



Hon. Alhaji Minkailu Mansaray

MINISTER OF MINES MAKES A CASE FOR INVESTING IN THE EXTRACTIVES

The Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Honourable Alhaji Minkailu Mansaray, has told a group of investors, Government representatives, mining industry experts and development partners that even in these challenging times for the extractive sector, opportunities still exist for profitable investments in the sector. Speaking at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) International Convention in Toronto, Canada (6 - 9 March, 2016), Hon. Minkailu Mansaray maintained that what is required is the natural endowment of the necessary deposit combined with the proper legislative, regulatory and institutional framework for such investment to thrive in any particular country.

Using Sierra Leone as example, Hon. Mansaray explained that the country is richly endowed with mineral resources such as chromite, iron ore, platinum, gold, diamond, bauxite, rutile, ilmenite, zircon, base metals and rare earth elements such as columbite – tantalite (coltan), and that the presence of these deposits represent major opportunities for potential investors and the country to derive optimal benefits from extracting, processing and exporting of these natural resources. The Minister then went on to outline the strategies taken by Government to create the conditions that will ensure a favourable investment climate, which guarantees a win-win situation, wherein good returns on investment is matched by maximizing the contribution of the extractives to national growth and development. He explained that Sierra Leone can boast of

one of the best mining sector policy, legal and regulatory regimes on the continent. The country has clear laws and regulations to protect business investment interests and produce a win-win situation for mining investors, the Government and People of Sierra Leone. Taxes and royalties are fair and competitive, and there are on-going efforts to harmonize tax regimes in accordance with sub-regional, regional and continental initiatives such as the ECOWAS Directives and the African Mining Vision. The Government of Sierra Leone understands that mining operations can only thrive where there is adequate infrastructure to support it. Thus, President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma has presided over unprecedented infrastructural development projects in the history of Sierra Leone. Projects to build and expand bridges and road networks have been completed or are

ongoing; electricity, water supply and communication systems have been improved. Hon. Minkailu Mansaray concluded by emphasizing that present conditions in the global market are very challenging for the minerals sector, and that under such conditions, the availability of minerals, oil or gas deposits is a necessary but not sufficient condition for investment in the sector. To encourage investment in the sector, availability of resources must be matched by a conducive investment environment, with clear and predictable laws, rational policies and institutional capacity to guarantee a win-win situation for the investors and the host Government and people. This is what Sierra Leone has done, and the country welcomes investors to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

➤ **COS assures EITI Global Conference of Sierra Leone's commitment**

➤ **Diamond export decline by 30% in 2015**

➤ **Shan Steel (SL) Ltd pays over Le 1 Billion to land owners**

➤ **NMA Launches GEO-DATA Management Information System**

DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES SHOWCASES SIERRA LEONE'S MINERAL POTENTIALS



Hon. Abdul Ignosi Koroma

The Deputy Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Hon. Abdul Ignosi Koroma, has stressed to investors that Sierra Leone is the right place to do business in the mining sector. Speaking on the 'Potentials, Opportunities and Challenges of the Mining Sector in Sierra Leone' to a group of investors at the ongoing ECOWAS Mining and Petroleum Forum and Exhibition (ECOMOF), in Accra Ghana on 7th October 2015, the Deputy Minister explained that Sierra Leone has a long history of mining dating back to the 1920s, and that the country is richly endowed with mineral resources. He noted that investment opportunities therefore abound in the fields of mineral exploration and mining of a variety of minerals including chromite, iron ore, platinum, gold,

diamond, bauxite, rutile, ilmenite, zircon and base metals.

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WORLD BANK LAUDS



Specialist Daniele La Porta

The World Bank has expressed appreciation over the continuing good progress made on the implementation of the ongoing activities it is supporting for the extractives sector in Sierra

Leone, and noted that the country has advanced greatly in the reforms necessary to improve governance in the mining sector.

These sentiments were expressed following the completion of a World Bank Extractives Sector mission to Sierra Leone from 1st to 5th February 2016.

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CHIEF-OF-STAFF ASSURES EITI GLOBAL CONFERENCE OF SIERRA LEONE'S COMMITMENT

The Chief of staff in the Office of the President, who also doubles as the EITI Champion for Sierra Leone, Saidu Conton Sesay, has assured the 7th Global Conference of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in the Peruvian capital Lima, of Sierra Leone's commitment to the EITI process, and of Government's determination to continue with minerals sector reforms to ensure that the mineral wealth of the country benefits its citizens. Speaking as a panelist on the topic, "Making the most from Extractives", Saidu Conton Sesay told his audience that since signing up to the EITI in 2006, Sierra Leone has undertaken several concrete reform-driven steps to



C-O-S Saidu Conton Sesay

continuously improve governance in the extractive sector. He pointed to the

enactment of the 2009 Mines and Minerals Act which, he said, introduced the Community Development Agreement Initiative for all large-scale mining companies, noting further that the establishment of the Mining Cadastre System and the Online Repository represented a major step forward towards addressing the challenges in the management of the extractive sector. These reforms were also backed by the formation of the National Minerals Agency (NMA) to ensure the effective management of the minerals sector and the implementation of all mining laws and regulations.

