

NON STATE ACTORS PROJECT NEWS LETTER

Issue 8

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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

Political Parties and Stakeholders sign a declaration on the ground rules for 2012 election

On 17 and 18 May all ten registered political parties, electoral management bodies, government, traditional leaders, media, women and youth groups, the Human Rights Commission, Independent Media Commission (IMC), National Commission for Democracy and other national stakeholders met at Bintumani Hotel in Freetown. For two days the partners debated on the issues facing the country in anticipation of the 2012 elections.



Thanks to energetic advocacy by the All Political Parties Women Association (APPWA) as female participation in decision making and the elections was a major topic. In their respective statements, political parties underscored the need for violence-free elections and also committed to the inclusion of women in governance.

The two day interactive conference was organized by the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) with support from UNIPSIL as part of efforts to promote political dialogue and tolerance. Concluding the conference, the parties and stakeholders signed a declaration in which they collectively committed to political tolerance and to work together for the common good. The declaration also outlines specific responsibilities and obligations of the signatories. As a follow up, PPRC will set up a committee comprising all the signatories and will host regular meetings to ensure compliance to the declaration.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the aforementioned stakeholders herewith make this Declaration on 18th May 2012

1. Political Parties :

a) All People Congress.....
 b) Citizen's Democratic Party.....
 c) National Democratic Alliance.....
 d) Peace and Liberation Party.....
 e) Peoples Movement for Democratic Change.....
 f) Peoples Democratic Party.....
 g) Revolutionary United Front Party.....

i) Sierra Leone Peoples Party.....
 j) United Democratic Movement.....
 k) United National Peoples Party.....

2. Other Stakeholders

a) Media
 The Chairman Independent Media Commission.....
 The President of Sierra Leone Association of Journalists.....
 The Chairman, Guild of Editors.....

b) Security Sector
 Coordinator, Office of National Security.....
 Inspector General of Sierra Leone Police.....

c) Democratic Institutions
 Chairman, National Commission for Democracy.....
 Chairperson, National Electoral Commission.....
 Commissioner, Human Right Commission SL.....
 Commissioner, Political Parties Registration Commission.....

d) Civil Society Organizations
 The Chairman, National Elections Watch.....

e) Women's Organizations
 The President, Women's Forum.....
 The President, All Political Parties Women's Association.....
 The President, Women's Solidarity Support Group.....

f) Youth Serving Agencies
 The Commissioner, National Youth Commission.....
 The Director, National Youth Coalition.....
 The All Political Parties Youth Association.....

Witness: United Nations
 ERSO, United Nations Integrated Peace Building Office in Sierra Leone.....



“Women Arise — this is our time!” APPWA holds Consultation with Political Leaders on 30% quota

Preceding the conference, on 15 May, APPWA held a one day consultation with leaders from the political parties to drum up support for the 30% quota bill. The event was chaired by Mrs. Georgette Demark, Western Area Commissioner National Commission for Democracy who called upon the political parties to give support for the Bill. The PPRC

registrar emphasized that women's political participation needs to be enhanced across political party structures. Hon Dr B Lahai and Hon M Jalloh of SLEPPAC explained to the participants the gender equality bill in detail, and requested that the parties make sure that at least 30% of elective and appointive positions in politics as well as governance will be allocated for women. In passionate statements, APPWA members called for a level playing field on the basis of individual capacities, competence and merit for all aspirants and a stop to gender discrimination.

In a fruitful and lively discussion, the party leaders explained their respective efforts to ensure that women, who form the majority of the population, are recognized as contributors to the democratic processes, and also pledged to support the request by APPWA.

“For too Long we have supported campaigns by men that have failed us, it is now our turn, we are tired of doing the cleaning, cooking and singing for the men. More women is better politics!”
 APPWA Member

NON STATE ACTORS PROJECT UPCOMING EVENTS (28 May - 3 June 2012)					
Event	Dates	Location	UN Focal Point	Implementing Partner	
Joint Communique Screenings	28 May	Bombali	Abu Sessay (076800030)	Search For Common Ground (SFCG)	
	29 May	Koinandugu			
	30-31 May	Port Loko			
	1 June	Kambia			
	2-3 June	Free Town			
Training Secondary Schools on Peace and tolerance	1 June	British Council	Tbc	Anti-Violence Movement	
NCD Regional Meetings on Conflict Profiling	30 May	Makeni	A g n e t a Kisea (076800033)	National Commission For Democracy	
	1 June				
	22 May	Kenema			
	30 May				
	31 May	Western Region			
	1 June	Bo			