



THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM IN

SIERRA LEONE



separately elected by chiefdom councillors in each district.⁴ There is universal suffrage at age 18.

Sierra Leone is divided into three provinces, Northern, Southern and Eastern, and one area, Western. Northern Province has five districts, Southern Province four districts, and Eastern province three districts. The Western Area has two divisions: Freetown urban (Area I) and Freetown rural (Area II). The capital city is Freetown and the official language is English.

A new system of local government was introduced following the local elections in May 2004. There is one city and five town councils in the urban areas, and 13 district councils in the predominantly rural areas.

2 POLITICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF SIERRA LEONE

2.1 Position of local government in the state

The recent history of Sierra Leone has been dominated by the civil war of 1991-2002, when the constitution was suspended for much of the time.

In 1996, following international pressure, the first democratic multi-party parliamentary and presidential elections for almost 30 years were held, but the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP)-led government was overthrown in a military coup in May 1997.

Following the government's restoration in March 1998 through an offensive conducted by ECOMOG, the Monitoring Observer Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the civil war continued in the countryside and around Freetown. Efforts to broker a peace settlement, with donor endorsement, led to the signing of the Lomé Peace Accord in July 1999 under which a government of inclusion was formed with rebel nominees being appointed to ministerial positions. The United Nations (UN) set up a peace-keeping mission to facilitate the implementation of the accord. The ceasefire was broken in May 2000 and although a further ceasefire in November was largely observed within Sierra Leone, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and Liberian elements effected incursions into Guinea. Action by the Guinean army inflicted heavy casualties, and in May 2001 the UN Security Council adopted sanctions against

1 INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Sierra Leone is a unitary state in western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean between Guinea and Liberia. It has a land area of 71,740 sq km and an estimated population of 6,144,562.¹

The president is both head of state and head of government. The president is directly elected for a five-year term and may serve no more than two consecutive terms. The president appoints a cabinet with the approval of parliament. Under the constitution² members of parliament are not permitted to hold office

concurrently in the cabinet.

The unicameral parliament, the House of Representatives, has 124 members who serve five-year terms. Some 112 are elected under the district block representation system.³ The country's 12 provincial districts are electoral districts, together with two electoral districts (East and West) in the Western Area. The National Electoral Commission (NEC) allocates the eight seats in each electoral district to political parties in proportion to their share of the total district vote. The 12 provincial districts also each return one paramount chief,

the Liberian government. The government and the RUF agreed actions in May 2001 which led to the demobilisation of all combatants in January 2002, when all parties issued a Declaration of End of War. The RUF was able to register as a political party.

The most recent presidential elections were held on 8 September 2008, where Ernest Bai Koroma of the All People’s Congress party (APC) was elected as president with 950,407 votes. The Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP), came second with 789,651 votes. The next elections must be held no later than May 2013.

A National Strategy for Good Governance was proposed in February 1997, but disrupted by the military coup that year. The document remained a major reference for governance and local governance reform, and President Kabbah relaunched the devolution programme in February 2004 as part of a donor-led post-war reconstruction.

Initial steps in implementing the programme were taken with the local elections of May 2004, the first since local government was suspended in 1972 and local government functions administered by central government. An Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) covering the period 2001-2005, together with a National Recovery Strategy (NRS), underpin the governance reform programme. Both address the priorities of restoration of state authority, rebuilding communities, peace-building and human rights, and revitalisation of the economy.

Under the Local Government Act 2004 the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development (MLGCD) has key responsibilities for implementing local governance reform, specifying the first functions to be assigned to the new local councils, and the coordination and implementation of the devolution programme.

The minister is required to inspect and monitor the activities of local councils to ensure that they conform to the requirements of local government and other relevant legislation, and to investigate any complaint made by a member of the public. If a local council fails to meet its responsibilities, the minister must determine the type of action or intervention required. Where the council is unable to respond, the Ministry must assume responsibility for the council’s functions and develop its capacity. If a council refuses to comply with a direction, the minister may reduce or withhold grants or funds until satisfied that the function or service will be adequately provided.

