REPORT ON WESTERN URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICT CONSULTATIONS
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1. Introduction

This report represents deliberations of consultations spanning over an eight day period on The Constitutional Review, organized by the Constitutional Review Committee in the Western Urban and Rural District. There were five teams assigned to cover various wards in the Western Urban and Rural District.

The Consultation was aimed at sensitizing and encouraging the stakeholders invited to participate in the review process of the 1991 constitution.

Participants were drawn mainly from various wards in the Western and Urban Districts.

The sub-committee members all had an opportunity to explain and sensitize the participants on their various sub-committee submission forms and were also opportune to have the Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee Justice E.K.Cowan at the various venues to give an overview and insight into what the review entailed and what was expected of the participants. (All presentations given by sub-committee members and the Chairman CRC at the various venues were identical).
2. **Constitutional Review Committee Members**

Members of CRC Subcommittees and members of team five:

1. Alhaji U. A. Sesay  
   **Judiciary**
2. Amb. Dauda Kamara  
   **Local Government**
3. Alhaji Osman Yansanneh  
   **Research**
4. Elizabeth Mans  
   **Natural Resource**
5. Dr. A. B. Karim  
   **IEC**
6. Victor King  
   **Executive**
7. Haja A. Abdullah  
   **Legislative**
8. Gibrilla Kamara  
   **State Policy**
9. Rosaline Cowan  
   **Judiciary (LTA)**
10. Allie Josiah  
    **Admin Assistant**
11. Mohamed Faray Kargbo  
    **Admin Assistant**
3. Wards, Dates and Venues

Team five covered the following wards:

Wards: 386/387/388/389 - 15th - 16th June 2015  Josben Complex Brookfields

Wards: 390/391/392 - 18th - 19th June 2015  Ebenezer hall Murray Town

Wards: 393/394 - 22nd - 23rd June 2015  Community Center Lumley

Wards: 342/343/ 344/345 - 25th - 26th June 2015  Christ the King Church Hall

                 Robanneh Kissy Town Waterloo
4. CRC Sub-committee Members Presentation in Ward 386/387/388/389

Day 1-Monday 15th JUNE 2015 (Josben Complex)

Welcome Address

The meeting was called to order at 10 am with both Muslim and Christian prayers conducted by of the audience.

Mr. Victor King welcomed everyone to the session and introduced the team on the high table that was made up members of the sub-committee members. He then handed over to the chairperson of the ceremony Ms. Elizabeth Mans.

4.1 Chairpersons opening Remarks

In her opening remarks, Ms. Mans welcomed the participants and explained to them the purpose for which we were convened. She told them that we are looking at the 1991 Constitution in tandem with the Peter Tucker Report of 2008. She said that they were to feel free as they had the opportunity to discuss issues of concern and give their views where necessary. Ms. Elsabeth Mans told them that it was a 2 days programme where the various chapters in the constitution would be dissected and participants put into various groups to discuss a particular area and come up with recommendations that we as a team would take back to the CRC.

The chair concluded by advising the participants to act responsibly and competently by making their voices heard as this opportunity might not be
accorded to them in their life time as the Constitution is not a document altered every so often. She then asked for statements from the Councilor and the local chief present.

4.2 Statement by Chairman (CRC) CRC Hon. Mr. Justice E.K Cowan

The Chairman welcomed the participants to what he termed a very important meeting. He explained to them the importance of the 1991 Constitution been the most supreme law of the country that governs us and that no other law is higher. He mentioned to the participants that the power lies in their hand for the review to be completed. He took them through the process of what the CRC stood for, how the reports at the end would be handed to the Government and they would take it to Parliament and the process will continue till we get to the referendum and the involvement of the people.

In his statement the Hon. Justice likened the Constitution to the TEN COMMANDMENTS in the bible when he said it is covered in both the Christian and Muslim religions. This he said explained rules and regulations that govern the religious sects that we all believe and belong to. He said that even in everyday ordinary life laws are needed to guide society like in churches, Mosques, osusu and market unions.

The Chairman further went on to tell the participants that this is a unique opportunity as it is the first time the public has been engaged in the drafting of the Country’s Constitution. Normally, prior constitutions were drawn up without consulting people. This he says should illustrate to them that the people of Sierra Leone are sovereign meaning the government work on
people’s power and what the people don’t want is not going to happen. He spoke on Sec. 108 of the 1991 constitution which he said tells us how to make amendments to the constitution. He mentioned that we would be looking other constitutions from various jurisdictions for best practice.

Justice Cowan pointed out that the CRC members were not appointed by government but were chosen from various works of life including all political parties, educational institutions, market traders and physically challenged to name a few. He said he is the only person appointed by the government.

He also mentioned that we were not there to express views of any of any political parties and that even the President has asked that we forget about parties for this exercise as we are all working for Sierra Leone and our individual selves in a national issue.

In concluding, Hon Justice Cowan said there are a few things to be noted which are very important. Firstly he wants them to be aware that nothing anyone says is nonsense so he is urging everyone there present to speak their minds on whatever issue might be their area of concern. Secondly, although they have been invited to give their views and discuss what they want added to the constitution, he must bring to their notice that not every recommendation would be reflected in the new Constitution as we have other existing laws where they would be couched if need be.

He finally thanked all the participants for honoring the invitation and hope the meeting is fruitful so we could get a better constitution for development and a better Sierra Leone.
4.3 Close of Opening

At the end of the opening session the chairperson Ms. Mans thanked Justice E.K Cowan for coming along to our session and giving his statement and for his leadership in the review committee. She also thanked the Hon. MP and the Chief with the participants for attending.

She went on to give a brief explanation of the mode the next session would take. She told the participants that each sub-committee member was about to give a synopsis of their group and we would have questions after if any after which the participants would be divided into groups in order to develop their recommendations for the 2nd days presentation.
5. Overview by Sub-Committee Members

5.1 Executive

Mr. Victor King

Mr. King spoke about their mandate and introduced the submission form of the group that’s in the form of a questionnaire. He told them how sometime last year himself and other prominent members of his group developed thematic areas that were used to form the basis of the questionnaire which was going to be used as part of the working tools during the group work.

He said that issues concerned with the Executive could be found in chapter 5 of the 1991 Constitution. He went on to say that they have not captured everything in the questionnaire so they are to feel free to add areas they think and feel should be included.

Mr. King went on to give an insight into some of the issues that arose in the executive questionnaire. He spoke about the type of government we have now (hybrid) and introduced the others that are available for us to look into. He further went on to talk about the qualification of who can be a presidential candidate in Sierra Leone as this area has raised a lot of concerns from people in the past. Issues surrounding the mode of our elections system with regards the 55% rule was touched on, and whether we should have a specific date for elections and the declaration of the results as this is absent in the 1991 constitution. He asked what their views were on the term of office of the president? Do we increase, decrease or leave it as it
stands? In concluding, he stated issues about taxes been levied for the President and Vice President, looking into regional balance when choosing Ministers and the need for a transparent impeachment procedure amongst others. He urged the participants that would be privileged to be in the Executive group to make use of the opportunity and get all their recommendations down for the group work.

5.2 Information, Education and Communication (IEC)

Dr. A.B. Karim

He welcomed the participants to such a stately meeting. The first thing he said was that he was going to ask a question and he wanted a very honest answer. He wanted to know how many of the participants had seen the constitution and how many had actually read it. There were only a few who had seen it and none had read it. He said he was not surprised as it is not a document that is read by the public ordinarily even though we are all talking about its review and the issues we want to see included or excluded, and he said he was happy they had not seen what is in the constitution so they would speak honestly and say things to benefit us all.

Dr. Karim said he was going to be talking about very important areas that he knew were of importance to all present. His area covered Information, Education and Communication (IEC). He mentioned that there is nothing in the constitution covering information and communication and so we have to look into how it can be incorporated. He spoke on the IMC and the Freedom of information and how far do we exercise it? He inquired what their views were on there been a special court created to look into such issues. He spoke on the issue of Journalists asking for the criminal libel Act to be moved. In
the area of communication he spoke about Natcom and the powers they have and whether we feel they are to be given more powers to manage these groups that deal with our mobile phones and how they are regulated in terms of charges and registrations amongst others.

Next on his agenda was the all-important topic of education. He spoke about the free compulsory basic education for classes 1 - JSS 3. He asked about what they had intention to do with parents and children who violate school. He asked if they are satisfied with the 6344 system of education. He expressed his concerns in our lack of education to the point that Sierra Leoneans are still thumb printing at this day and age. It’s not a good sign that other West African states that use to come here for educational purposes have progressed far ahead of Sierra Leone.

He also asked them to focus their minds on the issue of whether we have the right to take government to court if they do not perform their duties. He stressed that even adults have a right to learn which means they should provide sites, teachers and logistics to enable such. The issue of private schools and the way they are operated was another area he spoke on. He said that everyone wanted the best for their children hence the current trend of paying expensive fees at private schools. What he asked was that if the government should have a say into how these schools are managed and tailored?

