



SIERRA LEONE STANDARDS BUREAU

MINUTE PAPER

FROM: The Public Relations Officer
TO: The Executive Director
THRO: The Human Resource/Admin Manager
Cc: The Deputy Director
DATE: 20th April, 2018

SUBJECT: Re: On the Special Rapporteur on Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

1.1. Introduction/Background

The Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (as mandated in the Standards Act No. 2 1996; and became operational in January 2000), incorporating the regulatory functions of the erstwhile Weights and Measures Administration from the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The Bureau is the Centre and focal point for the National Quality Infrastructure comprising: Metrology, Standardization and Conformity Assessment Systems (including inspection, testing and certification). The institution provides relevant information on quality and regulatory requirements. It demonstrates compliance to standards and provides conformity assessment services to both the private and public sectors of the economy.

Therefore, our task here would be presenting a report based on our mandate as an institution. The Sierra Leone Standards Bureau does not collect Statistical data of people living in informal settlement however the institution's condition of service ensures that staff of the Bureau is provided with rent allowances that guarantees its staff access to housing. The condition of service stipulates that 20 % of annual basic salary is paid to

every staff as annual rent allowance, but following the introduction of the austerity measures by the then APC Government in 2016, the condition changed to 10 % of one month basic salary for housing/rent allowance.

2.0 The Bureau's Findings

Since the Bureau's mandate doesn't cover gathering statistical data of people living in informal settlement, the institution hereby presents a rapporteur that was gathered from the website of the Awoko newspaper at www.awokonews.org which might be helpful in your research.

Water Situation in Sierra Leone

In 2017, the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau certified a total of 107 water sources; 61 sachet water, 40 bottle water companies and 6 Borehole wells.

Standards and Quality Management System

The Sierra Leone Standards Bureau as the focal point of the quality infrastructure is challenged in terms of delivering its services. As such we have witnessed situations in which structures collapsed as a result of builders' failures in adhering to building codes and regulations.

In Ghana for instance, the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) has a building regulation which builders adhere to before erecting a structure;

- A builder must first apply for the proper development permits with the regulating body.
- A builder must then acquire and report on a suitable plot for development that meets the requirements of the regulations.
- Excavation of the plot must be done with accommodation for water tables, sub-soil drainage, and the surrounding environment.
- The building's design must be reviewed to ensure structural stability.
- The builder must include structural fire precautions in the design.
- Proper accommodations must be made for accessing the structure.

3.0 Recommendations

1. The Sierra Leone Standards Bureau should be given the required support in terms of standardization and quality infrastructure to function effectively and efficiently.
2. The Government of Sierra Leone should decongest the city or consider relocating the central administration to a new city.
3. The Government should empower the Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO) to provide water reservoirs for communities.
4. The Government should also enforce the laws on deforestation and support the Environmental Protection Agency in achieving this and also improve tree planting across the country.
5. The Ministry of Lands and Country Planning should formulate policies or execute policies on proper land tenure system and country planning like what is happening in Guinea and Senegal.

Written and submitted by

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