The minister’s responsibilities also include:

- Mediating in unresolved disputes between local councils, a council and a government ministry and a local council and a national organisation
- Certifying that the proposed delegation of functions to a local council by government, or a proposed agreement between a local council and a national or international organisation, satisfies the requirements of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (see Section 9)
- Promoting participatory processes in local councils and encouraging citizens’ inclusion and involvement in governance
- Scrutinising and modifying local by-laws if inconsistent with the constitution or other legislation, and making uniform by-laws for local councils.

The minister also has oversight of chieftaincy matters including chieftom elections, chieftom councils, chieftom police, and tribal headmen including their election.

Other government ministries have national policy and monitoring responsibilities for the relevant devolved functions. In particular, the Minister for Development and Economic Planning issues guidelines for the preparation of development plans.

The president can establish new local councils on the recommendation of the Minister of Local Government and Community Development, the Minister of Finance and the NEC. The president may also take over the functions of any local council for a period of 90 days, or longer if there is less than 12 months until the election of a council, subject to approval by two-thirds of all members of parliament, where:

- The local council makes a request and it is in the public interest
- A state of emergency has been declared in the locality
- It has become extremely difficult or impossible for a local council to function.

The three provinces have administrative responsibilities, under the direction of a resident minister (a cabinet appointment) supported by a provincial secretary. The resident minister exercises a monitoring and coordinating role through provincial coordinating committees.

3 LEGAL BASIS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

3.1 Constitutional provisions

The constitution is silent on the subject of local government.⁵

3.2 Main legislative texts

The Local Government Act 2004 is the main legislation governing local government and repealed earlier local government legislation. It established the local councils as they existed in 1972 and created a new council for Freetown. It also created the new Western Area Rural District by merging the four former rural districts of Koya, Waterloo, Mountain and York.

The Minister of Local Government and Community Development has primary responsibility for its administration.

4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

4.1 Main divisions

Local government operates in a single tier, all 19 local councils being governed by the

Table 1. District populations

Province/area	Districts/areas	District councils	Urban councils	Estimated population 2001 ¹⁰
Northern	5	5	1	607,100
				242,676
				238,408
				461,324
				322,310
Southern	4	4	2	382,650
				130,744
				481,244
				151,527
Eastern	3	2	2	348,800
				482,000
				538,337
Western	Area I Freetown City		1	1,020,000
	Area II	1		247,000
Total	14	12	6	5,654,120

provisions of the Local Government Act 2004. In the urban areas there is one city council and five town councils. In the predominantly rural areas there are 13 district councils.

The responsibilities of local councils vary, being dependent on their location and urban or rural character. For example, the broad range of services that will be devolved from the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture will not apply to all councils.

4.2 Distribution of local governments and population

The civil war left the country with significant population displacement. A new national population census started in 2004,⁶ the first since 1985. In the mean time population projections have been made by the Central Statistical Office to inform the National Recovery Strategy (NRS).

The largest of the urban authorities is Freetown City, which has a population of just over one million, and the smallest Bonthe Town. The smallest rural authority is Bonthe District, which has a population of 130,744. It is estimated that approximately 35% of the population lives in urban areas.⁷

5 DEMOCRATIC AND POLITICAL STRUCTURES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The local government elections⁸ of May 2004 were the first to be held in Sierra Leone for 32 years. A new National Electoral Commission was set up to oversee voter registration and the elections,⁹ and a programme of civic education was mounted with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).¹⁰

Candidates¹¹ can stand as political party representatives or as independents.¹² Five registered political parties¹³ contested the elections:

- Sierra Leone People's Party (SLLP) – 460 candidates
- All People's Congress (APC) – 270 candidates
- Peace and Liberation Party (PLP) – 27 candidates
- People's Democratic Party (PDP) – 7 candidates
- Grand Alliance Party (GAP) – 1 candidate.

