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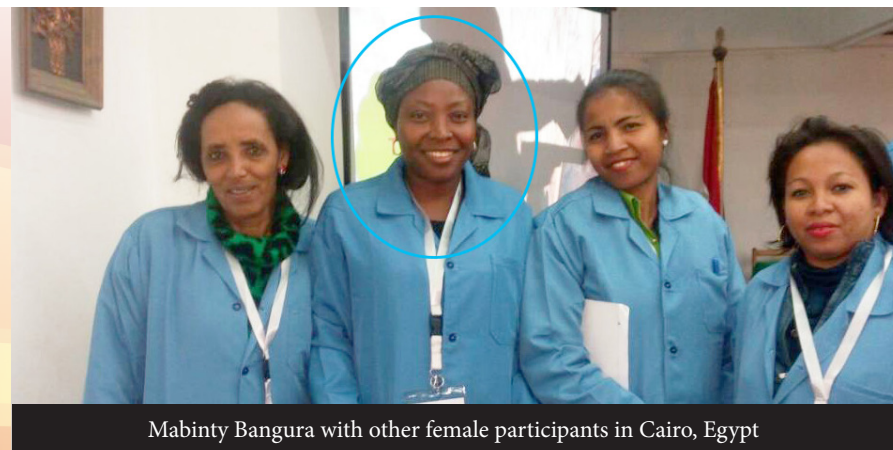
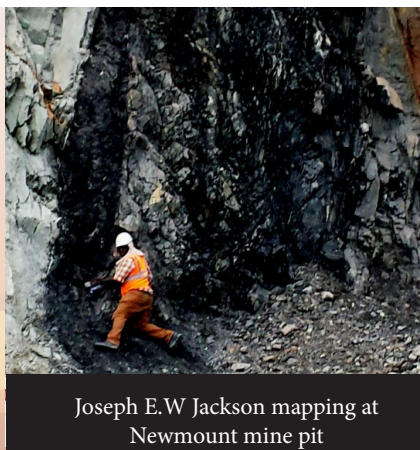
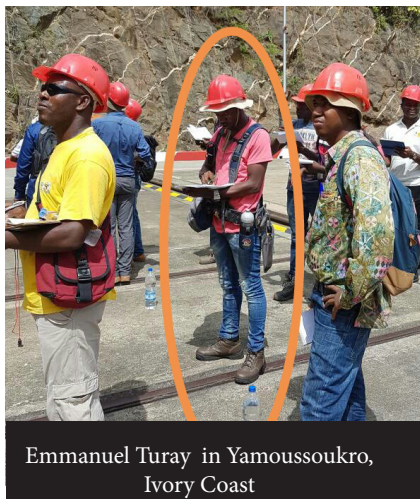
NMA GEOLOGISTS COMPLETE TRAINING ON MINERALS PROCESSING

Similarly, two other Geologists, Emmanuel Turay and Joseph E.W Jackson, have completed training courses on Basic Applied Structural Geology and an Advanced Structural Geology, from 15-19 May 2017 in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast and the Akyem, Newmont Mine

site in Ghana respectively. The trainings were supported by the West African Exploration Initiative (WAXI).

The training in Ivory Coast focused on structural geology, processes, identification and analysis of geological structures in the field and the tectonic

environment and that of Ghana focused on ability to define simple principles of structural mapping, tools required to interpret and analyse geological structures and demonstration of strongly controlled structural ore deposit in relation to their complexities and formation.



Produced by the National Minerals Agency

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SIERRA LEONE GEM

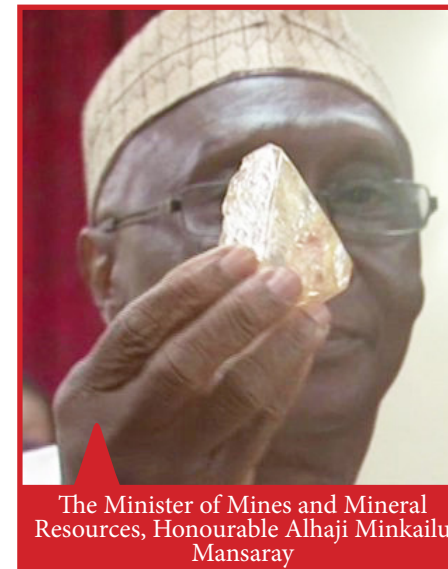
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE

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YEAR 5 | EDITION 1

January - June 2017

709.41 CARATS DIAMOND TO BE AUCTIONED IN ANTWERP AND TEL AVIV



The Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Honourable Alhaji Minkailu Mansaray

The second largest diamond ever found in Sierra Leone, a 709.41 carat gem diamond, will be auctioned in the diamond centres of Antwerp and Tel Aviv respectively in July this year. This latest development follows the Government of Sierra Leone's rejection of an earlier bid of \$7,077,777 million for the diamond at an auction held in Freetown on 11th May 2017. Sahr Wondy, the Director General of the National Minerals Agency, said the bid, which was the highest among five bids submitted, did not match the government's reserved price. He however fell short of saying what the reserved price was, noting that this will compromise the second bidding round.

Explaining the process for the second round of bidding, the Director General stated that the diamond will be displayed at the diamond centres in Antwerp and Tel Aviv respectively for two weeks, following which interested parties can submit their bids online. The diamond will be sold to the highest bidder, provided his/her bid matches or exceeds Government's reserved price. The 709.41 carats uncut gem diamond was found in Koryardu village, Tankoro chiefdom in Kono district, Eastern Sierra Leone on Tuesday 14th March 2017, by Pastor Emmanuel Momoh.

On 15th March 2017, Pastor Momoh and Paramount Chief Paul Saquee of Tan-

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MINISTER OF MINES VISITS SIERRA LEONE'S FIRST UNDERGROUND MINE: TAKES COMPANY TO TASK.



The Minister of Mines, Honourable Alhaji Minkailu Mansaray and Team Visit Sierra Leone's First Underground Mine

The Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Hon. Alhaji Minkailu Mansaray, led a high-powered delegation from his ministry and the National Minerals Agency (NMA) to inspect Sierra Leone's first underground mining site operated by Koidu Limited in Kono district, in January 2017. The purpose of the Minister's visit

was to see, firsthand, how the company was progressing with the underground mine development, and address compliance and community issues. As the Permanent Secretary of MMMR explained, the Minister is strongly of the view that he should not just sit in Freetown to receive and review reports, but

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British Geologists Provide Training For NMA Geologists

NMA Geologists Complete Training On Minerals Processing

DIRECTOR GENERAL SHARES EXPERIENCE ON ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING WITH GLOBAL MINING EXECUTIVES



The Director General NMA, Sahr Wondy

The Director General of the National Minerals Agency (NMA), Sahr Wondy, represented Si-

erra Leone at the Infrastructure and Natural Resources Sustainability Exchange Conference organized by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Colombia on 7th and 8th June 2017.

The Director General seized the opportunity to showcase the progress Sierra Leone has made in the minerals sector, and exchanged ideas with over 200 global executives and practitioners from different backgrounds on the economic, environmental and social challenges and opportunities faced by infrastructure and natural resource actors.

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The Director General, NMA Sahr Wonday and Team at work

koro Chiefdom presented the diamond to the President of Sierra Leone, H.E. Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, and the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources Hon. Alhaji Minkailu Mansaray, at State House. They reported the weight of the diamond as 706 carats. The NMA team subsequently tested the stone, and confirmed that it was a diamond. The NMA also weighed the diamond in the presence of Pastor Momoh and P.C. Sarquee, and confirmed the weight to be 709.48 carats. During the Weekend of 25th and 26th March 2017, the NMA cleaned the diamond by submersion in hydrofluoric

acid for 72 hours, followed by boiling in nitric acid on 27th March 2017. This resulted in a slight improvement in the colour of the diamond. After the cleaning, the NMA weighed the diamond, and confirmed its weight at 709.41 carats.

