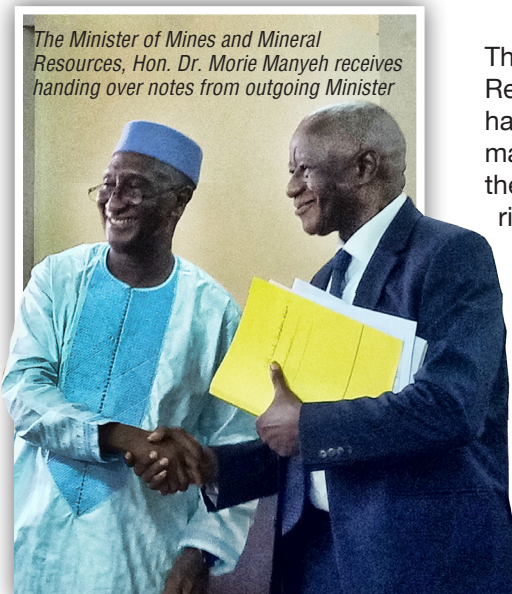


MY PRIORITIES ARE MAXIMIZING REVENUE AND PROTECTING COMMUNITIES: ... Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources.



The Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Hon. Dr. Morie Manyeh receives handing over notes from outgoing Minister

The Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Hon. Dr. Morie Manyeh has pledged to work relentlessly to maximize government revenue from the minerals sector and promote the rights of communities affected by mining. He made this commitment while addressing staff of the Ministry and the media during the formal handing over ceremony held in the Ministry's Conference Room at Youyi Building in Freetown, on 16th May 2018, during which the former, Minister of Mines, Hon. Minkailu Mansaray presented his handing-over notes to him as the incoming Minister.

In his statement, Hon. Dr. Manyeh noted that the President, His Excellency Dr. Julius Maada Bio has clearly outlined his agenda, which focuses on plugging leakages and maximizing revenue collection to improve on the socio-economic welfare of all Sierra Leoneans, and that the mining sector is expected to play a critical role in generating revenue for Government. In this regard, the Honorable Minister of Mines stated that he will ensure that Sierra Leoneans derive maximum benefits from their mineral wealth to support the President's agenda. This will include fully implementing President

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MINES MINISTER RAPS RAPAPORT CROWD



The Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Hon. Dr. Morie Manyeh

The Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Hon. Dr. Morie Manyeh has assured a crowd of mining executives and investors at a premier International Diamond Conference (IDC), organised by the Rapaport Group, that the Sierra Leone government wants to put a human face on diamonds. He said that the

country wants to move away from the **"blood diamond" stigma, which was a "direct result of the war in my country."**

Addressing the annual Rapaport Breakfast event at JCK Vegas on Sunday 3rd June 2018, Dr. Manyeh implored his audience to help ensure that Sierra Leone's diamond trade begins to benefit the people.

"For all the diamonds that have come out

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DEPUTY MINISTER WOOS INVESTORS

The Deputy Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Madam Evelyn Blackie, has assured economic players from over 70 countries that Sierra Leone is the right destination for investment in the mining sector. Addressing an impressive array of government representatives, project developers, international investors and companies during the Africa Trade and Investment Global Summit (ATIGS), held in Washington DC from 24th to 26th June 2018,

Madam Blackie explained that Sierra Leone 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). The presence of these deposits, she went on, represents major opportunities for potential investors and the country to derive optimal benefits from extracting, processing and exporting of these natural resources.

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MY PRIORITIES ARE MAXIMIZING REVENUE AND PROTECTING COMMUNITIES: ...

Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources.

Bio's agenda to review the Mines and Minerals Act (2009) and all mining agreements; enact the Extractive Industry Revenue Bill; establish the Natural Resources Account for all revenues generated from extractives; strengthen the National Minerals Agency; allocate percentages of revenue from the mining sector to education, health and development of mining communities; ensure full transparency of the sector in line with EITI principles; support value addition; and promote local content and CSR. Ultimately, Hon. Dr. Manyeh hopes to transform the minerals sector to realize its full potential to generate revenue and contribute to national development.

Speaking on his commitment to mining communities, the Minister explained that he grew up in Kono, at a time when the district was the breadbasket of the country, and recalled that he witnessed first-hand the negative impacts that mining can have on local communities. Not only are they exposed to the dangers of environmental damages and pollution, but also they are vulnerable to all forms of social problems, including child labour and early marriage, he stated. He lamented the fact that despite been exposed to all these disadvantages, mining communities have very little to show in terms of tangible development, and that they are often the most deprived communities in the country, creating a paradox of poverty amidst plenty.