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Deputy Minister of Mines show cases Sierra Leone's Minerals Potentials

The Deputy Minister explained that the country's national development agenda, the Agenda for Prosperity, envisions the mining sector as a key driver of economic growth and sustainable development, and that in pursuant of that Agenda, the Government of Sierra Leone has embarked on targeted reforms to ensure that investment in the mining sector becomes less cumbersome. There is a one-stop-shop for business registration, a sensible and streamlined governance framework, clear and well defined legal and regulatory policies, a fair and competitive tax regime, and security for investment. With democracy, peace and stability now firmly entrenched, and with the eradication of the Ebola virus, the Deputy Minister went

on, Sierra Leone is working in collaboration with neighbouring countries, within the policy framework of ECOWAS and the African Union, on a number of initiatives, such as harmonization of tax regimes in the Mano River Union and aligning policies to the African Mining Vision to ensure that the mining sector becomes an engine for economic growth and poverty reduction in our respective countries. "Confronting the unique challenges facing the minerals sector in Africa, such as creating an enabling environment for investment; promoting upstream, downstream and sidestream linkages; juggling competing demands for social service delivery; and mitigating the inherent environmental and social impacts of mining, requires accelerated regional

cooperation," the Minister maintained, surmising that the theme of the programme, 'Valorising West Africa's Mineral and Petroleum Resources through Regional Cooperation', was very appropriate at this time. The Director General of the Petroleum Directorate in the Office of the President, Raymond Kargbo, also spoke on the 'Opportunities and Challenges in Building Oil and Gas Industry in Sierra Leone', noting that geological data collected so far indicate significant oil and gas potentials in the country. ECOMOF has been established as an institutionalized biennial platform for regional cooperation in the development of the geo-extractives sector in West Africa and is planned to be rotated among member states in its subsequent editions.

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WORLD BANK LAUDS PROGRESS IN MINERALS SECTOR REFORMS

The World Bank team, which was led by Daniele La Porta – Senior Mining Specialist and Task Team Leader, was in Sierra Leone to assess the progress towards reaching the implementation milestones set for the Extractives portfolio, to advance the discussion on the drafting of a new Core Minerals Policy for Sierra Leone and to discuss future World Bank support to the sector.

The team was pleased that new legislations, institutions, capacity building and increased transparency have attracted new investment into the extractives sector, allowing its revenues and associated activities to make significant contributions to the country's economic growth. Acknowledging the challenges faced by the mining sector in the past two years, particularly for Sierra Leone which was hit

by Ebola and the plummeting prices, the team advised that now is the time to consolidate the reforms undertaken to increase transparency in the allocation of mineral rights to attract new investments, as investors have become more selective, and are migrating to countries with improved governance, transparency and security of tenure.

DIAMOND EXPORT DECLINES BY 30 PERCENT IN 2015

The year 2015 recorded a decrease of 30.40% in total diamond export below the level attained in 2014 for diamond exports. The total of diamonds exported in 2015 was 500,039 carats, valued at US\$154.3 million with an average price per carat of US\$309. The projected export value for 2015 was US\$232 million, and clearly, this was not attained. The average monthly export value decreased from US\$18 million to US\$13 million.

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Artisanal production with a volume of 205,176 carats, valued at US\$80,651,181 (price per carat US\$ 393) accounted for 52.26% of the total diamond export, while kimberlite production by Koidu Limited, with a volume of 294,863 carats, valued at US\$73,668,773 (price per carat US\$ 250) represented 47.74% of the total export. At the end of the year 2015, the difference between exports for 2014 and 2015 was US\$67.39 million, which represented a 30.40% decrease for 2015 compared to 2014.

Export figures for gold were relatively encouraging, compared to previous years. A total of 107.61kgs, of gold valued at US\$3.6 million was exported in 2015, and this represents a significant increase of 134.60% (61.74kgs) in volume, when compared to that of 2014. The average monthly exports for gold also increased from 3.82kgs (US\$141,623.39) to 8.96kgs (US\$307,892.10); an increase of 5.14kgs (US\$166,268.71) monthly.

SHANSTEEL (SL) LTD PAYS OVER LE. 1 BILLION TO LANDOWNERS

On the 2nd and 3rd March 2016, the Management of Shansteel (SL) Ltd. paid over Le.1 billion as surface rents to landowners in ten chiefdoms across four Districts: Port Loko, Bombali, Tonkolili and Koinadugu. The rents which were paid for the period April 2015 – March 2016 was done in compliance with Section 34 of the Mines and Minerals Act 2009, and the payments were made to chiefdoms whose lands are being utilized by the company's mine, port and rail facilities. In her statement to the landowners and other stakeholders, the head of Policy at Shan Steel (SL) Ltd, Neima Macfoy, commended His Excellency, the President, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, the MMMR and Mr. Moseray Fadika for resuscitating a dying company. She explained that even though the company has resumed operation, the turbulence in the mining sector across the world is posing a serious challenge to their operations, but stated that with the new and committed management, they will weather the storm.

The NMA representative, Kai Lebbie, explained that one of the key mandate of



the Agency is to promote the rights of communities, and ensure that communities affected by mining operations are adequately compensated. The payment of surface rent for land use is just one of many benefits that communities enjoy from mining, and he called on the beneficiaries to put the money to good use. Kai Lebbie also

reminded stakeholders of Sierra Leone's obligations under the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and admonished the recipients to provide receipts for all monies received, to ensure EITI compliance. He concluded by appealing to the communities to ensure good working relationship with the company and to channel their grievances through the NMA. The Chairmen of the respective district councils, District Officials and Paramount Chiefs all made statements, lauding the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone and the new Shan Steel Management for a smooth transition from AML to Shan Steel.