He further mentioned the issue of teenage pregnancy and schooling and if they should continue attending school. How can the constitution protect these girls and prevent them from being dropout?
Finally Dr. Karim thanked the participants for listening and stressed the fact that everyone has a right to contribute by filling the submission forms that would be made available to them during the group work. He also said they are at liberty to ask for submission forms from the other sub committees if they so desired.

5.3 Judiciary

Alhaji U.A. Sesay & Rosaline Cowan

On the 15th of June Alhaji Alim Sesay introduced the judiciary sub-committee. He welcomed the participants again and said he hoped their participation would help in creating a constitution that’s beneficial to Sierra Leoneans on the whole. He went through the themes in the questionnaire paying attention to areas that included but not limited to Appointment and dismissal of Judges, access to Justice, the judicial and legal service commission and the independence of the judiciary. He also spoke on Sec.64 of the constitution that deals with the establishment of the office of Attorney General and Minister of Justice. He asked a question that has been sought after by many Sierra Leoneans as to whether the office should be separated. Alhaji Sesay after explaining issues in the submission form, told participants that they need to understand that whatever is been discussed is going to be sent to the government through the CRC. That’s why their views and recommendations are important so that we would make a constitution that could stand the test of time.
On the 18th-19th, 22nd-23rd, 25th -26th June Ms. Rosaline Cowan introduced the Judiciary sub-committee at the other venues. After welcoming the participants, Ms. Cowan gave a brief synopsis of their task, where she explained that they are there to sensitize the participants on the review process of the constitution and give them an opportunity to give an input where necessary. She said that their sub-committees work is found in chapter 7 of the 1991 Constitution. She introduced the various submission forms held by the CRC and told the participants that they are a guideline and people should feel free to give views outside these forms.

She further went on to explain that five themes have been captured in the submission form of the judiciary sub-committee but that they were not exhaustive. She told the participants that the Judiciary is such an important area in this exercise because everyone in the hall must have at one time or another been affected with problems that has led to the courts either directly or through family and friends. In light of that, she craved their indulgence to make the most of this opportunity been given to them by stating any areas they are convinced needs looking into. Ms. Cowan went through the questionnaire and took the participants through the themes briefly. She spoke on the administration of Justice, reforming our laws and what it entails, the independence of the Judiciary, explaining to them about the judicial and legal service commission and its role, appointment and removal of Judges and their remuneration for post-retirement. In concluding she thanked them for listening to her and said she hoped that when it came to the group work the participants would make sure their voices are heard where it would be beneficial to all by stating their recommendations.
5.4 Legislative

Haja Alimatu Abdullah

Haja thanked the chair and welcomed the participants. She said that Legislative deals with Parliament and Elections and has lots of areas where everyone present is involved. She went on to explain that the legislative sub-committee deals with issues like who can be a member of parliament, how parliament makes laws and the age at which citizens could vote and be voted for. She explained that one burning issue is that people are allowed to vote at 18 yrs. of age but they are not allowed to take up certain positions at that age. Haja went on to talk about the tenure of the members of Parliament, the qualification to become Speaker of the house of Parliament, asking whether the selected person should be a barrister like before or should it remain as it is now. She also mentioned that there has been a concern about Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) and the need to change it to Political Parties Registration Regulation Commission (PPRRC). In concluding she spoke about the concerns of the opening times of Parliament and how many times they meet a year.

She explained that as has been mentioned by the Chairman CRC and other committee representatives, everyone here present should make use of this opportunity given to them as the review of the constitution is in all of our interest. Also she reminded them that not everything that is said would find its way into the constitution but let them mention all they have to say as there are other legislation that could benefit from their suggestions.
5.5 Local Government

Ambassador Dauda Kamara

Ambassador Dauda thanked the chair for giving him the floor and welcomed the participants. He said that local government is important to all of us. Giving a brief history of local government, he mentioned that it was founded by the City Council even before independent. He said it carried on until 1977 when it was halted until 2004 when the local Government Act was created and we got an organized local government.

He went on to explain saying that even though the 1991 Constitution is still workable we are here so that all would have an opportunity to bring in new thinking to fill in the gaps and make any changes that would be beneficial to the country. He said that the Ministry of Local Government is a very important Ministry that is why we have councilors and wards present to join us to see how and what to improve, thus emphasis was placed that tribal heads should attend meetings as they are very relevant. Amongst other things that are to be discussed in the group work, he raised three main concerns that included:

On the issue of decentralizing government, he spoke of new ideas implemented that are yet to catch up due to difficulty of determining who should be in charge (Institution).

Salary for Councilors- The Act that governs them does not make provision for a salary as the position was created and meant to attract retired people. It
is difficult as young people have aspired to get involved actively and there is no provision for remuneration.

Provision should be made for a section that deals with Local Governments with a concrete definition of local Government. He said that there are a lot of questions in the submission forms to be handed out talking about local taxes and many other burning issues so he is appealing to the people to think well and hard as the answers they give will help us to confirm certain issues. He also told them that as we are looking at the 1991 constitution in tandem with the Peter Tucker Report of 2008 that already has some comments he is urging them to fully understand and participate in the exercise so they can go back and share the experience with their people. He thanked them for listening and said he hoped they would come up with important questions and recommendations throughout the exercise and he looked forward to a hearty discussion with the people who would be in the local government group.

5.6 Natural Resources

Ms. Elesabeth Mans

She welcomed the people to this all important meeting that they have been given an opportunity to be a part of. She hopes they would contribute freely and properly so that we don’t suffer in years to come.

She stated that we need to work on putting a chapter together in the Constitution that deals with Natural Resources as we don’t have one at present. Speaking on the land tenure system, she explained how the country
is divided when it comes to who own land in the Provinces and the Western Area. On the issue of land tenure system, the question that keeps arising is whether we need the same land tenure system for both the Province and the Western Area to make it accessible and fair to everyone.

On the use of land and its management, she stressed that government needs control the distribution of land its use, allocation and preservation. She went on to say that natural resources also included all the wealth generated from not only from minerals, but also agriculture, marine resources and forestry amongst many other areas. She asked if as a nation they think we are benefitting enough from all these areas that are been utilized by the government and associates like mining companies. She said we need to know who takes responsibility for what when it comes to issues dealing with these areas. She gave an example stating that when foreign companies lease a certain areas they do not leave any modalities for compensation to the people, rehabilitation and reclamation of the land and the environment.

Suggestions have been made that taxes and royalties paid to government, a percentage should be allocated exclusive for the development of the affected Community. The Ministry of Lands should put in place a mechanism to monitor land, the environment and a special court that deals with land cases, in order to minimize the length of time for settlement and reduce the burden on central court.

Ms. Mans thanked them for listening to her and said that she was looking forward to their participation when making recommendations during the group work. She said that the submission forms for Natural Resources and
all the other sub-committees are readily available for them to use and they can contact the CRC at its secretariat if need be.

5.7 State Policy

Gibrilla Kamara

Mr. Kamara started off by giving a hearty welcome to the participants present. He said that state policy founded in chapter 2 & 3 of the 1991 Constitution is the foundation upon which all the others are built. He explained that it deals with the running of the country and the other chapters’ deals with the fundamental Human Rights that no one can take away from us.

He said he was not going to take too much time explaining as that would be done in the group work later on but to get their minds prepared, he explained what is founded in the various chapters. He spoke on Sec. 14 of the Constitution which talks on the fundamental principles not justifiable. He said that other key issues in the chapter to include Education and Health and to focus on these inside fundamental Human Rights as done in other countries. He says that right to life includes good health and Education. He spoke about protecting and caring for the environment saying the constitution is silent on that issue and the public needs to touch on that. Mr. Kamara also talked about Equality Protection Clause that deals with equality before the law and related matters. In concluding he said that as the Chairman of CRC mentioned earlier, the constitution is the supreme document of this country and so we need to look at chapter 2&3 properly to be grounded in order for the others to follow. He said he is sure they would use the submission forms to guide them when it comes to doing the recommendations.
6. Group Work and Question Time by Participants

The chair thanked all the speakers for their statements and said she is sure we are going to have fruitful discussions and participation in the group work. The participants were divided into the various sub-committees. It was explained to them that with guidance from the sub-committee members they are to come up with as many recommendations as they can or issues that they want forwarded to the CRC. There was also an opportunity for participants to ask questions after the statement made by the CRC representatives for the sub-committees.

6.1 Statement by Hon. Fofanah (MP)

The Honorable Member of Parliament thanked the CRC for the invitation. He mentioned he was representing the Speaker of Parliament at meeting. Hon. Fofanah urged the participants to make sure they use the opportunity given to them to participate wisely, listen patiently to what is said and make sure they continue to the second day of the programme in order to benefit from the exercise and make sure we have a better constitution.

6.2 Statement by Local Chief Bai Alimamy Sesay

Pa Alimamy welcomed the participants and said he was glad they had all come to help make a better constitution. He extended his gratitude to The President for instituting the review and said he hoped the meeting would be a success for the benefit of all Sierra Leonean.
Chief Bai Alimamy Sesay
6.3 Questions & Observations

1. **Rev Samuel Johnson from Wilberforce Church** - why is it that with regards fisheries there are no mechanism for local people to have access to certain products?