Upon the instruction of His Excellency the President, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, the diamond was put on sale by international tender inside Sierra Leone. However, as none of the bids submitted matched Government's reserved price, the diamond will now be auctioned in the international diamond markets.

MINISTER OF MINES VISITS SIERRA LEONE'S FIRST UNDERGROUND MINE: TAKES COMPANY TO TASK.

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The Minister of Mines and Team Visit Sierra Leone's First Underground Mine

he must visit the mine sites regularly to see for himself what is happening. The delegation included the Deputy Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Hon. Abdul Ignosi Koroma; the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources (MMMR), Fatmata Mustapha; the Director General of the NMA, Sahr Wonday; the Director of Mines, Peter Bangura; the Director of Geological Survey, Prince Cuffey; and the Director of Community Affairs, Ibrahim Satti Kamara. Addressing Management and staff of Koidu Limited, in an underground tunnel, 280 metres below ground level, the Minister expressed satisfaction with the progress of the work so far, noting that it will further strengthen Sierra Leone's position as a major destination for mining investment. He stated that the country relies heavily on its mineral resources to promote national development, and that as Minister of Mines; it is his responsibility to ensure that Sierra Leoneans derive maximum ben-

efits from their mineral resources. He assured the company that government will continue to create the enabling environment for investment, which will provide revenue, create jobs and support local industries.

The Minister however took the company to task for failing to comply with key provisions of their Mining Lease Agreement, including the resettlement, local content and training of local Staffs. On the resettlement issue, the Minister was displeased to note that the company has constructed only 285 houses, out of the 873. This means that 588 households continue to suffer adversely every time the company conducts blasting exercise.

In the area of local content, the Minister admonished the company to do more to provide training for Sierra Leoneans so that they can be prepared to hold responsible positions in the company, as well as to take advantage of future opportunities in other sectors. He expressed strong disappointment over the fact that there was no Sierra Leonean in senior management position in the company, and called on Management to do something about it.

The Minister also decried the revelation that 60% of the fuel utilized by the company was supplied by a foreign company, while the locally owned National Petroleum supplied only 33%. This, the Minister declared, was unacceptable at a time when the country is pushing strongly to implement its local content policy.

Hon. Alhaji Minkailu Mansaray, there-

fore instructed Koidu Limited to submit to him all relevant documents relating to resettlement, local content, employment, contractors and suppliers, and tax payments for proper scrutiny.

The Paramount Chiefs of Gbense and Tankoro chiefdoms and other stakeholders welcomed the visit of the Honourable Minister, and promised to work with him to address the challenges of mining in their chiefdoms.

The Koidu Kimberlite Project is situated within the Tankoro Chiefdom of the Kono District in the Eastern Province of Sierra Leone. According to the company's website, it is pursuing a US\$150



million Expansion Project involving a five-year open pit mining phase of the two kimberlite pipes (now almost complete), transitioning to a 12-year underground mining operation on both pipes, as well as introducing a second underground mining operation in parallel to extract the kimberlite dykes and blows.

MINING TRANSPARENCY: NMA TAKES THE LEAD

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Cross Section of participants at the workshop

on the Agency's website and the online repository, the NMA has also collaborated with reputable international organizations to explore innovative ways of making relevant information available to the public, making it one of the most transparent among MDAs in Sierra Leone.

In 2014, the Agency partnered with the Natural Resources Governance Institute (NRGI) and the Columbia Centre on Sustainable Investment (CCSI) to create for public access a Sierra Leone specific online repository for mining contracts and associated documents such as Environmental Impact Assessments, Infrastructural Con-

tracts and Community Development Agreements. The Sierra Leone Resource Contracts website, which forms part of the global portal, contains annotated mining agreements between the Government of Sierra Leone and all Large-scale mining companies. The Resource Contracts site is a searchable and user-friendly repository of oil, gas and mining contracts which the public can access for summaries of key social, environmental, fiscal, and operational provisions; and download either part or full contracts. The Sierra Leone page on the portal can be visited at

www.resourcecontracts.org/countries/sl or www.nma.gov.sl/resourcecontracts.

