

TRANSFORMING THE MINERALS SECTOR

The management of the minerals sector in Sierra Leone has been transformed to ensure that it delivers the maximum possible benefits for the country and its people. A key step in this transformation is the creation of the National Minerals Agency (NMA).

The NMA is a professional organization, established to promote the development of the minerals sector by effectively and efficiently managing the administration and regulation of mineral rights and minerals trading in Sierra Leone, and to provide technical and other support to the minerals sector including geological survey and data collection activities. The Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources (MMMR) will continue to formulate policy and regulations, but the NMA will be responsible for implementing these policies and regulations.

With this transformation, most of the administrative and regulatory functions previously performed by the MMMR have now been transferred to the NMA. The Director of Mines and the Director of Geological Surveys mentioned in the Mines and Minerals Act of 2009 all now sit within the NMA, and the NMA has responsibilities for processing licences applications, monitoring compliance, and overseeing exploration and mining activities; ensuring that they are conducted in a responsible manner and comply with the laws and regulations of the country. The former Government Gold and Diamond Office (GGDO) is also now within the NMA as the Department of Precious Minerals Trading, and is responsible for regulating the trade in precious minerals and overseeing a system of diamond trading that is consistent with the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme.

OUR VISION

The Vision of the National Minerals Agency is to Ensure Maximum Benefits for Sierra Leoneans from Our Mineral Resources. Benefits include financial, environmental, etc.

CONTACT US

The NMA is here to serve you. You are assured of prompt and efficient service delivered in a professional manner.

You can contact us at our Headquarters, 13 Wilkinson Road in Freetown or visit our website—www.nma.gov.sl. We have a customer service section located at the first floor of the NMA building that provides information and services relating to geo-data; mineral licences; precious minerals trading, including valuation; etc.

You are always welcome.



INFORMATION FOR MINERAL RIGHT ACQUISITION

MINERAL DEALERS AND EXPORTERS LICENCES

*Ensuring Maximum Benefits for Sierra
Leoneans from our Mineral Resources*

Diamond and Gold Dealer's Licences

Duration: Yearly (12 months) and in special circumstances Half yearly (Six-months)

Operation: A Dealer or his/her Agent shall be required to buy precious minerals only from artisanal or small-scale mining lease holder and sell to any exporter.

Approving Body: Licence approved by the Director of Mines.

Application Requirements:

1. Application for a prescribed Dealer's licence shall be submitted in the prescribed application form. Each applicant is required to produce documents to support citizenship claimed.
2. An applicant for a dealer's licence shall be required to contribute to a monitoring fund as prescribed.
3. An applicant for dealers Licence shall be required to contribute to a rehabilitation fund as prescribed.
4. Applicant for a dealer's licence shall be required to pay the prescribed Standard Assessment Tax.
5. For Diamond and Gold Dealer's Agent licences, a letter of consent from the principal licence holder (Dealer's Licence) must be attached to the Agent's application.
6. Each dealer shall be allowed to employ not more than five buying agents of

FROM GGDO TO NATINONAL MINERALS AGENCY

The functions and responsibilities of the former Government Gold and Diamond Office are now performed by the Department of Precious Minerals Trading in the National Minerals Agency. The aim is to institute more effective measures in the marketing of Gold and Diamonds by ensuring that precious minerals valuation and trading is done with the highest standard of professional competence and integrity, thereby ensuring a more credible industry with increased benefits to the people of Sierra Leone.

The core functions the Department of Precious Minerals Trading within the NMA is the valuation and certification of gold and diamonds for export purpose, and the collection of taxes levied on such exports.

Export of diamonds from Sierra Leone is consistent with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS). The KPCS is a regulatory mechanism, backed by a United Nations resolution, and it stipulates that all diamonds in the international market must be accompanied by an authentic KP Certificate from a KP member state, and makes non-compliance a criminal offence. The aim of the KPCS is to curb smuggling and the trade in conflict or blood diamonds.

Diamond Exporter, Gold Exporter and Industrial and Sand based Minerals Exporter's Licences

Duration: Yearly (12 months) or half yearly (Six-months)

Operation: A diamond/gold exporter or his/her Agent(s) shall be required to buy precious minerals only from any dealer or dealer's agent and export such minerals.

Approving Body: Director of Mines verifies application documents and forwards to Permanent Secretary for recommendation of approval by the Hon. Minister

Application Requirements:

1. Application for the grant of a prescribed exporter's licence shall be submitted in the prescribed application form to the Manager of Licences and Technical Assessment.
2. An applicant may be an individual of any nationality (Proof of nationality required) or a registered company (proof of Company Registration documents required).
3. Residential and work permits (required for non- ECOWAS Citizens).
4. Applicant for a Gold Exporter/Industrial and sand based minerals exporter's licence shall be required to pay the prescribed Standard Assessment Tax
5. Applicant for a diamond Exporter's licence shall be required to pay the prescribed fees for the Kimberly Process certificate.
6. Each Exporter (for Gold and Diamonds) shall be allowed to employ buying agents who shall be approved by the Director of Mines, and issued with the prescribed Exporter's Agent's Certificate. Not more than five buying agents certificates may be issued under one Exporter's Licence. The first two agents shall be issued without payment, but the rest will be issued on the payment of the fee as prescribed
7. Evidence of foreign currency accounts in accredited commercial banks in Sierra Leone to finance their operations.
8. Evidence of record of purchases and exports of precious minerals acquired during the previous year for which the licence was granted (for cases of renewals only).
9. For Diamond and Gold Exporter's Agent licences, a letter of consent from the principal licence holder (Export Licence holder) must be attached to the Agent's