They appealed for mutual cooperation between their respective councils, chiefdom authorities and the company. They also entreated the company not to terminate its financial support to key sectors including Education and Health.

COS ASSURES EITI GLOBAL CONFERENCE OF SIERRA LEONE COMMITMENT

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The EITI Champion for Sierra Leone, Mr. Sesay stressed that by putting in place the required legislative and institutional framework that supports transparency around the management of extractive industry, Government has created the platform for the public to understand the process and to promote debate around the natural resource governance. He said that through the National Minerals Agency (NMA) and the National Revenue Authority (NRA), the Government of Sierra Leone has seen a considerable increase in revenue generated from the mineral sector, adding that Sierra Leone – through its regulatory institutions – has prioritized a number of core issues such as monitoring compliance of large and small scale mining activities, promoting the rights of communities through the supervision of compensation for land use, crop compensation, community relocation, and other corporate social responsibility, among others. The Chief of Staff who is the Champion of SLEITI and Chair of the Multi Stakeholder Group led the Sierra Leone delegation to the Lima conference. With support from the Director of Mines Mr. Peter Kapr Bangura who took part in a panel discussion; "Making the most out of

the Extractive sector" chaired by Ian Wood Director of BHP Billiton Foundation.

In his presentation, the Chief of Staff said that the country has taken tremendous steps upon signing up to the EITI in 2006 to improve governance in the extractive sector making reference to the enactment of the mines and minerals act of 2009 that saw the introduction of the Community development agreement, the establishment of the Mining Cadastre System and the online repository geared towards transparency in the management of the extractive sector. The champion stressed that based on these developments, including the formation of the National Minerals Agency; you could see that government has put in place the required legislative and institutional framework that supports transparency around the management of extractive industries for the public to understand the process and to promote debate around the natural resource governance. Representatives from the NMA headed by Peter Kapr Bangura, Director of Mines were in a (parallel session) on day 2 of the conference to have a firsthand experience of countries perspective on integrating

transparency in the mining sector and problems associated with small scale or artisanal mining. It was observed that small scale mining problems is a challenge shared by many and that the need for collective efforts to help solve these problems cannot be overemphasized.

Other members of the Sierra Leone delegation included Hon. Sidi Tunis, Member of the Parliamentary Committee on Mines, who was a panelist in the 'Parliamentary Round Table' debate co-hosted by the EITI international secretariat, UNDP and NRGi. Sierra Leone also maintained an EXPO Stand at the conference, where it showcased steps taken to implement EITI Initiatives since the country signed up in 2006. The Sierra Leone EXPO Stand was overwhelmed with guests from other EITI implementing countries to learn from the country's experience. The EITI International Secretariat holds a global conference at least once every three years to provide an international forum for stakeholders to further the objectives of the Initiative. This year's conference was held on 24 – 25 February at the Lima Convention Center in the province of San Isidro in Peru.

NMA CONSULTS WITH COMMUNITIES ON THE CDA

As part of its continued efforts on the implementation process of the Community Development Agreement (CDA), the agency with the help of its development partners conducted (but led by the CSOs active in the Working Group) the Final Phase of the Community Sensitization and Mobilization exercise from Monday 7th – Friday 11th March 2016. The aim was to strengthen communities understanding on the CDA Process and to facilitate the selection of representatives that would form the Community Development Committee to kick start the implementation process. A team, comprising of, the Director of Community Affairs, Communications and Public Relations, NMA; the Large Scale Compliance Manager, NMA; the Community Affairs and Public Relations Officer, NMA; CSO Representatives from NACE, NMJD and CGG; Representatives from GIZ, the World Bank Group and Ibis International held sensitization/consultation meetings with local people in the court barrays of the respective chiefdoms. P.C. Madam Haja Kajue Koroma of Dasse Chiefdom lauded the Government of His Excellency, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma for having the CDA enshrined in the MMA 2009 and also the frantic effort of the NMA to set up the necessary structures for the implementation of the CDA. P.C. John Jibao Nyaama Russell of Lower

Banta Chiefdom pinpointed that, the CDA is a very good initiative by the Government of Sierra Leone as it would go a long way to



Community meeting on CDA Dasse Chiefdom

promote transparency and accountability and thereby reduce the complaints being made by community members against chiefs in the selection of beneficiaries of projects funded by companies and also the accusations made against Paramount Chiefs for the embezzlement of community funds. Madam Halima Tejan-Sie of GIZ gave an overview of the CDA and also explained the legal implication of the CDA on both the Mineral Right Holder and the Primary Host Community while elaborating on the rights and obligations of both parties as enshrined in the MMA 2009. She assured participants of her organization's continued support to the Government of Sierra Leone and the NMA on CDA implementation process. The Large Scale and Compliance Manager, Yusuf Dauda Suma discussed the benefits of CDA and how to address complaints within the

CDA process. The Community Affairs and Public Relations Officer of the NMA, Henry Heren Kamara discussed the structures of the CDA Draft Model and community participants were given the opportunity to make contributions and also ask questions on any area that was not clearly understood. CSO representatives clarified issues presented and also assisted communities in the selection of their representatives to the Community Development Committees. The exercise was very interactive and at the end all the seven chiefdoms (Dasse, Lower Banta, Upper Banta, Imperi, Jong, Kpanda Kemoh, and Ngao) were able to select their various representatives to the Community Development Committee. The selected representatives were presented at the end of each chiefdom barray meeting for approval and acceptance. At the end of each barray meeting, the approved representatives were endorsed by the local authorities, company members and civil society representatives before the lists were handed over to the NMA. On the whole, the selection process was said to be transparent and credible and development partners were very much satisfied with the whole process and the programme was successful because the Agency's set objectives were met.



