

## SLRSA OBSERVES GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK

### Day 1

As part of the global community in the road safety campaign, the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority - SLRSA on Monday 14th November 2016 joined other countries around the world to observe this year's world Day of remembrance day for road traffic victims on the Theme: Vital Post-Crash Actions: Medical Care, Investigation and Justice!

The event which was held at the Miatta conference Hall at Brookfields in Freetown brought together stakeholders from all works of life.

Reverend Michael Samura, Chairman Board of Directors Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority in

his welcome address said as part of the global community in the road safety campaign, Sierra Leone was joining countries the world over in commemorating the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. He underscored the importance of the event stating that road safety was a challenge facing the world especially low income countries which had a small percentage of vehicle fleet.



**Reverend Michael Samura, Chairman Board of Directors Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority**



**A Road traffic victim Emmanuel Kamanda who recently lost his leg due a gruesome accident on his way to school. Seated at front- right**

Speaking at the ceremony, the Minister of Health and Sanitation Dr. Abu Bakarr Fofanah appreciated the ministry of transport and aviation and the Road Safety Authority for hosting such an event.

Road Safety he said was an individual as well as a collective responsibility for all Sierra Leoneans. He added that the success of the road safety campaigns undoubtedly depends on the role played by all stakeholders; Pedestrian, Cyclists, Riders, drivers alike. The government alone cannot win this war, no matter how much resources are invested into campaigns.

"The loss of scores of our people to road traffic crashes comes at a huge social and economic cost to the country. These are parents, children,

and bread winners and other family members and professionals". Dr. Fofanah said.

He added that Road fatalities was costing the country millions of Leone's each year, diverting resources from other social and economic needs of the country.

As the ministry of transport and aviation he said continues to provide leadership through the SLRSA to reduce road crashes and fatalities significantly at the end of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety in 2020, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation stands shoulder

to shoulder with all stakeholders.



**Signing of road safety pledge**

Dr. Abu Bakarr reaffirmed his ministry's commitment to work alongside the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority other departments and stakeholders in the transport sector to mobilize society towards this common goal. He called upon all Sierra Leoneans to work with the SLRSA to make our roads safe for all and sundry.

In his statement, the Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation, Mr. Mohamed A. Jalloh said he was delighted to join in commemorating the World Day of

Remembrance for Road Traffic crash victims.

Mr. Jalloh informed the gathering that prior to 2011, the country did not have a comprehensive road safety policy and strategy and road safety administration and management was shared among a number of agencies, the most significant being; The Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority SLRSA, the Sierra Leone Police SLP, and the Sierra Leone Roads Authority. He noted that though the country is a signatory to and a member of many sub-regional and global road safety organisation or international treaties, which among others required state parties to undertake and promote road safety programs but Sierra Leone did not meet most of these obligations prior to 2011.

Mr. Jalloh said it was critical to note the total number of vehicles in the road network increased from 34,654 in 2005 to 50,443 in 2011. In addition to the mix of road users included a large numbers of motor bikes, bicycles, handcarts, pedestrians and animals.

"Sierra Leone faced a very severe absence of crash data. There were no data to inform on victims, cause or circumstances. There were no integration of data from Police and hospitals". The Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation said.

Mr. Jalloh stressed the government's commitment in attaining the specific objectives as enshrined in the National Road Safety Policy and Strategy which is the government's blue print in achieving the United Nations Decade of Action on Road Safety by 2020.

"I'll like to express my deepest Sorrow and empathy to the families who have lost their loved ones in road crashes." He said.

Mr. Augustus A. Kanu Commissioner of the Sierra Leone Insurance Commission said the World Day of remembrance for road traffic victims was indeed a move in the right direction on the part of the United Nations taking into consideration the number of people that are killed or injured globally every year and the sufferings of the victims. He said it was therefore important and appropriate for the world to remember road traffic crash victims so that Authorities in charge of Road Safety especially in the sub region will continue to create awareness on road safety so as to reduce the incidents of road traffic crashes.

He said that they in the insurance industry believed that whenever an attempt was made either to create awareness or remember road traffic victims was an additional strategy to educate the general public on how we can make our roads safe, and also making a deliberate attempt to help save the lives and properties of our people, while at the same time taking the bold step forward in enhancing and ensuring the continuity of our economic activities, Which when destroyed as a result of road traffic crash will result in economic loss for our people and the country at large.

"The incident of road traffic crashes worldwide, especially in the sub-Saharan Africa was growing at an unprecedented and astronomical rate." Mr. Commissioner Kanu Said.

He however, on behalf of the insurance industry expressed his sincere and heartfelt condolences to the families who lost their loved ones to road traffic crash and prayed that Alright God grants them Paradise.

Other speakers including the representative of the Inspector General of Sierra Leone Police, Representative of the U. S Ambassador to Sierra Leone made meaningful contributions.

The event was climaxed by a Power Point Presentation on the state of road safety in the country by Mr. Sama Gamanga Board Secretary SLRSA, and the Signing of commitment/pledges by stakeholders.

Abdul Karim Dumbuya Public Relations of the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority moved the vote of thanks.

## DAY TWO

As part of the week long activities to mark the commemoration of the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Crash Victims.



The Road Safety School Club Sierra Leone Organized the 3rd Edition of Road Safety

Debate. The event was sponsored by the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority SLRSA.

