

**FOURTH STATE OF THE NATION SYMPOSIUM – CONTRIBUTION BY THE  
MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Chairman,  
Cabinet Ministers,  
Hon. Members of Parliament,  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic & Consular Corp.,  
Civil Servants,  
Traditional Rulers,  
Members of the Press,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Ministry of Local Government and Community Development is crucial in the Socio-Economic and Political Development of Sierra Leone, particularly at a time when Government is committed to Democratic Decentralization and Poverty Alleviation in the Local Communities. The overall focus of the Ministry is to ensure the implementation of the Local Government Reform, Capacity Building and Decentralization Programme which entails the strengthening of Local Government Bodies by providing them with adequate resources, decision making authority and mechanism for grassroots participation.

**MISSION STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY**

Creating an enabling environment for Community Development in Post War Reconstruction and Poverty Alleviation through a Decentralised Democratic and Sustainable Local Government System.

**VISION**

- Civil authority and law and order restored in the local communities.
- Local Communities Reconstruction enhanced
- Democratically Elected and Functional Local Government Bodies
- Decentralised Administration
- Balance Development with popular participation
- Strengthening Resource Development (Human and Financial) for a competent, productive and knowledgeable workforce.
- Competitive, dynamic and resilient local communities responsive to self-help initiatives

My Ministry has two main divisions which are as follows: -

1. Local Government Division
2. Community Development Division

For the year 2002 that is under review, the activities of the two divisions of the Ministry were as follows:

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION**

### **A. RETURN OF CIVIL AUTHORITY**

When His Excellency the President on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2002, declared the rebel war in Sierra Leone over, the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development in order to facilitate the re-establishment of Government Authority nation-wide, particularly in areas formerly under rebel control, embarked on the following activities:

#### **i. RETURN OF RESIDENT MINISTERS, PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION STAFF TO THEIR RESPECTIVE OPERATIONAL AREAS**

The three Resident Ministers, three Provincial Secretaries and twelve District Officers together with their support staff are in post. The office and residential accommodation, furniture, tools and equipment of these officers were either destroyed or vandalized during the rebel war. At this time of austerity, these officers are making sacrifices in the interest of the nation to return and resume work in their respective operational areas inspite of the inadequacies of accommodation and lack of other basic necessities helpful to their work.

Temporary office and residential accommodation have been provided for some of them while awaiting the rehabilitation/reconstruction of the permanent infrastructure. DFID, UNDP and NaCSA are assisting Government in the rehabilitation/reconstruction of some Local Government infrastructure and the provision of furniture, tools and equipment for the Provincial and District Administrations.

#### **ii. APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL COURT CHAIRMEN**

Chiefdom Councils are responsible for the maintenance of Law and Order in their Chiefdoms. They perform this responsibility through the Local Courts. To facilitate the Restoration of Civil Authority and to enhance the maintenance of Law and Order in the Provinces, the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development through the approval of Cabinet has appointed Local Court Chairmen in the 149 Chiefdoms countrywide. The appointments were done in consultation with the Paramount/Regent Chiefs and the Chiefdom Committees. Letters of Appointments and Warrants have been issued to the Court Chairmen to enhance their legal operations.

The appointment of Court Chairmen for Chiefdoms with Regent Chiefs was done for one year pending the election of new Paramount Chiefs. The tenure of office of these Chairmen has expired and the Ministry has requested the newly elected Paramount Chiefs in the affected Chiefdoms, in consultation with their Chiefdom Committees, to submit nominees to the Ministry for consideration and subsequent appointment as Court Chairmen.

However, most of the Court Sittings take place under makeshift structures because majority of the Local Court Barriers and Lock-ups were damaged and are in need of rehabilitation/reconstruction.

### iii. **ELECTION OF PARAMOUNT CHIEFS**

As at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2002, there were 63 vacancies for the election of Paramount Chiefs nation-wide. These vacancies were accumulated over the years because the ten-year civil conflict made it impossible to conduct such elections to fill the vacancies as and when they occurred. With the end of the Rebel War, and after the successful conduct of the recent Presidential and Parliamentary Elections, the Ministry in collaboration with the National Electoral Commission (NEC) embarked on the election of Paramount Chiefs countrywide.

Mr. Chairman, we are all aware of the importance of Chieftaincy and the vital role Paramount Chiefs play in the Maintenance of Law and Order and in the socio-economic development of their chiefdoms. Mindful of the fact that effective restoration of Civil Authority could be brought about through the empowerment of chiefdom authorities to freely and transparently elect a Paramount Chief of their choice, Government had to put modalities in place to ensure free, fair and transparent election of Paramount Chiefs.

Paramount Chieftaincy is a highly honoured and respected institution in this country. It is hereditary and only people hailing from recognized established Ruling Houses in a Chiefdom are qualified to contest Paramount Chieftaincy election. Experience in the past shows that Governments interfered with the election of Paramount Chiefs. People were imposed on some Chiefdom as Paramount Chiefs who did not hail from recognized Ruling Houses, and at times unpopular candidates hailing from recognized Ruling Houses were also imposed. To forestall this bad practice, the Ministry working jointly with the Chiefdom Governance Reform Programme, produced a Code of Practice for Chiefdom Administration, which was submitted to and approved by Cabinet. The Code of Practice entails modalities for the conduct of Paramount Chief Election. It is clearly stated in the Code that Paramount Chieftaincy Election is a traditional election and that the election of a Paramount Chief is the responsibility of the Chiefdom people, through the Chiefdom Councillors and not that of Government or Political Parties or outside parties. Government has no candidate and Political Parties must refrain from interfering.

