



**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY
(NPHA)**



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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Appointment of District Council Chairpersons, City Mayors and DMOs to Serve in District Leadership Positions on the National Taskforce on Drugs and Substance Abuse with focus on the Kush Epidemic.

The National Task Force for Drug and Substance Abuse, as part of its ongoing efforts to combat drug and substance abuse, has decentralized the **Response** through the Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs and the Ministry of Health. District Council Chairpersons and City Mayors across the country have been appointed to serve as Chairpersons and Co-Chairpersons for the District Taskforce for Drug and Substance Abuse.

In addition, District Medical Officers (DMOs) of the Ministry of Health should serve as Deputy Chairpersons of the District Taskforce for Drug and Substance Abuse. This team will establish district structures in alignment with the five national pillars:

- i. Public Information / Risk Communication (Lead: MICE & Co-Lead: MoH-RC)
- ii. Community Engagement, (Lead: MLGCA & Co-Lead: MoH/HED)
- iii. Treatment & Rehabilitation, (Lead: MoH & Co-Lead: MSW)
- iv. Reintegration (Lead: MSW & Co-Lead: MoYA)
- v. Law Enforcement & Border Control (Lead: NDLEA & Co-Leads: MIA (SLP), MoD (RSLAF))

Public institutions, partners, and members of the public are encouraged to collaborate and support the **National Response**. The fight against drug and substance abuse is crucial and winnable. Let us unite to make a difference.

“AH SABI DI TRU BUT KUSH , Wey U?”

Brig. Gen. Prof. Foday Sahr

Chairman National Task Force on Drug and Substance Abuse

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