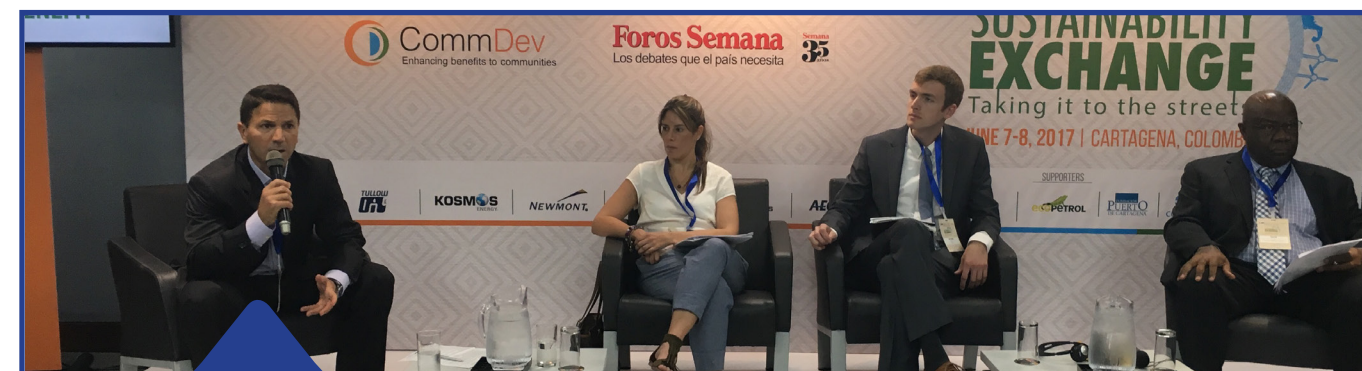
The Geo -Data and Information Manager at NMA, Emmanuel B.A Lansana, explained that the training was to empower Journalists and Civil Society Groups to access contracts and other documents that were in the past locked in cabinets in Offices, noting that the portal is online, searchable, user-friendly and free to download. He encouraged participants to visit the site as it contains thousands of documents and other materials on mining issues from over 89 countries, including Sierra Leone.

The Training Consultant, Tehtena Mebratu Tsegaye, from Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, guided participants on the use of resource Contracts portal and how to access information.

Journalists and Civil Society representatives commended the NMA for promoting transparency and for making information readily available and accessible.

DIRECTOR GENERAL SHARES EXPERIENCE ON ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING WITH GLOBAL MINING EXECUTIVES

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(Right) The Director General NMA, Sahr Wonday

In his presentation as one of the panelists in the session on Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining, the Director General explained the significant progress Sierra Leone has made in regulating artisanal mining, as well

as the challenges, citing the revision of the 'Artisanal and Small-scale Mining Policy' and the work of Mines Monitoring Officers. At the end of the programme, the organizers thanked the Director

General for a "dynamic and insightful" discussion on artisanal mining, noting that it was one of the best sessions at the programme.

NMA GEOLOGISTS COMPLETE TRAINING ON MINERALS PROCESSING

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Two Geologists attached to the NMA laboratory, Desmond Kanu and Mabinty Bangura, have completed a training course for African Engineers on Minerals Processing Technology, orga-

nized in Cairo, Egypt, from 5-17 February 2017. The training, which took place at the Central Metallurgical Research & Development Institute (CMRDI), was organized by the Egyptian Agency of partnership Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Central Metallurgical Research & Development Institute and Ministry of Scientific Research. The training focused on minerals evaluation, beneficiation (upgrading) and processing of mineral concentrates that can help in maximizing the benefits of the huge reserves of minerals in Africa and in turn help in increasing the income for Africa countries, including Sierra Leone.