As Minister of Local Government and Community Development, I conducted sensitization tour of the 12 Provincial District Headquarter Towns, explaining to the people Government's Policy on the election of Paramount Chiefs. The Ministry in collaboration with the National Electoral Commission has successfully conducted the election of Paramount Chiefs in all the 63 vacant Chiefdoms.

The new policy of Government is that newly elected Paramount Chiefs in consultation with their Chiefdom Committees will appoint their respective Chiefdom Speakers. The old practice of Chiefdom Councillors electing the Chiefdom Speaker has been viewed as undermining the authority of the Paramount Chief and at times creating conflict and parallel administration in the Chiefdom.

Six other Paramount Chiefs of Kpaka Chiefdom, in the Pujehun District, Yawbekor Chiefdom in the Bonthe District, Bagruwa and Kamajei Chiefdoms, in the Moyamba District, Samu Chiefdom, in the Kambia District and Biriwa Chiefdom in the Bombalili District have recently died, and arrangements are being made to conduct the elections of new Paramount Chiefs in these Chiefdoms before the end of the year 2003.

Mr. Chairman, His Excellency the President from 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2003 officially recognized and handed over the Staff of Office to the newly elected Paramount Chiefs at colourful ceremonies in Kenema, Bo, Makeni and Port Loko Towns.

**B. Review and Drafting of a Consolidated Local Government Act and Legislation on Decentralized Administration**

In August 2002, the Government of Sierra Leone in collaboration with UNDP organized a Multi-Donor Governance Round-Table, bringing together Ministers and Permanent Secretaries of key Ministries, International Funding Agencies, Development Partners, Civil Society, Religious Organizations and Private Sector. The Co-chairs of the Governance Round Table were the Hon. Vice President and the UNDP Resident Representative. One of the outcomes of the Round-Table was the creation by the Sierra Leone Government of a Task Force on Decentralization and Local Governance under the chairmanship of the Hon. Vice President.

The Task Force comprises the following members:

- |                                                                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| - The Hon Vice President                                                          | - Chairman       |
| The Minister of Local Government & Community Development                          | -Deputy Chairman |
| - Representative of the Ministry of Education                                     | - Member         |
| - Representative of the Ministry of Health                                        | - Member         |
| - Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture                                   | - Member         |
| - Representative of the Ministry of Development and Economic Planning             | - Member         |
| - Representative of the Ministry of Finance                                       | - Member         |
| - Representative of the Ministry of Justice – Law Officers Department             | - Member         |
| - Representatives from the Ministry of Loc. Govt. & Comm. Dev.                    | - Members        |
| - Representative of the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender, and Children’s Affairs | -Member          |
| - Chairman, Public Service Commission                                             | -Member          |
| - The Establishment Secretary                                                     | -Member          |
| - Representative of Civil Society                                                 | - Member         |
| - Representative of Paramount Chiefs                                              | - Member         |
| - Representative of Local Councils                                                | - Member         |
| - Consultant to the Ministry of Local Government                                  | - Member         |
| - Chiefdom Reform Project, Ministry of Presidential Affairs                       | - Member         |
| - Three Retired Civil Servants, experts in Local Government                       | - Member         |
| - UNDP Representative                                                             | - Member         |
| - DFID Representative                                                             | - Member         |
| - 2 Representatives from Women’s Organization                                     | - Members        |
| - Representatives from NEC                                                        | - Members        |

**The Terms of Reference for the Task Force are as follows: -**

- i. To review and analyze in totality the present Local Government System in Sierra Leone;
- ii. To review the Draft Legislation on Local Government Reform and Decentralization;
- iii. To identify gaps in the 1<sup>st</sup> Draft Local Government Act and make recommendations for preparation of a Second Draft;
- iv. To hold consultations and public sensitization on Second Draft with various stakeholders and the public at regional and national levels;
- v. To consolidate the recommendations of the Consultations into a final Draft Act on Local Government and Decentralization.
- vi. To assess Capacity Building Requirements for effective Decentralization;
- vii. To work out the timeline and implementation strategy of decentralization;

The Task Force held its first meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2002, and facilitated weekly meetings in order to accomplish the tasks of preparing the framework for decentralization and drafting the appropriate legislation.

The Task Force has designated a Legal Committee to be responsible for preparing a Draft Decentralization and Local Government Act. UNDP and DFID Consultants have also provided useful information to the Task Force. The Task Force has also consulted relevant legislations from Ghana and Uganda to guide the Legislative Process.

The Ministry of Local Government and Community Development through the Task Force has embarked on Nation-wide District Consultations with various stakeholders in the Local Government System. The purpose of the consultation was to elicit the views and opinions from as broad a population base as possible on the following Issues:

1. **Election**
  - a. **Types of Elections**
    - i. **Partisan**
    - ii. **Non-Partisan**
    - iii. **Mixed**

- b. Election of Mayor/Chairman**
  - i. Direct Ballot (Election by eligible voters)**
  - ii. Indirect Ballot (Election by Councillors)**
- 2. Special Representation on the Local Councils of:**
  - a. Women**
  - b. Young People (21 – 35 years of age)**
  - c. The Disabled**
  - d. Paramount Chiefs**
- 3. Tenure of Office of Elected Councillors**
- 4. Local Tax Rates**

Consultations were held at District level and with focus groups in selected Chiefdoms. During the consultations, the people spoke loudly and clearly on the above mentioned issues and the report has been collated and presented to Government for consideration.

