week period.

Bishop Barnet thanked us for enlightening them with such a high academic discussion and promised they would make sure their various groups are contacted and produce a report that would reflect their views.

As a final point Alhaji U. N. S. Jah thanked us for our time and thanked the leadership of the CRC.
CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES SIERRA LEONE (CCSL) ON THE 8TH OCTOBER 2014

On the 8th October at 1pm, a cross section of the Judiciary sub-committee team visited CCSL at their office in Brookfields. In attendance were:

Hon. Justice V. V. Thomas (JSC) Chairman Sub-committee
Mr. V. W. Horton (member)
Mr. E. V. Morgan (member)
Mrs. G. Benedict (member)
Mrs. I. J. Kabbah (member)
Alhaji U. A. Sesay (member)
Ms. R. B. Cowan (State Counsel) LTA at CRC
Mrs. Maimunatu Massaquoi (Web Specialist) Admin Assistant to Judiciary Sub-Committee

We were welcomed by the Secretary of CCSL Mrs. Ebun James. We started by introducing our team and gave them the opportunity to do the same.
In attendance on their team were men and women from different Christian denominations that included: Chief Speck (President CCSL), Rt. Rev Arnold Temple (VPII CCSL), and Bishops from other denominations.

The Chairman commenced the session by giving an overview of what our visit entailed. He informed them that we were there to sensitize, consult and discuss with them issues pertaining to the review of the 1991 Constitution in tandem with the 2008 Peter Tucker Report. He explained that though we would be dealing with the judiciary submission form, there are a total of eight sub-committees and they are likely to be visited by the others. He also mentioned to them that there might be issues not germane to the Constitution but they are not to be discarded but developed into a separate position paper and also forwarded to the CRC.

After going through the five themes and their sub questions in the submission form, the CCSL team had a lot of questions, ideas, thoughts and views that were expressed. An interactive session developed and answers were provided for their concerns.

Before concluding Rev. Temple asked if there were going to be follow up sessions and whether the CRC was in a position to provide financial support to enable them to conduct sensitization up provinces for example. It was noted but they were duly informed that even the CRC had financial constraints.

Finally, the chairman urged them to fill in their submission forms and compile a report that would be forwarded to the CRC within two weeks but they asked for extra time as they are inundated with work.
The secretary thanked us for a well set out presentation and pointed out that as they have no background information on some of the issues they would appreciate help from the sub-committee when they are having council meeting. They were guaranteed our participation.

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ANTI CORRUPTION COMMISSION ON THE 9TH OCTOBER 2014

Visit to the above institution was made on the 9th October 2014 at 11.30 am. The Judiciary sub-committee members that attended were – Hon. Justice V. V. Thomas (JSC), Mr. V. Morgan, Mr. W. Horton, Mrs. I. J. Kabbah (members), Ms. G. Benedict, Ms. R.B. Cowan (LTA), Ms. M. Massaquoi (Admin Asst.).

At the Anti-Corruption Commission, the team was received by the Commissioner Mr. J. F. Kamara, and in readiness for the meeting was a group of Senior Members of staff including the Deputy Commissioner. The Commissioner thanked us for visiting their institution before handing over to our Chairman.

Justice Thomas thanked them for accommodating us and gave a brief synopsis of our mandate, which includes presenting the public submission forms and sensitizing them about the current Constitutional Review Process and what is expected from them as a major stakeholder and as Sierra Leoneans.

He further explained that we would explain the themes that have been incorporated in the submission forms and they are welcome to input ideas for us to discuss. He read through all the themes and their questions, highlighting particular areas like those dealing with undue influence, composition of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission, tenure of Judges in the Judiciary amongst others giving practical and personal experiences where necessary.

The Commissioner thanked the Chairman for a succinct presentation and he gave his staff the opportunity to ask questions or mention observations they made. The second half of the visit was very interactive as the ACC staff had a lot of questions, issues and ideas that were relevant to the Constitutional review process. These areas included the Appointment and Removal of Judges, Caliber of people appointed to the Bench, transparency of appointment and removal of Judges and many more. There were issues also not of a constitutional nature but Chairman advised them that whilst writing their report for presentation to the CRC, they could do a position paper with these other non-constitutional issues and forward it with the other report.
The session ended after very productive discussions. The ACC Commissioner once again thanked us and said as they now have a clear understanding of what is required of them; they would endeavor to address key thematic issues we mentioned and those they reckon needs considering.

They were left with several copies of the Joint document of 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report of 2008 and copies of the submission forms.

We kindly requested for their report to be done and presented to the CRC within two weeks.

**CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SIERRA LEONE ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS (SLAJ) ON THE 14TH OCTOBER 2014**

Hon. Justice V. V. Thomas (JSC), Mr. E. V. Morgan, Mr. V.W Horton, Mrs. I. J .Kabbah, Alhaji U. A. Sesay (CRC Members) and Ms. R.B. Cowan (LTA), Ms. M. Massaquoi (Admin Assistant) are the members of the Judiciary sub-committee that paid a visit to SLAJ.

At SLAJ, the team was welcomed by Mr. Kevin Lewis the President and in attendance were Mr. Julius Spencer (committee chairman), Moses Kargbo (secretary general) and a host of reporters from various newspapers and radio stations.

The President of SLAJ explained that they were not sure about the nature of our meeting but they had issues concerning the constitution they are about to bring to our attention. The Chairman explained that the main purpose of the meeting was to consult with SLAJ as they are considered a major stakeholder for the constitutional review process and to sensitize them about the sub-committee’s work introducing the submission forms in the process.
He continued by informing them that as a sub-committee of the CRC our mandate was to present the public submission forms and sensitize them about the current Constitutional Review Process and what is expected from them as stakeholders and as Sierra Leoneans.

The themes in the submission form were read through and they were encouraged to look at the questions and if necessary include other issues that might have been left out that they can comment on in their report as the themes are not exhaustive.

On theme three (3) it was brought to their notice that as SLAJ they must have encountered problems with our laws being outdated. The Chairman gave some personal views and examples when dealing with the other themes.

After going through the form, the President thanked the sub-committee for their time and explained that after the presentation they have gained better direction of dealing with the forms. There was a short session of them expressing concerns in certain areas of the constitution and them asking for clarity like S25.

The President also highlighted some observations with regards S11 and the press not having a section of its own in the Constitution. Other members of the group came up with various ideas, questions, and themes they would consider having in the constitution.

Justice Thomas told them that it would be appreciated if they could complete the submission forms and do a report that would be presented to the CRC after consultation with their various SLAJ members whom they were representing. They were presented with extra copies of the joint 1991 Constitution and The Peter Tucker Report of 2008. He also gave them submission forms for the other sub-committees and encouraged them to send their views on them even if the groups do not visit them.

At the end of our session the Chairman informed the SLAJ President that they are expected to compile and forward a detailed report to the CRC within a two week period.

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CITIZENS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE (CCC) ON THE 14TH OCTOBER 2014

On the 14th October at 1pm, a cross section of the Judiciary sub-committee team visited CCC at their office in Charlotte Street. In attendance were:

Mr. W. Horton (member)
Mr. E. V. Morgan (member)
Mrs. G. Benedict (member)
Mrs. I. J. Kabbah (member)  
Ms. R. B. Cowan (State Counsel) LTA at CRC  
Ms. M. Massaquoi (Web Specialist) Admin Asst. to Judiciary committee

We were welcomed by the Director of SDI (Society for Democratic initiatives) Mr. Emanuel. S. Abdulai. We started by introducing our team, apologizing for the unavoidable absence of our Chairman and gave them the opportunity to do the same. In attendance on their team were members from SDI, and the Editor from News watch newspaper.

The session commenced with Mr. Horton and Ms. Cowan giving an overview of what our visit entailed. We informed them that we were there to sensitize, consult and discuss with them issues pertaining to the review of the 1991 Constitution in tandem with the 2008 Peter Tucker Report. It was explained that though we would be dealing with the judiciary submission form, there are a total of eight sub-committees and they are likely to be visited by the others.

We also mentioned to them that there might be issues not germane to the Constitution but they are not to be discarded but developed into a separate position paper and also forwarded to the CRC.

The session was very interactive with the SDI team speaking on issues of concerns with the themes we gave and mentioning other points of view they had.
We had a very fruitful and fulfilling meeting with the CCC. At this juncture, we encouraged them to prepare a report of their answers and a position paper could also be done of the issues not germane to the constitution but which could form part of a report to Government.

We kindly asked them to fill in and deliver their report to the CRC within two weeks.

**CONSULTATIONS WITH THE LAW REFORM COMMISION ON THE 15TH OCTOBER 2014**

The Judiciary sub-committee of the CRC paid a visit to the LRC on 15th October 2014. In attendance were:

Justice V. V. Thomas (JSC) Chairman  
Mr. V. Horton (Member)  
Mr. V. Morgan (Member)  
Mrs. G. Benedict (Member)  
Mrs. I. J. Kabbah (Member)  
Alhaji U. A. Sesay (Member)  
Ms. R. B. Cowan (LTA)  
Ms. M. Massaquoi (Web Specialist)

At the Law Reform Commission, the team was cordially received by the Chairman Hon. Justice. S. Koroma. We had a moment of silent prayers before we started. Justice Koroma introduced her staff in attendance and they included Legal Counsels, Researchers and Drafters.