Minister Manyeh pledged to change this narrative, and vowed to ensure that Mineral Right Holders in Sierra Leone respect the rights, customs and traditions of local communities; take adequate steps to mitigate the environmental and social impacts of their operations; compensate owners and legal occupiers for land used for mining; and promote the welfare of communities affected by their operations. He promised to ensure that a percentage of the proceeds from mining operations is sent back to the mining communities to promote sustainable development and reverse the resource curse. The Minister further explained that mining communities will no longer be passive recipients of paltry handouts disguise as CSR from mining companies, but that they will forge new compacts that generate inclusive and sustainable opportunities, whereby exploitation and destruction without adequate compensation will be a thing of the past.

In a special appeal to staff of the Ministry of Mines, Hon. Dr. Manyeh admonished them to understand that the time for politics is over, and that they must now give up their best to support the new government to succeed. He appreciated the level to which his predecessor has raised the Ministry, and call on staff to work with him to raise it to higher heights. The New Direction, he reminded staff, is all about discipline, performance and results, and he will not tolerate

lethargy.

Earlier in his handing over statement, the former Minister of Mines, Hon. Minkailu Mansaray, explained that the Ministry has over the years taken several important steps to revise the legislative policies, licensing and governance framework of the mining sector, as a strategy to support the creation of an enabling environment for mineral sector investment as well as responsible development of mineral resources for the benefit of the people of Sierra Leone. He referenced the Mines and Minerals Act (2009), which addresses several issues, such as health and community development, not previously covered by the law; and New environmental, social and operational regulations as some of his achievements.

Hon. Dr. Manyeh, assured all that Government is about continuity, and that he will maintain whatever he finds working, even if he did not build it, but will likewise not hesitate to dismantle whatever he found not to be in the best interest of the country.

The Hon. Minister of Mines said that he took over the Ministry at a time when the economy is in very bad shape, and the Government is badly in need of revenue to finance its social and development programmes. Sierra Leoneans have therefore welcomed his pledge to ensure that they derive maximum benefits from the minerals sector.

Cont. from page 01

MINES MINISTER RAPS RAPAPORT CROWD

of our country, I don't know what we have to show for it," Manyeh said. "Help us stand on our own two feet. We are tired of handouts. Botswana has managed their diamonds better than we have. We want a better life for ourselves and a brighter future for our children".

Manyeh says diamond-producing regions of the country lack water, decent schools, hospitals and good

roads, and he assured the participants that "We are ready to partner with you, to help us grow, to develop our country, to provide a higher quality of life".

During the breakfast, Martin Rapaport, Rapaport chairman, decried the lack of transparency in the diamond supply chain and the persistence of "dirty" diamonds in the marketplace.

The event turned out to be a big investment promotion and marketing opportunity for Sierra Leone, as the country's commitment to transparency and benefit sharing in the diamond trade was showcased and cited as a good example on how industry can work with governments to address issues of human rights abuses and conflict diamonds in the diamond trade.

Rapaport said that if small and medium-size U.S. retailers and suppliers don't become directly involved and find out exactly where their diamonds are coming from, they will be squeezed out of the market as consumers increasingly demand assurances their diamonds are ethically mined. *"Build relationships with people who are on the supply side,"* he said.

Sierra Leone was in the spotlight recently after artisanal diggers found a 709-carat diamond in Kono District in 2017, the 14th largest rough diamond ever found, and the third largest from the country. In the past, significant

diamonds have been smuggled out of Sierra Leone.

But this time, the diamond's owners decided to sell what became known as the Peace Diamond through the national government. Rapaport was chosen to handle the auction and agreed to waive the service fee, and also to help with investment of the proceeds. Ultimately, the diamond, considered "complicated," was sold for \$6.5 million, less than expected, because it was believed the rough might not yield a sizable enough polished stone to be worth more.

Still, Rapaport hopes the sale of the

Peace Diamond marks a turning point for Sierra Leone.

"We're trying to accomplish a virtuous cycle," Rapaport said, *"to bring in clean water and electricity. If that happens, then the next time the miners find a diamond they won't give it to smugglers; they'll bring it to the government"*.

"We trust this government," he said. *"We have to have respect for governments that are legitimate"*.

"If you're a jeweller and you really want to understand what's going on in the diamond industry, come to Sierra Leone," Rapaport said.

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DEPUTY MINISTER WOOS INVESTORS

Madam Blackie explained that the above list is by no means exhaustive, as large parts of the country remain unexplored. *"We are actively engaged in working with exploration companies, and we continue to explore opportunities, for further exploration to cover the gap in geological knowledge of the country. We have already secured funds to undertake a countrywide geophysical survey to improve knowledge on mineral potentials, and the result will be made available to investors"*, she explained.

The Deputy Minister also seized the opportunity to update her audience on the major reforms Government will be undertaking to promote foreign direct investment and entice large multinational corporations to invest in Sierra Leone.

