

## **DG KAITIBI MAKES UNANNOUNCED ON THE SPOT VISITS TO RADIO STATIONS**

It was off to a great start of work day today 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 as our abled DG led his team to various service providers in the broadcasting sector.

Every one of the broadcasting houses he visited expressed delight and excitement for receiving a high powered delegation from the regulatory body.

They mentioned that this was the first they have seen this happen to see NATCOM move to them. All of them highlighted their issues, including success and challenges.

Among the radio stations visited today included: Universal Radio, BBN, Kalleone Radio, Radio Democracy, SLBC and Star Radio.

DG Kaitibi's first stop was at Universal Radio FM 98.9. At this radio station, the team met Alfred Johnson (Presenter) and Abu-Bakarr Sankoh (Radio Engineer) who took the team through their issues inclusive of successes, challenges, plans for the future and how they are getting on generally. They indicated to us that they do link up with SLBC for the popular Morning Coffee Program which is broadcast nationwide. The team at Universal Radio furthered that they do get some power challenges from Leicester Peak for transmission. Mention was also made of some slight interference they get from Epic Radio FM 99.3.

DG Kaitibi adequately responded to the issues staff at the Radio Station mentioned.

At the Believers Broadcasting Network (BBN) radio station, FM 92.9, DG Kaitibi's team spoke to the proprietor Mr. Ransford Wright. Mr. Ransford Wright said it was a surprise to him to see a high-powered team visit their radio station; nevertheless, he furthered that he very much appreciated the visit. Mr. Wright indicated to us that the biggest challenge they have observed is shrinking of the media space. Explaining further, he said that the allocation of frequency seems to be too much, hence leading to a proliferation of radio stations thereby further shrinking the advertisement space. As a result of this, he informed the team that he had reduced his staff strength from 20 to 10.

DG Kaitibi in his response said that he will do the needful to address their concerns.

At Kalleone Radio Station FM 105.7, NATCOM met with Aelisa Sorie Conteh who is the studio manager.

At Radio Democracy FM 98.1 the team met with the station manager Mrs. Asma James and other members of staff. Similar sentiments were expressed and the station manager came out to mention that this was the first time she is seeing this kind of visitation happen in her more than two (2) decades of journalism. The team at radio Democracy made it clear that they are very compliant with NATCOM regulations and they will continue in that drive. They expressed appreciation to NATCOM for solving the interference they were experiencing with Nostagie FM radio in Guinea.

DG Kaitibi reiterated to them that he will continue the productive engagement with all sector players in radio broadcast journalism.

The unannounced of the sport visitation continued at the state broadcaster, the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation SLBC Radio (SLBC) at New England, and ended at Star Radio FM 103.5 at Mammah Street in Freetown.