Some 347 candidates stood as independents.

The democratic system is uniform across the country, local council elections being conducted under the first-past-the-post system on a ward basis. Each of the five towns has three wards returning four councillors each, and Freetown City has eight wards returning four councillors each. The Western Area Rural District has four

wards returning four councillors. The number of wards in the 12 district councils ranges from 18 and 48, each returning one councillor. In local council areas where there is a paramount chieftaincy system (the three provinces), the paramount chiefs select between one and three of their number to represent their interests on the local council. The term of office for elected councillors and paramount chief councillors is four years.

Councillors, who are part-time, are entitled to travelling and other allowances which are determined by the local council.

The legislation promotes local participation through ward committees which must be established to:

- Mobilise residents for the implementation of self-help and development projects
- Provide a focal point for the discussion of local problems
- Organise communal and voluntary work, especially for sanitation matters
- Make proposals to the local council for levying and collecting rates for special projects and programmes
- Educate residents on their rights and responsibilities in local governance matters.

The ward committees' membership must include all councillors and paramount chiefs in the ward, and up to ten people (at least five being women) resident in the ward, elected by residents at a public meeting.

Local councils must consult their residents, agencies of government, and local or international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with interests in their areas when preparing or reviewing local development plans. Councillors are expected to maintain close contact with their wards, consulting and presenting the views and proposals of the electorate on issues to be discussed in council. They are required to be active in promoting communal and other development matters.

Council, committee and ward committee meetings are open to the public. Councils have an information dissemination role through legal requirements to:

- Publish by-laws in a local newspaper, broadcast them on a local radio station, and post details in all wards
- Provide a copy of the development plan at the council office and in all wards
- Post for public scrutiny the council budget and accounts, and reports of the Auditor General.

The reporting and decision-making process is through committees. There is no cabinet

system.

The new councils were formally inaugurated in June 2004 with the swearing-in of 456 councillors of which the SLDP had 330, the APC 115 and the independents ten.

5.1 Local councils

Councils must establish a budgeting and finance committee, a development planning committee and a local technical planning committee to oversee the preparation and review of the development plan. The Local Government Act 2004 confers full discretion to establish other committees, and for committees to co-opt non-voting members.

Chairpersons are directly elected by electors in the locality for a four-year term, and are eligible for re-election for one further term. However, for the first term of office (2004-2008), a transitional period, the chairperson is to be elected by a simple majority of all the councillors from the elected councillors.

The level of remuneration of the chairperson is determined by the local council under guidelines issued by the Minister of Local Government after consulting with the Minister of Finance.

5.2 Local government staffing

Local government staff are recruited by the local council which has powers to discipline and dismiss staff. Senior appointments must meet selection criteria determined by the Local Government Service Commission (LGSC).¹⁴ Councils are required to appoint other senior staff after consultation with the Commission, and in accordance with its guidelines.

Since 2004-2005, the first year of operation of the local councils, the establishment secretary, a senior civil service appointment, has had the power to assign staff to local councils to act as local council chief administrators and to assist with other functions. Local councils may request, through the Minister of LGCD, that government assigns other central government staff to them to help them carry out their functions.

Councils must appoint a local council chief administrator who is head of the paid service. Formal staffing structures are to be developed as functions are progressively transferred to the local councils.

Councils must establish departments for administration, planning and development, finance, and internal audit. They may also establish 'thematic functional departments' after consulting the Local Government Service Commission.¹⁵

5.3 Independent scrutiny

The 1991 Constitution¹⁶ makes provision for an

ombudsman, but the remit has not yet been extended to local councils.

The Auditor General audits the accounts and financial statements of local councils.

All councillors and appointed or assigned staff are subject to the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Act 2000 which established a national Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). The ACC focuses particularly on corrupt payments to government officials and the misappropriation of public and donor funds.

