

As Land and Pension Reforms advance...

Cabinet Approves US\$73.8 Million In Development Financing



By Hajaratu S. Bangura

The Cabinet of Sierra Leone has approved development-financing agreements worth approximately US\$73.8 million to support affordable housing, climate-resilient agriculture, food security, job creation and increased incomes for farmers. The Minister of Information and Civic Education, Hon. Chornor Bah, made the disclosure during the Government Weekly Press Conference at the Miatta Civic Centre on Tuesday, September 1, 2026. He said the approved investments form part of government's efforts to expand economic opportunities and improve essential services for citizens. Cabinet approved a US\$10 million concessional loan agreement with the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa to enable Sierra Leone acquire additional shares in Shelter Afrique Development Bank. "This investment is aimed at strengthening Sierra Leone's position in the bank and improving the country's access to financing for affordable housing, urban development and related infrastructure," Minister Bah stated. The Minister of Finance has been instructed to present the agreement to Parliament for ratification.

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Vaccination Rate Hits 95% In 300 Days Campaign

By Mohamed Jaward, Nyallay,
Strategic Communications Adviser
(MOICE)



Sierra Leone has vaccinated an estimated 95 percent of children who had never previously received a vaccine, marking one of the most significant milestones yet in the Government's 300 Days Campaign to reach Zero zero-dose children across the country. The latest data from the Ministry of Health show that approximately 95 percent of the estimated 9,000 Zero zero-dose children

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Correctional Service Strengthens University Partnerships To Expand Education And Skills Opportunities For Inmates

By Mariama Benovia Davies



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The Sierra Leone Correctional Service is strengthening its rehabilitation and reintegration programmes through education, vocational training and partnerships with higher learning institutions, as part of efforts to ensure that inmates are better prepared to return to society as productive and responsible citizens.

The Director General of the Sierra Leone Correctional Service, Joseph J. Senessie, gave the update during the Government of Sierra Leone's Weekly Press Conference held on Tuesday, 1st September 2026, at the Miatta Civic Centre. Mr. Senessie explained that the transformation from the former prison

National Fire Force Gets New Equipment And Expands Nationwide

By Kadiatu Bash Kamara



The National Fire Force has outlined a series of measures aimed at improving its operational capacity, expanding its presence across Sierra Leone and enhancing citizens' experiences with emergency fire and rescue services.

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Editorial

Leadership That Delivers: The Chernor Bah Model

Government is ultimately judged not by the number of policies it announces, but by the quality of leadership with which those policies are translated into results.

In Sierra Leone, President Julius Maada Bio has set out an ambitious development agenda that requires more than individual ministries working in isolation. It requires Cabinet Ministers who understand that their mandates are interconnected, who can coordinate institutions under their supervision, mobilise resources, demand accountability and, most importantly, convert presidential priorities into practical action.

It is against this background that the leadership approach demonstrated by the Minister of Information and Civic Education, Hon. Chernor Bah, deserves attention.

His recent engagement with the agencies and departments under his Ministry provides an instructive example of what effective Cabinet leadership should look like in practice.

On August 28, 2026, Minister Bah convened an inter-sectorial meeting bringing together the leadership of institutions under the Ministry's superintendence. The purpose was straightforward but strategically important: to understand what each institution was doing, identify challenges, eliminate institutional gaps and establish where agencies could complement one another.

This was not merely another meeting. It represented a management philosophy-coordination before fragmentation, accountability before excuses, and collective responsibility before institutional silos.

From Supervision to Strategic Leadership

One of the distinguishing features of Minister Bah's approach is that he does not appear to regard the agencies under his Ministry as isolated entities operating in separate compartments. Rather, he views them as components of one Government information and civic education architecture.

That distinction matters.

The Independent Media Commission, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation, Government Printing Department, Right to Access Information Commission, National Council for Civic Education and Development and Sierra Leone News Agency each have distinct mandates. Yet their mandates intersect in the wider national project of informing citizens, strengthening democratic participation, promoting access to information, supporting public communication and advancing national development.

Minister Bah's intervention therefore goes beyond asking what each institution has accomplished. His questions increasingly concern how one institution can help another and how the collective machinery can advance the Government's agenda.

That is precisely the kind of cross-institutional thinking required in a modern Government.

Turning Presidential Instructions into Action

Perhaps the most significant aspect of Minister Bah's leadership is the manner in which presidential priorities are being connected to institutional action.

On street signage regulation, for instance, the Minister explained that the Ministry had worked with the Sierra Leone Roads Authority following an instruction from President Bio. He reported that regulations had been developed, submitted to the Law Officers Department and brought to the attention of the Chief Minister and the President, with the President having reviewed and approved the regulations for the next stage.

This illustrates an important principle of Cabinet responsibility: a presidential instruction should not end as a note in a meeting minute. It must become a policy process, an institutional assignment and eventually a deliverable.

