



PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM UNIT (PSRU)
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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NEWS ITEM

PSRU MEETS OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE, GENDER AND CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS ON THE ON-GOING PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM PROGRAMME

Freetown, 9 April 2010 – The Public Sector Reform Unit (PSRU) continued its visitation to Ministries, Departments and Agencies today, Friday 9 April at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs. Addressing the Permanent Secretary and Divisional Heads of the Ministry, the PSRU Director Dr. Julius Sandy pointed out that although the visit was an audit exercise to monitor and determine the level of implementation of the reform initiatives, it will also provide space for the Ministry and PSRU to jointly review the implementation plan and agree on the Way Forward.

To facilitate the reform process, Dr. Sandy spoke of the establishment of new functional management structures, such as Change Management Teams, the Policy and Planning Units, Human Resource and Records Units, Internal Audits, etc., as well as the development of Service Charters for the benefit of service users.

The PSRU team noted progress made particularly with the drafting of Statutory Instruments intended to maximize service delivery at the Ministry. The team also noted constraints in the area of shortage of skilled personnel, the need for basic essential equipment, and the physical integration of Gender Division at Youyi Building with the main Divisions at New England.

On the issue of capacity building, Dr. Sandy informed the Ministry of the proposal to train 250 Civil Servants and advised them to take advantage of the programme by developing and submitting a Training Plan to the Human Resource Management Office. He also disclosed plans to recruit 95 professionals across the Civil Service, to complement any other sectoral arrangements.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and children's Affairs, Mr. J.O. Wellington thanked the PSRU team for the visit, noting that the creation of the PSRU and steps taken by the Unit to revamp the Civil Service were commendable. While expressing grave concern over the capacity of the Ministry, he also emphasized the need for the integration of the Ministry, "so that resources, human or otherwise, are utilized efficiently". In addition to Statutory Instruments such as the Disability Bill, the Anti-Trafficking Bill, etc., that have been drafted, Mr. Wellington also disclosed plans to rehabilitate the Ministry's Training Centre in Bo to provide periodic training to their staff members.