

## Constitutional Review Committee Engages Parliament

Representatives of the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) Monday March 31st 2014



engaged Parliament on the need to make their own inputs into the review process of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. In his keynote address, the UNDP Country Director, Sudipto Mukerjee, emphasized that the task ahead of all Sierra Leoneans was to ensure equity, justice, dignity, social cohesion and prosperity for all citizens; not only for the present generation but also for generations yet unborn.

The UNDP Country Director said they were very proud and privileged to partner with Members of Parliament in the Constitutional Review Process adding that the UNDP being a multilateral agency that is mandated to promote democracy has the responsibility of making the process widely consultative, inclusive, decisive, time-bound and to also benefit from global best practices.

The UNDP Diplomat noted that the role of Parliament is absolutely critical in ensuring that the process is fully inclusive, stressing that the lawmakers should facilitate public involvement and provide the citizenry with a meaningful opportunity to be heard throughout the process.

In his Statement, the Chairman of the CRC, Justice Edmond Cowan said the CR Process is the sacred mandate of all citizens to contribute meaningfully noting that they should participate diligently and work hand in glove with the CRC.

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon Chernor Maju Bah said the formation of any constitution should be derived from the national culture, custom, origin and history.

The Lawmaker assured that Parliament is always prepared and ready to partner with the CRC to accelerate the process of reviewing the 1991 National Constitution

Progress report about the CRC was given by the Outgoing Secretary, Augustine Sheku whilst the UNDP Chief Technical Adviser to the CRC, Sanullah Baloch spoke on various democratic constitutions in the world. The Chief



Technical Adviser, Parliament; Lakshmi Pillai delivered notes on Parliamentarians and Constitution making process. Causes of conflicts in Africa and role of national constitutions, case studies of Liberia, Ivory Coast, Guinea Bissau, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Kenya was done by Dr Henry Mbawah whilst the root causes, impact and post conflict experience was done by Desmond George Williams.