Nevertheless, it must be noted that the consultations were not a referendum. Therefore, the results of the consultations are not binding on Government. The ultimate decision regarding the structure of Local Government Institutions will be determined by Parliament through enactment of a new consolidated Local Government Act.

In order to advance detailed preparatory technical work, the Task Force constituted itself into sub-committees, as follows:

- . Functional and Fiscal Decentralization
- . Administrative Decentralization (including relationship between Chiefdom Administration and Local Government Councils)
- . Capacity Building (Human Resources/Logistics/ Infrastructure)
- . Local Council Elections
- . Accountability and Participation

The Task Force Sub-Committees has held meetings with the Permanent Secretaries and Departmental Heads of Line Ministries and have identified and agreed upon the functions presently performed by Central Government that are to be devolved to Local Government Bodies. The functions identified and agreed upon for devolution will be in the Draft Bill and when legislated, it will be mandatory on the line Ministries to comply. The functions will be devolved in phases to the Local Councils as and when they build their capacity to accommodate them.

It is hoped that the Local Government Bill will be submitted to Cabinet and Parliament for approval and enactment respectively before the end of the year 2003.

### **C. LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Mr. Chairman, at present, all Local Councils have Management Committees appointed by Government. The ideal way of running Local Government Institutions is to have democratically elected representatives of the people to run the affairs of the Councils. The Ministry of Local Government and Community Development in collaboration with the National Electoral Commission (NEC) is therefore working out modalities to conduct Local Council Elections for the Municipal, Town, Provincial District and Rural District Councils early next year 2003. Government is in the process of soliciting technical and financial assistance for the conduct of these elections. The National Electoral Commission (NEC) has started preparing the ground for the conduct of the elections.

### **D. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PARAMOUNT CHIEFS**

The Interim National Council of Paramount Chiefs has made significant contributions on issues of national interest. The National Council of Paramount Chiefs has been sensitizing their people about the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation with a view to consolidating the peace.

His Excellency the President, while officially recognizing the newly elected Paramount Chiefs emphasized the importance of the formation of the Council of Paramount Chiefs at District, Provincial, and National levels. This council will be non-political and cuts across ethnic and religious lines.

The Office of the President in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development has engaged the services of two (2) National Consultants to assist the Paramount Chiefs in the formation of the Council of Paramount Chiefs. The Consultants have held consultations with Paramount Chiefs at District level with a view to eliciting their opinions on how the council could be functionally effective. The report of the consultants has been submitted to His Excellency the President for Government's consideration.

### **E. FEDERATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

The Ministry continues to support the Federation of Local Councils. Local Councils are encouraged to facilitate the twining and establishment of linkages at Local and International levels.

### **F. ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Local Government Division in consultation with the relevant stakeholders has reconstituted the Management Committees of the Municipal, Town, Provincial, District and Rural District Councils throughout the country. The Ministry in collaboration with National Electoral Commission (NEC) has successfully conducted the election of Paramount Chiefs in all the 63 vacant Chiefdoms.

The Programme Framework Document on Local Government Reform, Decentralization and Capacity Building prepared by the Ministry with the support of UNDP has attracted donor attention and goodwill. The Drafting of a single consolidated Local Government Act is in progress with funds provided by UNDP and DFID. Through Local Government Reform, Decentralization and Capacity Building Programme, Government is restructuring and strengthening all Local Government Institutions that have deteriorated for three (3) decades due to mismanagement and the ten-year rebel war. Government believes in promoting participatory development and democracy to ensure good governance. Communities are afforded the opportunity to determine their needs and priorities and also participate in the planning and implementation of programmes leading to an improvement in their quality of life. This is contributing to the consolidation of peace and stability.

Mr. Chairman, UNDP has recently provided state-of-the-art radio communication equipment for the 12 District Offices and the Ministry's Headquarters. Training of Personnel in the use of these modern equipment have been done by Technicians from NaCSA and installation is now in progress. The provision of these equipment will enhance communication with our Field Officers on very important matters. The Ministry is grateful to UNDP for the provision of these equipment that has lessen our dependency on Police communication.

Mr. Chairman, we are also happy to report that the Ministry has set up HIV/AIDS Secretariat at the Ministry's Headquarters. Through assistance from the National HIV/AIDS Secretariat, the Ministry has been provided with some equipment, finances and training of staff for the education and public awareness raising against the dreaded disease especially in our local communities where polygamous marriages are prevalent.

Working jointly with the Cabinet Secretariat, my Ministry gave support for the hosting of the recent Provincial Cabinet Meetings in Kenema, Makeni and Bo. These Meetings were very successful in the spirit of partnership between Government and the Local People. Through this medium Governance was brought nearer to the people and they had the opportunity to identify and prioritize their development needs on a regional basis for Government's immediate attention.

The Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Development and Economic Planning and Development Partners have successfully conducted National Recovery Committee (NRC) Meetings at eight (8) District Headquarters, with the District Administrations, District Council Management Committees, NaCSA and UNAMSIL providing the necessary support. The NRC is chaired by the Hon. Vice President and the objective of holding such meetings at District level is to review progress and identify gaps in the Recovery Programme of each District.