2. **Alphonso Manley** - Very timely to review the constitution. CRC needs to do a presentation on TRC and they should use power point presentation as it makes the message uniformed.

3. **I.B.M Kamara** - Judiciary should get full independence there is too much interference going on now.

4. **Councilor Aminata Gibril-Sesay from Wilberforce** - Issue to deal with land and its distribution should be looked at seriously.

5. **Isatu Conteh** - Government should make sure all companies with agreements are visited every 5 years.

6. **Chief from Ward 387** - I have been a chief for 51 yrs. The police interfere with cases that are matters to do with chiefs.

7. **Madam Ya Alimamy Fofanah** - Asking for chiefs to get somewhere they can use as offices because they have been neglected.

8. **Councilor Wilson** - He says the work of councilors is very tedious and they don’t get paid. Conditions of service are very poor compared to other countries.

9. **Siba Cole of United Sisters** - Our laws needs to be reviewed and the Media to get a separate body to sort Journalist Cases.
10. One of the participants presented a position paper on Health and sanitation to be incorporated in the constitution as part of our basic human right.

11. Other participants suggested that there should be a ministry for Disease control.

6.4 Day II 16th June 2015

Meeting was called to order at 10 am by Mr. King of the executive sub-committee. There were both Muslim and Christian prayers and summary of the previous day’s work after which the various groups went into action to complete their tasks of coming up with the recommendations. Each group worked with the help of the sub-committee representative. After very interactive session, all of the groups made a presentation to the meeting. Copies of the recommendations are documented at the end of this report.

6.5 Closing Remarks

The chairperson of the programme thanked the CRC for giving us the opportunity to participate in the exercise, of sensitizing our people. She also thanked the participants for giving us two days of their busy schedules to come together with us to make the meeting a success. She said she hoped they had all learnt something from the exercise. She also reminded them that not all that has been said or recorded in their recommendations would be
incorporated in the constitution but that the topics that are not constitutional issues would be addressed when and as necessary by the government.
7. CRC Sub-committee Members Presentation in Wards 390/391/392

Day III-Wednesday 18th-19th June Ebenezer Hall Murray Town

Welcome Address

The team had the meeting at the above mentioned hall over a two day period. There were participants from wards 390/391/392.

After registration of the participants, the meeting was called to order at 10am by Mr. Josiah of the CRC. He thanked all for coming and said he hoped they would have patience to attend both days and contribute meaningfully to make a better Constitution for the benefit of us all. Mr. Samura led the Christian prayers and Mr. Salia Kamara led the Muslim prayers.

Haja A. Abdullah of the legislative sub-committee chaired the programme on both days. She gave a brief talk on the purpose of the meeting we are having and hope they would benefit and make their contribution. She explained about the review and the format been used to carry out the process. The participants were advised to make sure they give detailed accounts of what they want to see in the reviewed constitution, although they were reminded that not everything they say would go into the constitution.

After the welcome address, Haja Abdullah called upon the Chairman of the CRC to give a statement. It was followed by statements from the sub-committee members. As mentioned above, the participants were introduced to the work of the CRC, the submission forms and other matters relating. She called upon a few participants to make a statement.
7.1 Statement from Participants

**Mr. Lasite (Principal the Grammar School)** - He thanked the chair for giving him the opportunity to say a few words. He said that even though it’s impromptu he appreciates the recognition. Mr. Lasite said he believed that what would be said would make its way to the final of the Constitution. He spoke on the importance of education and hope suggestions to progress education is on the agenda. He also mentioned that a lot of work is needed in the area of health and the judiciary.

**Chief Alimamy Kargbo (The People)** - He said thanks for giving him the opportunity to participate. The first issue he wants to mention is about the empowerment of Chiefs. He said they should be given the mandate to handle lawlessness. He also spoke about lawyers’ interference with local courts and how to put an end to it. Chief also mentioned that issues with youths, women councilors the police and religious leaders’ needs to be addressed. He said that he hope the other participants speak up what’s on their minds to make a better constitution.

The chair thanked them for their statements and the programme continued with the participants been put into groups. There was an opportunity for questions and observations from the participants.

**Councilor Tejan-Cole** - He said that this was a big day for them but was disappointed that the number of people invited could have been increased. He expressed his appreciation that they are there to help in the reviewing of
the constitution. Mr. Tejan –Cole said there are areas in the constitution that needs things added and some need to be altered so they would try as best as possible to look into these. He made an example using the Ebola Virus and the amount of lives it has claimed in our country over the last couple of months thus a reason why we should look into the Health issues.

He mentioned that areas like education and employment also needed a review. He talked about training people in various sectors for job opportunities.

Finally, the councilor said that the Mayor has asked him to take responsibility at the meeting. He asks that all the participants be open and talk about what is to be put in the constitution. He said Sierra Leone has given them the opportunity to talk on the Review of the constitution and he is proud to be a part of it.

Questions and Observations

Emmanuel Blango Rep. of Main opposition party -The constitutional review is not Childs play. Think carefully not to be partisan. He reckons enough organizations and people were not told to be represented. They should do ward level and not constituency.

Justice Cowan mentions that not everything will be in the constitution. What if issues deliberated on are frowned at? We must be open and put Sierra Leone first.

William Sao Lamin –Programme Manager Health Alert-He appreciates the statement from the State Policy sub-committee. There should be provision for free health care in the constitution and also with Human Rights
and it should be an entrenched clause. Constitutional review is the business of all Sierra Leoneans and now we have the opportunity and responsibility to attend to it. We must look into issues that concerns vulnerable citizens like pregnant women, children and nursing mothers.

Richard - He is happy to be present here today. Performance contract to be entrenched clause in the constitution. Ministries of Health and Energy to take responsibility for their acts and state industries to take responsibilities and we should see results.

Foday Dumbuya from (AMNET) - The letters of invite should be forwarded with the 1991 constitution and the Peter Tucker report of 2008. With regards local government they should look into our labor laws as it greatly affects all.

Another participant mentioned that people with disabilities are not properly catered for. More provision to be made for the blind and the CRC to make sure right to education is properly looked into.

Mr. Tejan Cole - We need a Presidential system where the President would have less power.

Alhassan Din Turay (community health worker) - Speaking on state policy, he is suggested that the free health care should be included in the constitution with emphasis on employment of youths, and civic education to be taught in schools.
**Robert Salia Kamara**-Education is silent on university level issues. CRC to make it clear that everyone who gains admission to the university should be given get an incentive. The judiciary needs to be more effective, religious days to be observed, and Muslim women not to be discriminated against, and vacancies should be given to qualified Sierra Leones instead of expatriates in workplaces.

**Sarah Fatmata Kamara (Deputy Head Teacher Murray Town School)**- Free education should be clearly defined as parent are of the opinion that the all the needs of the children are provided for but are being misused by the school authorities. The programme continued into the next day where we had a recap of the previous day’s work. The groups had time to discuss their various sub committees work and come up with their recommendations that were presented to the meeting. All the participants had submission forms from their groups that were filled in and handed over. Copies of the recommendations are recorded at the end of the report.

### 7.3 Closing Remarks

Ms. Manst thanked the participants for their participation for the two days we worked together. She reminded them that what they have heard and discussed they were to take back to their various areas to share with their people who were not present. She gave them details of how to contact the CRC if need be and that the secretariat would gladly receive position papers or submission forms or answer any questions they may have. Again she
stressed on the point made by the CRC chair and echoed by her colleagues that not everything they have recommended would be seen in the constitution.

8. CRC Sub-committee Members Presentation in Wards 393/394
Day IV-Monday 22nd-23rd June Babadorie Community Centre Lumley

Welcome Address

The team had the meeting at the above mentioned hall over a two day period. There were participants from wards 393/394. After the registration, the meeting was called to order at 10am by Mr. Josiah of the CRC. He thanked all for coming and said he hoped they would have patience to attend both days and contribute meaningfully to make a better Constitution for the benefit of us all. Both Christian and Muslim Prayers were conducted by participants who volunteered.

Haja A. Abdullah of the legislative sub-committee chaired the programme on both days. She gave a brief talk on the purpose of the meeting we are having and hope they would benefit and make their contribution. She explained about the review and the format been used to carry out the process. The participants were advised to make sure they give detailed accounts of what they want to see in the reviewed constitution, although they were reminded that not everything they say would go into the constitution.

After the welcome address, Haja Abdullah called upon the Chairman of the CRC to give a statement. It was followed by statements from the sub-committee members. As mentioned above, the participants were introduced to the work of the CRC, the submission forms and other matters relating. She called upon a few participants to make a statement.

8.1 Statement by Participants
Councilor Abdul Karim Turay (from Ward 394)

He thanked the CRC for their invite and the Chairman Justice Cowan for his statement that has enlightened them. In welcoming the participants he said this is not an issue of political parties but one of a national nature. Let all in the country get involved and feel free to express themselves. He mentioned he is representing the Mayor and the MP. He is welcoming all to put their hands together and help develop a good constitution and country. Pray God gives us the know how to do so thank you all.

