

# NON STATE ACTORS PROJECT NEWS LETTER

Issue 5

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by UNIPSIL NSA Project Implementation Unit

The Non State Actor project provides an innovative approach of support to electoral processes and consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone. It aims to create an atmosphere of political tolerance and of non-violence by investing in the influence that political parties and other non-state actors have on Sierra Leone's political process. It also seeks to promote greater political participation in particular by women. It is funded by a 5 million US\$ from the UN Peace building Fund.

## APPWA encourages Women to Stand for Office

On 8 March about 700 women representing All Political Parties Women Association (APPWA) dressed in their respective party colours, gathered at the British Council for

the launch of a pool of female aspirants for the 2012 elections. The Programme was chaired by the PPRC Registrar, who urged the participants to focus on promoting women's political participation across party lines. The Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs assured the women of the President's commitment to achieve a 30% minimum quota for women and stated that his Ministry will continue to work with APPWA to promote gender equality.

Launching the aspirants profile form, the First Lady, Sia Nyama Koroma, congratulated APPWA and thanked them for the initiative. She acknowledged the important role women play in the consolidation of peace and urged APPWA to continue to work together to promote common issues and strengthen democracy in Sierra Leone.



## APPYA Sensitizes Youth Gangs in East End



On 10 March PPRC in collaboration with APPYA organized an interactive sensitization session on non violence and political tolerance with cliques and gang groups at Bombay Street in the East End of Freetown. Many well known gang groups such as Red Flag, MOB among others were present. Issues discussed ranged from the emergence of cliques and gang groups and how politicians have taken advantage of the situation. In lively deliberations, youths discussed how to realize their potential and contribute to national development. APPYA and PPRC strongly encouraged the youths to acquire skills relevant for today's job market.

*The NSA project supports APPWA and APPYA with capacity building, logistics and outreach. These events have been organized by APPWA and APPYA with funding from PPRC and other sources.*

The leaders of the gang groups maintained that violence had been an integral part of their lives, but also said that, thanks to sessions like these, they would encourage each other not to let politicians keep misusing them. All agreed that PPRC should re-double its efforts to conduct political tolerance campaigns nationwide, and requested that the 10 % Affirmative Action for youth representation at all spheres of politics be implemented.

## National Commission for Democracy meets Kono Communities

Throughout the week, a team from NCD, led by Commissioner Edward B. S. Dumbuya visited communities in Kono district to discuss political tolerance, national unity and cohesion. Amongst other hotspots, the team visited Tombudu, Koquima, and Koidu city.

### Upcoming Activities 24-31 March 2012

Event	Dates	Location	Implementing Partner	UN Focal point
APPWA biannual Retreat	24-25 March	Magburaka	PPRC	Nabeela Tunis (076602406)
Dissemination of Civic Education Messages	26 -28 March	Pujehun	National Commission For Democracy (NCD)	Agneta Kisese (076 800066)
	29 -30 March	Bonthe		
	31 March	Bo		
Joint Communique Screening	25 March	Kenema	Search For Common Ground	Abu Sessay (076800030)
	26-28 March	Kailahun		
	29-30 March	Kenema		
	31 March	Kono		
Academia Discussion Forum— Mobilization Tour	29 March	FTC Campus	Fambul Tok	Dr.Robert Moikowa (078256401)
	30 March	Godrich Campus		