

Public Sector Reform Unit



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSRU and IPAM Strengthen Public Service Readiness Through Micro-Credentials Program



Freetown, Sierra Leone – The Public Sector Reform Unit (PSRU) has partnered with the Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM) to advance civic education and public service readiness through an innovative Micro-Credentials program.

The initiative featured a dynamic Civic Responsibility Seminar facilitated by the Director of PSRU, who engaged students in thought-provoking discussions on democracy, accountability, and the role of citizens in nation-building.

The seminar began with a strong call to action: citizens must question politicians about how public resources are spent. The Director urged participants to report crimes, including cybercrimes and fraudulent activities often linked to university students.

He highlighted the damaging effects of scams such as “Yahoo boys” and 419 frauds, stressing that failure to report crimes undermines society’s integrity.



Citizens were reminded of their duty to obey the law and contribute to national development. The Director emphasized the need for Environmental sharing a personal story of planting 500 trees on his birthday as a symbolic commitment to sustainability. He encouraged students to adopt similar practices to protect forests and promote ecological balance.

On Taxes as a burden and a responsibility the Director recounted his own experiences of paying taxes while demanding accountability for poor service delivery. He criticized tax evasion, noting that those who avoid taxes yet benefit from public services weaken governance. He underscored that paying taxes empowers citizens to hold government accountable.

With regards to rights and peaceful advocacy the Director urged students to act as peace ambassadors, avoid disruptive behavior in public discussions, and embrace nonviolent participation in politics. He emphasized that peace and respect are essential for democratic progress.

Participants were asked to reflect on five rights they enjoy—such as freedom of movement, the right to vote, and the right to education—and five responsibilities often neglected, including obeying the law, paying taxes, and voting. The exercise highlighted the balance between rights and responsibilities in building a functional society.



The seminar reinforced democratic principles: rule of law, participation, separation of powers, accountability, equality, and human rights. Citizens were encouraged to vote, attend community meetings, and engaged in public consultations. Voluntary work and peaceful advocacy were presented as vital contributions to good governance.

A case study illustrated the dangers of excluding citizens from decision-making. The Director presented a scenario where a local council planned a market without consulting residents.

Students analyzed the violation of democratic principles and proposed solutions, reinforcing the importance of transparency and accountability in governance.

This collaboration between PSRU and IPAM demonstrates a forward-looking approach to civic education, equipping future leaders with the knowledge and responsibility to strengthen Sierra Leone's democracy and public service delivery.

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About the PSRU

The Public Sector Reform Unit (PSRU) provides leadership, coordination, and technical backstopping in the strategic design, development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of all public sector reform initiatives. Its mission is to facilitate the creation of a lean, performance-oriented, highly motivated, modern, and efficient Public Service that delivers high-quality services to the people of Sierra Leone in a timely and cost-effective manner.



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