Chief S.O.Gbekie (Kono tribal head from ward 393)

He thanked the chair for this timely constitutional meeting. The constitution is our law that covers the country. Eight percent of our people are illiterate and cannot read. He said they appreciate the representation they have in the CRC, but the Council of tribal heads have been left out. The tribal are not being inform by the paramount chiefs in the respect they to be involved in any secession making process. He also said they want the constitution to recognize the tribal heads.

Mr. Josiah of the CRC- gave an immediate response to Chief Gbekie where he told the audience that tribal heads have not been forgotten as there was a public consultation coming up for paramount chiefs soon in the provinces. Work he said is been done in the western area to consult them and let them be engaged so they can contribute by sending in their position paper and submission forms.

8.2 Question and Observations
Fahim – The Powers of the President should be properly stated. Also the Minister of Justice is not necessary and President should not be in charge of appointing the Chief justice and judges of Supreme Court.

Zariatu Samura - The issues surrounding land problems are heavy because they do not involve local chiefs and councilors. Local government should allow the people in the various wards to choose their councilors.

Chief M. Kongbana (Kono) - Natural Resources does not benefit Sierra Leoneans. With regards State Policy, we do not have one here. There should be laws to protect the nation from intruders (foreigners) who come and reap the country off its resources.

Unisa Kamara - He said his main problem is issues to do with the police. He mentioned about the way they treat drivers where they seize their licenses not been fair. Also spoke about their not responding when called upon to sort land issues that are a common area for local arguments.

Safi Munu - Speaking on behalf of Sowe’s. The culture of FGM is been criticized by people who don’t understand their values. It is not fair to them so they want the constitution to make provision for them to be respected.

Richard Wells - Paramount Chiefs and their tenure is what he wants addressed. Their positions should not be one for life as it is now. An opportunity must be given to other people from different families. It should not be an as of right position.
In Response to Unisa Kamara above, another Participant ASP Musu Thomas (Police Woman) said that Drivers do not even know the contents of the Road Traffic Act and when they are accosted by the Police they are rude and Police don’t tolerate such behavior. With regards police sorting land issues, that she said is not within their mandate as they are not a part of Ministry of lands

Ambassador Dauda of the Local Government sub-committee

Responded to the participant who spoke about lack of State policy in Sierra Leone. He said the reason we are gathered at the meeting is because there is a lot for everyone to do. There is policy in the country and all these help to run the state as a country. He said state means we as humans are the first elements of the state. Everything within the area defines what states means. Paramount chiefs are part of the state policy. Many people not familiar with machinery of government through the constitution hence the lack of ideas.

The programme continued the next day at 11 am. Haja A. Abdullah thanked all for returning to day two. There was a recap of the previous day’s exercise, after which the groups continued their task of examining their various areas allocated to them and getting prepared for the presentation. After hours of fruitful discussions, each group presented their recommendations that are recorded at the end of this report.
8.3 Closing Remarks

The participants were thanked for coming and contributing immensely in the different areas of the constitutional review. The chair Haja Abdullah said she hope they have got enough information to take back to their various communities and educate them about the ongoing process of the constitutional review. She also told them that the CRC secretariat is open to all should they need to hand in their submission forms or position papers.
9. CRC Sub-committee Members Presentation in Wards (342/343/344/345)

Day VI- VII Monday 25th-26th June Christ the King Church Robanneh Hall Kissy

Waterloo

Welcome Address

Team V’s last consultation was at Robanneh Hall Kissy town in Waterloo. Like before, it was consultation held with participants from the above mentioned wards over a two day period.

The meeting commenced at 11 am with both Muslim and Christian prayers conducted by members from the audience. Haja Abdulla who chaired the programme thanked all for coming and after introducing the sub-committee members at the high table, she gave an overview of what our purpose of coming to waterloo was and why the government has deemed it fit to invite the general public to the review of the constitution. She asked them to cooperate with the team and give as much details and recommendations as is necessary. All what they say would be taken into consideration though not all would be put into the constitution. She urged all participants to work as Sierra Leoneans and not on the basis of political parties. Haja then introduced the Chairman of CRC Hon Justice E.K. Cowan who was with us that morning to make a statement on the whole reviews process and after wards there were statements from the sub-committee members. She called upon the councilor or their representative to give a statement.
9.1 Statements from Participants

Councilor Abubakarr Kamara – Thanked CRC for inviting all here today. He said we are all here to give an input in the constitutional review. Please don’t be scared to get involved and express what is affecting the people.

Chief Pa Alimamy Kaloko- Thanks for the invitation from CRC. We will make sure we listen and respect what is been said. We will make sure we participate as best as we can in this exercise as it is for our benefit.

9.2 Question and Observation

Alusine Sesay- when President appoints Ministers they face Parliament. Why aren’t they consulted when they are sacking these people? Women want 30% quota and it should be accepted and the places given to paramount chiefs should be allocated to them as these paramount chiefs have no business in parliament.

K. Saidu Kargbo - this constitutional review is an issue of putting Sierra Leone first so let us all endeavor to work towards that.

Samuel Mattia- Government should make provision to get lawyers for poor people who cannot afford them. When a person is arrested by police and you are not found guilty who should compensate the person?

Santigie Kargbo—Chiefs should not be removed from parliament.
Madam Umu Kamara (Head Woman) - issues to do with free education is of grave concern. People suffer because teachers sell books parents can’t afford and they don’t teach enough.

Isha Bangura Chair lady ward 342 – has a problem with thieves roaming the city. You get robbed and when you go to the police station it’s not treated with seriousness.

Fatmata Kargbo-(Market Woman) The issue on taxation should be looked into properly. It should be done on a house to house basis instead of individually.

The second day of the programme started with a recap of the previous day’s work after which the group work was embarked upon. The groups had a very fruitful debate and came up with the recommendations that are recorded at the end of this report.

9.3 Closing Remarks
The participants were thanked by the team for honoring the invitation to the review programme. The chair said by the recommendations we could see that a lot of effort had been put into the work done by the groups. She said she hope they would all go back and share with their people in the various wards what has been said over the past two days. Once again they were
reminded that not all what has been said would go in the constitution but it would all be looked into by the CRC review committee.
10. Group Recommendations on Western Urban and Western Rural Public Consultation 15th-26th June 2015

10.1 Group Recommendations on Executive

Wards: 386/387/388/389 recommendations

Executive

1. Presidency – A Presidential candidate shall be nominated by the political party.

- He or she shall be a citizen of Sierra Leone based on the customs and traditions.
- He or she should be at the age of forty (40) years and above.
- The President should pay tax as one of his/her duties as a citizen.
- All persons aspiring for Presidency must have resided in the country for at least five (5) years and above.

- The inclusion of “she” in the constitution in the area of acquiring presidency.
- The appointment of Cabinet Ministers must be regional balance.
- The office of the Attorney General must be separated from the Minister of Justice.
- There should be a separate body for the appointment of Commissioner.

Wards: 390/391/392 recommendations

Executive

1. We do not support hybrid Presidential system; we prefer a total separation of powers.

2. We support the current two (2) five years term for the president.
a. Firstly the President must be a Sierra Leonean.

b. We further recommend that any person who wish to run for president must have resided in the country five (5) years before the presidential elections.

c. We agree with the current age limit for person wishing to run for president.

d. We support the current that only person who is member of a political party must run for president.

3. The president or Vice President must pay taxes just as every other citizen because they are paid from the consolidation fund.

4. We do support the primary election for presidential aspirants should be made mandatory in the constitution.

5. We support the current for run-off if no candidate obtains 55% of the vote in the first round.

6. We do agree with the current of no fixed date for the election.

7. We also agree that there must be at least one minister from each district.

8. We agree that not two region combine should account for more that sixty (60) percent of cabinet seats.

9. We do agree that members of parliament cannot be appointed as ministers.

10. a looser of a parliamentary election should be considered for ministerial position.

11. We do support that the roles of the attorney General and Minister of Justice be totally separated.

12. We do accept public hearing for impeachment proceedings.
Wards: 393/394 Recommendations

Executive

1. No, the office of the president should not influence the legislature and judiciary.

2. Yes, to ensure separation of powers, the rule of law and checks and balances.

3. Yes, to avoid dictatorship.

4. Yes, the term of office should be limited to five (5) years.

5. Yes, as long as he/she is a citizen by origin.

6. Yes.

7. Yes, five (5) years.

8. Yes, he/she would have been matured enough to carry the functions of the state.

9. Yes, because they will be well-groomed/scrutinized.

10. No, it is important to belong to a political party.

11. A president should pay tax as he/she should is a citizen.

12. Yes, because they have their own political constitution of selection/appointment.

13. Yes, to minimize internal party conflict.

14. No, for financial constraints to conduct elections.

15. Simple majority i.e. two third (2/3) majority.

16. No, because of financial constraints and avoid fighting.

17. Through election of simple majority.

18. No, to avoid unnecessary postponement of election.
19. Yes, to be certain about the election date.

20. Yes, to avoid chaos and confusion.

21. No, the office of the president should not be vacant in as much as the court proceeding take a reasonable period of time.