## **G. CONSTRAINTS**

The Division that is responsible to guide and ensure efficient functioning of the 172 Local Government Bodies nationwide and to play a pivotal role in the implementation of the Local Government Reform, Capacity Building and Decentralization Programme lacks essential logistical support. The Division has no transport and needs to train its staff and to recruit additional trained, qualified and competent staff to carry out its obligations. In

addition, the Annual Budget allocated to this Division is inadequate and cannot meet its requirements and commitments.

#### H. **FUTURE PLANS**

In order to promote lasting peace and stability nationwide, the Local Government Division of the Ministry in collaboration with the relevant Ministries and Departments will implement the following programmes and activities:

- Complete the Drafting of a single consolidated Local Government Act on Decentralised Administration.
- Capacity Building (Human and Logistics) of:
  - (i) Ministry of Local Government and Community Development
  - (ii) Local Government Bodies
- Setting up a Boundary Commission to review Local Government Boundaries.
- Rehabilitation/Reconstruction of Local Government Infrastructure
- Strengthening Financial Management and Revenue Generation of Local Authorities
- Civic Education and Public Sensitization on Democratic Local Governance
- Programme to promote active participation of women in Local Government
- Local Government Elections
- Civic Education and Public Sensitization of Local Communities on HIV/AIDS.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

#### A. **REGENERATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

Mr. Chairman, one of the major activities undertaken by my Ministry as short and medium term goals among others is the Regeneration of Local Communities Programme. This programme, funded by the Government of Sierra Leone from the Annual National Development Budget and the 2002 HIPC Resources was initiated in 2001. The main objectives of the programme were: -

- a) To rehabilitate and reconstruct Local Government Infrastructure and other Public Buildings to facilitate the restoration of civil authority for effective and efficient service delivery.
- b) To build the Capacity of Community Based Organizations for self-employment.
- c) To help alleviate poverty through income generating activities and skills development.

The Programme to attain the above objectives is divided into two main activities.

1. Rehabilitation/Reconstruction of Local Government Infrastructure and Public Buildings
2. Support to Community Based Organizations

### 1. **Rehabilitation/Reconstruction**

Fully aware of the massive destruction of life and property by a decade long civil war, my Ministry, in collaboration with other development partners initiated programmes geared towards post war community reconstruction and poverty reduction. Mr. Chairman, the destruction of physical infrastructure of the local communities particularly Chiefdom Court Barriers, Community Centres, Markets, District Council Buildings and other public buildings became the major preoccupation of the rebels. These structures were either completely destroyed or vandalized. With a view to restoring civil authority nationwide and promoting the National Recovery Programme, my Ministry targeted the Rehabilitation/Reconstruction of Local Government Infrastructure in the 149 Chiefdoms, 5 Town Councils, 12 District Councils, Freetown City Council, Rural District Councils (Western Area) and other public buildings occupied by Government officers in the provinces.

As a continuation of the 26 projects funded under the 2001 National Development Budget which amounted to Le1,610,000,000 (One Billion, Six Hundred and Ten Million Leones), this Ministry was also allocated Le1,000,000,000 (One billion Leones) under the 2002 National Development Budget and Le2,165,000,000 (Two Billion, One Hundred and Sixty-Five Million Leones) under the 2002 HIPC Resources to implement Community Based Projects nationwide.

**i. 2002 & 2003 National Development Budget**

Mr. Chairman, as already stated One Billion Leones was allocated to my Ministry by the Ministry of Development and Economic Planning under the 2002 National Development Budget. Seven (7) Community Based Projects nationwide were identified in collaboration with the respective local communities. Despite the inextricable Tender Procedures, which hindered the full utilization of the allocated Funds, my Ministry managed to implement some of the projects through the award of contracts by the Central Tender Board. The seven (7) Projects are as follows: -

**Regeneration of Local Communities Project 2002 National Development Budget**

**Table 1**

NO	NAME OF CONTRACTING FIRM	ADDRESS	PROJECT	CHIEFDOM/DISTRICT	REMARKS
1	Kona Construction & Trading Ent.	49 Charles Street, Freetown	Construction of Co-operative Warehouse/Store at Macrogba	Yonni Chiefdom, Tonkolili District	Completed and certified by M.O.W
2	Kaisiama Engineering Services	41 Upper Brook Street, Freetown	Rehabilitation of Tankoro Admin. Court Barrie	Tankoro Chiefdom, Kono District	Completed and certified by M.O.W
3	Kaisiama Engineering Service	41 Upper Brook Street, Freetown	Reconstruction of Gbense Chiefdom Admin Court Barrie	Gbense Chiefdom, Kono District	Completed and certified by M.O.W
4	New Attitude General Services	11 Pademba Road, Freetown	Rehabilitation of Court Barrie,	Pujehun District	
5	Akash Const. Enterprises	3 Gottor Lane, Kenema	Refurbishing of Kailahun District Office, Kailahun	Luawa Chiefdom, Kailahun District	On-going
6	Fro-Tra Meyers Oversea LTD	16 Robert Street	Rehabilitation of Rotifunk Jetty	Bumpeh Chiefdom, Moyamba District	Completed
7	Election of 63 Paramount Chiefs in the Vacant Chiefdoms				

Also the recently concluded election of 63 Paramount Chiefs was funded from The Regeneration of Local Communities budget.