6 DISTRIBUTION OF SERVICE DELIVERY COMPETENCE

It is the function of a local council to 'promote the development of the locality and the welfare of the people in the locality with the resources at its disposal and with such resources and capacity as it can mobilise from central government and its agencies, national and international organisations, and the private sector.'¹⁷ In particular it is required to:

- Mobilise the human and material resources necessary for the overall development and welfare of the people
- Promote and support productive activity and social development
- Initiate and maintain programmes for the development of basic infrastructure and provide works and services
- Be responsible for the development, improvement and management of human settlements and the environment
- Initiate, draw up and execute development plans
- Coordinate and harmonise the execution of programmes and projects promoted or carried out by public corporations, other statutory bodies and NGOs
- Cooperate with relevant agencies to ensure the security of the locality
- Oversee chiefdom councils in the performance of functions delegated to them by local councils
- Approve the annual budgets of the chiefdom councils and oversee the implementation of their budgets
- Determine the rates of local tax.

Local councils are to carry out an extensive range of functions which will be transferred from 17 ministries as local capacity is developed. The first functions to be assigned to the local councils by the Minister of Local Government and Community Development are: agriculture, health and education.

7 FINANCE

7.1 Revenue

The main sources of income specified in the

legislation are:

- Local tax (the precept)
- Property rates
- Licences, fees and charges
- Mining revenues
- Interest and dividends
- Central government grants.

Councils are required to 'make adequate efforts'¹⁸ to collect revenues from their own sources. Revenue raised from the local tax and mining revenues are shared between the local councils and chiefdom councils. Local councils are responsible for raising and collecting taxes and user fees, other than the local tax which is collected by chiefdom councils.

7.2 Revenue-sharing

There is no formal policy of revenue-sharing between central and local government, with the exception of mining revenues, so the proportion transferred to local councils is determined by the Minister of Local Government and Community Development after consultation with the Ministers for Finance and Mineral Resources.

Local councils receive central government grants for the provision of the devolved services, and a specific grant towards their administrative costs. In the transitional period 2004-2008, grants are service-specific, the amount allocated being that necessary to maintain the service at the standard provided in the year before its devolution. Annual changes in the allocation to local councils are to be no less advantageous than those made in the total annual allocations to government ministries. From 2008-2009 grants are untied, the amount allocated being that necessary to provide the devolved services at 'an appropriate standard'.¹⁹

The Local Government Finance Committee (LGFC) is responsible for determining the total value of grant allocations and transfers to all local councils, and to individual councils, and must establish allocation formulae based on objective criteria, taking into account the relative needs of councils to provide services and their relative capacities to raise revenue. However, for 2004-2008, ministries responsible for the devolved services recommended to the LGFC the distribution between local councils of each of the tied grants.

Grants to cover administrative costs, which must rise each year in line with inflation, reflect expenditure needs, local revenue capacity and the financial and administrative performance of the local councils.

Grant allocations and the formulae are to be presented with the national budget.

Councils dissatisfied with their allocation may

appeal to the Minister of Local Government and Community Development, but must demonstrate how the allocation fails to conform to the distribution criteria.

Members of the LGFC include a representative from each of the ministries for local government and community development, finance and economic planning, together with four other people, nominated by local council chairpersons, who have considerable knowledge of public finance, but no allegiance to any local council. Meetings are chaired by one of these nominees.

The Minister of Local Government and Community Development may issue guidelines for raising and levying property rates, and loans and overdrafts over a prescribed limit require ministerial approval.

7.3 Expenditure

No expenditure information is yet available.

Councils are not permitted to set deficit budgets, and must provide the LGFC with a copy of their budget for information.

8 ORGANISATIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A federation of local councils was formed in July 2004.

9 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Intergovernmental relations are formally established in the Local Government Act 2004.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee on Local Government and Decentralisation (the Inter-Ministerial Committee) is responsible for:

- Overseeing the implementation of the Local Government Act
- Overseeing the further development and implementation of local government and decentralisation
- Protecting and promoting local democracy and participatory government
- Arbitrating between ministries, departments and agencies of government, provincial administrations and local councils.