22. Yes, the political parties that won election should form the cabinet.

23. Yes, to ensure participatory politics and maintain democracy.

24. Yes, to ensure inclusive government and a regional balance in the political affairs of our country.

25. Yes, we support the view.

26. Yes, to ensure separation of powers.

27. No, in as much as the individual is capable to assume the office he/she should be appointed.

28. No, the office should be separated to ensure absolute power separation and also checks and balances.

29. Yes, to ensure separation of powers.

30. No, the office of the Minister of Justice should be limited within the executive arms and the Attorney General within the judiciary.

31. Yes, he was appointed by the people and should be removed with the consent of the people to ensure democracy.

32. No, he/she should not be sworn in being that only an elected person should take the matter of presidency.
Wards 342/343/344/345 Recommendations

Executive

1. The president cannot serve as a Head of State and also acts as a Member of Parliament.

2. We prefer the Separation of Power among the three (3) arms of government.

3. We support the provision of the 1991 constitution for a president to serve only two (2) terms.

4. Two-term only.

5. We agree that the president of Sierra Leone should be a permanent citizen, because he will sick the interest of the people.

6. We agree at least forty (40) years to contest for presidential election.

7. Five (5) years and above.

8. Yes, a candidate for presidential election can only be nominated by political parties.

9. The president should pay tax, because he is a citizen, and he has the citizenship right to pay tax as any other Sierra Leonean.

10. Yes, the political party should choose a presidential candidate.

11. Yes, we support the only registered member of a political party should vote in a primary election for presidential candidate.

12. There should be regional balance in the formation of cabinet.

13. Yes, we agree that the president should appoint one (1) cabinet minister per district.

14. No.
10.2 Group Recommendations on Legislative

Wards: 386/ 387/ 388/389  Recommendations

Legislative

1. We accept the 18 yrs. to vote and not to be voted for.

2. All Electoral Commissioners should be resident in the respective provincial cities or headquarters.

3. Yes, he or she should be dismissed.

4. It should be changed to PPRRC.

5. They should remain as per-time workers.

6. Yes, but the association should be related to politics. No, they should not continue to be members

7. Yes.

8. Yes.

9. Let constituencies be identified by names.

10* the division of Sierra Leone into constituencies should be renewed after 10 yrs.

11* Bye-election should be abolished,

Reasons are:

a. They are a waste of money and resources.

b. They accommodate violence and perpetrate division.

c. The winning party at the conducted pools should nominate a replacement.
12* (a) A commissioner should not be a member of a political party in the last five (5) years.

(b) A commissioner should not be somebody with high integrity and moral values.

13* No, the president should not be a member of parliament.

14* Paramount Chiefs should not be members of parliament. We support a bi-cameral arrangement.

15* after two (2) terms in parliament, an MP should be entitled to pension.

16* is a citizen of Sierra Leone.

17 Thirty (30) years upwards.

18 Referred to question one (1).

19 The constitution should stipulate that a person found guilty of an offence should be banned for ten (10) years.

20 They should not continue to exercise the power of removing their MPs.

21* Two (2) months

22* Speaker of parliament should be appointed out of parliament.

23* Yes, it is relevant for a Speaker to be qualified as a judge.

24* Not applicable.

25* Not applicable.

26* Yes.

27* Through general election by popular vote and simple majority.

28* Legislate laws in the best interest of the people and the country.
29* No.

30* No.

31* No.

32* Five (5) years.

33*a. misconduct /corruption.
   b. Theft.
   c. Death.
   d. Insanity.
   e. Immortality.

35* twenty – eight (28) years.

36 * 2/3 majority.

37* Hundred million (1,000,000) and a jail term not less than Ten (10) years.

38* No

39*. Yes, if the qualified.

40* No, they should not take part.

**Wards: 390/391/392 Recommendations**

**Legislative**

1. No, we suggest the voters’ age to be eighteen (18) years.

2. Contestants in parliamentary elections should be 25 -30 years.
3. Yes, prefer having the four (4) other members of the electoral commission resident in the respective provincial cities/headquarters.

3a. Yes, should be removed from office for dishonesty and should face the full penalty of the law.

4. Yes, we accept that PPRC be changed to PPRRC for proper regulatory.

5. It should be on part time with conditions.

6. Yes, it should be applicable both to association and political party.

7. Yes, the chair of NEC and the administrative and Registrar General continue to be members of the commission.

8. No, the Administrator and Registrar General should not be replaced by a secretary to the commission.

9. No, it should not be. it must be a separate body.

10. No, we prefer numbers to identify constituencies in stead of names.

11. A period of five (5) years.

12. Yes, the period of six (6) months interval is accepted before conducting bye – election for members of parliament in constituencies that lose theirs.

13. Yes, no political party has the party has the right to interfere in the electoral commission.

14. Yes, the president should be as a member of parliament because to ensure effectiveness and monitoring.

15. No, should have their separate house.

16. Yes, entitled to pensions after ten (10) years.
17. No, they are not entitled.

18. Twenty – five (25) years and above.

19. No, it should vary.

20. Yes, stipulated numbers of years for which a person, found guilty of an offence be banned. 21. No, they have been voted for.

22. Election appeals should be judged within one month.

23. Yes, but should be legally minded.

24. Yes, it is relevant, if legally minded. 25. Yes, allowing it seat to be vacant.

26. Yes, by 2/3 majority.

27. Yes.

28. By voting.

29. The house of parliament makes the law.

30. No.

31. Yes, by voting them.

32. No, we have decided for them to have their own office.

33. Five (5) years. 34. on the dissolution of parliament, if you became a speaker of death.

35. Fourteen (14) days when election is over they should start their proceeding.

36. 2/3 majority.

37. Five thousand Leones (le 5,000).

38. No.

39. Yes, if you have the necessary credentials.
40. No.

**Wards: 393/394 Recommendations**

**Legislative**

Legislative makes laws and it is the most important arm of government in modern days – in Sierra Leone, it is called Parliament and it's members are called Parliamentarians, and they meet in the House of Parliament.

1. The president should be a member of parliament so as to maintain and guide our constitution.

2. The constitution should provide separate age for voters eighteen (18) years and twenty-five (25) years for contestants.

3. The constitution should provide a mean for the Electoral Commissioner to reside in their respective provincial headquarters and should be removed and tried for dishonesty.

4. The constitution should use names and numbers to identify the constituencies.

5. The parliament should make rules that guarantee the nationality of electoral commissioners.
   
   b. The commissioner should be independent.

6. The constitution should continue to have in parliament, chiefs, as members of parliament.

7. Members of parliament should be entitled to pension at the end of any lift of parliament.

8. Political parties’ leaders should not remove their members of parliament, but by the electorates through constitutional means.
9. Election appeals should be judged within ninety (90) days.

10. Speaker of parliament should be elected from among members of parliament.

11. Dual citizenship should have the right to vote and be voted for in any constitutional election.

12. Members of parliament should not cross carpet and if found the parliamentarian must lose his/her seat.

13. Members of parliament should be elected through constitutional means in a legal election, i.e. constituency election.

14. No seat should be reserved for woman and disable in parliament, but they should be given equal opportunities if they want to contest in a legal election.

15. The life of the parliament should be the same as it is outlined in the 1991 constitution.

16. The standing committee in parliament should not be elected or included judges in their appointment, but it must comprise civil society, the interreligious council and the media houses including the general public.

17. Candidate who loses general election should be allowed to hold other offices if the are offered and happen to accept.

18. Public servant who lose general election should not be allowed to take back their previous seat rather, allow doing other jobs to avoid conflict.
Wards: 342/343/344/345

Recommendations

Legislative

1. For voters we say eighteen (18) years and above, and contestants we recommend twenty-one (21) years and above.

5. We recommended that the PPRC should be changed to PPRRC for (1) is Regulatory Clause.

6. We recommended that political parties should be treated separately from that of association.

8. We recommended that the Administrators and Registrar General to stay in the community.

11. Based on population growth, at five (5) years interval.

12. We recommended three (3) months.

13. - The Commissioner should swear in parliament.

   - Declaration of assets.

   – To be prosecuted if fall such, according to law.

15. - We recommended that paramount chiefs should not be members of parliament. And separated house or houses should not be built for them.

   – They should be given offices in their chiefdoms.

17. Dual citizens should be given right to vote and be voted for.

18. Recommend twenty – one (21) years and above.
19. Recommend eighteen (18) years and above.

20. We recommend ninety (90) days, “Justice delayed is justice denied.”

21. We recommend that only the constitution should have the right to do so, under vote of non-confidence.

22. We recommend ninety (90) days for speedy judgment.

23. Speaker should be a member of parliament.

25. Members of Parliament should be elected by constituencies.

30. Members of Parliaments not be allowed to cross the floor with their seats, but can do it after Term of Office.

31. No certain number of seats for women or disable to be reserved.

32. No number of seats should be reserved for Traditional Leaders.
10.3 Group Recommendations on Natural Resources

Wards: 386/387/388/389

Natural Resources

1. Land Tenure System

- ACQUISITION – Level ground i.e. people from the Western Area must be able to acquire land in the provincial area.