The Chairman of the sub-committee gave a synopsis of our mandate, explaining that we are there to consult with and sensitize them about the sub-committees work introducing the submission forms in the process.

Justice Thomas explained the themes in the submission form giving examples of areas where there seem to be gaps and citing examples that he has experienced. He stressed to the LRC that as a major stakeholder, it would be appreciated if they would react and respond to the presentation using the submission form.
Justice S. Koroma thanked us and said the presentation is very topical for them and that she has gained courage from comments made by Justice Thomas. She reckons the review should look at how easy and difficult it has been working with the 1991 Constitution. She mentioned she was part of the Peter Tucker Report 2008 and that there are gaps in it that needs improving.

After a fruitful discussion, she assured Justice Thomas that they would research and look into Judiciary issues and forward a report and position paper to the CRC.

We left them with the Joint document and submission forms for the various sub committees and gave them a two to three week time frame for the report.

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SIERRA LEONE BAR ASSOCIATION (SLBA) ON THE 15TH OCTOBER 2014

The Judiciary sub-committee of the CRC paid a visit to the SLBA on 15th October 2014. In attendance were:

Justice V. V. Thomas (JSC) Chairman
Mr. V. Horton (member)  
Mr. V. Morgan (member)    
Mrs. G. Benedict (member)  
Mrs. I. J. Kabbah (member)  
Alhaji U. A. Sesay (member)  
Ms. R. B. Cowan (LTA)  
Ms. M. Massaquoi (Web Specialist/ Admin Asst.)

We visited the SLBA Secretariat at Lamina Sankoh Street on the 15th October 2014 at 1pm.

We were welcomed by the Secretary General Mr. Fornah-Sesay and he gave apologies for the unavoidable absence of the President of the SLBA and said he would join us by the end of the session. Other members of his team included the PRO of SLBA and a couple of other members. He said he was happy they have been chosen as a major stakeholder and he is aware they are in for some positive deliberation.

Justice Thomas thanked them for having us and gave a brief synopsis of our mandate, which includes presenting the public submission forms and sensitizing them about the current Constitutional Review Process and what is expected from them as a major stakeholder and as Sierra Leoneans. He expressed his interest for senior practitioners to get copies of the joint 1991 Constitution and Peter Tucker Report together with the submission forms as they are
more familiar with the 1991 Constitution. He said they should ask how the 1991 Constitution has been serving us since it was enacted and what needs to be reviewed.

He further explained that we would explain the themes that have been incorporated in the submission forms and they are welcome to input ideas for us to discuss. He read through all the themes and their questions, highlighting particular areas he knew would be of interest to them including those dealing with Judicial and Legal Service Commission, tenure of Judges in the Judiciary amongst others giving practical and personal experiences where necessary.

After his presentation, the President of the SLBA thanked the sub-committee for coming and expressed their gratefulness. He mentioned that the SLBA has a Constitutional Review committee headed by one of their members and they would pass on details of our meeting to them for further action. He also said that it is a birthright for lawyers to comment effectively on the constitutional review issues. He assured us that there are a lot of areas that needs looking into which they would be covering in depth when doing their report.

We left the Secretariat with extra copies of all the working documents and emphasized it would be appreciated if as many members as possible gets a chance to participate in filling them.

The Chairman asked that they send their report to the CRC within two weeks.

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS ON THE 12TH NOVEMBER 2014

The Judiciary sub-committee of the CRC paid a visit to the Ministry of Internal Affairs on 12th November 2014. In attendance were:

Justice V. V. Thomas (JSC) Chairman
Mr. V. Horton (Member)
Mr. V. Morgan (Member)
Mrs. G. Benedict (Member)
Mrs. I. J. Kabbah (Member)
Alhaji U. A. Sesay (Member)
Mr. Francis Keili (Member)
Ms. Glenna Thompson (Member)
Ms. R. B. Cowan (LTA)
Ms. M. Massaquoi (Web Specialist)
At the Internal Affairs Ministry, We were welcomed by the Permanent Secretary and his team. We had a moment of silent prayers, followed by introduction of all present.

The Permanent Secretary (PS) of the Internal Affairs Ministry, Mr. Prince Cole spoke about the Ministry’s mandate, which he said was to ensure internal security and national development through policy formulation and coordination of six agencies; namely, the Sierra Leone Police, the Sierra Leone Prisons/Correctional Service, the National Fire Force, National Registration Secretariat, Immigration and National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

Dilating further, he stressed that the Ministry has a broad scope but was plagued with a plethora of challenges ranging from a legislative instrument that defines its responsibilities to budgetary allocation. He said the ministry has been considered as the Cinderella of all the MDAs because very little focus was placed on it in spite of the significant role it played in national development.