The committee's membership comprises the Vice President (chairperson), the Minister of Local Government and Community Development, the ministers responsible for finance, development and economic planning, education, health and sanitation, works and agriculture, and the Attorney General. Four chairpersons of local councils, elected from their number, represent the councils.

In the three provinces, provincial

coordination committees are responsible for:

- Coordinating the activities of local councils in the province
- Ensuring that local councils collaborate in the execution of joint programmes in which they have an interest
- Reviewing and coordinating the provision of public services in the province.

Their membership includes the resident minister, the provincial secretary, and the chairpersons and chief administrators of each local council in the province.

Government ministries and departments are required to consult local councils about any projects affecting their areas. Local councils may establish joint committees, with power to co-opt, for matters in which they have a common interest.

District recovery committees (DRCs), established under the NRS, are providing short-term support to local councils. Their membership reflects the spectrum of stakeholders involved in the recovery process, including representatives from the former management committees and line ministries, paramount chiefs, the Sierra Leone police, civil society, women's and youth representatives, and other national bodies and donor organisations.

10 E-GOVERNMENT

A national priority is the rebuilding of the damaged infrastructure including communications: a number of digital telephone exchanges are being constructed. Districts have limited facilities, but each now has at least one personal computer.

The Sierra Leone website at www.sierra-leone.org is not affiliated to the government of Sierra Leone, but offers access to government information on the constitution,

national election results, the president, cabinet, members of parliament and paramount chieftaincies and data from Statistics Sierra Leone.

The Office of the President is promoting Vision 2025 at uniqueservers.net/vision2025. Vision 2025, the National Long-term Perspectives Studies, is a framework for the planning of political, economic and social development for the country over the next 25 years and was officially launched in June 2000 having twice been halted by political unrest in 1997 and 1999. The site invites visitors to complete an online questionnaire recording their 'problems' and 'aspirations' for Sierra Leone.

In 2005 there were 20,000 internet users, representing approximately 0.3% of the population.²⁰

11 ENVISAGED REFORMS

The programme of decentralisation of functions from central government to local councils is wide-ranging, and it is envisaged that this will take place over a minimum period of four years. Some of the more technical functions may only be transferred in the long term. Key issues to be addressed are the shortages of qualified staff, buildings and equipment at the local level which restrict the pace of reform.

The Decentralisation Secretariat is responsible for coordinating and taking forward many of these reforms.

12 MISCELLANEOUS

12.1 Campaign for Good Governance

The NGO Campaign for Good Governance (CGG)²¹ was established on 1 July 1996 following the multi-party democratic elections of that year to promote good governance. It aims to:

- Assist in strengthening democratic institutions
- Conduct a civic education campaign on human rights, peace-building and

reconciliation, democracy and good governance and working with local civil groups

- Strengthen the capacity of civic groups to enable them to constructively participate in governance
- Promote a spirit of tolerance, peace and reconciliation
- Encourage national identity through a cultural and historical awareness campaign.

The CGG has reported on the paramount chieftaincy elections, and the local government electoral registration process. It has conducted a national revenue collection survey (including revenue issues in Freetown), and is campaigning for an increase in the number of women in leadership and decision-making positions.

12.2 International partnerships

In cooperation with CLGF, the UK Local Government Association (LGA) is working to support existing UK-Sierra Leone partnerships, including those between Hull and Freetown on health and educational training; between Leamington and Bo on developing the capacity of disadvantaged groups; and between Hastings and Hastings, a church-based initiative assisting with engineering expertise and cultural celebrations. The LGA is exploring the scope for further support to Sierra Leone in its reconstruction and the expansion of local democracy.²²

12.3 Traditional leaders

The paramount chieftaincy is an important institution in the governance of Sierra Leone. Under the constitution 'the institution of Chieftaincy, as established by customary law and usage, and its non-abolition by legislation is guaranteed and preserved.'²⁶ The government is committed to restoring the traditional role of paramount chiefs, including their administrative and customary judicial responsibilities, on the basis of the ruling houses existing at independence in 1961.