Additionally the sum of Le857, 000,000 was allocated to my Ministry in the 2003 National Development Budget and twelve projects were identified and approved by the Project Management Team comprising the Ministries of Development and Economic Planning, Works and Technical Maintenance and Local Government and Community Development. Seven (7) of the projects are being implemented through the award of contracts by the Central Tender Board. The remaining five (5) projects will soon be contracted by the respective District Oversight Committees for implementation.

**Regeneration of Local Communities Projects 2003 National  
Development Budget**

**Table 2**

NO	NAME OF CONTRACTING FIRM	ADDRESS	PROJECT	CHIEFDOM/DISTRICT
1	Edomanda Ent. LTD		Rehabilitation of Court Barrie and Lock-up, Makeni	Bombali Sheboreh C/dom Bombali District
2	Njakoi Const	63 Bass Street, Freetown	Reconstruction of Court Barrie and Lock-up, Batkanu	Libbiesayghun Chiefdom, Bombali District
3	Chartered Engineers Associate LTD	79B Smart Farm, Freetown	Rehabilitation of District Officer's Quarters, Moyamba	Kaiyamba Chiefdom, Moyamba District
4	Dawud & Co. (SL) LTD	55 Adelaid Street, Freetown	Construction of VIP Toilets, Gbondappi	Panga Kabonde, Pujehun District
5	Business Building Construction	14 Adelaid Street, Freetown	Reconstruction/Rehabilitation of Court Barrie and Lock-up, Mobai	Mandu Chiefdom, Kailahun District
6	Noncost		2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase support to the Construction of Kenema Town Hall	Nongowa, Kenema District
7	Jong Construction Service	24 Momaligie Road, Matru Jong	Reconstruction of Court Barri and Lock-up, Ngalu	Bagbe, Bo District
8			Reconstruction of Court Barrie at Matru	Jong Chiefdom, Bonthe District
9			Reconstruction of Court Barrie at Sembehun	Melegohun Chiedom, Kenema District
10			Rehabilitation of Bo Town Council Building	Kakua Chiefdom, Bo District
11			Rehabilitation of S.D.Os Quarters, Makeni	Bombali Seboreh Chiefdom, Makeni
12			Reconstruction of Market at Ribbi	Ribbi Chiefdom, Moyamba District.

## ii) 2002 HIPC Resources

Mr. Chairman, my Ministry also benefited from the 2002 Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Resources. Under the HIPC Programme the Ministry of Finance allocated Le2,165,000,000 for the Regeneration of Local Communities. Twenty-nine (29) Projects were identified in

consultation with various Local Communities, which were subsequently approved by Parliament for implementation. To achieve the implementation of the Communities Regeneration Programme under the 2002 HIPC Resources, my Ministry upon the advice of Government established reputable Oversight/Management Committees in all the Twelve Districts and the Western Area.

The composition of the District Oversight/Management Committees comprised: -

- S.D.Os/D.Os	- Chairmen
- District Council Chairmen	- Members
- Rural Development Officers	- Secretaries
- Town Council Chairmen	- Members
- 2 Paramount Chief Representatives	- “
- 2 Civil Society Movement Representatives	- “
- 1 Rep. from Min of Works	- “
- 1 Rep. from Min. of Dev. Econ. Planning	- “
- 1 Rep. from National Commission for Social Action	- “

The Western Area Oversight/Management Committee comprised: -

- Chairman Freetown City Council	- Chairman
- Chairman Rural Area Council	- Co-Chairman
- Rural Development Officer W/A	- Secretary
- Chairman Waterloo Rural District Council	- Member
- “ Mountain “ “	- “
- “ York “ “	- “
- “ Koya “ “	- “
- Two Civil Society Movement Rep.	- “
- 2 Rep. from the Min. of Works	- “
- 1 Rep. from Min. of Dev. & Econ. Planning	- “

These Committees were mandated by Government to award contracts to local contractors through competitive bidding. They were also mandated to monitor and report on the implementation of all contracts in their respective Districts.