Desmond Kanu receiving his Certificate

WORLD BANK PLEDGES MORE SUPPORT TO THE MINERALS SECTOR



World Bank Senior Mining Specialist Daniele La Porta

The World Bank has assured Sierra Leone of continued support to the minerals sector under its Extractives Industries Technical Assistance Project (EITAP). The assurance follows two successful World Bank missions to Sierra Leone in September 2016 and February 2017 respectively. The mission was led by Daniele La Porta, Senior Mining Specialist and Task Team Leader with support from; Bakhtiyar Karimov (Regional Coordinator Extractives), Mary Louise Vitelli (Legal Consultant), Hussine Yilla (Mining Sector Advisor Consultant), and Fatu Karim-Turay (Executive Assistant, World Bank). The World Bank team noted the significant progress Sierra Leone has made in mining reform under the EITAP, and stressed the need for further support to consolidate the gains made. During discussions with Government officials, the World Bank team revealed that

the Bank has approved a second phase of the EITA Project to be known as EITAP 2. EITAP 2 will comprise of three main components directed at strengthening institutions and regulatory framework within the extractive industry; improving Geo-Data Infrastructure for a nationwide "Airborne Geophysical Survey" for Sierra Leone; and supporting Mining Communities, Artisanal & Small-scale Mining Sector. The mission stressed to several government officials the importance of the creation of the NMA as a great achievement for strengthening the development of the mining sector in Sierra Leone. The mission however noted that the agency has many challenges regarding its operationalization, especially relating to capacity constraints and budgetary uncertainties. The World Bank team pledged to work with Government to address these challenges.

STAKEHOLDERS MEET TO COMBAT FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES IN THE MINERALS SECTOR

The National Minerals Agency supported by GIZ/EU hosted the Multi-Stakeholder Taskforce on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) on the 23rd March, 2017 to discuss strategies to combat the growing incidence of scams and fraudulent activities, involving individuals and companies claiming to be engaged in exploration, mining or minerals trading in Sierra Leone. The Taskforce comprised of Government Institutions (including the Office of National Security (ONS), the Sierra Leone Police, the Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU), National Revenue Authority (NRA), Industry and Civil Society.

Explaining the nature of the scam to the

taskforce, the Manager of Precious Minerals Trading, Samuel Koroma, stated that fraudsters often claim to have precious minerals (gold or diamonds) of very high value, for sale at prices far below the prevailing market price; or of having mining opportunities to be exploited at substantial profits for small investments. Fake documents are often presented to the intended victims to support such claims. The intended victims are then lured into parting with money either as advance payment for precious minerals or as investment in a fake mining venture. In the last year, the NMA received several reports from individuals who have been defrauded Tens of Thousands of Dollars.



The ONS representative advised the police to step up their intelligence gathering activities, and called on all stakeholders to promptly report all suspected activities to the relevant authorities. It was noted that these fraudulent activities, if left unchecked, have the potential of destroying the image of Sierra Leone in the precious minerals trade.

MINING TRANSPARENCY: NMA TAKES THE LEAD

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The Geo -Data and Information Manager at NMA, Emmanuel B.A. Lansana,

As part of its commitment to the principles of transparency and accountability in the management of the minerals sector in Sierra Leone, the National Minerals Agency conducted training for Journalists, Civil Society Groups, and other stakeholders, on 17th May 2017, focusing on how to access mining information online. As the Director

General of the NMA, Sahr Wonday, noted, it is one thing for the NMA to publish relevant information such as mining contracts, mining revenue, licence information, etc. online, and it is another thing to ensure that the public is aware that this information is available online, and knows how to access it. Sahr Wonday explained that in addition to publishing information

Birthday Greetings!!!

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the National Minerals Agency

Extend warm birthday greetings to the following Celebrants...

