

MINUTE OF PRS MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING KENEMA
DISTRICT HELD ON THE 23RD MARCH 2007 IN KENEMA DISTRICT
COUNCIL HALL MAXWELL KHOBE STREET KENEMA

The meeting was called to order at exactly 10:30am

Prayers

Individual silent prayers were offered by all present.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Patrick Samu, the Chairman Kenema District Council chaired the meeting. In his opening remarks, he welcomed all MDA heads and representatives and thank them for attending the meeting. He however apologised for not calling the last meeting because of his busy schedule the Council and ministries of Education and Agriculture had. He added that their activities that stopped the meeting was also geared towards developing the district.

He stressed the importance of the meeting -the monitoring and coordination of all development activities carried out by CSO's Ministry Department Agencies will help to know which agency is operating where and at what level. This to some extent will avoid duplication and improve efficiency. The Chairman then called upon the PRS-focal person to make his own remark as the technical person.

The PRS- focal Person Mr. Musa Saidu started by putting out the importance of monitoring and evaluation. He started by saying monitoring is a very important aspect for development activities, but it can work if you know what you want to monitor. Because if you don't have what to measure you cannot manage. He said this particularly for the Ministry of Health, where the M&E unit has no data on Health Services. He said the M & E unit in the health unit in Kenema was set up for disease surveillance and Nothing more. He said the importance of a M & E unit is to develop a system where there will be a holistic data on all service in a particular unit so that there will be some issues related to the particular sector so that even outsiders can have opportunity to understand and talk on. He therefore encouraged all to devolved Ministries to continue collecting data which will help monitoring and direct development assistance. He said it was because of the absence of collected and stored data that local Government Finance Department allocation affected the four devolved ministries in Kenema District and City Council.

STATEMENTS

1. **HEALTH-** The representative started by expressing his gratitude for the meeting as this will help them a lot. He continued that the Health sector has done a lot of activities amongst which are,

Supporting the completion of the HIPC funded CHC construction in Weima (lower Bambara), Bendu and Ngeihun Konjo in Malegohun and Nekabo in Nongowa.

The Health sector has provided 208 million for the devolved funds for the completions,

They are now planning district wide Tetanus campaigning. The first phase will start from the 16th – 25 April 2007. Second phase will be from 21st – 30 May 2007 and the 3rd phase will be in November .

IRC is supporting EMOC programme for pregnant women and at the Government hospital and OHC 6 PHU's .

The program involves the provision of logistical support and training of CHO's to handle pre-natal cases at targeted centres.

2. **AGRICULTURE-** The district Director , Mr. John Lahai informed the meeting that his department since devolved to the council has a cordial working relationship. He added further that the district allocation from the national budget is around 14% which he considered grossly madequate. He however said the department intends to make representation for increase in budgetary allocation.

Inspite of the above , his department has been able to carryout the following activities :

- Supplied garrie processing machine to three communities.
- Assisted /supplied assorted vegetable and agro technical support to farmers.
- Tree crop nuseries with a view of establishing plantations.
- Trained farmers in various farming techniques in pest and diseases control.
- Taken steps in restocking livestock to a few communities .
- Veterinary drugs and vaccine have been provided as well as vaccine for rabies .
- 7500 bushels of seed rice was distributed to farmers by NAFSL for 2006 farming season.

3. SOCIAL WELFARE GENDER AND CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS

The principal Social Development Officer lamented that though his department is very important for human development , it is the least funded . The department works with partners in the areas of child protection , women affairs , disability issues etc.

Some of its partner s ,

Sierra Leone Red Cross , IRC , GOAL , MEST, Civil Society .etc. He said he was concerned about a few things . Children accompanying the blind , Gender based violence , Rape cases on the increase, vulnerable groups such as the blind - that blind has a farm graft centre at RII which need urgent support from partners .

EDUCATION- The Education representative was absent , but collected information education services was present and explained by Mr. Musa Saidu.

DISCUSSIONS:

The following came out in the discussions,

- Some PHU's are located in privet houses .The question is what happens if there is a wind of change and the house owners request their houses.
- Most PHU's donot have the full package needed for a health center.
- How do we monitor the crop nursery.
- Agriculture should try to establish nurseries of native species instead of exotic tress.
- There was also the issue of low participation of women I agriculture.
- There was also concern for the disagreement between the vetinary department and Government hospital over who should be responsible for animal promotion

ACTION POINTS

- Transition support Team field officer and PRS- focal person to meet with the District Director of Agriculture to draw up assessment to on Agriculture Services.
- Director s of Agriculture and Education to call up sectoral meetings before the next meeting.
- PRS-Focal person to meet with CSO's to choose a representative for the monitoring committee meeting.

ARM

Concerns were raised by all for refreshment at the end of the meeting .

In the absence of any other relevant matter, the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Sylvester Thomas and seconded by Miss Emmy Gbanawa

Faithfully Submitted

Musa Saidu
Secretary