### Project funded under the 2002 HIPC Resources

NO	NAME OF CONTRACTING FIRM	ADDRESS	PROJECT CONTRACTED	CHIEFDOM/DI STRICT	REMARKS
1	Vatco Enterprises & Construction	21 Hannah Benka Coker Street, Freetown	Rehabilitation of Court Barrie and Lock-up in Tiama	Kori Chiefdom, Moyamba District	On-going
2	Hanes Construction Ent.	3B Bright Street, Freetown	Rehabilitation & Fencing of Resident Minister's Quarters in Kenema	Nongowa Chiefdom, Kenema District	On-going
3	Business Building Construction	16 Adelaide St, Freetown	Reconstruction of Waterloo Rural District Council Office at Waterloo Village	Waterloo, Western Area	On-going
4	Bintube Construction and Trade Enterprises.	17 Pademba Road, Freetown	Construction of Community Centre	John Street, Freetown	On-going
5	Goal Construction Enterprises	17 Kailahun Road, Pendembu	Rehabilitation of Court Barrie and Lock-up in Pendembu	Upper Bambara, Kailahun District	On-going
6	P.S.G. Const. & Engineering Services	Salwco Compound, Kenema	Reconstruction of Court Barrie and Lock-up in Baoma Town	Koya Chiefdom, Kenema District	On-going
7	Delei Trading Ent. (SL) LTD.	4A Liftfoot Boston Street	Rehabilitation of Court Barrie and Lock-up in Bandajuma Yawei	Yawei Chiefdom, Kailahun District	On-going
8	Abto International Agency	11 Short Street, Freetown	Rehabilitation of S.D.O's Office, Portloko	Portloko Town PortLoko District	Completed and certified
9	Sky/ D.J. Eng. Company	8 Hospital Road, Bo	Rehabilitation of Provincial Admin. Building, Tinkoko Road, Bo	Kakua Chiefdom, Bo District	On-going
10	Executive Enterprises	40 Siaka Stevens Freetown	Supply of Skills Training Equipment for Self-employment	Bai Bureh Road, Kissy	Supplied and certified
11	Nationwide Community Enterprises	14 Eight Street, Bo	Rehabilitation of Community Barri, Yonni	Kpanga Kabonde, Pujehun District	Completed and certified
12	A.G. & H Const. Services	12 Macarthy Street, Kenema	Rehabilitation of District Officers Residence, Kailahun Town	Luawa, Kailahun District	On-going
13	Med-Ram Const. & Engineering	22 Maranta Road, Makeni	Construction of Community Centre, Mile 91	Yoni Chiefdom, Tonkolili District	On-going
14	Med-Ram Const. & Engineering	19A Patton Street, Freetown	Construction of Mountain Rural District Council Building (1 <sup>st</sup> phase) Regent	Mountain Rural District	Completed and certified by M.O.W.
15	Unique Engineering & Construction	2A Sannoh Street, Kenema	Rehabilitation of Provincial Secretary's Quarters	Nongowa, Kenema District	On-going
16	Salima Investment	3 Ecowas Street, Freetown	Rehabilitation of District Officer's Quarters, Kabala	Koinadugu District	Completed and certified by M.O.W.
17	ALMY Construction Company	1 Sanda Street, Portloko	Rehabilitation of District Officers Quarters, Portloko	Portloko	Completed and certified by M.O.W.
18	Konjo Building Construction		Rehabilitation of a Community Centre in Ngiehun Konjo	Malegohun Chiefdom, Kenema District	On-going
19	Anduco	7 Short Street,	Reconstruction of a Market, York	York Rural	On-going

	Incorporated	Freetown	Rural District Council	District	
20	Lenfamass Enterprises	21 Ecowas Street Freetown	Rehabilitation of Pujehun District Council Offices	Kpanga Kabonda, Pujehun District	On-going
21	Taplima & Co. (SL) LTD.	6 Goderich Road, Lumley	Rehabilitation of Court Barri, Baoma	Luawa, Kailahun District	On-going
22	Integrated Const. And Maintenance Services	32 Masingbi Road, Koidu, Kono	Reconstruction of Senior District Officer's Residence, Koidu Town	Kono District	On-going
23	Jassawubu Enterprises	9 Blama Road, Kenema	Rehabilitation of Provincial Secretary's Residence House	Nongowa, Kenema	Completed and certified
24	Mboni Construction Company	20 Combema Road, Kenema	Reconstruction of Court Barri and Luck-Up, Fama Town	Nomo, Kenema District	Contract awarded and work in progress
25	Ideal Eng. & Construction	55 Campbell Street, Freetown	Rehabilitation of District Council Hall and Office	Koidu Town Kono District	- do -
26	Messrs Nyamundu Construction Enterprises	8 Siaka Stevens Street, Freetown	Reconstruction of Community Court Barri and Lock-Up at Kwamabai Krim	Kwamabai Krim Chiefdom, Bonthe District	- do -
27	Sadfaj Eng. Enterprises	4 Jawara Street, Kambia	Construction of Trade Fair Market Complex, Barmoi Junction	Magbema Chiefdom, Kambai District	Contract awarded and work in progress
28	N'jiaye's Enterprises	14 Savage Square, Freetown	Supply of Stationery	H/Quarters, Freetown	Supplied and certified
29	Administrative, coordination & Inspection				Co-ordination on-going

### **iii. Support to Community Based Organizations for Skills Development, Income Generation and Self-Employment**

With the advent of peace and stability in all the local communities after a decade rebel war, Women and Youths have realized the need to embark on profit making Community Development Activities through the formation of Community Based Groups to give them advantage of large-scale economic operations. The Group Development Strategy will also help local communities to make an effective use of land, manpower and capital to achieve an overall higher economic return. My Ministry views this strategy as an effective participatory approach for the development of local communities. The local bodies provide focus for contact and channel for support initiatives. The Ministry has therefore identified and registered 34 viable Community Based Groups. These Groups are helping NGOs and other Development Partners in implementing Community Based Projects in their respective local communities.

Mr. Chairman, my Ministry also plays a pivotal role in building the capacity of local groups to enhance skills development, income generation and self-employment. Despite limited financial resources, 4 Community Based Organizations benefited from the 2002 National Development Budget and the HIPC Resources.

**Support to Community Based Organization**

**Table 3**

NO	NAME OF CONTRACTING FIRM	ADDRESS	PROJECT	CHIEFDOM/ DISTRICT	REMARKS
1	Anduco Incorporated	7 Short Street, Freetown	Supply of Training Skills to Makolloh	Makolloh, Koya Chiefdom, Portloko District	Supplied and certified
2	Goal Construction Enterprises		Supply of Agriculture Tools and Seeds for Vegetable gardening, Rosient	Kaffubullom Chiefdom, Portloko District	Supplied and certified
3	Anduco Incorporated	7 Short Street, Freetown	Supply of Community Artisanal Fishing gear/equipment	Rusel, Satia Section, Koya Rural District	Supplied and certified
4	Executive Enterprises	40 Siaka Steven Street, Freetown	Supply of Skills Training equipment	Bai Bureh Road, Kissy	Supplied and certified

My Ministry is determined to assist more viable groups as and when resources are available.