The same principle was evident in the discussions around community radio.

Recognising the importance President Bio attaches to community radio, Minister Bah acknowledged the difficulties confronting many community stations and considered the Independent Media Commission's proposal concerning licensing renewal fees as

significant, particularly because it aligns with aspects of wider media reform proposals.

This is leadership through listening, coordination and policy alignment.

The Information Sector as a Team

Minister Bah's strongest message, however, may have been his insistence that major national events cannot be treated as the responsibility of one institution alone.

His response to preparations for the forthcoming international information conference in Sierra Leone was particularly revealing.

He reminded stakeholders that although the event was being led by the Right to Access Information Commission, it was, in his words, fundamentally a Government of Sierra Leone Information Sector conference, meaning that every institution had a role to play.

That philosophy is important beyond the Information sector.

A Government cannot successfully deliver a national development agenda when ministries, departments and agencies operate as disconnected islands.

Infrastructure requires Finance.

Agriculture requires Trade, Finance, Local Government, Environment and Information.

Tourism requires Infrastructure, Transport, Security, Lands, Environment and Information.

Youth development requires Education, Employment, Finance, Local Government and the private sector.

Digital transformation cuts across virtually every institution.

The lesson is obvious: Government business is interconnected, and Cabinet leadership must therefore be collaborative.

Accountability Must Accompany Empowerment

Another notable feature of Minister Bah's approach is his willingness to ask difficult questions.

At the inter-sectorial meeting, he sought explanations for outstanding reports, requested historical data from the Independent Media Commission and demanded comparative financial information from the Government Printing Department to assess performance before and after its restructuring.

This is important because leadership is not simply about giving institutions resources and political support.

It is also about asking: What did we achieve? What did it cost? What remains unfinished? Why? And what must be done next?

Such questions create an institutional culture in which agencies understand that autonomy comes with responsibility and that Government support must be matched by measurable performance.

Mobilising Government Resources for Government Priorities

The Minister has also demonstrated an appreciation of resource mobilisation as a critical component of public-sector leadership.

In addressing challenges confronting the SLBC, he committed the Ministry's support to strengthening the Corporation's strategic planning and documentation and indicated that the necessary proposals could then be forwarded to development partners and the Ministry of Finance for consideration.

In the case of the Government Printing Department, he advocated the utilisation of the Department for Government printing requirements, arguing that public expenditure should, where appropriate, support Government-owned productive capacity and ultimately contribute to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

This represents another important dimension of Cabinet leadership: protecting public resources while ensuring that Government institutions become increasingly productive and sustainable.

A Template for Cabinet Performance

The broader significance of the Chernor Bah approach is that it provides a useful template for understanding what President Julius Maada Bio should expect from every member of his Cabinet.

The President cannot personally supervise every ministry, department, agency, project and programme.

That is why Ministers are appointed.

A Minister is not merely a political representative of a ministry. A Minister is the President's principal political manager within a sector and is expected to translate national priorities into sectoral results.

This requires several qualities.

First, ownership. Ministers must own their mandates and take responsibility for outcomes.

Second, coordination. They must bring institutions together rather than allow bureaucratic boundaries to obstruct delivery.

Third, decisiveness. Problems identified must be followed by clear instructions and timelines.

Fourth, accountability. Ministers must demand evidence of performance and confront institutional weaknesses.

Fifth, resource mobilisation. They must explore Government, private-sector and development-partner opportunities to advance national priorities.

Sixth, innovation. Ministers must be prepared to rethink traditional methods and embrace new approaches.

Seventh, teamwork. The success of one institution must increasingly be viewed as contributing to the success of the entire Government.

These are not merely desirable qualities. They are increasingly indispensable to the success of President Bio's development agenda.

From Presidential Vision to Collective Delivery

President Bio has articulated a vision for a transformed Sierra Leone. But presidential vision can only become national progress when it is carried forward by a Cabinet that is energetic, coordinated and results-oriented.

The experience within the Information and Civic Education sector demonstrates why this matters.

Minister Bah's approach-bringing institutional heads together, asking questions, identifying bottlenecks, assigning responsibility, linking agencies to one another and connecting institutional programmes to presidential priorities-illustrates the kind of leadership that can move Government from policy formulation to implementation.

It is a model worth replicating.

Every Minister should be asking the same fundamental questions:

What is the President's priority in my sector?

What have we done to advance it?

Which institutions must work together to achieve it?

What obstacles are slowing delivery?

What resources are required?

Who is responsible for the next step?

And, perhaps most importantly:

How will we demonstrate to the people of Sierra Leone that Government is delivering?

The President's Agenda Requires Presidential-Level Ownership

The lesson from the Information sector is therefore larger than the Ministry itself.

