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AMB. ERNEST MBAIMBA NDOMAHINA RETURNS ON DUTY



NaCSA Commissioner Amb. Ndomahina with his Deputy, Sir Jimmy Batilo Songa and NaCSA Management staff in their "we care" caps

NaCSA Commissioner, Amb. Ndomahina has returned on duty after a successful handing over trip in China. Amb. Ndomahina who before his appointment as the new Commissioner of NaCSA, was Sierra Leone's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China and was also accredited to eleven other Asian countries.



As protocol demands, the former Ambassador has handed over to his successor, Hon. Abubakarr Karim, former Minister of agriculture and Food Security in the last political dispensation. As erudite international development expert, Amb Ndomahina succeeded in converting his handing over exercise into more gains for his new office, NaCSA.

In his statement of appreciation to Management and staffs of NaCSA, on Thursday September 21 2023 in a Committee meeting at the NaCSA Conference Room, in Freetown, Amb Ndomahina re-affirmed his appreciation to the staff and management of the Commission for the support provided to the commission and his deputy when he was away.

AMB. ERNEST MBAIMBA NDOMAHINA RETURNS ON DUTY



Presentation of "we care" caps as souvenir from the Commissioner to staff of the commission

A demonstration, he noted that has placed NaCSA as a hybrid institution that is ready to take Sierra Leone to higher heights. Commissioner Ndomahina spoke on the Strategic Cooperation Agreement he signed with Jianxi College of Foreign Studies.

This Agreement, he noted is geared towards complementing President Bio's effort to enhance Human Capital Development and accelerate the Youths Empowerment Scheme.

"NaCSA is moving to a better height I cannot achieve that without you and I therefore looking forward to working with you," he acknowledged.



Cross section of NaCSA staff with their "we care" caps from the Commissioner

SLCDDP II SUPPLIED 14,400 GRAMS OF TILAPIA FINGERLINGS TO FOUR COMMUNITIES

According to the National Aquaculture Sector Overview of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Inland fishery is practiced in ecosystems such as lakes, rivers, floodplains and other water bodies and mainly a capture technique that contributes significantly to national protein intake.

In line with this, NaCSA, through its SLCDD II Project has on Friday, September 15, 2023 supplied a total of 14,400 (3,600 gram each) of tilapia fingerlings to four communities. These communities, Ngiehun, Lalehun, Konjo, Ngandorhun, all in the Lower Bambara Chiefdom, Kenema district are part of the seven IsDB funded SLCDD II growth poles in the country.

In an effort to ensure sustainability, the supply to the communities were followed with orientation on how to take care of them. Ancillaries including 43 bags of 50 kg concentrate fish feed were also provided to the four communities.

The rationale behind aquaculture development is to make available good quality fresh fish that will provide affordable fish protein to the poor and fast growing rural population. This will also reduce the pressure on capture marine environments.



One of the SLCDD II Fishponds being filled with the supplied tilapia fingerlings

HBS FEFEGULAH'S VISIT TO ARMUYENGAE MEG IN KPETEMA



One of NaCSA SLCDD II Inland Valley Swamps in Kpetema, Lower Bambara Chiefdom, Kenema District

Before the proclamation of His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio's new agenda to "Feed Salone" which is one of the five big changes for 2024 through 2028. The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) through one of its biggest Programmes called Sierra Leone Community-Driven Development Programme (SLCDD II) had already gone ahead in productively complementing this agenda.

Since the inception of this project, a lot of transformations have happened in intervention communities spanning from social infrastructural development, livelihood, micro and small enterprise schemes, and capacity building to name but a few.

As part of my routine monitoring plan, I visited Kpetema a community in Lower Bambara chiefdom on Tuesday 19th September 2023, where a sub-project of the SLCDD II project is implemented. In this community, there has been an existing MEG called Armuyengae which the project has been supported with a 9.1 hectares of inland valley swamp. After the construction of the swamp in 2020 the group solely depended on this support as their main source of livelihood. Their economic activities have been strengthened by the sales of harvested rice and the ones kept in their seed bank. This year alone, Armuyengae MEG cultivated 350 bags of 25kg rice in their 9.1 hectares of IVS with input from their seed bank with an expectation of a good yield.



NaCSA HBS Eric Fefegulah with the IVS beneficiaries

HBS FEFEGULAH'S VISIT TO ARMUYENGAE MEG IN KPETEMA



Lucia Dauda and members of the Armuyengae MEG at their Inland Valley Swamp at Kpetema

Among the group members that were present, I spoke with one beneficiary (Lucia Dauda) on the progress they have achieved so far. She affirmed that their main aim is to start mechanized farming which will bolster production and food self-sufficiency. She also believes that using a power tiller will help reduce manual labor which is costlier. She believes that, with the use of this machine, swamp cultivation will be easier, thus increasing productivity thrice by what they are seeing now. She also advised her group to continue making good use of this opportunity they are getting from NaCSA if they want to be food self-sufficient.

The woman was assured that very soon they would be supported with mechanized tools because they had already been bought by the commission through the project awaiting the completion of the community resource center for them to be commissioned.

Finally, I encouraged them to uphold the spirit of unity that is keeping them strong and to respect themselves. The visit ended with traditional songs and dancing from the women; while the serving of coconut jelly water to us as a gesture of appreciation formed the highpoint.