**B. Food Security, Rehabilitation and Conflict Resolution**

Mr. Chairman, the German Federal Ministry of Co-operation and Economic Development (BMZ), through a Bilateral Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Federal Republic of Germany is planning to implement “Food Security and Conflict Resolution Project” in Kono and Kailahun Districts at the end of 2003 through its agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ GBMH). The overall objective of the project is to create an enabling environment at village and chiefdom levels in Kono and Kailahun to ensure Food Security, the Reintegration of Returnees and a Stable Social and Economic Development. The proposed Food Security, Rehabilitation and Conflict Management in Kono and Kailahun Districts is planned as part of a Regional approach to stabilize the Political and Economic Development of the Mano River Region. Similar approaches are therefore envisaged at a later stage for the other boarder areas with Guinea and Liberia. The Regional approach aims at improving living conditions of the poor segments of the population along the borders of the three countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The Mission visited Freetown from 28<sup>th</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2003 and held fruitful discussions with the relevant Ministries including Foreign Affairs, Development and Economic Planning, Agriculture and Food Security and Local Government and Community Development. The Mission also visited the Eastern Province (Kenema and Kailahun Districts) and held discussions with Government Officers and other Development Partners.

The results of their appraisal mission were then presented at a workshop held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2003 where representatives of Government Ministries, Local Authorities, Civic Society and Development Partners discussed and agreed upon a strategy for the project and its institutional set-up. It was also agreed that the Food Security, Rehabilitation and Conflict Management

Project be implemented in Kono and Kailahun Districts respectively. The Programme Framework Document was signed by My Ministry on behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone and Claus-Michael Falkenberg, Consultant and Head of the Appraisal Mission, signed on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany. The implementation of the project will commence at the end of 2003.

### **C. Achievements**

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry continues to enjoy the confidence of our Local Communities who are the ultimate beneficiaries of the Regeneration Programme. Despite financial constraints currently faced by Government that has been the only financier of the Regeneration of Local Communities Programme, the Ministry has implemented 52 Community Based Projects. The Ministry has over the year played a lead role in the identification, training and support to Community Based Organizations nationwide. The timely support from Government has accelerated the restoration of Civil Authority and the National Recovery strategy.

### **CONCLUSION**

Mr. Chairman, in concluding this presentation, I must pay tribute to the assistance and support my Ministry is receiving from our Development Partners, especially, UNDP, DFID and World Bank. They are actively supporting the Ministry in the Decentralization Programme. They have provided technical expertise to guide the process and together with the E.U firm commitments made to assist with logistical support and Capacity Building for the new Local Councils that will be in operation by next year.

May I re-echo Government's commitment and willingness to decentralize state authority. Local Government Bodies will spearhead the planning and implementation of their development programmes and also undertake the provision of basic services to their people.

I thank you all for your attention.

## **STUDY ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DISTRICT COUNCILS AND CHIEFDOMS**

### **BACKGROUND**

British Colonial Administration in Sierra Leone started with the administration of freed slaves from overseas who were settled in what came to be known as the British Crown Colony of Freetown in the late 1700s. The British extended their sway over the hinterland after the scramble for Africa in the 1880s and it was known as the Protectorate. The Protectorate was divided into provinces and the provinces were sub-divided into Districts and the Districts were further sub-divided into chiefdoms.

The practice of 'indirect rule' initiated by Lord Lugard in Nigeria was introduced in the Protectorate of Sierra Leone. This was a practice whereby the British Colonial Administrators ruled the natives through selected friendly traditional chiefs who were used as channels of communication between the government and the natives. Traditional Chiefs called Paramount Chiefs were elected/appointed in all the chiefdoms. The system was later transformed into a Local Government System, which gave birth to the chiefdom councils.

### **The Chiefdom Councils**

The Colonial Government established the chiefdom councils under an ordinance of 1938 known as the Tribal Authorities Ordinance (or Local Native Administration – NA as it is called). This unit of local government comprises the Paramount Chief as head of administration, the sub-chiefs, the Councillors and men of note elected by the people according to native law and custom. The main functions of the NAs were the collection of the hut tax later called the local tax and the maintenance of law and order.

The staff of the NAs were employed by a central body in each district (which later became known as the Central Chiefdom Administration) and then posted to each chiefdom. The Chiefdom Treasury received native administration revenue, kept account of revenue and expenditure and maintained an inventory of NA property.

The NAS succeeded in maintaining law and order in their chiefdoms but could not develop their areas because some of the chiefs were authoritarian, who ran the NA as their personal property. Many of the top personnel were dishonest, incompetent and poorly educated. Certain chiefdoms were either too large and poor or too small to manage effectively their own affairs. Because of these problems the colonial government decided to have them operate side by side with a more efficient local government namely the District Councils.