President Bio's agenda will not be delivered by presidential directives alone. It will be delivered when those directives are embraced with ownership by Ministers, translated into institutional action and subjected to continuous monitoring and accountability.

The example being demonstrated by Minister Chernor Bah suggests that Cabinet leadership is at its best when Ministers move beyond administrative supervision and become strategic coordinators of national action.

The ultimate objective is not to create a minister who merely runs a ministry.

It is to create a Minister who makes the ministry work for the national agenda.

That is the standard that Sierra Leone should expect.

And that is the standard that every Cabinet Minister, regardless of sector, should strive to meet.

For President Julius Maada Bio, the challenge is no longer simply to have Government institutions in place.

The challenge is to ensure that those institutions work together with urgency, discipline and measurable purpose.

The Chernor Bah approach offers one practical illustration of that philosophy: presidential priorities must be owned at ministerial level, coordinated across institutions and relentlessly pursued until they produce results for the people.

That is how an agenda becomes action.

Governance & Development

By Bockarie Abdel Aziz Bawoh, Deputy Minister of Information and Civic Education

At a time when countries across the world are confronting economic uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, disruptions to international trade, debt pressures and declining fiscal space, Sierra Leone has another important story to tell: the country is increasingly looking inward to finance its own development.

The latest second-quarter fiscal figures provide an interesting window into that journey. Between April and June 2026, Sierra Leone reportedly mobilised approximately NLe5.4 billion in domestic revenue, with income tax alone contributing NLe2.314 billion - approximately 43 percent of the total.

Put in the simplest possible terms: for every NLe100 government collected domestically during the quarter, about NLe43 came from income tax.

That deserves attention, not simply because of the amount collected, but because of what it says about the relationship between economic activity, citizens, businesses, and the financing of the state.

Standing Tall in Difficult Global Times

Sierra Leone does not operate in economic isolation. As a small, open and import-dependent economy, developments thousands of kilometres away can quickly find their way into the price of rice, fuel, transportation, electricity, construction materials and other essentials at home. Wars and geopolitical tensions can disrupt supply chains. International commodity prices can rise unexpectedly. Higher global interest rates can make borrowing more expensive. Climate shocks can affect food production and trade.

Government cannot control all these external events. What it can control, however, is how resilient Sierra Leone becomes in responding to them.

A country that depends overwhelmingly on external assistance, borrowing or a narrow range of exports remains vulnerable to decisions and shocks originating elsewhere. A country that progressively strengthens domestic production, broadens its tax base and develops multiple sources of revenue gives itself greater room to manoeuvre.

This is why the Q2 revenue figures should be viewed beyond accounting.

They speak directly to the larger national conversation about economic sovereignty.

But 43 Percent Also Carries a Warning

Celebrating the contribution of income tax should not prevent us from asking the next question: Should such a large proportion of domestic revenue continue to depend on one revenue stream?

The answer should drive the next phase of economic policy.

A strong income-tax system is desirable. Citizens and profitable businesses should contribute fairly towards the schools, hospitals, roads, security, electricity and public institutions from which society benefits.

But sustainable revenue mobilisation cannot mean continuously returning to the same taxpayers for more.

The better strategy is to increase the number of productive people, profitable businesses and viable economic sectors contributing to the national purse.

That means expanding the cake rather than simply cutting larger pieces from the existing one.

Agriculture and agro-processing must therefore generate greater value. Mining must produce stronger domestic linkages and greater value addition. Fisheries must realise more of their enormous potential. Tourism must become a serious foreign-exchange earner. Manufacturing must grow. The digital economy must expand. Small and medium-sized businesses must graduate into larger formal enterprises.

The objective should be simple: more businesses, more jobs, more production, more exports and consequently a broader tax base.

When The World Economy Shakes, Sierra Leone Must Build From Within

Rising Domestic Revenue Shows Resilience, But Peace, Cohesion and Economic Diversification Must Be the Next Frontier

Peace Is Now an Economic Asset

This is where the conversation about peace and national cohesion becomes inseparable from economics.

We sometimes discuss peace as though its only benefit is the absence of war. It is much more than that.

Peace is an economic infrastructure.

An investor considering whether to establish a factory, hotel, farm, processing facility or technology company asks fundamental questions: Is my investment secure? Can my employees work safely? Will political disagreement destabilise the country? Can contracts survive changes in government? Can goods move freely across the country?

Political stability helps provide confidence in answering those questions.

Every prolonged period of instability carries an economic cost. Businesses postpone investment. Capital becomes cautious. Tourism suffers. Jobs disappear. Government revenue declines.

Conversely, sustained peace creates the environment in which investment can grow.

That is why protecting Sierra Leone's peace should never be reduced to an SLPP versus APC question. Peace belongs to Sierra Leone.

Governments change. Political parties compete. Elections produce winners and losers. But the economy belongs to all of us.

National Cohesion Has an Economic Dividend

The same argument applies to national cohesion.