- LOAN /LEASE – Land acquired must be used to obtain loan from banking institution and such land must be used as collateral.

Land must be lease in areas of 50 acres and subject to renewal every five (5) years according to contract performance.

- The right of women to acquire land.

2. Natural Resources

Gods given gift – i.e. timber logging, mining, fishing etc. (marine resources)

- A Commission to be set up to monitor and evaluate the use of our natural resources

- Regulations must be made as to how and when these resources are utilized. E.g.

- TREE LOGGING – when a tree is cut more must be planted. when a mining site has been exhausted an alternative use of the site must be made.
- **BENEFIT** – All proceeds from the mining sites occupants must enjoy a percentage from the proceeds.

- **FINISHING** – Sticks laws must be made to preserve the small fish by using special nets for the purpose.

- A fair distribution wealth as educational system, road networks etc.

**Environment**

- A special court to be set up for defaulters in environmental practices.

- Preservation of buildings (historical). Relics and Monuments.

- To promote healthy environment.

- There must be formed a Natural and Regional Environmental Commission.

- All residents must provide adequate and necessary requirements for healthy living conditions, i.e. Tree planting, adequate drainage system and sewage.
Wards: 390/391/392 Recommendations

Natural Resources

Land and Natural Resources

1. Reserved areas should not be touch i.e. forest, slums, cemetery etc

2. Land control system. There shall be a control system in terms of lease and whatever the period.

It should be review every five (5) years.

1. Land and Commission: We need to have land commission for, an every judgment, to reduce the problem that face the land system illegal

➢ Land grabbing should be a criminal offence.

4. Nonnative: There shall be no discrimination to acquire a land both Western Area and the provinces.

5. Rehabilitation: After mining, the mining company should take the responsibility to rehabilitate the land.

6. Modern documentation: GPS should be introduced in to the land documentation to avoid land conflict.

7. Pressure group: To give power to EPA, and Land Officers to reinforce the law.
Wards: 393/394 Recommendations

Natural Resources

Wards: 393 & 394 Recommendations

Land and Natural Resources

- Materials or substances occurring in nature which can be exploited for economic gain.
- How can we benefit from these natural resources are:
- We need a full chapter on the upcoming constitution about natural resources for the benefit of all Sierra Leoneans.
- Government should give the right to every citizen e.g. to acquire land at least three (3) town lot.
- Government should build more Low Cost Houses for poor earners.
- The tax duty free which governments usually give to mining company should be reduced from ten (10) years to three (3) years.
- Let the government help to bring in more companies so that we can manufacture our resources which will be of benefit for our country.
Wards: 342/343/344/345

Recommendations

Natural Resources

Land and Natural Resources

1. Land is a natural resource / gift from God.

2. Everybody is entitled to a piece of land either poor or rich.

3. Land should be utilized for its purpose.
4. Land should be operated into the system of both Provincial Area and Western Area, either by lease or purchase.

5. Land should be benefited by land owners from the mining companies by providing proper shelters and given good compensation for future exploitation.

6. After mining the land, it should be refilled back to avoid flooding.

7. Land documentation should be given and be registered in the community or district council office for mining signatories.

8. The land should be properly developed for the use of the community. E.g. Agriculture, Poultry, oxen, Pen and Horticulture.

9. The Marine time Officers should properly secure all natural resources from the sea.

10. Land should be reserved for developmental purposes. E.g. government officers, markets, public toilets, cemeteries etc.
11. All natural resources from the land should be manufactured in the community. E.g. diamond, gold, iron ore, bauxite etc.

12. Replacement of cut down trees should be a law to avoid flooding from low lands.

13. Recommend to stop buildings in low lands, hill sides and swampy or wet land.

14. Housing facilities should be provided for people in a low cost.

15. A special court is to be established for land grabbers or defaulters.

16. Special compensation to be paid to rightful owners, while punishment is to be levied to defaulters.
10.4 Group Recommendations Local Government

Wards: 386/387/388/389

Local Government

1. No
2. Yes, by doing so we help others to step up in performing their duties been delegated to them.
3. No because differential in terms of district or constituency within the country as whole.
4. Yes, based on performance if you work hard you get hard.
5. Being a citizen you must pay tax to support the government.
6. Citizens and non-citizens above eighteen (18) years.
7. No, because of lack of enforcement, although it is a new system been introduced and people have not been used to it, but it always comes out late almost at the end of the year.
8. Yes, because they directly with the grass root other than the central government.
9. No
10. Yes, because there are systems been practiced that do not cut across the country.
11. Yes, they too can handle some courses that which are not meant for the Magistrate Court. E.g. witch cause, abusive language cause.
12. By holding decision making meeting within their locality.
13. No
14. Yes, by involving them into local councils operations.
15. Yes, because we want best practice of Gender balance been maintained among both sex in the country.
16. Yes, to promote good democracy.
17. Yes, the welfare of the councilors needs to be addressed. They should be empowered to meet their responsibilities to participate fully in their areas of work.
18. To allow council to carry out functions fully devolve to them by the central government.
19. No, there will be too much conflict.
20. Create more job opportunities with better conditions of services.
21. It will be adequately been addressed if there are incentives, motivation and better conditions of service is in place.
22. Yes, to improve on the standards of operations within an institution.
23. Proper monitoring system and supervision Good offices, better allowance, above all to review the labour Act which is outdated for the present trend of sustenance.
24. Sixty-five (65) years.
25. Yes
26. No – conflict of interest.
27. Yes, let it continue to be as it as been done.
28. It is a new creation and to the best of our abilities, they have over lapping functions.
29. Yes, because of conflict of interest.
30. Proper monitoring system should be in place, to maintain political balance and to be independent.
31. No, let it remains as it is.
32. Yes

Wards: 390/391/392

Recommendations

Local Government

1. We agree that taxes be imposed and collected by central government.
2. Revenue should be allocated to local councils on a performance related basis.
3. Taxes and other sources of revenue collected by central government must be distributed according to the needs of the people.
4. Revenue should be allocated to local councils in proportion to taxes collected by that local council.
5. Citizens should be required to pay local tax because it is our civic responsibility to help develop the country.

6. Everybody at the age of eighteen (18) and above with a sound mind should be qualified to pay local tax.

7. Government is required to do proper civic education on the collection of taxes.

8. Local /traditional leaders should have legislative powers but in consultation with their subject or subordinates.

9. Ascribing a specific term of office to a paramount chief will ensure accountability, suggested ten (10) years term of office.

10. The council of chiefs should be reformed.

11. Local /Traditional leaders should not be entrusted with judicial powers.

12. Local residents should be involved in decision making process through regular public meetings and consultations.

13. There should be a National House of Chiefs in replacement of their legislative powers but with the supervision of the legislature.

14. The Chiefdom Councils should be maintained to work side by side with the local councils but in the interest of the people.

15. The issue of paramount elections should create equal opportunity for both sexes across all regions.

16. The local council elections should be continued to be conducted on partisan basis to minimize number of candidates and to maintain democracy.

17. The council administration should be reformed.
17. To allow adequate transfer of functions or power to the local council, there should be
provision for devolution.

19. The issue of chiefdom boundaries should be included in the constitution to avoid
encroachment and dispute.

20. The human resource deficiency in the civil servant can be addressed to maintain
government of inclusion.

21. There should be no sentiments on Staff retention policies on the crisis of the policies.

22. Staff should be appraised on a performance related basis.

23. Work condition on civil service can be improved by improving conditions of service
and price control.

24. The retirement age of civil servants should be raised.

25. The new civil service rules and regulations be included in the reviewed constitution.

26. The creation of various service commissions will help to address the low performance
situation in the civil service because it serves as an independent body with transparency
and accountability.

27. We agree with the process of nomination or appointment of members in the police
council by involving the community to choose their members that will represent them in
the police council.

28. HRMO – serves as a data base on employment for government.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION – Advertise vacancies on behalf of government; conduct
interviews and advice the HRMO on employment.

SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT – He is the head of civil service.

29. These commissions have no overlapping functions.
30. Civil Service Personnel should be excluded from party politics! We advise that it is included in the constitution that civil servants should not be partisan.

31. We disagree that the recruitment of civil service should be devolved to the respective ministries and other government departments.

32. We disagree that the recruitment process of the civil service personnel are the root cause of low performance.

**Wards: 393/394 Recommendations**

**Local Government**

* Taxes should not be imposed and collected by central government but by the local government.

* The revenue should be allocated to local council on preferential bases.

* Taxes and other sources of revenue should be shared equally to council.

* Taxes should not be allocated to council according to the tax they collected because, some councils collect minimal tax.

* Citizens should pay tax, this will help local council to undertake development programs.

* Every resident above 18 years who is not school going pupil is expected to pay tax.

* Local chiefs should have legislative powers to make laws that will guide their communities.

* Local chief should have a particular term of office for them to be accountable to their subjects.

* We recommend that the Council of Chiefs to be reformed.
* Local councils are supposed to work hand in hand with the chief.

* The election of Paramount Chief should be gender balance across the region.

* We recommend that local council election should not be conducted based on partisan.