NMA & LCU signing of MOU

The National Minerals Agency (NMA) and the Sierra Leone Local Content Unit (SLLCU) on Thursday 15th October, 2015 signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the conference room of the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources, 5th Floor, Youyi Building, Brookfields in Freetown. Speaking at the signing ceremony, the Director General of the National Minerals Agency, Sahr Wondoy noted that Sierra Leone is richly endowed with a variety of minerals, and that apart from revenues to Government, mining also offers other opportunities for employment and the promotion of local businesses and services.

NMA, SLLCU SIGN MOU TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL CONTENT

The successful implementation of local content, he went on, will translate the enormous potentials of extractive industries into concrete job creation and economic growth. The Director General went further to state that Local Content is a central tenet of the country's Core Minerals Policy, the African Mining Vision and other instruments aimed at extending or expanding the benefits of oil, gas and mining activities for the national economy giving local stakeholders access to economic opportunities whether they are related to employment, participation in supply chains or the provision of other related support services. He concluded by explaining that the Local Content Unit has a general mandate of implementing local content across all sectors, while the NMA has a sector specific mandate to promote local content in the minerals sector, and he stressed that the MoU is to ensure synergy and avoid duplication of efforts, so that the two agencies would effectively collaborate to guarantee the successful implementation of local content in the minerals sector. The

Head of the Sierra Leone Local Content Unit (SLLCU), Mr. Emmanuel Konjoh, noted that the Local Content is all encompassing and cuts across every sector from mining, agribusiness, construction, petroleum, services, hotel and tourism. This concept, he went on, will optimize the benefits for Sierra Leoneans and Sierra Leone businesses from Foreign Direct Investments and other opportunities in these sectors. He maintained that the SLLCU will not reinvent the wheel, but will work in collaboration with other stakeholders for effective implementation, and one key stakeholder in this regard is the NMA. The MOU outlines the general guidelines on how the two organizations will collaborate to achieve the common objective of promoting local content in the minerals sector, and addresses issues such as joint monitoring and information sharing. The Sierra Leone Local Content Unit has since been transformed to an Agency, the Local Content Agency.

OGP AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2016.....

The Deputy Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Honourable Abdul Ignosi Koroma, joined a high level round table discussion where he delivered an expose on resource contract transparency on the 4th - 6th May 2016 in Cape Town, South Africa.

In his opening remarks, the Honourable Deputy Minister told the audience that “when President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma was first elected as President of the Republic of Sierra Leone in 2007; he pledged that his government will pursue a policy of open governance as a model of how governments should serve their citizens in the 21st century”. The president swiftly moved to launch the Open Government Initiative (OGI) with a mandate to develop programs and pursue policies that will bring citizens closer to government and established the EITI Secretariat in his office, appointed his Chief of Staff as champion of EITI in 2010 with a clear instruction to ensure that Sierra Leone becomes an EITI compliant country. Sierra Leone became EITI compliant in 2012. Additionally, the government in 2013 passed the right to access information act which guarantees citizens the right to access information. The Honourable Deputy Minister highlighted the benefits of contracts disclosure in the extractive sector as a way of fostering open governance, accountability and transparency in governance. He referenced the Sierra Leone Resource Contracts Website which gives annotated and simple versions of the mining contracts and the Online Repository of mining and exploration



*Dept. Minister of Mines & Mineral Resources
Hon. Abdul Ignosis Koroma*

licenses as deliberate efforts that demonstrate the government’s commitment to transparency in the extractive sector. He highlighted the following benefits of contract disclosures to citizens:

1. increased benefits to mining operations through Community Development Agreement and Local Content provisions
2. improved social service delivery,
3. a strategy to deal with social tensions and enhance social stability and peace and
4. provides citizens the opportunity to engage their elected representatives from an informed position thereby making more meaningful contributions towards local economic development.



Presidential Spokesman- Mr. Abdulai Bayraytay

In another panel on “Accountability in Action” which featured Tanzania and Sierra Leone Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) progress reports, the Presidential Spokesman, Mr. Abdulai Bayraytay joined Civil Society Organizations from Sierra Leone and other member countries in a presentation and discussion around new action plans for OGP countries in Africa. The conference was preceded by a Civil Society Day on 4th May, 2016 where the Geological Data and Information Manager, Mr. Emmanuel B. A. Lansana, of the National Minerals Agency walked participants through the Online Repository and Resource Contracts Websites. Generally, the conference was largely successful with very frank deliberations and interactive discussions. The role of Civil Societies in the OGP came out very strong and the need to work together with governments in addressing the needs of the citizenry was also emphasized.