Ten Secondary Schools in the Western Area participated and the Methodist Boys High School won the first prize

The small boy (Arthur Cole) in the picture represented The Great Sierra Leone Grammar School and he won the second prize.

## DAY THREE

### SLRSA HOLDS PUBLIC LECTURE ON POST CRASH CARE ACTIONS

To commemorate this year's World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority (SLRSA) on Wednesday 16th November

2016 organized a day's public lecture on the topic: 'Vital Post Crash Actions: Medical Care, Investigation and Justice' at the British Council Hall, Tower Hill in Freetown.

The event brought together Ministers, departments and agencies, insurance executives, university students, pupils and stakeholders in the transport sector.

SLRSA Executive Director, Dr. Sarah Bendu pointed out that the institution was joining the world to commemorate the day with series of activities geared towards raising awareness on road crashes. She stated that road crashes are a major drive



to poverty in this part of the world as many families have lost their breadwinners through road accidents noting that the United Nations Decade of Action on Road Safety is 2011- 2020 with the identification of five pillars including road safety management, safer roads, safer vehicles, safer drivers and other road users and post-crash cares affirming

that road accidents are predictable and thus preventable.

She said that government was doing its best to provide good roads adding, "but the onus is on us to ensure that we use the roads safely. Road safety is a multi-sectoral approach for which I am calling on all to join the campaign."



Delivering his public lecture on the topic; Vital Post Crash Actions: Medical Care,



Investigation and Justice, Consultant Pathologist, Dr. Simeon Owizz Koroma informed his audience that the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is observed every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in November in honour of the millions killed, injured and incapacitated through road crashes as well as

families and friends who are also affected.

Dr. Simeon Owizz Koroma further stated that nearly 1.3 million people die yearly through road accidents, that more than half of this number were pedestrians, cyclists or bystanders and described post-crash response as activities conducted immediately following a road accident with the potential to reduce further adverse outcome.

According to Dr. Simeon Owizz Koroma, post-crash medical care is very significant as it helps to minimize the impact of injures and also prevents deaths underscoring that effective post-crash care includes emergency response, pre-hospital care, transport of victims and hospital. He also appealed for coordination between various stakeholders to adequately address the issue.

#### DAY FOUR

#### IN COMEMORATION OF WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS, SLRSA HOLDS ONE DAY SYMPOSIUM ON ROAD SAFETY

The Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority (SLRSA) in collaboration with the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL) on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016, organised a one day symposium at the CCSL hall King Harman Road as part of activities marking the World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims theme: Vital Post-

Crash Actions: Medical Care, Investigation, Justice!



The event brought together stakeholders from; the Ministry of Education, Insurance Industry, Trauma Care Centre, Ministry of Health, Drivers Union, Sierra Leone Medical and Dental Association, Sierra Leone Police, traders, transport owners, church leaders, Imams etc.

Executive Director of the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority (SLRSA), Dr. Sarah Finda Bendu called on all to conscientiously join the road safety campaign as road-related accidents were claiming the lives of people daily.

Dr. Sarah Finda Bendu further stated that some people had died while others were still suffering in hospitals without proper care. Some of the victims she said were breadwinners who had become invalid or incapacitated through gruesome road accidents and can't afford to pay their medical bills. "We need to come together to change the present ugly situation manifesting on our roads". She said.



She also observed, with sadness, that everybody is prone to fatal accidents, one of the reasons the day is observed to reflect and say, "it could have been me!"

Road Safety according to Dr. Sarah Bendu, was a multi-sectoral as well as a collective issue demanding the support and collaboration of all stakeholders including the public underscoring that as a nation, strategies must be put in place to reduce the carnage reiterating that together, we can save lives.



**Dr Sarah F. Bendu, Executive Director, SLRSA making statement**

SLRSA Board Chairman, Reverend Michael Samura said that the day is commemorated worldwide on the 3rd Sunday in November every year. He stated that the effects of road traffic crashes touched every facet of the society and highlighted the many people who had sustained excruciating injuries and deaths through road accidents.

He continued that the theme was thought provoking observing that most people, if not all, have been affected by road accidents one way or the other. A representative from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology disclosed that the number of vehicles in Sierra Leone has increased from 35,000 to 50,000 in 2016 and attributed most road accidents to recklessness noting, "most of the drivers violate traffic rules and regulations all the time."

## DAY 5

On Friday 18th November 2016, the management and staff of SLRSA observed Juma prayers at the Bombay Basharia Mosque where the Chief Imam, Alhaji Sheik Abu Bakarr Kamara, appealed to the congregation to advise their children and other relations to adhere to the rules governing road safety to reduce accidents affirming that road safety should be everybody's concern as accidents kill and incapacitate people daily.



## DAY SIX

On Sunday 20th November 2016, the Christian thanksgiving service was held at the All Saints Church, Kissy Road in Freetown to conclude the week-long observance of Road Safety Week. A sermon was delivered by Rev. Franklyn Brown



Float parade and candle light in Makeni City

## Summary

The sixth days activities attracted people from all works of life including Ministers, Chief Executives, Heads of Insurance companies, the Sierra Leone Police, Civil society, the media, diplomats and in the informal sector.

The above activities were also carried out in the three provincial areas of the country with float parades, candle lights, community outreach and school visitations.



stakeholders in Magburuka observing World Day of Remembrance for traffic victims 2016



Outreach to communities



Outreach to communities