"I am aware that it takes more than the abundance of minerals in a particular country to attract investors. To do this requires sufficient guarantees of a business friendly environment characterized by predictable laws, fiscal stability, transparency, security of tenure, etc." She said that under the New Direction, Government will improve on peace and security, revise the mining laws, promote transparency and build required infrastructure, to create a mutually beneficial environment where investors can get

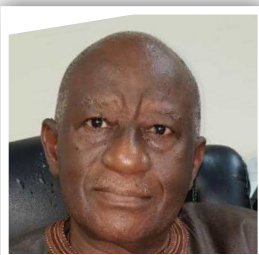


good returns, and the country and her people can also benefit.

The Africa Trade and Investment Global Summit is a prestigious

biennial business conference and exhibition designed specifically to promote and facilitate international trade between African countries and the rest of the world.

PROFILES: Minister and Deputy



HON. DR. MORIE MANYEH

The new Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Hon. Dr. Morie Manyeh, is a former university

lecturer who hails from Kono in the eastern region of Sierra Leone. He attended the prestigious Bo School and later the Njala University College. After completing his studies at Njala University, Dr. Manyeh worked as a Lecturer, before proceeded to further his studies overseas. His quest for knowledge led him to the University of Leeds, where he acquired his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in 1983.

After acquiring his Doctorate, Dr. Manyeh returned home to Sierra Leone, and opted to make his own contribution to nation building by

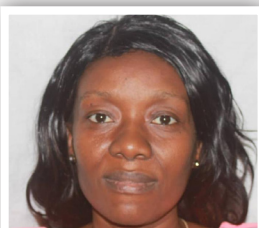
building human capital in the field of academia. Dr. Manyeh worked as a lecturer at Njala University from the 1980s to 2018, and at the time of his appointment he was a leading academic of high standing.

Dr. Manyeh has also served in various capacities at national level, including, non-Executive Director of the Bank of Sierra Leone.

As an astute politician, Dr. Manyeh is a strong member of the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP), and was instrumental in preventing the party from falling apart by serving as co-chairman to the Bishop Humperled peace initiative that laboured to unify various factions within the party during the most difficult period in the party's history. Widely known within party circles as the 'Ambassador for Peace', Dr. Morie Manyeh has always maintained that the driving force behind his professional and political life is to promote unity and development,

whereby the ordinary man in the street will be able to realize his full potential. Dr. Manyeh's appointment as Minister of Mines has been hailed by many people, particularly from mining communities, who believe that his background growing up in a rural mining community puts him in a better position to understand the challenges faced by these communities.

In his maiden meeting with staff of the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources and the National Minerals Agency, Dr. Manyeh stated that he fully understands the good, the bad and the ugly of mining, and that his challenge is to maximise the good, while minimizing or mitigating the effects of the bad and the ugly. He stated his priorities as maximizing revenue for Government and promoting the welfare of mining communities. He has committed himself to ensuring that Sierra Leoneans derive maximum benefits from our mineral resources.



HON. EVELYN DAPHNE BLACKIE

The new Deputy Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Hon. Evelyn Daphne Blackie, is a qualified

and seasoned Mining Engineer with significant operational experience in exploration and mining activities across Sierra Leone.

A product of the world renowned

University of Mines and Technology in Tarkwa, Ghana, where she bagged a Master of Science in Mining Engineering in 2013, Hon. Blackie attended the Harford School for girls in Moyamba, where she sat for the General Certificate in Education. She then proceeded to Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology in 2006.

Madam Blackie has over 10 years hands on experience in geological work and mining in Sierra Leone having

worked extensively as Geologist, Mining Engineer and Consultant with several companies including Mourn Mining Limited, London Mining Company, African Minerals Limited, Sierra Rutile Limited, etc.

Her extensive career, which has seen her working with almost all the leading mining companies in the country, makes her an invaluable asset to the minerals sector and a critical player in the President's team under the new Direction.

OBITUARY

The Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources and the National Minerals Agency mourn the death of Mr. Jinnah Mohamed Ibrahim, former Director of Precious Minerals Trading.

Mr. Jinnah Ibrahim joined the then Government Gold and Diamond Office (GGDO) (now the Directorate of Precious Minerals Trading (PMT) under the NMA) as a Trainee Diamond Sorter and Valuer in 1998, and steadily rose through the ranks to become Diamond Valuer and later Acting Director, before the GGDO was subsumed into the NMA as the Precious Minerals Trading Directorate. By then, Mr. Jinnah, who held a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fourah Bay College (USL) and a Masters degree in Development from Njala University, had acquired over 25 years' experience in diamond valuation, predating his joining the GGDO, and was recruited as the Director of the PMT Directorate; a position he held until his death on the 11th May, 2018

Mr. Jinnah, as he was fondly called, will be sadly missed by colleagues at the Ministry and the Agency. May his soul rest in perfect peace.