NMA RESOLVES KAMAKWEI DISPUTE

The National Minerals Agency has successfully resolved a dispute between land owners in Sella Limba Chiefdom and AMR Gold Exploration Company. The dispute surrounds the desire of the land owners and other community people to embark on small-scale artisanal mining in some sections of the chiefdom, some of which are within the concession of AMR Gold Company. This move created tension between the community and the company, and the NMA had to intervene to restore sanity in the area. Following several meetings and other engagements with the conflicting parties, which coincided with

the renewal period for the licences of AMR Gold, it was resolved among other things that the company should identify the areas it intends to retain for further exploration work, and make the rest available to the community for artisanal mining. This resulted in the company relinquishing a total of five acres of land, and the NMA advised the local people to apply for artisanal mining licences for these plots of land.

The local people have formed two Cooperatives known as the Sella Multi-Purpose Cooperative Organization of 18 Sabuya Street, Sella Limba Chiefdom

and the Sanda Loko Cooperative Mining Society of Kamalo Village, Sanda Loko Chiefdom.

The Cooperatives, acting on the advice of NMA applied for artisanal mining licences in the relinquished area, and those licences were granted to them by the Agency.

In an interview with Sierra Leone Gem, the Paramount Chief of Kamakwei, Kandeh Luseni III, lauded the efforts of the Agency in resolving the conflict, and called on the people to work within the framework of the law to ensure peaceful co-existence with investors in the Chiefdom.

WEDDING & BIRTHDAY

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Agency take this opportunity to continue with our tradition of publicly sharing the joys and sorrows of staff members. Due to the unavoidable break in publication of the NMA Newsletter, we are taking this opportunity to extend heartfelt sentiments to deserving staff members who got married in 2015. We wish them happy and fulfilling marital lives. Congratulations!!!

Mr & Mrs Sahr Fomba	4th April 2015	Mr & Mrs Mohamed A. Kalokoh	12th April 2015
Mr & Mrs Emmanuel Simbo	25th April 2015	Mr & Mrs Emmanuel Lansana	30th April 2015
Mr & Mrs Mamadu Bah	7th July 2015	Mr & Mrs Solomon Amadu	17th October 2015
Mr & Mrs Emmanuel T. Jusu	28th November 2015	Mr & Mrs Joseph Lebbie	5th December 2015
Mr & Mrs Juma Kargbo	27th December 2015		

*The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the National Minerals Agency
Extend warm birthday greetings to the following Celebrants...*

James Flangoh	15th January	Mohamed Bah	15th January
Yusuf Dauda Suma	15th January	David Tamba Sheku	15th January
Cecilia Moriba	18th January	Cedric Palmer	27th January
Morie Sallieu Amara	6th February	Mohamed Kemokai	10th February
Christian A.V. Sesay	11th February	Roudoulph C. M Wilson	17th February
Mohamed Mansaray	1st March	Agnes Smith	8th March
Edward Pessima	11th March	Sahr Wonday	12th March
Cordelia Jackson	27th March	Isa Koroma	30th March
Dominic Alimamy	15th April	Mariatu Flee	18th April
Isata Zubairu	19th April	Alfred Seppah	23rd April
Joseph Tarawallie	26th April		

NMA LAUNCHES GEO- DATA MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIMS)

The National Minerals Agency (NMA) on the 23rd June 2016 launched the Geo- Data Management Information System (GIMS) at the Miatta Conference Hall, Youyi Building Brookfield in Freetown. Officially launching the GIMS (website), the Deputy Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Hon. Abdul Ignosis Koroma underscored the importance of the project in the mines and mineral sector. He said that the Geo-data information system will create transparency in the mining sector since all activities carried out will be on the website and therefore people can easily access it. The Deputy Minister said that access to information on activities carried out by the National Mineral Agency will help researchers, students and other users to access quality information.



Deputy Minister Hon. Abdul Ignosis Koroma and the Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources

NMA LAUNCHES GEO DATA MANAGEMENT

He pointed out that the project will improve the mining sector especially the mandate and responsibility of the agency. He said that the Geo-Data system will enable us to manage and monitor activities carried out by different mining companies.

In his statement, the Director General of the National Mineral Agency, Sahr Wonday described the project as historic and developmental. He stated that the Geo-Data system will serve as a platform to provide guidance in the sector, and thus attract potential investors for the sector.

The NMA, he went on, was excited about the GIMS because it will directly or indirectly help the Agency to achieve all of its six (6) strategic objectives, as it will serve as an effective investment promotion tool, that will enable us to readily present geological information to potential investors; and such investment will accelerate the economic development of the sector. Additional investment into the sector will also translate to maximizing

Government revenue through additional royalties and taxes.

In his statement, the Project Coordinator GIMS, Mustapha Gibril said that the World Bank support government development agenda in creating an enabling environment for the mineral sector investment and at the same time ensuring transparency and accountability of the management of the sector.



Director General of NMA Sahr Wonday



GIMS Project Consultant and NMA Staff

He pointed out that the World Bank and DFID have provided support for government capacity building in order to improve on the management and regulation of the extractive industries through Extractive Industry Technical Assistance Project (EITAP) set up within the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources. He added that the total project amount is \$ 11.35 with a World Bank Contribution of \$ 8m and DFID contribution of \$ 3.35m.

