



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HOSTS 7 MAN GAMBIAN DELEGATION

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) on Tuesday 25th April 2017 hosted a 7 man delegation from the Republic of The Gambia at their Headquarters' Conference Hall at NEC Building Freetown.

The delegation which was led by their Minister of Justice, Mr. Abubacarr Tamberdou was in the country to learn about the Sierra Leone experience on Transitional Justice Mechanism with particular focus on the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Justice Minister pointed out that the Gambian scenario was not an open conflict as was with Sierra Leone. He said the governance system they had during the past regime, wrecked their social, economic and political institutions. It was against that backdrop that he said, they were embarking on rebuilding those institutions and at the same time finding constructive ways of dealing with the past to foster social cohesion and ensure national reconciliation.

Justice Tamberdou also highlighted that they would want to know the relationship between the Sierra Leone's TRC and that of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) and how the HRCSL has impacted the life of ordinary citizens.

The Executive Secretary of the Human Rights Commission; Joseph Benmanking Kamara while reacting to the statement gave a brief background for the establishment of the HRCSL and how it has impacted on the lives of Sierra Leoneans.

The Director of Monitoring and Research, Miss Josephine Thompson-Shaw, who was fully involved in the TRC process, spoke on the TRC, its processes, challenges and role as a transitional mechanism in rebuilding the nation and ensuring national reconciliation.

She also let the delegation know that the HRCSL was the custodial of the TRC artifacts after it ended its work and its role in monitoring the reparation processes.

The other members of the delegation included representatives from Civil Society, UNDP, Officials for the proposed Human Rights Commission and TRC and the Office of the Ministry of Justice of the Gambia.