* We recommend that chiefs have National Houses instead of legislative powers.

**Civil service reform**

* Civil Servants are supposed to be well-paid and provide them with basic amenities.

* Staff should be given appraisals on a performance bases.

* Civil Servants should be given adequate training and scholarship to staff for more room for improvement.

* The retirement age should be at sixty (60) years to give room to others.

* The new civil service rule and regulation be included in the reviewed constitution.

* By educating the civil servants on their role and responsibility not on partisan or regionalism.

**Wards: 342/343/344/345 Recommendations**

**Local Government**

**Tax Collection Revenue**

* We disagree about tax collection by the central government because, if it is collected by our local councils, they would respond to our basic needs to develop our communities.

* Community will have access to our local council.

* Eighteen (18) years and above is qualified to pay tax.

* Yes, we need to pay tax as citizens to contribute in national development to exercise our right.
* Yes, they should be allocated based on performance basis, so that it will motivate other people citizens to participate in tax payment.

**Legislative Powers of Traditional Chiefs**

* No, there will be no respect for each other.

* Yes.

* Yes.

* No.

* All Councilors must have office in their wards to discuss community issues with the grassroots people.

* Yes, to know the number of local chiefs in their communities. Also to unite the ethnic groups among their people in terms of dispute.

* It will help a chain of communication between the people and the local council.

* Yes.

* No

* No.

*. The central government should work with the local council representatives to monitor activities in their wards or communities.

* Yes, to avoid dispute between tribe.

**Civil Service Reforms**

* Government should establish state farms to create employment for the people.

* State redundancy
* Yes.

* Increases in salaries.

* Improve conditions of service (welfare).

* No, sixty (60) years is appropriate.

* No.

* Yes, because there is no transparency.
10.5 Group Recommendations on Judiciary

Wards: 386/387/388/389

Judiciary

1. We recommend that it’s remain the same
   - Yes it is transparent.
   - We recommend that all Judges must be approved by parliament. i.e. (Supreme, Appeal Court, high Court)
   - Remains as it is.

2. Judges should have a better working condition and improved facilities.
   - Constructions of more court houses nationwide.
   - Better training procedures etc.
   - Three months can be okay provided the required resources needed are available.

3. Our laws are to be updated in the areas of fines and punishment in all courts levels, also the bailing system.
   - No much emphasis need to be put on the investigation and prosecution sector, like the provision of basic materials needed, e.g. cameras, recorders and well-developed IT system.
   - 1. Natural resources.
   - 2. Legislature
   - 3. Labour
   - 4.
   - The judiciary should be independent to avoid government and political interference.
As far as the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice is concerned towards the judicial branch of government is clearly defined in the constitution.

Is clearly defined in the constitution.

Yes, it is right that the judicial should not be subjected to any other law apart from the constitution.

5.

More available resources needed to ensure the independence of the judiciary system.

The quantum of resources received or allocated to the local court system must be efficiently used or managed by such court.

The composition and role of the judiciary and the Legal Service Commission must be fixed towards term limits.

The money paid to the consolidated fund will not enhance smooth running of the judiciary operations.

Wards: 390/391/392  Recommendations

Judiciary

THEME: appointment and removal of judges and other judicial officers:

1. Let the judicial be an independent body that will be responsible to appoint judges and other judicial officers.

2. They should set criteria that should determine who becomes judge and how they should be removed.

3. No need for parliamentary approval or recommendation as it will jeopardize the system.

Theme (2):  Reason for undue delay of justice:

(i) Political interference
(ii) Lack of finance/ funding and logistics

(iii) Corruption

(iv) Inadequate judges

HOW TO STOP THEM?

(i) Providing funding and logistical support.

(ii) Budget allocation

(iii) Train more judicial personnel

2. Three (3) months for civil matter and six (6) months for criminal matters.

Theme Four (4): Independence of the Judiciary

(i) The judiciary should be independent.

(ii) They should be accountable for whatever fund allocated to them annually.

(i) They should be transparent and free from corruption.

(iv) No political interference.

(2) The Role of The A.G / M.O.J

- He is the legal representative of the government.
- He is the legal adviser of the government and the president.
- He collects files from the cabinet for interpretation.

The A. G. and M.O.J should not have any control over the judiciary.
Theme (5): Finance and the Resources of the Judiciary

1. It is adequate for the system.
2. Finance should be allocated to the judiciary annually and it should be under the supervision of the Chief Justice.

Wards: 393/394 Recommendations

Judiciary

1. Judiciary should be independent.
   - No interference in carrying out the functions of the judiciary.
   - Legal commission should be responsible for the appointment of judges and other judiciary officers.

2. Undue delay in the administration of Justice is due to poor decentralization mechanism and insufficient Judges or Magistrates to speedily address cases

3. Inadequate facilities lead to delay of judgment within the period of three (3) months.

Revision of the system

3. Yes, it is important to revisit the whole judiciary system to meet the needs of the country.
   We are advocating for the enactment of the early teenage pregnancy bill.
   Gay right policy bill is not accepted by the people of Sierra Lone.

5. The role of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice is to advise government on matters relating to the judiciary.

   It is necessary for the Attorney General to be separated from the Minister of Justice in the reviewed constitution.

6. Financial and other resources for the judiciary including the local court.
No, it is adequate and does not enable the judiciary system to function effectively and independently as it should be.

Wards: 342/343/344/345

Recommendations

Judiciary

* Civil Society Organizations should set up an independent commission to appoint and remove judges and other judicial officers and tenure of office for judges should be sixty (60) years.

* To increase the number of Magistrates and judges in the court including proper monitoring mechanisms tracing cases starting with the police on to the court system.

* Colonial archaic laws which are in 1991 constitution should be revised and fines updated according to the present money value.

* The judiciary must be devoid of all political influence in its function of dispensing justice while the Attorney General is the sole Government Chief prosecutor and defender in legal matters.

* Salary of magistrate judges and other judicial officers should be increased. Also more financial resources must be allocated to the judiciary and the budget should be determined by the Chief Justice.

* Commission should be as follows: the Chief Justice, three (3) members of the Bar Association, and three (3) members of the Bench.
10.6 Group Recommendations on State Policy and Human Right

Wards: 386/387/388/389

State Policy and Human Rights

Citizenship

- It should be clearly recorded in the constitution how to acquire citizenship
- We should examine your original background.
- Your contribution in the community should be considered.
- Every citizen should have a social security number.
- There should be a data base of every citizen.
- Any person who acquires citizenship by naturalism should not contest primary or presidential election.

NOTE: Requirement for citizenship is not discrimination. (2)

Education

Education is a Right

- Education should be in Chapter two (2)
- Government should provide more support for special need, education.
- Government should regulate the fees of private schools and colleges across the country.
- Government should establish Tech. Voc. Institutions at district level.
- Civic education must be included in the school curriculum.
- Compiling free basic education.
Tax

- Satisfaction of tax obligation.
- Collection of local tax should be enforced.

Death Penalty

- Abolished
- Willful and indiscriminate.

KILLERS: The death penalty should be applied.

- Coup - loss of life –
- Coup – bloodless –
- The death penalty should not be applied in politically motivated cases.

Health

- The free health care should be maintained.
- Free health care for the aged (60 and more).
- School clinic should be across the country.
- Free health care for person with disability.

Housing

Housing should be in Chapter Two (2).

- NASSIT should provide Housing.
- Government should ensure that lands should be accessible and affordable.
- Wet land should be protected.
Environment (3)

Environment should be under Chapter Three (3).

- Government should ensure that the environment is protected at all levels.
- Investors should also respect the right of the environment.

Group Recommendations on State Policy and Human Right

Wards: 390/391/392 Recommendations

State Policy and Human Rights

1a. We should be law abiding citizens.

b. We should participate in an electioneering process by voting at 18 years and above.

Recommendations

Q1. We recommend that a citizen of this country should abide by the constitution of the land, the National Flag, the National anthem and authorities, officers established to undertake the constitution that govern us.

Q2. We recommend that government should provide strong security, peace and welfare of the people, because that is their primary objectives and responsibility of the government. Now if we look at what is happening presently in the security sector, especially the so-called police force for good are bulleting some peaceful citizens to the extent they lose their lives; which is very bad for our nation. So this constitution needs to look at this security threat from some of our police officers.

Q3. We aware bet much is not been done, so out recommendation is that, the government should try all its best to provide us a better opportunity to be educated to the best of our
ability, aptitude and inclination by providing educational facilities at levels and aspects of education such as, primary, secondary, vocational, technical, college and university.

Q4. Not mandatory that they should provide our needs, but there are some basic needs which they supposed to fulfill to us the citizen of the country, like example sustainable education, water supply and strong electricity supply.

Q5. No, because here in Sierra Leone none of our government organized any open accountability programmer for us the grass root of this country tp participate in what the government has done and what they will embark later. We recommend that the government should open accountability to us by using big open place, example like national stadium , to brief our their old and new development of the year annually, so we the citizens shall have questions for them and they should be in position to answer them openly.