Stephen Syril James Jusu	1st January	Mabinty Sesay	9th March	Amsatu Muctarr	14th May
Alhaji Abu	11th January	Edward Pessima	11th March	Harry A. Yokie	17th May
James Flangoh	15th January	Sahr Wonday	12th March	Aminata Doris Koroma	18th May
Mohamed Bah	15th January	Ibrahim Kamara	13th March	Alpha Jalloh	20th May
Yusuf Dauda Suma	15th January	Juma Kargbo	14th March	Emmanuel Musa Kpaka	25th May
Cecilia Moriba	18th January	Isa Koroma	30th March	Abu Kojah Kamara	31st May
Cedric Palmer	27th January	Mohamed S. Mansaray	3rd April	Jane Sheriff	31st May
Arcmed Kamara	2nd February	Dominic Alimamy	15th April	Bintu B. Abu	1st June
Alie Sesay	2nd February	Emmanuel Jusu	17th April	Alieu Kamara	11th June
Morie Sallieu Amara	6th February	Mariatu Flee	18th April	Mohamed A. Kalokoh	15th June
Mohamed Kemokai	10th February	Isata Zubairu	19th April	Eleanor Sesay	15th June
Christian A.V. Sesay	11th February	Alfred Seppah	23rd April	David E. Johnson	16th June
Arnold Warren Nottidge	15th February	Joseph Tarawallie	26th April	Emmanuel Lansana	16th June
Roudoulph C. M Wilson	17th February	Desmond Kanu	27th April	Jinnah Ibrahim	20th June
Nancy Tucker	22nd February	Issa Kalokoh	5th May	Patrick Ngegba	25th June
Mohamed Mansaray	1st March	Mohamed Sankoh	7th May	Victoria Nicol	28th June
Agnes Smith	8th March	Fatmata Kamara	13th May	Ishmeal Sheriff	28th June

MINING COMPANIES PAY OVER LE. 6 BILLION TO LANDOWNERS



Three mining companies, Sierra Minerals Holdings Ltd. (SMHL), Sierra Rutile Ltd. (SRL) and Shansteel (SL) Ltd. have paid over Le. 6 billion as surface rent to landowners in the districts where they operate. First to pay was SMHL, who paid a total of Le. 1,367,000,000 (One Billion Three Hundred and Sixty-Seven Million Leones) to the Landowners and stakeholders in five chiefdoms (i.e. Dasse, Kpanda Kemoh, Ngao, Upper and Lower Banta) and three District Councils (i.e. Moyamba, Bonthe and Bo) on 16th February 2017.

Sierra Rutile/Iluka Resources Ltd also paid Le. 4,804,000,000 (Four Billion Eight Hundred and Four Million Leones) to landowners and stakeholders in Five (5) chiefdoms (Imperri, Jong, Upper Banta, Lower Banta and Bagruwa Chiefdoms) and two (2) District Councils (Bo and Moyamba) on 28th and 29th March 2017. On 30th and 31st March 2017 Shansteel (SL) Ltd paid Le 945,350,000 (Nine Hundred And Forty-Five Million, Three Hundred And Fifty Thousand Leones), as surface rents for land, rail and port facilities, to landowners in ten chiefdoms across four districts, Port Loko, Bombali, Tonkolili and Koinadugu.

Addressing excited recipients at the respective payment ceremonies, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources, Madam Fatmata Mustapha, advised them to put the money to good use to improve their welfare. She explained that the payment of surface rent to land owners for the use of their land is one of the many developments introduced by the present Government to ensure that the ordinary people benefit from mining. She said that although the largest percent-

age of the payment goes directly to the landowners, the Mines and Minerals Act 2009 stipulates that various percentages go to the Local Council and Chiefdom funds to promote development in the district so that residents who are not landowners will also share in the benefits. Landowners in the various chiefdoms



commended Government for looking after their interest, and thanked the respective companies for making the payments.

TWO MINING COMPANIES SIGN DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES



Sierra Minerals Holdings Limited (SMHL) – VIMETCO and Koidu Limited have signed Community Development Agreements with their respective host communities, as a framework for ensuring that the companies contribute meaningfully to promoting the welfare of the communities hosting their operations.

SMHL and the primary host communities

in Moyamba signed the Community Development Agreement on 23rd December 2016; and Koidu Limited and the primary host communities of Tankoro and Gbense chiefdoms signed the Community Development Agreement on 27th January 2017. The signing ceremonies were wit-

nessed by traditional authorities, local council representatives, NMA, UNDP, GIZ, IBIS and other stakeholders in the districts.

