REPORT ON DISTRICT (KAILAHUN, KENEMA PUJEHUN) LEVEL CONSULTATIONS

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FOREWORD

This Report is a product of careful planning and effective execution of District level public consultation by eight CRC members and 6 support staff and strong financial support from the Government of Sierra Leone. The report focuses on key constitutional issues in Sierra Leone, especially, those relating to the executive, legislature, judiciary, directive principles of state and human rights, land, natural resources, the environment, local governance and information, education and communication.

Significant efforts have been made by the entire CRC membership under the stewardship of the erstwhile Speaker of Parliament and extant Ombudsman, Justice Edmund Cowan. CRC members and administrative support staffs have all learned a great deal from the various stakeholders in the Western Area are who participated in the consultation. Through this process, participants have also been able to advance meaningful recommendations on proposed constitutional ideas categorised/broken into seven distinct submission documents.

It is hoped that, if the CRC decides to incorporate the recommendations of this Report, there is no doubt that it will not only strengthen our emerging Constitution but will also lead to an improved, peaceful, democratic and developed society.

Gibril Thullah

Team 11 Leader
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Putting on record views of people for the proposed new constitution has been time consuming; spanned across the nation and the doggedness of CRC members whose calibre and patriotism cannot be overemphasised. They have collectively ensured free, active, effective, meaningful and informed participation in all key aspects of the constitutional review process.

Participants also showed great enthusiasm for constitutional reforms and aspire for a participatory model of governance that promotes accountability, human rights and meaningful socio-economic development. Team 1 say wish to thanks to all those who have been involved in drafting the Report.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This District Level Consultation Report, encapsulating thought provoking views from the public for the consideration of CRC members is based on district level consultations with an eclectic mix of people residing in Bonthe Municipality, Mattru Jong, Moyamba, and Bo city was sanctioned by a CRC plenary as a pilot endeavour. The consultations were held from May 4th through May 14th 2015. They were meant to serve the purpose of enhancing public dialogue and augment public understanding of the Constitutional Review Process, particularly controversial issues pervasive in the current Constitution and other matters that are already receiving the attention of the public, such as the “Third Term” phenomenon.

The Report distils participants’ views on, inter alia, the powers of the executive, citizenship, residency requirements of Sierra Leoneans vying for a seat in Parliament or the highest office in the Country, and reformation of the conditions under which land is held, used and disposed. The Report also captures the wide held view that land tenure systems in Sierra Leone are poorly articulated and increasingly causing conflicts. In this chaotic state, participants suggested, there needs to be sufficient debate to finally, settle Sierra Leone’s land question. The spirit of any settlement in the management of land, it is opined, must promote efficient land markets and secure economic and financial returns from public and vested lands without compromising valuable customs and traditions.

The consultations further unearthed the views that Paramount Chiefs must be removed from Parliament and that their role and status in society must now be enhanced along lines that promote transparency, human rights and other democracy objectives. The Report also provides concrete examples from countries where some of these recommendations have been implemented.
NATIONAL DISTRICT STAKEHOLDERS/PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS REPORT.

COMPOSITION TEAM TWO.

At around 10:30 a.m. on Sunday 3rd May 2015, Team Two left the forecourt of the Miata Conference Centre; secretariat of the Constitutional Review Committee (C.R.C) on board a C.R.C bus and a pick-up van with the task of travelling to Kailahun and Kenema Towns in the Eastern Province and Pujehun Town in the Southern Province as part of the National District Stakeholders/Public Consultations to enhance the Constitutional Review Process.

Administrative Assistant

THE JOURNEY TO KAILAHUN

The journey to Kailahun was largely free of events except for a fuel shortage with the bus at Segbwema which was promptly attended to and the terrible condition of the road from Pendembu to Kailahun.
LODGING AT KAILAHUN

Independent arrangements for lodging were made by team members but it is necessary to point here that Hindolo M. Ngevao Esq. was very helpful to others and for which we are all very grateful.

