

MP ENGAGES NIMIYAMA & KONO GORAMA CHIEFDOMS

Freetown, 10th September, 2014

The Member of Parliament for Constituency 25, covering Nimiyama and Gorama Kono Chiefdoms, Hon. Augustine B. Torto, has embarked on another phase of the sensitization process, after public meetings with his constituents. Engaging opinion leaders and traditional rulers in the Chiefdoms, Hon. Torto and team, including Councillors and Constituency leaders, made presentations of various Ebola related items to the Paramount Chief of Nimiyama and his Deputies, at Sewafe Town. Both Nimiyama and Gorama Kono Chiefdoms are so far Ebola-free.

Speaking to the Chiefs, Hon. Torto said that the items, which included hundreds of veronica buckets, packets of chlorine for towns, villages and public places; and a range of megaphones, posters and logistic accessories were meant to promote and sustain the sensitization efforts in the Constituency, on behalf of President Koroma and the Government. He stated that the Ebola epidemic has nothing to do with politics but is a tragedy our nation must confront and overcome.

Receiving the items, Paramount Chief George B. Torto expressed appreciation to the Member of Parliament and extended thanks to HE the President and Government for what he called a timely gesture. He said that for Nimiyama, sensitization is important for stemming the tide of the Ebola virus attack as seen in other areas, especially as there is no known case of Ebola in their Chiefdoms.

The Chiefdom Speaker, Chief Philip Musa Koroma who received the items on behalf of the Chiefdom, thanked Hon. Torto for a prompt response, reiterating that so far the entire Nimiyama Chiefdom is Ebola-free. In the words of the Senior Section Chief, Chief Komba T. Ngandi, "this is what we have been waiting for." According to the Chiefs, a tour of all five sections has been undertaken in preparation for the distribution to proceed. Earlier, a similar donation of Ebola related materials was made to the adjoining Gorama Kono Chiefdom, where sensitisation activities have commenced, and to a representative group of the Islamic community, led by Chief Imam, Alhaji Janneh.

Before returning to Kono, Hon. Torto, who is the Chair of the parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, led a delegation to the British High Commission to request a more robust UK attention and involvement in combating the Ebola scourge in Sierra Leone. High Commissioner, His Excellency Peter West heartily thanked Hon. Torto for the visit and disclosed among other things that the UK through DFID, has committed 10 million pounds sterling to specifically assist the Government in combating the Ebola outbreak. It was recently announced that British troops are to arrive to assist in preparation of staging posts and a range of other actions.



Hon. Torto & British High Commissioner West