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## DISCOVERY OF 477 CARAT DIAMOND IN SIERRA LEONE

**Freetown, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017.** The Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources and the National Minerals Agency hereby inform the general public that a **476.97-carat diamond** was found in Tankoro chiefdom, Kono district, Eastern Sierra Leone on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The diamond was recovered by MEYA Mining Company, an exploration company with Exploration Licences number EL07/2015.

The company is currently engaged in bulk sampling with a view to properly ascertain the mineral potential of the area. They have acquired their Environmental Licence from the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) as a prerequisite to applying for a mining licence. This recovery provides a remarkable indication of the potential of the mineral resources within the licence area, and the company should now expedite the process of acquiring their mining licence.

Consistent with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals Act of 2009, the company presented the diamond to the National Minerals Agency on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017, and Government has granted permission to the company to export the diamond in accordance with the provisions of the Act relating to the rights of exploration companies.

The diamond will be sold by international tender, at an agreed reserved price, to ensure that the people of Sierra Leone derive maximum benefits from it. All transactions will be done in a transparent and professional manner.

The NMA will inform the Public of any further development.

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