THE KAILAHUN DISTRICT CONSULTATIONS

DAY ONE:

The consultations in Kailahun District started at 10:30 a.m. on Monday 5th May 2015 at the Kailahun District Council Hall with Muslim prayers by Mr. Saidu Taimeh; District Chairman of the Inter-Religious Council and Christian prayers by Mr. Peter K. Musa of the New Apostolic Church.

Introduction of Paramount Chiefs and other prominent personalities was done by Hindolo M. Ngevao Esq. and the chairman for the occasion was Paramount Chief Cyril Foray Gondor of Upper Bambara Chiefdom.

Statements were made by Paramount Chief Cyril Foray Gondor and Mr. Philip Sama; the Chief Administrator of the Kailahun District Council who represented the chairman of the council as the chairman was unavoidably absent on other important business in Kenema. The two statements stressed the need for District or Local Councils to be included in the constitution.

There was no representative of the Provincial Secretary or District Office.

Madam Georgiana Benedict made a statement on behalf of the C.R. C. and later for the Judiciary Sub-committee. She drew participants’ attention to the court system, the magistrates and judges, the justice delivery system, the problems encountered in the delivery of justice, and the challenging aspects of society’s expectations. She urged participants to treat the group work seriously as it would open their eyes to the reality of the 1991 Constitution and the Peter Tucker Report.
Madam Marie-Bob Kandeh made a statement on behalf of the Information, Education and Communication sub-committee. She outlined the importance of information education and communication and asked participants to attach a lot of importance to I.E.C.

Madam Mary Harding of the Local Government sub-committee started by stating the importance of local government in every country. She lamented that the 1991 Constitution does not give a serious treatment to local government and that it was once operational in Sierra Leone. She said that its dissolution started the backwardness that is prevalent in Sierra Leone today. She urged participants to ask loudly for the re-instatement of local government.

Victor King presented on behalf of the Executive sub-committee, looking at the presidency, powers of the president, the appointment of other officials of government, candidacy requirements, tenure of presidency and the Civil Service.

At this stage, Paramount Chief David Keili Coomber 1V of Mandu Chiefdom observed that there was a glaring absence of role of paramount chiefs in the Local Government and Executive sub-Committee presentations of their thematic areas. It was however agreed that questions and observations be reserved till the end of all sub-committee presentations.

Gibril Thullah presented on behalf of the Legislative sub-committee, Hindolo M. Ngevao Esq. presented on behalf of the Research sub-committee, Hussainatu Jalloh on behalf of the State Policy and Human Rights sub-committee and Gershon L. Macarthy on behalf of the Natural Resources sub-committee.

Next were the presentations by all the various sub-committees in order to allow for a longer engagement with the questionnaires and submission forms.

The floor was then opened for questions and contributions and Paramount Chief Sheku S. K. Jibila 1 of Penguia Chiefdom made the following observations and contributions on behalf of all Paramount Chiefs of Kailahun District;
i. He started by asking which country we are in called Sierra Leone. He answered that it is a conglomeration of countries by treaties of friendship and that Paramount Chieftaincy institution is untouchable so should be left alone.

ii. Paramount Chiefs he said, must be automatic members of the local government in their areas.

iii. He asked for a removal of color from the Local Councils. “Why bring color into local politics”?

iv. “Clearly define and sanction paramount chief institutions”. “Remove paramount chiefs from parliament and establish a house of chiefs”

v. “Repeal the law on Local Courts Act 2011”.

The councilor for Ward 5; Madam Theresa Gerber observed that most people do not know the constitution and she would therefore have preferred C.R.C bringing areas of other constitutions for them to study.

The Manager of Radio Moa; Foday Sajuma recommended that Paramount Chiefs should harmonize with their subjects to enhance their demand for independence. He observed further that the police has too sweeping powers.

The district Chairman of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party; Mr. Foday Musa was concerned that this work would not go in vain as we are ruled by men and orders from above and not the constitution. The police arbitrarily arrest on orders from above. Will the Pa not have interest in the constitution we are reviewing as there are sacred cows? It has to be with we respecting what we say is in the constitution.