Q6. Yes, but we recommend that let there be a provision for that, so the government should always realize that the citizens are the best interest of all

Q8. Yes, we recommend that the paramount chiefs and other traditional leaders should hold the government to account and the government should try all its best to empower the chiefs and other traditional leaders to perform their duties.

Q10. Yes, for sure because with this mixture of accountability will provide us a good result, they should always realize that they have a monetary body that is looking in to their day to day running of judiciary, and we recommend that this particular law should be in the entrenched chapter in the constitution.

**The recognition and protection of fundamental human right and freedom of the individual**

**Preliminary question**

Q1. Chieftaincy and customary marriage are the most important practices.
Q2. Yes, presently if we look around our communities we had lost most of our norms and values of our traditions due to the modernization of the world today.

Wards: 393/394

Recommendations

State Policy and Human Rights

- Firstly, there should be an Integrity Commission that should over the past and present records of citizens before assuming public offices.
- Secondly, there should also be a policy wherein government should provide a free education to voluntary citizens offering certain courses like civil engineering, doctor and lawyers; in returns these citizens would freely serve the state for a period of two years.
- Thirdly, the issue of price control is also vital and should be enforced. All businesses should be headed by Sierra Leoneans, be it public or private.

Recommendations

- We recommend that there should be a special commission set by the state to serve as a watch dogs for taking up with government any issue that has to do with the basic fundamental rights of persons irrespective of status without fear or favour.
- Additionally, the Fourth Estate which serves as the minor showing the government to the people and the people to the government, should be given a free arms without prejudice. Therefore the criminal libel laws must be looked into very seriously.
- We also recommend that for a sound human right assurance, let there be a stipulated time frame for most or all offences especially that has to do between individuals.
- There should be a strong and viable social security system for the citizens so that people appoint in certain sensitive offices do not boot lick or bend down the state government in defending the people.
Wards: 342/343/344/345 Recommendations

State Policy and Human Rights

- Policies that favor adequate working conditions, employment opportunities, eradicating illiteracy, good medical health care for citizens should be implemented.
- Provision that requires government to have enough resources to meet its obligations should be maintained.
- There should be policies that will hold the government accountable to the citizens.
- There should be a Human Right Act that will enforce human right matters to court.
- Enough funding to the Judicial, Human Right Commission etc.

Human Right and Freedom

- There should be a separate chapter that state out the right of every citizen in terms of physically challenged, deprived, etc.
- There should be compensation for victims of human violations.
- Women should not be discriminated in terms of customary practices and should be allowed to take part in politics.
- There should be freedom of speech and media, but should be regulated.

Citizenship and Discrimination

- The constitution should separate chapter defining who is a citizen and how it can be transferred.
- Naturalized citizens should all be allowed to take part in politics, but should not continue to permit discrimination against Sierra Leoneans who have acquired citizenship.

Public Emergency

- The constitution should make provisions for setting up committees to take decisions in terms of public emergency which be non-partisan.
• The power of the president should be reduced.
• Members of the executive should include members of the opposition party.
• Civic education should be a matter of must in all schools, starting from primary schools.
10.7 Group Recommendations on Information, Education and Communication (IEC)

Wards: 386/387/388/389 Recommendations

Information, Education and Communication (IEC)

Education

- Concerns
  Some people are not opportune to attend school, so there should be free education from the nursery level up to J S S 3.

Courses of lack of education

- Lack of finance.
- Traditional beliefs that a girl should not be educated.
- Teenage pregnancy, early marriage [Laws should be in place to take those in order to boost]
- the educational system]

Discrimination of Learning.

Especially for girl child – policies should be in place for punishment of parents who do not allow their children (he/she) within the age of 6 (six) and above to attend school when the availability of free education is in place.

Policies of Private School

- Some holders of certain Private schools are not even qualified to be established.
  [Qualification from the head teacher down to the teachers should be in place]
• Conducive environment for all schools. [Government and private schools] [Areas of fees should be a reasonable amount]

No form of Exclusive fees.

• Teachers should be trained and qualified not untrained and unqualified.
  [Effort should be in place to train the qualified teachers]
• Movement of qualified and trained teachers to the provinces
• There should be Incentives [accommodation, remote allowance etc]
• Finally, we state that Education “TO BE A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT FOR ALL CITIZENS.”

Information and Communication

• The media should act responsibly in a way to promote the image of the media and the citizens.
• There should be excess media houses, Judges/Magistrates and Court Buildings especially in the Provinces.
  • In order to fast-tracked complaint media by the public and reduce undue delay in the court Seating.
  • The IMC should be strengthened to protect journalist from undue arrest and intimidation for His/her duties.
  • At least 2/3 of the composition of the IMC should be made up of legally minded personalities.
• Also it should be punishable by law if a journalist writes falsely on an individual or government personality.

• Government should strengthen NATCOM in areas of digitalized telecommunication, and biometric facilities.

• Complaint cause should be included in the Act in order for NATCOM operates not to bypass the NATCOM Act.

• In our view appointment of Director/Commissioner of the IMC should be made by the President and ratify by parliament.

• We also advocate that the IMC Secretariat should work alongside with NRA for proper functioning.

Wards: 390/391/392 Recommendations

Information, Education and Communication (IEC)

1. IMC should be charged with the responsibility to protect the public penalties should be levied on offenders.

2. The existing laws should be strengthened and popularize.

3. Provide facilities for judges to hand such matters.

4. No, it should be the responsibility of IMC.

5. There should be laws protect a journalist to perform.

6. No, the constitution should not mandate, and salaries should not be paid below minimum rate. 7. Journalists have their code of conducts.

8a. Yes

8b. They should have trained.

9. No, there is code of conduct to be followed.
10. No,

11. It helps the government to about the public opinion.

12. Yes.

13. Yes.

14. Laws need to be strengthened.

15. To protect the basic human rights.

16. Special committee to be formed for the appointment of Directors and Commissioners.

17. To strengthen the law so that the Director cannot be easily sacked.

18. The Board of Directors has to be empowered by strengthening the law.

19. No.

20. Free education at all times at all levels.

21. Yes, it may improve our education system.

22. Yes, to ensure that we must take any ECOWAS standard but also contemporary standard of living.

23. Yes, it helps other to go for more higher education.

**For Equality Education:**

- Empower teachers through capacity building, improved salary, sufficient and available teaching materials and conducive working environment for able and disable.
- The issue of when practicable should be at all time.
- Unqualified teachers should be allowed to go for Distance Learning to build their (his/her) capacity.
- People with disability must be given free education at all levels with necessary learning materials.
- MGD 2015 (end) Goal 4: ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all.

- Quality education will succeed if the government revisits some facilities for students like, food shelter etc.

Wards: 393 & 394 Recommendations

Information Education Communication (IEC) Recommendations

1. The IMC should be given more powers and very hard penalties.

2. No other freedom should be added to the media.

3a. Duration should be given.

   b. More court magistrates and judges should be all over the country.

4. The IMC should be able to run its own affairs.

5. A Journalist should carry an Identification Card.

6. This concept should be determined by the proprietor or proprietress.

7. This should be determined by the umbrella loosely i.e. SLAJ.

8a. this also should be regulated by SLAJ.

   b. this is also determined by the proprietor or proprietress.

9. No, insurance cannot guarantee the citizens from all types of…………

10. The part of the 1965 Public order Act should not be repealed.
11. The functions should be included in to the constitution but should be visible within the ministry and easily accessible for consumption.

12. Yes, it is worthwhile to digitalize to match up with the global development.

13. To further digitalize the payment system and subject to Periodic Audits.

14. The act should be enforced to ensure compliance.

15. To maintain international standards and give power to the citizenry.

16. This power should be given to the president subject to parliament approval.

17. The national legislative should be enacted to give autonomy and independent.

18. The Board should be strengthened to include wider or public participation.

19. No.

20. Government should provide free and compulsory basic education, but punish parents who fall wanted for not sending children to school.

22. The government shall promote the learning og indigenous language e.g. French.

23. Yes, including remote allowances and should be trained and qualified.

Wards: 342/343/344 / 345 Recommendations

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Recommendations

1a. should be an independent body and free from political influence and conflict.

   b. Advance training for their staff.

   c. Resource.

2. Accessibility to information to Sierra Leoneans, foreigners and all public service.
3. Time frame of two (2) months and to give verdict.

4. Yes.

   a. To set up an independent court to look into the matter urgently.

5. They should be protected by the constitution and also spelt out in the constitution.

6. To be employed and paid a minimum wage of Le 600,000 per month.

7. Yes.

8. Yes.

9. No insurance. 10. Part five (5) of the 1965 public Order Act remains the same.

11. No, their function should be publicized.

12. Yes.

13. Yes, to pay all public funds through NRA.


15. International law.

16. President appoints and approves by parliament

17. Approves by parliament.

18. The constitution to contain an independent national broadcaster to ensure more public participation.

19. No, free composed education with adequate structure and facilities.

20. Yes, reduce literacy in the country.

21. Yes, T E.C. should be empowered and strengthened.
22. Yes.

23. Yes, provide scholarship to further education.
   a. lack of transport allowance.
   b. House facilities (Housing).
   c. Remote allowance.
   d. loan facilities.