The Chairman, Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the
NATIONAL MINERALS AGENCY (NMA)

**MOURN THE DEATH
OF
THE LATE**

MR. JINNAH MOHAMED IBRAHIM
 Director of Precious Minerals
 Trading, NMA

Sunrise: 20th June 1958
Sunset: 11th May 2018

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE

MINES MINISTER HANGS HEAD WITH MINING EXECUTIVES



Visit to Mining sites in Kono District by the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Hon. Dr. Morie Manyeh

The Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Hon. Dr. Morie Manyeh, visited mining sites in Kono District from 25th to 27th May 2018, to acquaint himself on mining activities in the district, and share with the companies the vision of the new direction for the minerals sector.

The Minister used the opportunity to dialogue with mining companies' executives, and exchange ideas on how to improve on revenue generation and promoting developments in local communities. Speaking to company executives in the district, he noted that mining has been on in Sierra Leone for almost a century now, but that the country has very little to show for it. Mining communities particularly have been left worse off, with serious environmental and social impacts, and little or no development. This he said will all change under the new direction, as the focus of Government is to ensure that Sierra Leoneans derive maximum benefits from our mineral wealth.

During the trip, the Minister visited the mining sites of Seawright Mining Company Ltd, Koidu Limited, MEYA Mining Company, and Mourné Mining Limited, all in Kono district.

At Seawright Mining, officials explained to the Minister that they are at an advanced stage of exploration for gold and diamonds, and that they

have sent out materials from bulk sampling to external laboratories to investigate kimberlite potentials. They maintained that they are compliant with their environmental, financial and reporting obligations, and that their contribution to development include employing 151 Sierra Leoneans supporting education and infrastructure as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

At Koidu Limited, company's official gave a brief history of the company dating back to 1995, when the previous owners started with exploration leading to open-pit mining, on to the present period during which they have transitioned to underground mining. Problems of the open pit mining included relocation, damages from blasting, and movement of people, but the company explained that these have all stopped as they are now operating underground. They however maintained that they will continue with the relocation programme, which has been delayed due to cash flow problems. The company employs 803 Sierra Leoneans. The Minister and his team were taken on a conducted tour of the underground mining site.

At MEYA mining, officials explained that their exploration licence covers four chiefdoms in Kono, and that they are currently doing bulk sampling to develop a resource statement, which they will use to raise the necessary capital to transition into large-scale mining. The results from the bulk sampling are however very encouraging, as it was from this activity that they recently discovered the 476 carat diamond, which was sold for over US\$ 16 million. The company employs over 50 Sierra Leoneans, has expended over US\$ 500,000 in crop compensation, and is engaged in CSR activities. Community issues include discontent over involuntary movements during blasting and noise pollution, among others.

At Mourné mining, the Management explained that they are engaged in

ground exploration activities, and they have identified three potential alluvial deposits. Sample tests for kimberlites within the exploration area have also yielded positive results, and the company is optimistic that they would soon transition to mining. The company currently employs 21 staff, of which 19 are Sierra Leoneans.

In his message to the respective companies, the Minister assured them that the New Direction is all about improving the way we do things to ensure that Sierra Leone becomes a better place for everyone. He advised the companies that if they want to be friends of Government, they must continue to pay their taxes, raise revenue for Government, be fully compliant with all their obligations, operate responsibly, protect the environment, and improve the welfare of the people living in the communities where they operate. The Minister admonished the companies to note that local content is not just about employing Sierra Leoneans, but it is also about training and capacitating them to be employed at senior management level; and in this regard, he called on them to forward their respective staff lists and organograms to his office for review. He said that Government will soon review the Mines and Minerals Act, 2009 to make it more responsive to modern day realities and to be a more effective instrument to guarantee benefits for the people of Sierra Leone.

The focus of the New Direction, he went on, is all about revenue generation, providing free education, employment, and improving the welfare of local communities. Dr. Manyeh called on the companies to come on board and support Government in this Direction.

The Minister was accompanied by the Director General of the National Minerals Agency (NMA), Sahr Wondag; the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources (MMMR), Mrs. Fatmata Mustapha; and other Directors and senior staff of the NMA and MMMR.

Certifying Mine Managers...NMA PUTS COMPETENCY TO TEST

As part of continued efforts to enhance professional standards in the mining sector in Sierra Leone, particularly with the view to promote health and safety, as well as responsible and sustainable mining, the NMA in collaboration with Professional Engineers Registration Council (PERC) of Sierra Leone has introduced a certification scheme for Mine Managers in the country.