Samuka Kamara, Chairman of the Inter Religious Council recommends that local councils be entrenched in the constitution, creation of a second chamber and that every district should send two representatives to the Senate (Upper House).

The Chairman of the Polio Tegloma Organization; Sellu Jiawa recommended that disability issues should be in the constitution, the disabled to be represented in the ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Social Welfare and that the disabled be involved in decision making.
Paramount Chief David Keili Coomber 1V of Mandu Chiefdom informed at this stage that there is no Paramount Chief that does not want to be part of Sierra Leone but that they want equity. He assured that they have concerns for all thematic areas but they want their own separate thematic area/sub-committee. “Treat Paramount Chiefs’ issues with separate preference. Paramount Chiefs do not involve in national politics but they are involved in politics meaning since the Paramount Chief is vital, when the constitution is on referendum, they will campaign for or against it.”

Fatmata Sannoh; Councilor for Ward 2, talking as a woman and councilor appealed that the men sympathize with the women as most women do not know the constitution, that there should be no discrimination against women in Paramount Chieftaincy elections. She says further that Local Councilors who retire or lose their seats have no after-service benefits as they are not recognized.

Voter Education and Training Officer; Thomas Taylor looked at the issue of dual citizenship; that people from Guinea register for voting in elections in districts of Sierra Leone neighboring that country. He said that the eligibility criteria to resign 12 months in advance even for bye elections disadvantages a lot of people and so recommended a reduction. He recommended further that a House of Chiefs is needed to make for continuity in the work of the Legislature.

Councillor Edmond Sannoh of Ward 20 observed that council is never recognized as certain projects are implemented without consulting council. Development comes to Ministries Departments and Agencies without consulting council even though council is the body involved with development. Most programmes are not devolved. He asked why councilors are elected for 4 years instead of 5 like president and Members of Parliament. He recommended they be made the same.

Councilor Mary P. Kamara warned that the truth must be said; that men should not only love women at night but also during the day. She recommended equality with men.

Morrison Jusu wanted to know if there is anything in the constitution on children. He recommended the constitution should be clear on children.
M.S.J. Tarawally asked whether everyone in the meeting can be a paramount chief. He said however that everyone who is sane can be president or Member of Parliament. So he said chieftaincy is special and their people are ready to submit to chieftaincy. So the government should not interfere with chieftaincy as the foundation of the country is based on chieftaincy.

Chief Gobeh, the acting Paramount Chief and Chiefdom Speaker of Luawa Chiefdom reminded all present that the wise people are from the east, that everything we put on paper should not change. Councilors and Paramount Chiefs should be paid and as custodians of the nation, Paramount Chieftaincy should be left alone.

Participants were then put into thematic groups for group work on the various sub-committee questionnaires before lunch time. Paramount Chiefs formed one group.

GROUP WORK
Group work lasted for the remaining two and half hours and it was agreed that the reports and recommendations be properly written and transferred on flipcharts for presentation on the next day; 5th May 2015.

DAY TWO
Day Two started with prayers, a very thorough recap of Day One’s work, tea break, group reports followed by recommendations, questions and answers, collection of questionnaires formed most of the work of Day Two.
The following are recommendations from a position paper by Council of Paramount Chiefs—Kailahun District.

1. EXECUTIVE
   a. Institution of paramount chieftaincy should be given a separate title in the constitution-Paramount Chieftaincy- because of the treaty relationship with the central government;
   b. Explicitly acknowledge friendship treaties between chiefdoms and central government in the constitution (as has other treaties defining the external boundaries of Sierra Leone);
   c. Council of Paramount Chiefs/House of Chiefs be responsible for election, disciplining or dismissal of paramount chiefs (to maintain political neutrality);

2. LEGISLATIVE
   d. Create a 2nd chamber exclusively for paramount chiefs or a hybrid chamber where two-thirds of members are paramount chiefs evenly selected across the regions. Other notaries with appropriate technical background can be co-opted.