The Chairperson of the ceremony who also is the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources, Mrs. Fatmata S. Mustapha said transformation of the sector brought the formation of the project, noting that the system has been tested at all levels and fit for the purpose. She called for effective monitoring and compliance from mining companies.

Presentation of the GIMS project by the consultant, demonstration of the current tools for the public, web resources contract, on line repository, resources on NMA and discussion on the outcome of the launching climaxed the event.



The Chairman NMA Board of Directors, Mr Raymond Moshe Roberts

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER TASK FORCE FORMED TO COMBAT SMUGGLING



A multi-stakeholder task force comprising officials from the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources, National Minerals Agency, law enforcement agencies, and others, has been formed to ensure the successful implementation of the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) and reduce smuggling and the illicit trade in precious minerals in Sierra Leone. Speaking during the inaugural meeting and one-day workshop for the Multi-Stakeholder Task Force in the Conference Room of the Ministry of Mines at Youyi Building, on 17th February 2016, the Deputy Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Hon. Abdul Ignosi Koroma, noted that Sierra Leone was the first country to adopt the KPCS in the year 2000, and the country must therefore take the lead in ensuring compliance. Under the KPCS, he went on, participating states must put in place a

national implementation framework, including legislation, internal control systems, transparency mechanism and proper record keeping. Over the years, the Government of Sierra Leone has made tremendous strides to meet these benchmarks, and the setting up of the multi-stakeholder task force was a further demonstration of Governments commitment to the KPCS process. The Director General of the NMA, Sahr Wondray, explained the mandate of the Agency,

which is to promote the development of the minerals sector by effectively and efficiently managing the administration of mineral rights and minerals trading in Sierra Leone, noting that the KPCS was introduced specifically to regulate the trade in diamonds, curb illegal trade in this mineral and to ensure that proceeds from diamonds are not used to fund conflict. The Precious Minerals Trading Directorate of the NMA has the principal responsibility to ensure that diamond trading and export in Sierra Leone is done in strict compliance with the Kimberly Process. However, he went on, the successful implementation of the KPCS is faced with a number of challenges, including smuggling and the falsification of the Kimberly Certificate. He expressed hope that the formation of the multi-stakeholder task force (which includes law enforcement and security agencies) will help address these challenges.

Chairman for the occasion, Mustapha Turay of Diamond Counsellor International, gave a brief background to the “Regional Approach” to KP implementation in the Mano River Union, which he said resulted in the formation of the taskforce. He explained that the Regional Approach to the implementation of the Kimberly Process in the Mano River Union was established by the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme in 2013 to support the Mano River Union countries, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to address challenges to KPCS implementation with a regional dimension. It aims to improve law enforcement, secure production from mine to export, secure government revenues and guarantee more benefits to diamond mining communities. He revealed that Sierra Leone is the leading diamond producer and exporter in the MRU, and that the country exported 620,181 carats valued at \$221m in 2014, and 500,039 carats valued at \$154m in 2015. All the other three Mano River Union countries of Guinea, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire combined do not match a third of Sierra Leone's annual diamond export during this period. Representatives from the Sierra Leone Police and the Office of National Security also made statements about their roles and the challenges in policing precious minerals trading in Sierra Leone.

SIERRA LEONE HOSTS REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON EFFECTIVE KP IMPLEMENTATION



Mining regulators from the Mano River Union countries of Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, supported by Development Partners (European Union, GIZ, UNDP and ADB) met in Sierra Leone on 31st March and 1st April 2016, to discuss strategies aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Kimberly Process (KP) Certification Scheme through regional collaboration. The interactive workshop provided an opportunity for participants to explore options aimed

at facilitating a coordinated approach within the Mano River Union on the basis of the 2014 Regional Approach Action Plan and in line with Africa Mining Vision (AMV) principles. Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Director General of the NMA, Sahr Wondray, noted that the meeting is of importance not only to Sierra Leone, but to the entire Mano River Union sub-region, and that efforts to strengthen the implementation of the Kimberly Process (KP) Certification Scheme through regional collaboration will go a long way in promoting the development agendas of MRU states by ensuring that they realize maximum benefits from mineral resources. The project, when successfully implemented, he went on, will strengthen individual and collective capacities in the MRU to combat smuggling, improve conditions of mining communities, foster networks and cooperation, and strengthen government revenue lines from particularly diamonds. The KP is a global tri-partite initiative

between governments, civil society and industry, launched in May 2000, under UNGA Resolution 55/56 to stop the trade in “conflict diamonds”. Its purpose is to ensure that rough diamonds do not finance violence by armed rebel groups. While the joint efforts of governments, industry leaders and civil society representatives have enabled the scheme to reduce the flow of conflict diamonds, enhancing cross-border collaboration of member states in order to reduce smuggling has been identified as important next step to further strengthen the KP in West Africa. As the regional body comprising all four states in one of the world's key diamond production areas (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), the Mano River Union (MRU) adopted a Regional Approach Action Plan for KP Implementation in 2014. Participants also discussed a proposal for the German International Development Agency, GIZ, to implement a set of coherent and sequenced activities to achieve the objectives of the project.

NMA GETS WORLD CLASS LABORATORY SERVICES

The National Minerals Agency has established a world-class Laboratory Services located at the NMA's Office, former Geological Survey at New England. With its brand new state-of-the-art equipment, the Laboratory is responsible for analytical services ranging from sample preparation, analytical services (XRF), mineralogical & petrographic services, and verification & sealing of samples for export.