Explaining the rationale for the scheme to Sierra Leone Gem, the Chief Inspector of Mines, Mohamed Bah, said that the Agency is working in accordance with the Mines and Minerals Act of 2009, and its associated operational regulations of 2013, which require persons appointed as Mine Managers to hold a relevant certificate of competency issued by the Professional Engineers Registration Council (PERC) of Sierra Leone, or a similar international reputable regulatory body. He further stated that the certification process would confirm that successful applicants are suitably qualified and skilled with sufficient experience in the working environment to make appropriate critical operational decisions related to their position.

The Consultant Engineer, Andrew Keili, maintained that the scheme will greatly improve on health and safety standards for mines across the country, and will ensure that only competent professionals are allowed

artisanal mining licenses.

Persons with formal educational qualification (i.e. a diploma or degree in mining engineering) and the required work experience, who wish to practise as Mine Managers in Sierra Leone (in any of the categories

NMA in collaboration with Professional Engineers Registration Council (PERC) Certifies Mines Managers



to take responsibilities for operating mines in the country.

There are four categories of certificates under the new scheme, and these are Surface Mine Manager (without blasting operation), Quarry or Surface Mine Manager (with blasting operation), Underground Mine Manager and Dredging Mine Manager. The scheme is applicable to all classes of mineral licenses in Sierra Leone with the exception of

listed above) will be granted Class A certificates, after passing the required tests; and Persons without formal educational qualification, but who have the required work experience, will be granted Class B certificates after passing the required tests. A special panel comprising of 4 members (2 from NMA and 2 from PERC) has been set up to implement the scheme, and the first set of proposed Mine Managers have already been certified.

SHARING BENEFITS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES MINING COMPANIES PAY OVER LE. 10 BILLION AS SURFACE RENT



Newfield Resources Mining Company pays Surface Rent for 2017 and 2018

Mining companies are required by law to compensate owners and lawful occupants of land for land use. No mining company is granted a mining licence if it does not provide evidence that it has entered into an agreement

with the owners of the surface area for mining activities. This agreement usually takes the form of a land lease, for which the company is required to pay annual surface rent to the landowners and other stakeholders. Between January and June 2018, mining companies paid a total of over Le.10 billion as surface rent to landowners across the country.

On 8th and 9th February 2018 Sierra Rutile / Iluka Resources Ltd paid a total of Le. 5,168,684,000 (Five Billion One Hundred and Sixty-eight Million Six Hundred and Eighty-four Thousand Leones) as surface rent to landowners and other stakeholders in five Chiefdoms in Moyamba and Bonthe Districts.

On 15th March 2018, Sierra Minerals Holdings Limited (Vimetco) paid a total of Le. 1,074,512,000 (One Billion and Seventy-four Million Five Hundred and Twelve Thousand Leone) as surface rent to Landowners and other stakeholders in five chiefdoms (Dasse, Kpanda Kemoh, Ngao, Upper and Lower Banta chiefdoms) in Moyamba, Bonthe and Bo Districts.

On 2nd May 2018, SL Mining Limited, which took over the Marampa mine, operated by London mining and Timis Corporation respectively, paid US\$ 68,000 (sixty-eight thousand US dollars) as surface rent for 2018 to landowners and other stakeholders in Port Loko District.

On 24th April 2018, Koidu Limited paid the sum of US\$ 73,794 (Seventy-Three Thousand, Seven Hundred and

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Ninety-four US Dollars) as surface rent to Tankoro Chiefdom, Kono District for 2018.

On 22nd and 23rd February 2018, Shansteel (SL) Ltd. paid a total of Le 945,450,400 (Nine Hundred and Forty-Five Million Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand and Four Hundred Leones) as surface rent to landowners and other stakeholders in ten chiefdoms across four districts: PortLoko, Bombali, Tonkolili and Koinadugu. The payment was made specifically to chiefdoms whose lands are being

utilised by the company's mine, port and rail facilities, for the year 2018.

On 10th May 2018 Newfield Resources Mining Company Limited paid a total of Le. 918,000,317 (Nine Hundred and Eighteen Million and Three Hundred and Seventeen Leones) as Surface Rent to Kenema District for 2017 and 2018.

The respective programmes were well attended by representatives from the National Minerals Agency, District Councils, District and Assistant

District Officers, Paramount chiefs, Landowners and the Sierra Leone Police. Stakeholders expressed appreciation from the companies for honouring their obligations in compensating them for use of their lands, noting that the compensation was timely as it will help them address urgent family matters. The NMA admonished beneficiaries to put the money to good use, and to continue to work amicably with the Companies.

We bring you highlights of these programmes below.