CDDP EMBARKS ON A ROBUST MONITORING TRIP TO THE HINTERLAND



NaCSA CDDP Programme Manager, Project Engineer with Contractor and team on site visit

NaCSA through the Community Driven Development programme (CDDP) has made an outreach visit to Kambia and Bo District as a way to enhance robust monitoring of ongoing sub-projects.

The delegation including the Programme Manager, Patrick Lebbie and Headquarter Engineer, Mohamed Gandor Bah visited various project sites in Bo and Kambia districts. In Bo district, the team visited the construction site of the Community Health Post (CHP) at Walihun community, Jaiama Chiefdom, Construction site of Type B Market at Kendayama Community, Kakua Chiefdom and Construction site of three (3) class room block primary school at Makoba community, Bumpe Gao Chiefdom.

The following sites were also visited in Kambia district, construction of Six (6) classroom block for SSS and its components at Kukuna community, Brimaia Chiefdom and construction of 4 bore-holes and water supply network at Kawula community Masungbala Chiefdom.



One of NaCSA CDDP subproject under construction

CDDP EMBARKS ON A ROBUST MONITORING TRIP TO THE HINTERLAND



NaCSA CDDP Programme Manager, Patrick Lebbie and team on stock taking

According to the Programme Manager of the CDDP, Patrick Lebbie, the trip was part of the regular monitoring visits that the team does to ongoing project sites in order to assess the level of works done as per contractual agreements and discuss implementation challenges and proffer possible solutions.

The Community Driven Development Programme (CDDP) is one out of the Five Programmes implemented by the National Commission for Social Action, designed to increase access to social services for vulnerable rural communities through 'hardware' interventions such as the construction/ reconstruction and or rehabilitation of community infrastructures such as Schools, Community Health Centres (CHC) Community Health Posts (CHPs), Community Centres/ barrays, Markets, Grain stores and a range of other community infrastructure projects that impact the holistic well-being of the vulnerable communities



Another subproject under construction by the NaCSA CDDP Programme

DATA EXPERTS TEAM FROM STATE HOUSE RATES NaCSA HIGHLY

The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) has on Monday September 18, 2023 held a technical meeting with Data experts from the Office of the Chief Minister. The essence of the meeting was to understand NaCSA's Management Information System (MIS) and the mechanisms through which the MIS can be strengthened.



NaCSA's Dr. Susan Robert and Idris Turay with State House Data Expert Leads

The Deputy Commissioner of NaCSA, Sir Jimmy Batilo Songa welcoming the team, reiterated the readiness of the Commission to collaborate with all Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies. "State House remains very critical in the work we do and our doors are constantly open to new ideas that will add value to our work. The Commissioner is not with us at the moment but he will be duly informed," he noted.

The Senior Director of Programme Development and Quality Assurance - Dr. Susan Robert and the Senior Director/National Coordinator for the National Social Protection Secretariat, Idris Turay expressed optimism that the collaboration will add value to the existing system. Dr. Robert noted that the NaCSA's team is ready to provide the maximum supports needed to enhance the digitalization of the Commission's programmatic interventions.

Idris Turay reaffirmed that the system experts and other personnel at NaCSA are in attendance to give a holistic overview of the existing MIS and to better understand the necessary inputs from the State House team.



State House Mohamed James and team of expert with a cross section of NaCSA staff in attendance

DATA EXPERTS TEAM FROM STATE HOUSE RATES NaCSA HIGHLY

In his presentation, the Director of Central Delivery at the Office of the Chief Minister - Morray Boima showcased the potency of the MD Apro software in tracking project implementation. He noted that Annual Work Plans (AWP) from major MDAs were uploaded into the system which shows delivery status, percentage of implementation and next line of actions.

After the presentation of NaCSA's internal project tracking tool, on data perspective, the Director of Technology for the Presidential Delivery Unit, Mohamed James rated NaCSA highly. "For us, we are providing the technical supports to strengthen data storage and digitalization of programme implementation at institutional level and we are ready to do in the true spirit of delivery." He ended.

Additionally, there was a collective call for this tool to be available to all staff, unit, directorate and the district offices.



NaCSA's Dr. Susan Robert and State House Mohamed James having a handshake

GPC III FACILITATES SITES VISITS FOR PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTORS



Site visit on the four different locations for the construction of the four Grain stores in Kono District.

Following the September 15, 2023 pre bidding meeting with prospective bidders for the GPC III subprojects at NaCSA Head Office in Freetown, various teams of contractors have visited the proposed sites of intervention.

The rationale of the site visit according to the Programme Manager GPC III, Salifu Ansu Mansaray is to enable would-be contractors and bidders to develop accurate Bill of Quantities for the proposed projects.

On the numbers and locations of the proposed infrastructures, the Programme Manager stated that a total of eight (8) Grain stores will be constructed in two districts for the 2024 implementation year. These, he further revealed will be in Kambia district (4) and Kono district (4).

Site visitation by prospective bidders/contractors is an enshrined tradition and precondition in NaCSA for the award of contracts for infrastructure projects.

The overall objective of this project is to improve the employment and income situation especially for youths in rural communities by providing enhanced economic infrastructure (feeder roads and bridges, grain stores with ancillary facilities, cattle paddocks and water wells) along selected agricultural value chains, constructed by using labor-intensive approaches. This is in alignment with the Government 'Big Five Game Changers' with specific to the **Presidential Initiative to create 500,000 jobs for the youth in five years.**



Koidunde women singing songs of appreciation...



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