Funds for the procurement of the laboratory equipment and refurbishment of the Laboratory facilities were provided by the World Bank through the Extractive Industries Technical Assistance Project (EITAP) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) through the Integrated Project Administration Unit (IPAU).



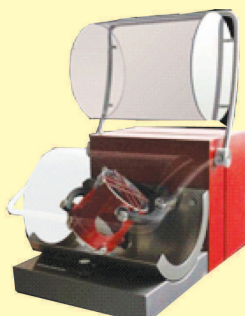
Analytical Equipment: Electronic balances, XRF, etc



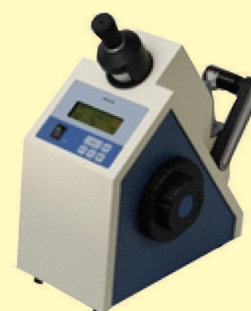
Environment Chemistry Equipment



Equipment for Sample Preparation



Mineralogical Equipment: Microscopes, Refractometer, Magnetic separator, etc



Petrographic Equipment: Rock Cutting, Grinding & Polishing, Thin Section, etc





GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE NATIONAL MINERALS AGENCY (NMA)

Transforming Sierra Leone's Minerals Sector for a Better Sierra Leone



CANCELLATION OF MINERAL RIGHTS

Freetown, 25th May 2016. The general public will recall that on the **13th August 2015** the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources and the National Minerals Agency issued a press release urging some Mineral Right Holders (exploration and mining companies) to fulfill their obligations under specific provisions of the Mines and Minerals Act of 2009. Despite repeated warnings' some of these Mineral Right Holders have failed to comply.

The Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources and the National Minerals Agency hereby inform the general public that, consistent with the provision of Section 53 of the Mines and Minerals Act of 2009, the Licences of the under-mentioned have been cancelled with immediate effect.

NO	COMPANY	LICENCE NO.
1	T-Rex Company (SL) Ltd	SML 01/2011
2	Interstate Mining and Development	EL 12/2013
3	Interstate Mining and Development	EL 38/2011
4	Interstate Mining and Development	EL 79/2012
5	Global Trust Company Limited	EL 56/2011
6	Brand Mining Company	EL 73/2012
7	Berkeley Exploration and Mining Trust Company Ltd	EL 30/2012
8	K.I. Gold (SL) Limited	EL 07/2014
9	Shadow Minerals (SL) Limited	SML 04/2007
10	Port Loko Resources	EL 75/2012
11	Port Loko Resources	EL 76/2012
12	Akoda Mining (SL) Limited	EL 66/2012
13	Akoda Mining (SL) Limited	EL 65/2012
14	PSM Ventures / Saturn Company Limited	EL 91/2012
15	African Mining, Construction and Agro Development (SL) Limited	EL 06/2012
16	Royal G. Enterprises	EL 14/2012
17	Sino Sie Development Company Limited	EL 19/2013
18	Roksolana (SL) Limited	EL 01/2014
19	SL Resources Australia Ltd	EL 86/2012
20	Style Research (SL) Ltd	EL 11/2013
21	Kripto International Company (SL) Ltd	EL 18/2010
22	Brand Mining Company (SL) Limited	EL 74/2012
23	Global Trust Company Limited	EL 57/2011
24	African Mining Construction and Agro Development	EL 31/2010
25	Berkeley Exploration and Mining Trust Company Ltd	EL 31/2012
26	Tezza Investment Limited	EL 66/2011
27	Tezza Investment Limited	EL 68/2011
28	Argosy Exploration (SL) Limited	EL 30/2011
29	Kamboi Hill Mining Corporation	EL 54/2012
30	Kamboi Hill Mining Corporation	EL 55/2012
31	Kamboi Hill Mining Corporation	EL 56/2012
32	CCFG Consultancies Company Limited	EL 42/2012
33	CCFG Consultancies Company Limited	EL 43/2012

NO	COMPANY	LICENCE NO.
34	Jifu Company	EL 32/2012
35	Revonah Resources / Aranda Resources	EL 64/2012
36	Afroasian Mineral Resources (SL) Ltd	EL 73/2011
37	Argosy Exploration (SL) Limited	EL 26/2011
38	Rui Xiang Mining (SL) Limited	EL 28/2012
39	DTA Diamonds (SL) Limited	EL 10/2012
40	Argosy Exploration (SL) Limited	EL 27/2011
41	Argosy Exploration (SL) Limited	EL 30/2011
42	Argosy Exploration (SL) Limited	EL 31/2011
43	QL & SL Economic Developing Company Ltd	EL 39/2012
44	Transcend International Resources (SL)Ltd	EL 70/2011
45	Rui Xiang Mining (SL) Limited	EL 27/2012
46	Earthstone Resources (SL) Ltd	EL 69/2011
47	Tezza Investment Limited	EL 67/2011
48	African Mining, Construction and Agro Development (SL) Limited	EL 05/2012
49	GHMP (SL) Ltd	EL 33/2012
50	Extractive Resources Limited	EL 65/2012
51	Extractive Resources Limited	EL 63/2012
52	Oxford Mining (SL) Limited	EL 09/2013
53	Revolution Minerals Ltd	EL 82/2012
54	Revolution Minerals Ltd	EL 83/2012
55	Ruven Investment Ltd	EL 28/2011
56	SL Resources Australia Ltd	EL 40/2012
57	SL Resources Australia Ltd	EL 41/2012

The general public is advised to contact the National Minerals Agency at 13 Wilkinson Road in Freetown for further information.