The Permanent Secretary encouraged the CRC to formulate laws that would clarify the functions of the ministry and that of the Office of National Security (ONS) due to the confusion surrounding matters relating to internal security.
The Chairman of the Judiciary sub-committee Justice Valesius Thomas thanked the PS for welcoming his team to the Internal Affairs Ministry. He said the reason for consulting them was to sensitize them about the Judiciary Public Submission Form and to encourage them to actively participate in the CR process of Sierra Leone.

The PS in response said he thought the submission form was clear and self-explanatory, and the timeframe for submission was reasonable for the Ministry to do their homework for onward submission to the CRC. He agreed that there were judicial issues to review and those issues would be clearly highlighted and adequately captured in their position paper.

Alhaji A. U. Sesay, a committee member said the importance of that ministry has been downplayed by government. He continued that the State Proceedings Act has regrettably failed the nation.

He stated in no uncertain terms that sections 156 – 157 should be expunged from the constitution for the Police Council to be fully operational.

Mr. Sesay continued that there must be a felt-need prior to the setting up of a commission. According to him, “There are too many commissions, some of which are just ‘white elephants;’ I see no reason for the establishment of the Prisons Service Commission.”

The PS justified the relevance of the Police Council by stating that it did not conflict with the Board. He said their role has always been to receive complaints while the Board was responsible for promotions and recruitment of Police Officers. He continued by attesting to the fact that the Chairman of the Police Council has been working round the clock, he said advertisements were made recently and they have been lobbying Finance Ministry for funds to start up fully. He said the Police Council is fully constituted and had met twice. He believed the Police Council was relevant in this country and has very little conflict with the Board.

The PS couldn’t agree more with one of the CRC members on the irrelevance of the Prisons Service Commission, noting that a Correctional Council that controls the administration and functions of the centre was in place.

He concluded that they would do justice to the constitutional review process by making their comments on issues of importance both on the submission forms and Position Paper.

The Chairman of the Judiciary sub-committee, Justice Valesius Thomas in conclusion thanked the Ministry and the PS for the wonderful deliberations and that he was expecting their response as promised. He admonished them to fill out the submission forms, do a
position paper on behalf of the Ministry and individual submissions on burning issues pertaining to the Constitution.

Consultations with the Chief of Staff Office on the 26th November 2014

The Judiciary sub-committee of the CRC paid a visit to the Chief of Staff Office on 26th November 2014. In attendance were:

Justice V. V. Thomas (JSC) Chairman  
Mr. V. Horton (Member)  
Mr. V. Morgan (Member)  
Mrs. I. J. Kabbah (Member)  
Alhaji U. A. Sesay (Member)  
Ms. R. B. Cowan (LTA)  
Ms. M. Massaquoi (Web Specialist)
The meeting commenced with silent prayers. There was an introduction of all present so as to acquaint their staff members with our team.

Chairman of the sub-committee Justice V. V Thomas introduced his members and explained to those in attendance that the purpose of the meeting was to consult with and sensitize the Office of Chief of Staff about the review of the 1991 constitution in tandem with the Peter Tucker report as they are one of the major stakeholders we knew the Judiciary sub-committee had to address.

The public submission form of the judiciary sub-committee, the 1991 constitution and Peter Tucker report of 2008 were used as the main working tools of the interactive meeting. Chairman explained to the group that the CRC had other sub-committees as well as ours that would visit the Office of Chief of Staff with their submission forms at a later date.

The Chairman of the OCS mentioned that he appreciates that the CRC is sensitizing people on such an important issue to all as Sierra Leoneans and the fact that individuals are given an opportunity to bring up issues relevant to the process.

The chairman of the sub-committee started off by going through the submission form with the employees. He highlighted certain areas that he reckons needed paying great attention to and how we would appreciate their input.
There were lots of questions and issues raised after wards in a very interactive approach, some of which included; The Chief of Staff who spoke about the concerns of the tenure of the Judges, review of our laws undue delay and recommendation for the Judiciary to be self-accounting

Mr. Timbo spoke about the appointment of Magistrates, lack of motivation in the Judges and Magistrates, and he mentioned that we could see the insertion of the words “Active Practice” in s 135 (1)

Mr. Bangura also spoke on the tenure of the Judges and how the judiciary should be able to manage itself financially. He also spoke on issues concerning the Judicial and Legal service commission.

There were more speakers supporting and disagreeing with their colleagues on various areas mentioned

The chairman of the sub-committee thanked them for having us and mentioned that they as an institution are to present to CRC their submission forms or any other position paper they would see fit necessary to address issues relevant to the constitution or any other legislation.