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT
   e. All local Councils must have at least one representative from each chiefdom council in its area of operation
   f. Councilors should not be elected on national party affiliation i.e, all councilors must be independent candidates;
   g. Term of office of councilors be increased from four years to five years to reduce cost of elections;
   h. Conditions of service for councilors be established by both parliament and reviewed from time to time;
i. Chambers of devolved functions must be fully funded and explicitly allocated in the annual budget for approval by parliament;

4. JUDICIARY

j. Recognize and capture the political authority of chiefdom councils headed by paramount chiefs to appoint local council officials;

k. All organs dealing with Judicial Review of decisions of local councilors must have a majority representation of paramount chiefs:

5. INFORMATION, EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION

l. Government must facilitate i.e. fund and provide technical support for the establishment, management and maintenance of chiefdom records that are public interests including;
   (i) Land deeds (ii) Local Court Decisions (iii) Revenue collection and Utilization (iv) Chieftaincy Rights and Houses enlisted (v) Boundary delimitations
   (ii) (vi) others.

(n). To enable paramount chiefs to maintain and manage public order in their chiefdoms;

6. NATURAL RESOURCES

(o) All natural resources in/above the soil remain vested in the chiefdom council headed by the paramount chief;

(p) The central government retains the right for national and regional planning as well as issue advisories to the chiefdom councils in the exercise of their vested interest over the natural resources;
7. STATE POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

(q) Paramount chiefs be responsible for the health, welfare of their people with due regard to their basic human rights;

(r) There shall be a corps of chiefdom police officers who shall be supplemented by the Sierra Leone police as authorized by paramount chiefs in their chiefdoms for law enforcement.

GROUP EIGHT

The state policy and human rights group recommended that:

(a) Any words or phrases that suggest discrimination on the grounds of sex in any circumstances should be expunged from the constitution;

(b) Discriminatory provisions in customary law should be void and of no legal effect.

(c) New clauses should be introduced in chapter 111 confirming the validity of temporary special measures as a way to remedy the negative impact of long standing and widespread discrimination against women;

(d) The nondiscriminatory qualifications in Section 8(1) (a) of the Chieftaincy Act to allow women to stand for election as paramount chiefs across the country must be unequivocally confirmed in the constitution so that women have equal access with men to that very important and decision-making office;

(e) The principle of non-discrimination in political and public life to be strengthened and made more effective;

(f) A new clause be added enshrining that in public and private spheres, the principle of equality between men and women will be respected and adhered to;

(g) Building, consolidating and sustaining peace are to be included among the political objectives in chapter 11.

(h) All human rights conventions signed must be part of the constitution;
(i) Provision of Approved Schools in all districts for juveniles for crimes committed. Free Health Care must be in the constitution.

**GROUP SIX**

The Natural Resources group made the following recommendations;

(a) That all issues of natural resources should be put solely in the hands of Sierra Leoneans;
(b) Government is to establish a very robust land commission with adequate legal powers to work for the benefit of all citizens;
(c) The state should be very careful in the manner it leases land to foreigners in order not to create conflict between foreigners/multinational companies and the local landowners.
(d) Measures should be put in place now to prevent or forestall the adverse effects of global warming/climate change;
(e) Natural resources issues should be away from politics;
(f) The natural resources of the country should benefit the locals to avoid a repeat of the experience of the diamonds in Kono;
(g) A special chapter on natural resources should be put in the new constitution.

**GROUP FOUR**

The legislative sub-committee recommended as follows:

(a) The constitution to carry a recall clause for parliamentarians and councilors;
(b) Integrity clause for Members of Parliament should be put in the constitution;
(c) There should be only one house of parliament;
(d) Paramount chiefs to stay in parliament
(e) The quota system for women and the disabled to be implemented.
GROUP TWO

The I.E.C sub-committee recommended as follows

Presidential System

(a) The qualification of a president should be 40 years and should be able to read and write.
(b) We also recommend that there should be an upper and lower House system.

Education
We also recommend the 6-3-4-4- system of education.