End

SIERRA RUTILE LTD PAYS OVER 3 BILLION LEONES TO LANDOWNERS AS 2016 SURFACE RENT

In May 2016, Sierra Rutile Ltd paid Le.3.7 billion as surface rent to landowners, local councils and chiefdom authorities in Imperri, Jong, Upper Banta, Lower Banta and Bagruwa Chiefdoms in Moyamba and Bonthe districts. During the payment ceremony, the Provincial Secretary South, Thomas B. Lansana, congratulated landowners and thanked God for having such lands which contain minerals of high economic value. He admonished company members to respect the rights of the communities and also encouraged community members to follow the due process of the law and respect government institutions if there is any issue between them and the company. He also thanked the management of the company for fulfilling their obligations amidst the challenges they are facing in the sector. The representative for all the Paramount Chiefs, P.C. Alhaji Ali Badara Sheriff of Jong Chiefdom appreciated the support of the company to their chiefdoms especially during the Ebola Outbreak and they will also encouraged community

members to follow the due process of the law and respect government institutions if there is any issue between them and the company. He also thanked the management of the company for fulfilling their obligations amidst the challenges they are facing in the sector. The representative for all the Paramount

Chiefs, P.C. Alhaji Ali Badara Sheriff of Jong Chiefdom appreciated the support of the company to their chiefdoms especially during the Ebola Outbreak and they will always remember the good works of the company in supporting their activities. She informed all that SRL has a friendly management team that always communicates with them and even invited them to the company's major activities and celebrations in the past year. She concluded by asking all community members and authorities to be patient with the company and show understanding for the delay in the



payment of the surface rent for this year. She also promised their continued support to the peaceful operations of the company. The General Manager of SRL, Desmond Williams, thanked community members for their patience and informed all that SRL has an agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone and in that agreement, the company has several payment obligations of which surface rent payment to communities is just one. The NMA and other stakeholders witnessed the ceremony.

SIERRA MINERALS HOLDINGS LIMITED (VIMETCO) PAYS Le.800 MILLION TO LAND OWNERS



VIMETCO surface rent payment

In accordance with Section 34 of the Mines and Minerals Act 2009, the Sierra Mineral Holdings (VIMETCO) presented the sum of Le 896,000,000 (Eight Hundred and Ninety Six Million Leones) to all the landowners of the bauxite mining at Gondama Site, Moyamba District as its 2016 Annual Surface Rent payment on the 15th of February 2016. The cheques were presented to beneficiaries at a colourful ceremony in Moyamba, attended by Community people (representatives of landowning families) from the five chiefdoms (Dasse, Upper & Lower Banta, Ngao and Kpanda Kemoh) with their paramount chiefs, the Moyamba District Officer (chairman of ceremony), representatives of the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources/National Minerals Agency, the Local Unit Commander and the top management of the SMHL Company.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman, Mr. Prince Soriba, welcomed all present and thanked members for making it a point of duty to attend the meeting.

He thanked God for blessing Sierra Leone with minerals and especially in their locality. He further thanked the management of VIMETCO for making such timely presentation and also implored community people to be considerate and patient with the company regarding delay in payment.

On behalf of the General Manager VIMETCO, Isreal Jacobs (Ag Director, Human Resources and Corporate Affairs) expressed his gratitude to members especially the dignitaries for responding positively to their call amidst their huge engagements. He said the General Manager was unavoidably absent but he expressed deep satisfaction with the positive cooperation from the local communities and promised to keep on the good relationship existing between them. He promised that his company will continue to fulfill its obligations and always do its best to keep supporting the communities on any development project. Statements were also made by Paramount Chief Melrose Forster Gberie, who

emphasized respect for law and authority; the Landowners Federation Assistant Chairman Pastor Alex. Junisa Ansumana who stressed on the need to have the Community Development Agreement started as there are pending community projects; the Local Unit Commander, who reiterated the role of the Sierra Leone Police and Community Policing Strategy to maintain a peaceful and secured environment; and Anthony Smith-Sam, Vimetco's Community Affairs Consultant emphasized the need for community people to increase their understanding on the mining laws of Sierra Leone and the unacceptability of unnecessary community strikes.

In his keynote address, the Community Affairs and Public Relations Officer of the National Minerals Agency, Henry Kamara, appreciated the cordial relationship and cooperation existing between the company and the landowners. He pointed out that surface rent is not the only benefit communities are getting from the company, and encouraged landowners to use part of the money for human capital development as that will make them feel the real impact of the mining going on in their environment. He said that the President of Sierra Leone, His Excellency Ernest Bai Koroma, the MMMR and the NMA in particular want to see greater development realized by local communities from the mining activities going on in their respective areas. He therefore appealed to stakeholders and authorities that are receiving development funds on behalf of their institutions and are responsible to coordinate development activities within their constituencies, to direct their development activities to these communities that host the mining and are highly affected by this company's mining activities. He also informed members that NMA is planning to have a nation-wide Community Sensitization to increase communities' awareness on the mineral sector.

Produced by the National Minerals Agency

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