### **The District Councils**

The District Councils were set up in 1946 and were made corporate bodies by the Ordinance No. 17 of 1950. Before independence in 1961, the District Council served as training ground for would be national politicians, many of whom entered national politics after several years of membership of the local District Council. Each District Council is composed of elected and nominated members. The Paramount Chiefs were Ex-officio members of the District Councils. Initially the main functions of the District Councils was the maintenance of law and order and provide some essential services in their respective

Districts such as, Primary Education, Construction and maintenance of feeder roads, infrastructure development and agriculture extension services.

The District Council (amendment Ordinance of 1954 introduced the precept system on the chiefdoms as a new source of revenue for the District Councils to supplement the Government Grants. Armed with this new source of revenue, the functions of the District Councils were expanded. Because of these expanded roles and functions, the District Councils required trained and qualified professional and technical staff, which unfortunately were not available at that time.

In 1972 the District Councils were suspended mainly on political consideration and not necessarily due to inefficiency or poor performance. They were resuscitated in 2000 under Management Committees appointed by Government to pave the way for the re-establishment of elected District Councils.

### **FUNCTIONS AND RELATIONSHIP OF THE CHIEFDOMS AND DISTRICT COUNCILS**

**Chiefdom Councils:** - Cap 61 of the Tribal Authorities Act of 1938 as amended in the Chiefdom Councils Act of 1964 broadly assigned the following responsibilities to the Chiefdom Administrations;

- a. Maintenance of Law and Order;
- b. Elections of Traditional Rulers
- c. Custodian of customs and traditions
- d. Land tenure
- e. Customary Law

#### **Maintenance of Law and Order: -**

The Chiefdom Administration headed by a Paramount Chief is the smallest political unit in the country of which there are 149 units in the three (3) Provinces exclusive the Western Area. It is the responsibility of each chiefdom council to generally maintain law and order and good governance within its area of jurisdiction. The Chiefdom Councils for this purpose are vested with powers and authority to prohibit any act or conduct which might cause a riot or disturbance or a breach of the peace.

It must be noted that the maintenance of Law and Order is the direct responsibility of Central Government in the general administration and governance of the state. The chiefdoms in the performance of these responsibilities within their localities are acting as agents of Central Government. In the exercise of these responsibilities, the Chiefdom Councils are empowered to make Bye-laws necessary for the governance of their chiefdoms. The Bye-laws are however subject to the approval of the Minister responsible for Local Government.

To enforce these Bye-laws and to maintain Law and Order, the Chiefdoms are empowered to have a special Police Force called the Chiefdom Police Force. The role and responsibilities etc of this Force are enacted in the Chiefdom Police Act No..... of .....

Within the ambit of Law and Order, the Chiefdoms also act as security agents for the Central Government in providing intelligence information hinging on the security of their chiefdoms and the state in general. The movements of people in and out of chiefdoms are closely monitored through a traditional system of “stranger reporting”. Through this system a stranger is expected to be hosted by an indigene who should report his/her arrival and purpose of stay to the immediate chief in the village or town. The host by this system is held responsible for any act of misdemeanor or insubordination of the stranger. Through this practice, chiefdoms bordering neighbouring countries are able to monitor the movement of people across the border for security purposes.

### **ELECTION OF TRADITIONAL RULERS**

A Paramount Chief and Sub Chiefs govern each Chiefdom in Sierra Leone. An electoral college of Chiefdom Councillors normally elects Paramount Chiefs. The Electoral College is constituted on the basis of 20 taxpayers to one Councillor and ex-officio members. (Ceremonial Chiefs, Chiefdom Speaker, Section Chiefs, Town Chiefs, Court Chairmen). A Paramount Chief once elected serves for life and can only be removed for maladministration after a judicial enquiry and a Government statement therein.

Paramount Chieftaincy is hereditary and only persons who hail from recognized Ruling Houses within a Chiefdom are qualified to contest. Chieftaincy is highly honoured, respected, and entrenched in the National Constitution.

The supervision of the election of all traditional rulers is under the purview of the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development in collaboration with National Electoral Commission (NEC) and it is non political.

The Chiefdom Committee is also elected by the Chiefdom Councillors in the Chiefdom, while the Paramount Chief Member of Parliament for the District is elected by all the Chiefdom Councillors in the District.

### **CUSTODIAN OF CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS**

The repository of customs and traditional heritage in a chiefdom are the Traditional Rulers. Paramount Chiefs and their sub-chiefs are the custodian of the customs and traditions of their people and are responsible to preserve and hand them over from generation to generation. Some aspects of customs and traditions have over the years been developed into customary Laws and practices. Majority of the people of Sierra Leone answer to the laws of their local communities, which have their roots in ethnic culture, and are often expressed through the wisdom of generation of traditional elders.

Customs and traditions act as a cohesive force to keep communities together and also act as a mark of identity. Some aspects of customs and traditions are embedded in secret societies of which the Traditional Rulers are members.



**CAPACITY BUILDING REQUIREMENT OF THE**  
**MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**LOGISTICS**

- 4 (Four Wheel Drive) Vehicle
- 6 Computer and Accessories
- 1 Generator (25 KVA)
- 2 Photo Copies
- 10 Steel Cabinets
- 3 Fax Machines

**TRAINING**

**(a) Specialist Training in:**

- Local Government Administration and Management
- Community Development Planning
- Financial Management and Audit

**(b) STUDY TOURS TO:**

- **Uganda**
- **Malaysia**

**(c) International Seminars/Conferences/Workshops**

# **Establishment of a Decentralization Unit at the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development**