Paramount chiefs, who may be male or female, are elected²⁴ for life by chieftaindom councillors, but may be removed from office by the government or the people, or may resign. Between December 2002 and February 2003 paramount chieftaincy elections, the first since 1992, were held for the 63 offices vacated during the civil war due to death of the incumbents, positions which were occupied by regent chiefs.²⁵

The basic political unit of the chieftaincy system is the 'section', made up of a number of towns or villages, headed by a section chief or sub-chief. The paramount chief has jurisdiction over the sections within the

Table 2. Paramount chiefdoms in Sierra Leone²⁶

Province/area	District	No. of paramount chiefdoms
Northern	Bombali	13
	Kambia	7
	Koinagugu	11
	Port Loko	11
	Tonkolili	11
Southern	Bo	15
	Bonthe	11
	Moyamba	14
	Pujehun	12
Eastern	Kailahun	14
	Kenema	16
	Kono	14
Western		None
Total		149

chiefdom. Paramount chiefs and section chiefs form the political hierarchy, together with town chiefs and village headmen. In all chiefdoms one chiefdom councillor is elected by every 20 taxpayers in that chiefdom. Chiefdom councillors assist the paramount chief in the administration of the chiefdom and the dissemination of directives. Collectively they constitute the chiefdom council, presided over by the paramount chief.

Traditional leaders have a number of formal inputs into governance matters. At the national level, as members of parliament, they contribute to the policy debate. Paramount chiefs have an advisory role through the National Council of Paramount Chiefs (NCPC) established in October 2003.³⁰ At the local level in the three provinces, paramount chiefs are represented on the district and town councils, and are members of ward committees.

The Local Government Act requires chiefdom councils to cooperate with local councils with regard to their traditional functions of:

- Preventing the commission of offences in their area
- Prohibiting or restricting illegal gambling
- Making and enforcing by-laws
- Holding land in trust for the people of the chiefdom.

A local council may delegate any of its functions²⁸ to a chiefdom council. A council may also consult a traditional authority where a local custom or tradition impedes development of the area or obstructs the council in carrying out its responsibilities. Where the situation is resolved, the council, through by-laws, may amend the custom or tradition. Either party may appeal to the MLGCD where there is no resolution.

In the Western Area, where there is no chieftaincy system, tribal headmen advise central government on matters relating to the traditions of their ethnic groups.

13 SUMMARY

Sierra Leone, ranked last at 175 on the UNDP Human Development Index,²⁹ continues to rely heavily on multilateral and bilateral donor aid. A condition of continuing aid is that Sierra Leone commits to working towards greater social and political inclusion, good governance and decentralisation, and sustainable growth. Performance benchmarks have been established for matters such as anti-corruption measures, privatisation and public administration, and security, both internally and along Sierra Leone's borders.

Elections for the newly empowered local

councils were conducted in 2004. Paramount chieftaincy elections took place in late 2002 and early 2003 and the role of the traditional chieftaincy system has been formally recognised both nationally and locally. Transfer of responsibilities from central government to local councils is underway with a phased approach that will take some years to complete.

Sierra Leone has embarked on building a sustainable peace, the restoration of a damaged infrastructure and economy, and a commitment to enhanced democratic governance at national and local levels.