Local Council

(a) Include Local Government in the Constitution
(b) Review and improve their conditions of service

Executive
The office of Attorney General and Minister of Justice should be separated.

GROUP ONE

The Executive Group made the following recommendations

(a) An independent body established by the constitution, charged with the responsibility of appointing heads of state institutions and commissioners. (The president must not take the responsibility of appointing Commissioners and Heads of State Institutions)
(b) The composition of the independent body should be leaders of all registered political parties, civil society and representatives of Paramount Chiefs.
(c) The Judicial and Legal Service Commission must appoint members of the judiciary and not the president
Qualification for Presidential candidates

(d) He/she must be a ‘full blooded’ citizen of Sierra Leone (both parents must be of Sierra Leonean origin) citizenship by descent.
(e) He/she must have lived in Sierra Leone for not more than ten years
(f) He/she must have attained the age of thirty five years

GROUP THREE

The judiciary sub-committee made the following recommendations

a) Unnecessary adjournment of cases should be totally avoided. To promulgate laws that will make unnecessary adjournment of cases criminal.
b) Active/vibrant/ persons in good health to be appointed as magistrates and judges.
c) Provision of adequate logistics to fast track the work of the judiciary.
d) Special motivation for hard working judges and magistrates.
e) Judicial workers to be well paid and those in remote areas should be given remote allowances.
f) The use of Latinized jargons needs reform to modern English to interpret the laws and court proceedings.
g) Laws of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries should be reformed to meet modern standards.
h) The judiciary should be allowed to work independently free from political interference

All the completed questionnaires and flipcharts are now with the secretariat.

KAILAHUN TO KENEMA

Team two left Kailahun for Kenema on the 6th May 2015 again largely incidence free except for a flat tire with the pick-up van which was quickly fixed.

LODGING AT KENEMA

At Kenema, like in Kailahun, independent arrangements were made but again the team is grateful to Mary Ellie, one of the administrative assistants who was also very helpful to others.

THE KENEMA DISTRICT CONSULTATIONS

DAY ONE:

The Kenema District consultations commenced in the morning of 7th May 2015 with Muslim and Christian prayers followed by an introduction of members of the high table among whom was the chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee. The chairman of the occasion was the mayor of Kenema; His Lordship, J.S.Keifala. This was followed by an introduction of C.R.C. members, traditional leaders, statements by the Provincial Secretary, the Senior District Officer and the Civil Society spokesman who cautioned the C.R.C. to ensure that their views are taken onboard. The C.R.C. chairman made a statement on behalf of the C.R.C. Presentations were then made by the various C.R.C sub-committees after which contributions were invited from the participants.

Esther Kargbo of the S.L.B.C. in Kenema recommended that the constitution be made part of the school curriculum.
Mary Karimu; senior lecturer at the Eastern Polytechnic recommended that children be given more form to express their rights and to educate others outside the classroom.

The chiefdom speaker of Malegohun Chiefdom; David Kabbo observed that the gathering was not enough and recommended that the C.R.C schedules specific dates for similar engagements at chiefdom levels.

Patrick Adu; a civil society representative observed that the President is overwhelmed with work and therefore suggested that some responsibility be removed from the chief executive.

Councilor Joseph Alpha observed that the mode of election and declaration of result to the office of president be made more transparent and the I.E.C infrastructure of education to be made permanent and compulsory for children over six years.

Several concerns raised were addressed by the C.R.C. chairman and then it was time to split into groups for group work. C.R.C. sub-committee members led their groups and this lasted for a greater part of the afternoon. Presentations from the group work were deferred to the next day; 8th May 2015.

**DAY TWO:**

The work of Day two started with tea break and then prayers. There was then a thorough recap of the work of Day One by Marie Bob-Kandeh; C.R.C, member of the I.E.C. sub-committee.

