THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF SIERRA LEONE

HRCSL HOLDS VALIDATION WORKSHOP ON IT'S REVISED BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING TOOL

On 16th September 2026, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL), through its Directorate of Business and Human Rights and Labour Relations hosted a national validation workshop on its revised Guidelines in Monitoring Business and Human Rights in Sierra Leone at the Public Service Academy.



The workshop was funded by the United Nations Development Programme and Irish Aid, and it brought together 33 participants comprising 13 females, 20 males. The session was part of a broader stakeholder consultative process to review the 2013 Monitoring Guidelines, identify gaps, gather data and inputs for the new tool and produce an up-to-date checklist for monitoring businesses and companies in Sierra Leone.

HRCSL's Executive Secretary, Joseph Kamara described the exercise as a very important process in the Commission's mandate to protect and promote human rights, adding “The consultative process was inclusive, covering all regions of the country.”

He stated that the Commission’s work on Business and Human Rights started as a Unit in 2013 and has grown into a full Directorate, building in-house expertise. “Today, HRCSL staff are not only monitoring businesses in Sierra Leone, but are also providing capacity building for other National Human Rights Institutions in Africa, including Ghana, Kenya and Uganda," he concluded.

Speaking on the importance of the document, the Lead Consultant who doubles as the Director of Business and Human Rights, Abdulai Yollah Bangura noted that the current monitoring tool was developed in 2013 and has served the Commission for 13 years.



He said standard practice requires policy documents to be reviewed every three to five years to keep pace with evolving trends, explaining that the human rights and business environment have changed significantly since 2013 as new and emerging areas now need to be captured, including climate change and environmental rights, migration, artificial intelligence and technology, development finance, agriculture, energy, mining, sports and human rights.



The review forms part of HRCSL's mandate under Section 7(2) (f) of HRCSL Act No.9 of 2004, which requires the Commission to monitor and document human rights violations across the country.

This validated document provides an up-to-date, comprehensive monitoring tool that reflects current national and international business and human rights standards, improved capacity to monitor and document human rights violations by businesses, strengthened stakeholder participation in promoting responsible business conduct, a validated guideline that will be rolled out nationwide to guide HRCSL's BHR interventions.

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