References

- 1 CIA World Factbook 2007
- 2 Article 76
- 3 The Constitution of Sierra Leone (Amendment) Act 2001 and the Electoral Laws Act 2002
- 4 There is no chieftaincy system in the Western Area
- 5 Both the review of local government undertaken by the Solicitor General and that of a CLGF consultancy reporting to the Task Force on Good Governance in 1996-1997, recommended that local government should be entrenched or protected in the constitution
- 6 Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, June 2001
- 7 Sierra Leone National Recovery Strategy 2002/2003
- 8 Election costs were part-funded by the European Commission with a grant of €2m
- 9 This was facilitated by UNAMSIL with funding from DFID and procurement by IFES/IFES Ltd
- 10 The booklet 'You and your local government: a manual on what you should know and what you should do' was distributed
- 11 Paramount chiefs are ineligible to stand for office as elected councillors. Civil servants are eligible, but must stand as independent candidates
- 12 A UNDP-funded consultation exercise carried out by the MLGCD recommended the election of all candidates on a non-party basis
- 13 The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) party withdrew from the election following the death of its former leader, Foday Sankoh
- 14 The Local Government Act 2004, Section 36, established a Local Government Service Commission whose members are appointed by the president with the approval of parliament
- 15 Local Government Act 2004, Section 44
- 16 Chapter VIII, Article 146
- 17 Local Government Act 2004, Section 21
- 18 Local Government Act 2004, Section 46(1)
- 19 Local Government Act 2004, Section 48(2)
- 20 CIA World Factbook 2007
- 21 CGG is funded by USAID, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in the USA and Dutch Interchurch Aid (DIA) in The Netherlands. It maintains a website at www.slccg.org
- 22 LGIB projects and partnership team priority countries: Sierra Leone, undated
- 23 Chapter V, Article 72(1)
- 24 A candidate must secure 55% of the vote to be elected. If this is not achieved a second election is contested between the two leading candidates. A third ballot, conducted on the basis of a simple majority, is held when neither candidate gains the necessary percentage in the second round
- 25 www.sierra-leone.org.chieftaincyresults.html
- 26 *Sierra Leone Encyclopedia*, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Humanitarian Information Centre, 2002/2003
- 27 The NCPC has an elected 9-person executive
- 28 Other than those to legislate, levy rates and taxes, fees/charges or to borrow money, approve the budget or draw up development plans
- 29 Based on life expectancy, educational attainment and income per person, Human Development Report 2003.

Service	Delivering authority			Remarks
	Central	Province/area	Local council	
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION				
Police	●			
Fire protection	●		●	+ basic fire-fighting
Civil protection	●			+ probation services only
Criminal justice	●		●	Local courts (court barriers) are responsible for maintaining customary law in areas with a paramount chieftaincy system
Civil justice	●			
Civil status register			●	
Statistical office	●			
Electoral register	●			
EDUCATION				
Pre-school				
Primary			●	+ education covering the first 9 years of schooling
Secondary			●	
Vocational and technical				
Higher education				+ education on environmental, fire prevention, and public health issues
Adult education				
Other			●	
SOCIAL WELFARE				
Kindergarten and nursery				
Family welfare services			●	
Welfare homes				
Social security				
PUBLIC HEALTH				
Primary care			●	
Hospitals			●	+ including drug control and prevention matters
Health protection			●	
HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING				
Housing				
Town planning			●	
Regional planning				
TRANSPORT				
Roads	●		●	+ primary feeder roads and chiefdom roads and tracks
Transport	●			
Urban roads	●		●	
Urban rail				+ city and town councils
Ports	●			
Airports	●			
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SANITATION				
Water and sanitation			●	
Refuse collection and disposal			●	
Cemeteries and crematoria				
Slaughterhouses				
Environmental protection				
Consumer protection				
CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORTS				
Theatre and concerts				
Museums and libraries			●	
Parks and open spaces				
Sports and leisure			●	
Religious facilities				
UTILITIES				
Gas services				+ primary feeder roads and chiefdom roads and tracks
District heating				
Water supply			●	
Electricity				
ECONOMIC				
Agriculture, forests and fisheries			●	+ enterprise development
Economic promotion			●	
Trade and industry				+ mining licences and building permits
Tourism				
Other economic services			●	