
NMA and ACC provide integrity training for Compliance Staff

The National Minerals Agency (NMA) and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) have completed training on “Upholding ethics and integrity in the workplace” for over 250 Mines Compliance Officers across the country. The training started in Freetown on 4th March 2019, and was replicated in the regional offices from 5th to 14th March 2019. The training was a pro-active move by the NMA to instill a high sense of integrity among the newly recruited compliance enforcement staff as a further step in the fight against corruption.

Addressing participants before the commencement of training, the Chief Inspector of Mines NMA, Mohamed Bah, said that the purpose of the training was to prepare the newly recruited Mines Compliance Officers for the daunting task ahead of them, adding that they cannot perform their duties without integrity and transparency, and that they should not be seen doing the wrong thing. He explained to them that the country is largely dependent on the minerals sector for revenue to promote development, and called on them to see themselves as Servants of the people. He pointed out that they will be dealing with different set of people from different backgrounds, some of whom may want to compromise or bribe them while executing their duties, and he admonished them to remain upright and live up to expectation. Mr. Bah emphasized that the NMA has zero tolerance for corruption, and that any staff found to have engaged in corrupt practice will be dismissed and handed over to the ACC.

In his presentation, the Head of Policy and Ethics Department at ACC, Mr. Joseph Kangaju, commended the NMA for inviting them to be part of their in-house integrity and ethics training. He said that the ACC has the mandate to ensure that Sierra Leone become a corrupt free society, where the country’s wealth contributes to national development, and not to enrich the few. He called on the trainees to imbibe the values that is being instilled in them, demonstrate it while working in their various locations.

Also presenting was the Senior Policy Officer at ACC, Mr. Musa Kanteh, who explained that research has shown that the fight against corruption is not only limited to prosecution and putting systems in place, but it also has to deal with the conduct and integrity of the individual. This, he went on, was why the NMA and the ACC thought it fit to train the new recruits on integrity and corruption issues even before they start their work proper.

The training focused on Ethics and Morality in The Work Place; Codes of Ethics for Public & Civil Servants; Integrity in the Workplace; the Importance of Ethical Environment in The Work Place; and Anti-Corruption Offences.

The Compliance Officers, who were the main beneficiaries of the training have been newly recruited by the NMA to monitor mining and exploration activities in the field, enforce compliance with the mining laws and regulations and combat illegal mining activities.

The newly recruited Mines Compliance Officers thanked the NMA and ACC for the training, and pledged to discharge their duties in a corrupt-free manner.