The Director of Community Affairs at the NMA, Ibrahim Satti Kamara, lauded the commitment demonstrated by the stakeholders to the process, and noted that



the CDA, if effectively implemented will promote sustainable development benefits for the host communities, as well as improve relations between the companies and the communities. "It is a unique opportunity for local development to occur in mining areas, which although home to vast mineral deposits have paradoxically experienced high levels of poverty and low levels of development in the past", he maintained. He thanked development partners, particularly GIZ, UNDP, the World Bank and IBIS for supporting the

process and assured stakeholders that the NMA will continue to work to ensure that Sierra Leoneans derive maximum benefits from their mineral resources. Expressing his delight over the signing of the CDA, Paramount Chief Paul Ngaba Saquee of Tankoro Chiefdom thanked Government, the NMA and UNDP for facilitating the CDA process, which he noted will not only ensure that mining companies contribute to local development, but will also address issues of transparency and accountability in how this contribution is channeled to local communities. He noted that this will end the speculations and suspicion that has surrounded the relationship between the

company and the community, which has been characterized by accusations and counter-accusations. The CDA between mining companies and host communities is a requirement of the Mines and Minerals Act of 2009, and is designed to ensure that mining companies assist in the development of mining communities affected by their operations to promote sustainable development, and enhance the general welfare and the quality of life of the inhabitants. According to the terms of the agreements, a stipulated percentage of the sales value of the companies' export will go towards implementing development projects in the local chiefdoms.



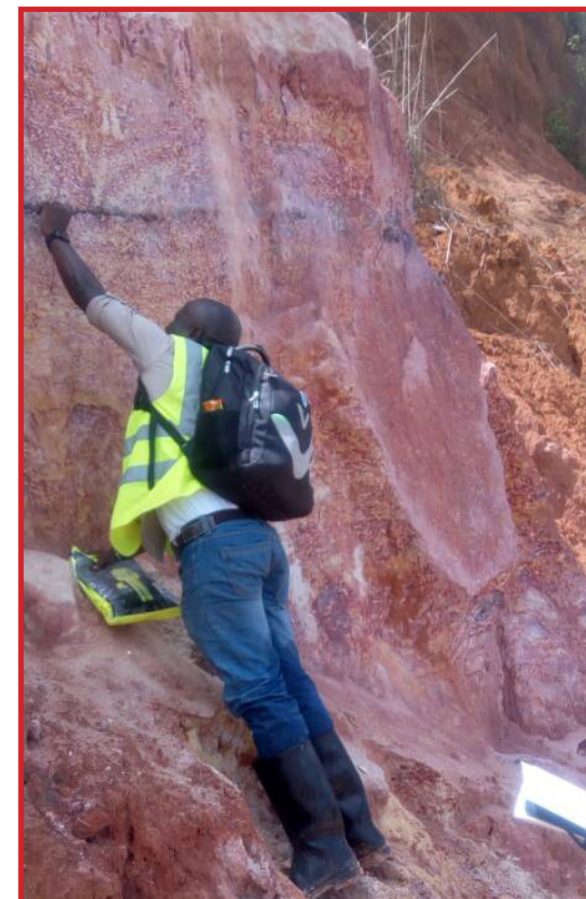
CEO Sierra Rutile Iluka signing the CDA

BRITISH GEOLOGISTS PROVIDE TRAINING FOR NMA GEOLOGISTS

A team from the British Geological Survey (BGS) led by the training consultant, Dr. Kathryn Goodenough provided training for four (4) NMA Geologists (Joseph Lebbie, Emmanuel Jusu, Alhaji Lamin Turay and Ahmed Swaray) in April 2017. The training on 'Essential Field Geology Skills' was provided as part of a partner-

ship program between the British Geological Survey (BGS) and the National Minerals Agency (NMA) for 2017, funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) through the UK Government's Investment Facility for Utilizing UK Specialist Expertise (IFUSE). As part of the training, the Geologists conducted a week long inspiring geological

mapping at the Loko Hills, in Kamakwie. This exercise increased the beneficiaries' level of confidence in geological mapping techniques and provided a much clear and better understanding of the Loko Hills greenstone belt vis-à-vis other greenstone belts in the country.



NMA Geologists on training