



The Constitutional Review Committee

Sierra Leone Constitutional Review

Monthly Newsletter
January 2014



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“I took an oath, on becoming President, to uphold the constitution”,. “Today, I once again recommit my government to honor, respect, and uphold the letter and spirit of the Constitution in Section 108 that provides for the alteration of this constitution. President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma

Constitutional Review Committee Launched

The President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma formally launched the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) on 30th July, 2013 at the Miatta Conference Centre. The event was attended by 145 out of the 149 Paramount Chiefs, representatives of the 19 local councils, registered political parties, and ministers of Government, heads of departments, Civil Society, members of parliament (MPs), and the diplomatic community. The President formally launched the review process. He among other things assured the Nation of Government’s commitment to the process and admonished CRC to ensure

that the process was open, transparent and participatory.



CRC formed nine sub-committees to expedite work on Constitutional Review

CRC held its fifth meeting on the 3rd December, 2013. At that meeting, CRC approved the following sub-committees with their Terms of Reference.

- (1) Executive Branch of Government
- (2) Legislative Branch
- (3) Judiciary Branch
- (4) Local Government and other ancillary branches of Government
- (5) Fundamental Principles of State Policy and Human Rights
- (6) Research
- (7) Information, Education and Communications
- (8) Management of Natural Resources and Climate Change
- (9) Report Writing/ legal drafting



CRC HELD ITS INAUGURAL MEETING

CRC held its inaugural meeting on the 6th August, 2013. A total of 67 members participated with the keynote address delivered by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Mr. Frank Kargbo. He briefed the Committee on its Terms of Reference and gave a succinct account to the process.

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Chairman CRC



Hon. Justice Edmond Kadoni Cowan is the current Ombudsman of the Republic of Sierra Leone. He was Sierra Leone's Speaker of Parliament from 2001-2007, on many occasions during that period, he acted as President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Prior to his appointment as Speaker, he was Justice of the Appeals Court...for more visit CRC website

CRC Composition

The 80 member Constitutional Review Committee is made up of representatives of political parties, Civil Society Organizations, Youth Groups, Women's Groups, the disabled, Non-Governmental Organizations, Governance Institutions and many more.



Constitutional Review Committee's Inaugural Press Conference

The CRC Secretariat held its inaugural Press Conference on the 23rd December, 2013. At the Press Briefing, journalists were briefed about the status of the review process, the work methodology and the responsibilities of the public to be part of the process. The journalists raised a number of issues which were clarified by both the Chairman and the Secretary to the Committee.

The event also witnessed the formal presentation of the 1991 Constitution and the 2008 Peter Tucker Constitution Review Report which were to be distributed to all 149 Paramount Chiefs and Councilors of the 19 local councils. Over 40 media houses were in attendance.

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CONSTITUTION & PETER L
TUCKER REPORT

<http://www.constitutionalreview.gov.sl>

The Constitution
Sierra Leone, 1991
BOOK INSIDE

Government of Sierra Leone



Why Inclusive and Participatory constitutional Review Processes?

Inclusive and participatory constitution reviewing processes will allow Sierra Leoneans to find long-term solutions to their problems and address their own peace, stability and democracy challenges. In last two decades these challenges have surfaced from deep political divisions, ethnicity, resource conflicts, political marginalization, violations of other human rights, or institutional ineffectiveness to improve the quality of life for ordinary citizens.

The voice of common citizens is critical to the process due to the need for inclusiveness if support for nationally-owned constitution is to be achieved.

CRC believes that participatory and inclusive constitution-making process has potential to:

- ✓ Garner wider support for Sierra Leon peace and long-term development
- ✓ Strengthen democratic governance
- ✓ Consolidate the peace
- ✓ Provide a forum for national dialogue – promote reconciliation and forge a common vision for the nation
- ✓ Increase the knowledge of the constitution-makers
- ✓ Create an well informed public that understands the importance of constitutionalism to their daily lives and has greater public ownership of the resulting constitution
- ✓ Lay a foundation for more democratic practices, a culture of rule of law and on-going participation in decision-making
- ✓ Influence the contents of the constitution by ensuring that factors contributing to conflict are addressed
- ✓ Enhance public willingness to defend their rights and support the implementation of the constitution
- ✓ Enhance the legitimacy of the final constitution



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