Paramount Chief receives Surface Rent payment from Newfield Resources Mining Company



Sierra Rutile pays Surface Rent to Five Chiefdoms in Moyamba and Bonthe Districts



Paramount Chief Russel receives Agricultural Development Fund (ADF)



Land owner receives Surface Rent Payment from Vimetco

SIERRA LEONE TO UNDERTAKE COUNTRYWIDE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

Sierra Leone is world renowned for its diamonds and other minerals. The country has huge reserves of iron-ore, bauxite, diamonds and rutile, among others. However, the country is generally considered underexplored, and its full mineral potential is still unknown.

This is why the Government of Sierra Leone, with support from the World Bank, through the Extractive Industries Technical Assistance Project (EITAP) is progressing with plans to conduct a nationwide airborne geophysical survey to aid geological and structural mapping as

well as the direct detection of mineral deposits in different parts of the country. This is in line with the NMA's strategic objective of accelerating the economic development of the minerals sector, as the data will provide useful information to potential investors on what minerals are available in Sierra Leone and where they can be found. As the Director of Geological Survey, Prince Cuffey noted, *"Having a country-wide geophysical survey data of Sierra Leone will help in accurate mapping of the country, and further field mapping and sampling of anomalies generated from the survey will lead to mineral discoveries with the potential of increasing the number of mines operating in the country".*



The Director of Geological Survey, NMA
Mr. Prince Cuffey

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SIERRA LEONE TO UNDERTAKE COUNTRYWIDE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

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As a precursor to the countrywide airborne survey scheduled to commence in November 2018, the NMA has already commenced series of activities aimed at building capacity to conduct the exercise and putting systems in place to effectively manage the data to be generated. The Agency contracted a South African firm, Geofocus Geophysical Services to design the flight specifications, while the British Geological Survey has provided series of training for NMA Geologists, aimed at building

their capacity to work alongside the consulting firm that will undertake the survey. The Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources has also developed a Geodata Management Policy for Sierra Leone, to guide the use, management and storage of the data.

Director Cuffey explained to Sierra LeoneGem that a number of prioritized areas have been recommended for the survey based on their known mineral occurrences and their geological

interest. Many of these areas are gold-bearing greenstone belts or diamond and bauxite mining areas. He said that they are also considering a LIDAR survey to be flown over the Freetown Peninsula, as this will aid the engineering geologists immensely with slope stability studies and monitoring. The project, worth about US\$ 8 million, will be fully funded by the World Bank under the second phase of the EITAP.

NMA BENEFITS FROM BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (BGS) CAPACITY BUILDING



Photo taken at Guildhall with the Mayor of Hull City, the Freetown – Hull community and the Hull University Geology department staff and students

The UK government, through the British Geological Survey (BGS), is building the capacity of relevant institutions in Sierra Leone, including the National Minerals Agency (NMA), the Petroleum Directorate (PD) and the Department of Geology, Fourah Bay College (FBC), to collect, manage and disseminate geological data. As part of this project, the BGS and beneficiary partners conducted field reconnaissance exercise across Sierra Leone in January- February 2018.

Also in January 2018, Geologists from the National Minerals Agency (NMA), Petroleum Directorate (PD) and the Department of Geology, University of Sierra Leone, concluded a short course on geological field



Photo taken at Guildhall with the Mayor of Hull City, the Freetown – Hull community and the Hull University Geology department staff and students

mapping facilitated by the BGS through funding from the IFUSE and DFID. The geological field reconnaissance training is part of a series of capacity building programs facilitated by the NMA to ensure quality service delivery within the country's mineral sector and to lay the foundation of a multiyear mapping programme with funds from EITAP 2 Projects. The team assessed the state of current geological mapping, visited mines and exploration projects, and discussed plans and strategies for the mapping programme.



Geology walk (left to right) Prince Cuffey, Massah Bah, Joseph Lebbie, Professor Ludden, Abdul Amara Mustapha Koroma and Darren Jones

NMA REGIONAL STAFF TRAINED ON MANAGING COMMUNITY ISSUES



GIZ Trains NMA Regional Staff on Managing Community issues

With support from GIZ, the Directorate of Community Affairs, Communications and Public Relations conducted a capacity building training for NMA Regional Staff on Community Development Implementation and Monitoring in Sierra Leone. The training was held in Makeni on 23rd and 24th February 2018, and eighteen participants drawn from all the regional offices benefitted.

In his opening statement, the Director of Community Affairs and Communications, Ibrahim Satti Kamara, explained to participants that the purpose of the training was to prepare regional staff for their key roles in supporting community stakeholders to identify development projects, as well as to monitor the implementation of such projects under the CDA.

Among other things, the regional

staff are being prepared to monitor companies' compliant with obligations to community; collect social data in the field, monitor trends and provide feedback to headquarters; and investigate and resolve problems and grievances in the field.