The following recommendations were made during the group reports;
LOCAL GOVERNMENT GROUP

1. Restore the respect of Paramount Chiefs by making their emoluments constitutional;

2. Chiefdoms have different sizes and so, according them uniform emoluments will not be fair;

3. Council is not recognized in the constitution and unless it is, current remuneration and conditions of service will make it unattractive;

4. Non-partisan councils should not exist as it is in the councils that party politics is nurtured;

NATURAL RESOURCES GROUP

5. Obsolete land laws should be reviewed;

6. Exploration fees for multinationals should be seriously revisited;

7. Environmental and social impact assessment programmes for mining companies and other development purposes should be standardized;

8. All lease agreements to be 10 years subject to renewal;

9. Constitution to spell out who takes precedence over land;

10. Mining companies to establish factories to process the raw materials they extract;

11. Certain lands to be exclusively for use by government;

12. Chiefdom authorities to scrutinize lease agreements;

13. All resources that are exported to benefit the local people

I. E. C. GROUP TWO

14. Media houses to stop misuse of journalists;

15. I.M.C. to move away from the ministry of information to ensure its independence;
16. Libel laws to be extracted from the constitution;
17. Let S.L.B.C. be owned by the local people and not by those in power;
19. Ministry of Education to do all to ensure education for all;
20. Remove some rights from chapter 2 to chapter 3 so that it makes sense.

GROUP SEVEN- STATE POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

21. Delete the expression ‘having due regard to the resources of the state’ from Section 8(3) (d) of the 1991 Constitution.

22. Delete ‘as and when practicable’ from Section 9(1) © of the 1991 Constitution.

23. Add the following to Section 15(a) of the 1991 Constitution; right to a passport, the right to protection of environment and the right to education and dignity.

24. The death penalty should be abolished in all cases of treason or any other related crime of a political nature and be replaced by an appropriate imprisonment.

25. In Section 17 (1) (g) of the 1991 Constitution, replace 21 years by 18 years.

26. Delete the words ‘at his own expense’ from Section 17 (2) (b) of the 1991 Constitution.

27. Replace ‘ten days’ in Section 17 (3) (a) of the 1991 constitution ---- with ‘seven days’. Replace ‘72 hours’ in Section 17 (3) (b) with ‘48 hours’.

GROUP TWO –I.E.C (contd)

28. Government should allow the Independent Media Commission to operate/practice a very good media in our country Sierra Leone.
29. Public officers/servants who intend to stand for elections should be granted six months leave to contest general elections. If they lose, they will go back to their former jobs.

30. There should be a recall clause to be added to the constitution for the people to remove their members of parliament as and when necessary.

31. Include also the integrity clause to check the moral behavior of Members of Parliament.

GROUP SIX——NATURAL RESOURCES

32. Land issues should be cautiously looked into. Government judiciously make use of natural resources for the development of the country with special reference to the areas where those resources are coming from. Government should also make healthy environmental policies.

All suggestions and recommendations were taken down and transferred on to the flipcharts and questionnaires were collected and are now in the possession of the secretariat.

Team Two rested on the 9th May 2015 and travelled to Pujehun on the 10th.

KENEMA TO PUJEHUN:

The journey to Pujehun was completely event free.

LODGING AT PUJEHUN:

Independent arrangements were made for lodging in Pujehun but it must be pointed out that Elizabeth Mans was very helpful in that respect to other members of the group.
THE PUJEHUN DISTRICT CONSULTATIONS:

DAY ONE:

The Pujehun District consultations started on the 11th May 2015 at about 10:30 a.m. at the Pujehun District Council Hall. The day’s events started with registration and prayers. That was followed by an introduction of the chairman and paramount chiefs. The chairman was Paramount Chief Alhaji Issa B. Koroma.

He underscored the importance of the review and urged all present to make meaningful contributions. He reminded all present that “the constitution is the highest law and if it has defects, we have defects. So it is our place to make it meaningful to our lives. It guides our way of life and living. “The chairman however suggested that one meeting is not enough and recommended that it is very relevant that such meetings be held also at ward and chiefdom levels.

The Deputy Chairman Pujehun District Council welcomed the C.R.C. team and urges that the exercise be devoid of political biases. He said that we have a constitutional crisis at the moment because there are a lot of ambiguities in the 1991 constitution.

