



PRESS RELEASE

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SRSB DELIVERS LECTURE ON ACCOUNTABILITY

Freetown, Sierra Leone – According to the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sierra Leone, Ambassador Daudi Ngelautwa Mwakawago, a culture of responsibility and accountability is the hallmarks of grassroots democracy in a small, emerging and post-war country.

Ambassador Mwakawago made this remark while delivering a lecture on the topic “Challenges of Accountability in Young, Emerging, and Post- War Democracies” held at the British Council of Freetown on Friday and organized by the National Accountability Group, an oversight non governmental organization with the objective of monitoring government activities.

The SRSB told the audience that, for the principles of accountability to be effective, individuals must take a participatory role in governance instead of sitting idly by and expecting change, adding that the most important guarantee of public accountability in any democracy is the right of the citizens to control the direction of governmental policy and the identity of those who exercise governmental powers, through the electoral process and public discourse.

He called on the civil society and the press to play an integral role in the process of monitoring government and public activities by serving as whistle- blowers regarding disclosures of illegality, abuse of authority, gross waste, and gross mismanagement. He said that civil societies should be at the vanguard in making the government and non-governmental institutions accountable to the people in a post-war country.

The SRSB further stated that, the general rationale for accountability is to prevent or reduce the abuse of power by those who cannot otherwise be trusted to do what they are obliged to do.

Other speakers at the occasion, which was chaired by Valentine Collier, the Anti- Corruption Commissioner, included Ibrahim Karim-Sei, Secretary, Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ), Charles Campbell, a Freetown- based Legal Practitioner, and Mike Carrol, a business executive

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