Facilitators focused their deliveries on mining law and policies; project management, monitoring and evaluation; and conflict resolution and grievance redress.

FLASHBACK

Flashback

Sierra Leone Gem was not published in the last quarter of 2017 due to administrative reasons. However, as an Agency committed to full transparency and informing the public of all our activities, we bring highlights of key activities undertaken in the last quarter of 2017, in this edition of Sierra Leone Gem.

NMA DIRECTOR GENERAL SHARES EXPERIENCE ON BENEFIT OPTIMIZATION AND ARTISANAL MINING ISSUES WITH GLOBAL AUDIENCE

In October 2017, the Director General of the National Minerals Agency (NMA), Sahr Wonday, joined government officials from 62 nations and representatives from the mining industry, civil society and academia to share experience and to learn about the latest developments in efforts to leverage mining for sustainable development.

The Director General was representing Sierra Leone at the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development, which was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from 16th to 20th October 2017.

Sahr Wonday, who has a wealth of experience in mining and development issues was accorded the privilege of serving as a panellist in two different sessions at the conference; one on 'Combating Mispricing by Strengthening Mineral Testing Facilities' and the other on 'Voluntary Sustainability Initiatives for the Mining Sector'. This honour placed the DG among a diverse slate of panellists comprising leading experts in mining to discuss mining and sustainable development issues.

Sharing the Sierra Leone experience on efforts made by Government to optimize benefits by combating mispricing and strengthening minerals testing, Mr. Wonday explained that the NMA has deployed Inspectors at the export points of all mining companies to conduct pre-shipment inspection and collect data on mineral exports. The NMA also collects representative samples of all mineral exports, which are then sent through laboratory tests to determine the mineral contents. He informed his audience that Sierra Leone, with support from the World

Bank, now has a well-equipped mineral testing laboratory. The above measures, he went on provides reliable information to Government on the quantity and quality of the minerals exported from Sierra Leone, which in turn give a fair idea of the price, to determining royalty and other payments to Government.

Participants raised questions about conceptual and practical difficulties related to addressing transfer pricing, considering the differences between illegal tax evasion practices and tax avoidance practices that remain within the bounds of legality. They discussed ways to address various technical and capacity challenges for governments, including through sharing of information to promote market and price transparency, and joint regional laboratory facilities for minerals testing.

Speaking on 'Voluntary Sustainability Initiatives for the Mining Sector', Sahr Wonday, explained how the Diamond Development Initiative (DDI) Works with stakeholders in Sierra Leone to effect systemic change within the artisanal and small-scale mining sector. He noted that since 2012, DDI has been working with stakeholders in Kono to effect systemic change, and efforts have been focused on formalization to integrate artisanal

and small-scale mining' (ASM) into the formal economy, with benefits to miners, communities, government and industry.

The project has also been working with miners to legalize their operations, thereby ensuring that their efforts contribute to Government revenue and improved living conditions for them.

The conference noted that there has been huge growth in the number and diversity of voluntary sustainability initiatives (VSIs) in the mining and minerals sector, and the panel examined how they compare, and contribute to sustainable development and the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The AGM offered an excellent opportunity to engage with top experts in the mining industry and to learn about the latest developments in efforts to leverage mining for sustainable development. The theme of this year's meeting was Managing Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM). However, the programme also covered a wide range of other topics including: tax base erosion and profit shifting; local content policies; mine closure; voluntary sustainability initiatives; and environmental impact assessment.



SIERRA LEONE JOINS OTHER COUNTRIES



A team from Sierra Leone, led by the Director General of the NMA, Sahr Wonday, attended the Investing in Africa Mining Indaba from 5th to 8th February 2018.

The programme brought together the leading representatives from the mining investment community, the world's largest mining houses and Government ministries to share insights into how the sector can drive investments and capitalize on the

opportunities available to Africa's mining industry.

It was a great opportunity for the Sierra Leone delegation to showcase Sierra Leone's mineral potentials to the Mining World; exchange ideas with leading industry experts on how investors, governments, and corporations can come together to improve operational efficiencies; and identify and build critical partnerships

for investment promotion and development of the Sierra Leone minerals sector.

The Indaba featured over 40 different conference sessions, workshops and roundtable discussions, with industry experts discussing issues encompassing the complete spectrum of the mining and petroleum sectors. The Sierra Leone delegation benefited from the experience shared by expert speakers and the audience.

The delegation included; Madam Fatmata Mustapha, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources; Ibrahim Satti Kamara, Director of Community Affairs and Communications; Prince Cuffey, Director of Geological Survey; and Mustapha Gibril, Coordinator of the Extractive Industries Technical Assistance Project.