Statements were made by other senior officials of the district as tea was served. That was followed by sub-committee presentations and contributions from participants in an interactive session. Some of the issues that came up touched on land, education, the judiciary, chieftaincy and so on.

At the time for group work, participants were put into sub-committees and as in the previous districts; group work took the rest of the afternoon. Presentation from the various groups was deferred to the next day; 12th May 2015.
DAY TWO:

Day Two started with prayers and a recap of the previous day, s work and then the report session. Generally, the following recommendations were made; he

1. To make the issue of lease of community land to multinational companies fully a local people’s affair instead of just dealing with paramount chiefs.

GROUP TWO. ----- I.E.C.

2. Free education for girls from secondary school to university level.

3. School system to remain 6334 and not 6344.

4. Salaries to be paid to I.M.C. by government through the commission responsible.

GROUP FIVE-----LOCAL GOVERNMENT

5. Local taxes to be determined by District Councils and collected by chiefdom councils.

6. Revenue to be allocated to local councils according to needs basis.

7. Taxes and other revenue collected by government to be.

distributed equally

8. Election of paramount chiefs should not be by tribal authorities but by all taxpayers in the chiefdom.
9. Paramount chief’s stipend to be increased and paid monthly.

10. Section chiefs and Town chiefs to be given reasonable stipends monthly.

GROUP THREE-----JUDICIARY

11. More courts to be established with better conditions of service, additional State Counsel and daily court sessions.

12. Magistrates or judges should be queried for delays.

GROUP SIX-----NATURAL RESOURCES

13. Eliminate discrimination (replace ‘non-natives’ who acquire or access land.

14. Promote transparency and participation of communities and land owners (free, prior and informed consent).

15. Lease period to be reduced from 50 years to 25 years.


17. Stipulate conditions under which land is held and used

GROUP ONE-----THE EXECUTIVE

18. Appointment of judges not to be done by the president but by a legal commission and the judiciary to avoid political interference.

19. The retirement of judges of the Supreme Court should not be determined by resignation, death or retirement but within a stipulated timeframe to enhance their independence.

20. The Attorney General’s office should be a public office separate from the Minister of Justice which is a political appointment.

21. Appointment of sitting justices of the peace should be done by the judiciary from among those who have gone through paralegal
training and employees should be paid out of the consolidated revenue including chairpersons.

22. The condition of service for all judges should be revisited and improved.

23. Cost of transportation for prosecution witnesses should be paid by the government.

24. M.P's on recess should come back to their constituencies and have discussions with their constituents on parliamentary and other issues.

25. The president should not appoint the following; commissioners, Head of Police, Head of Military. They should have terms of reference approved by M.P's. There should be a House of Chiefs for Paramount Chiefs and no for M.P's.

GROUP FOUR---- LEGISLATIVE

26. In a case of any nonperformance, the electorate of a constituency should have the right to remove their Member of Parliament even before election.

27. There should be free health care for school pupils in Sierra Leone

28. There should be death penalty law for corrupt Members of Parliament. The district consultation ended with a statement by the chairman who wished the C.R.C. and all other participants well.

EXPERIENCES LEARNT/OBSERVATIONS:

The consultations in Kailahun, Kenema and Pujehun by group Two laid bare the following;

a. The consultations centered mostly on paramount chiefs, councilors and the district councils leaving out the greater portion of the local communities such as farmers, traders, teachers, miners, college and senior school students etc.
b. It was observed that not much information had actually been disseminated to even those who attended let alone the absent grass root compatriots by the resident contact persons.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

If the C.R.C. should come out ultimately with a draft constitution that is actually a people’s document,

a. Group Two recommends that C.R.C. carries out another round of consultations at chiefdom or ward level;

b. C.R.C. should strictly monitor their contact persons in the various regions and make their payments conditional upon proper accounts of completed questionnaires and recommendation forms;

Submitted by;

Gershon L. Macarthy.

L. T. A. (Legislative sub- Committee)