ACC BOARD MEETS NMA



The Board of Directors of the Anti-Corruption Commission met with management and staff of the NMA on 24th May 2018.

Explaining the purpose of the visit, the Chairman of the Board, Bishop Tamba Koroma stated that it is imperative for all stakeholders to join the fight against corruption, and that as a Board, they have decided to hold

face to face meetings with key MDAs to understand the challenges they face in the fight against corruption and exchange ideas on how they can work together to combat this "cancer" in governance. Bishop Tamba Koroma noted that the perception of corruption in the minerals sector is widespread, and that there was a need for more engagement with stakeholders to let them understand

the changes that have taken place and how the Agency is fighting corruption.

Welcoming the Board, the Director General of the NMA, Sahr Wonday, explained that the Agency has a zero tolerance policy on corruption, and that any member of staff caught in any corrupt act will face immediate dismissal. He informed the Board of how the Agency was working with the ACC to implement the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, noting that the Agency has Integrity Committees both at Headquarters and at its regional offices.

During the meeting, the Board and Management exchanged ideas on how to improve on anti-corruption measures in the minerals sector, and how to ensure that Sierra Leoneans derive maximum benefits from their minerals. The Board advised the "team of competent and professional young Directors" at the NMA to continue to exemplify a high standard of integrity as the future of the Agency and the country are in their hands.

400 WOMEN AND YOUTHS BENEFIT FROM TRAINING ON EXTRACTIVES

The National Minerals Agency (NMA), in collaboration with Civil Society Groups, and with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has completed training for 400 women and youths in Kono on effective participation in dialogue platforms on extractive issues, and implementing development projects under the Community Development Agreement (CDA).

The purpose of the training was to develop the capacity of women and youths to effectively participate in dialogue forum on the extractives, as well as play a meaningful role in the implementation of CDA projects. The two sets of training were held at the Koidu Youth Centre on 29th and 30th December, 2017 and 4th and 5th January, 2018 respectively.

In her presentation on mainstreaming gender issues in dialogue forum and development, Cecilia Mattia, a Civil Society and Gender Activist, noted that for far too long women have been taking the backseat in dialogue fora, which invariably has led to them not benefiting from revenue allocations from the extractives. She said that there is a need to better organise women in Kono, so that they can fully participate in the implementation of the Koidu Community Development Agreement. The Community development agreement, she explained, is an important milestone and if implemented well will help to promote local development and better address the needs of women who tend to be marginalised in such rural contexts and hardly enjoy benefits from the proceeds of mining. She therefore encouraged the women to participate actively in the training



Civil Society and Gender Activist, Ms. Cecilia Mattia making her presentation

as it aims to create greater confidence in the female representatives of the Community Development Committee (CDC) and other women, and equip them with the skills to advocate for women and ensure that gender issues are put on the CDA development agenda. She said that it is important for women to have the confidence to play a meaningful role in the decision making process of the CDA, so that projects implemented will respond to the needs of women.

The Coordinator of Movement and Concern to Knowledge Youths (MoCKY), Mohamed Jabbie, in his presentation, explained that the ten-year civil war deprived youths of educational and skills training opportunities, and that these inadequacies continue to haunt them in society. Youths, he said, are often marginalised because they are uneducated and unskilled, and that most people see them as a liability. He therefore encouraged them to take advantage of the training to develop their understanding of the main issues relating to mining and the CDA process.

The Director of Community Affairs

and Communications of the NMA, Ibrahim Satti Kamara, noted that CDAs are required by law, as a benefit sharing mechanism to ensure that local communities benefit from the wealth in their backyard. However, he went on, the people can benefit fully if they have the required bargaining capacity to negotiate or to implement development projects. He explained that the above was the background to the UNDP support for training of key stakeholders, such as women and youths, so that they can develop their capacity to undertake; needs assessment, prioritize, plan, budget, implement and monitor projects.

The Chairman of the Community Development Committee, Dr. Alpha Kpetewama, explained that the CDA is for all Kono people, men, women



Cross section of participants at the workshop supported by UNDP

and children, and he appreciated the efforts of NMA and UNDP to build the capacity of key stakeholders such as women and youths to ensure their effective participation.

The training was part of the UNDP support to enhance sustainable, inclusive governance of natural resources as well as diversification of sustainable livelihood opportunities in one of the most mineral-rich, but least developed areas in the country.

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Enquiries

National Minerals Agency, New England Ville,
Freetown, Sierra Leone.
Tel: 232 (79) 250 702, Website: www.nma.gov.sl
Email: info@nma.gov.sl

Editorial Committee

Ibrahim Satti Kamara | Daphne Winnebah | Mohamed Bah | Jariatu Samura | Victoria Nicol