A country divided along political, regional or ethnic lines cannot fully exploit its economic potential.

Sierra Leone's greatest domestic market is Sierra Leone itself.

A farmer in Koinadugu should be able to sell produce profitably in Freetown. A manufacturer in the Western Area should see Bo, Kenema, Makeni and Port Loko as markets. A young entrepreneur from Kailahun should be able to establish a business anywhere in the country without feeling like an outsider.

When citizens see themselves first as Sierra Leoneans participating in one national economy, opportunities multiply.

That is the economic meaning of national cohesion.

From Taxing Income to Creating Income

There is perhaps an even more important lesson from the 43-percent figure.

Government's long-term ambition should not merely be collecting more income tax; it should be creating more taxable income.

There is an enormous difference.

If 100,000 people are paying income tax today, the sustainable solution is not simply to increase the burden on those 100,000. It is to create an economy in which 200,000, 500,000 and eventually millions of Sierra Leoneans have productive employment and businesses capable of contributing. To do that, we need peace and national cohesion.

The government is investing in human capital, agriculture, infrastructure, energy, technology, entrepreneurship and industrialisation, but these efforts could mean nothing without peace and cohesion.

Programmes that increase agricultural productivity are therefore revenue policies as much as agricultural policies. Investments in education are ultimately economic policies. Expanding electricity is a revenue strategy because businesses cannot flourish without reliable energy. Supporting entrepreneurship is revenue mobilisation because successful businesses eventually employ workers

and pay taxes.

Development creates taxpayers; taxation alone cannot create development.

The Next Frontier: Diversification

The figures themselves illustrate why diversification matters.

Income tax accounts for roughly 43 percent of domestic revenue, while customs and excise, GST, mineral resources, fisheries and other sources contribute the remainder.

Sierra Leone possesses considerably greater economic potential than what is currently reflected in some of these revenue streams.

Our minerals should stimulate processing and supporting industries. Our coastline should support a stronger fisheries economy. Our fertile land should reduce food imports while creating export opportunities. Our beaches, history, culture and natural environment should support a thriving tourism industry.

And our young population should increasingly participate in technology, services, manufacturing and entrepreneurship.

Imagine a Sierra Leone where agriculture feeds industry; industry creates employment; employment generates income; income expands consumption; businesses become profitable; exports earn foreign exchange; and all these activities broaden government revenue.

That is how an economy becomes resilient. And that is why the President says "Feed Salone".

A National Responsibility

Government has the responsibility to provide leadership: maintaining macroeconomic stability, fighting corruption and leakages, improving tax administration, providing infrastructure, supporting production and creating an environment attractive to investment.

The private sector must invest and create employment.

Citizens must meet legitimate tax obligations.

And political actors, civil society, traditional leaders, the media and ordinary Sierra Leoneans have another responsibility that is sometimes underestimated:

Protect the peace that makes all of this possible.

We can disagree vigorously about policies and politics. That is democracy. But our disagreements should never destroy the economic foundation upon which our collective prosperity depends.

Conclusion

The world economy will continue to experience shocks. Sierra Leone cannot determine when the next international crisis will occur.

But we can determine how prepared we are when it comes.

The NLe5.4 billion mobilised domestically in the second quarter of 2026, including NLe2.314 billion from income taxes, provides grounds for confidence.

Yet the bigger opportunity is what comes next.

We must consolidate peace. We must strengthen national cohesion. We must produce more. We must diversify. We must create more businesses and more taxpayers rather than merely taxing existing ones harder.

Because ultimately, the strongest protection against global economic uncertainty is a peaceful, united and productive Sierra Leone capable of increasingly financing its own development.

When the world economy shakes, Sierra Leone must have the internal strength to stand.

Focus On Peace Building

Fifty community mediators and peace monitors from border communities in Kailahun District have received training to help identify early warnings, report emerging concerns and settle disputes before they escalate into violence. The five-day training was held from 28

meetings could help people address

disagreements, while serious cases could be referred to traditional authorities, security institutions or other bodies with the responsibility to deal with them.

50 Local Peace Actors Receive Training To Prevent Conflict In Kailahun

become more serious. The training also looked at how community mediators and peace monitors can work with traditional leaders, community leaders, women, young people, persons with disabilities and security institutions. Such cooperation, participants were told, is important when dealing with problems that affect different sections of a community. Emphasis was also placed on neutrality and confidentiality. Participants were reminded that their responsibility is to listen to different sides, handle information carefully and avoid taking sides in disputes. The discussions allowed participants to draw on their own experiences and raise issues affecting their communities. The exchange also helped them consider practical ways of dealing with local problems before they develop into larger conflicts. The workshop was facilitated by Deputy Director Swaliho Koroma of the Directorate of Planning, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (PRM&E), and Luke Kakpa Pessima, Eastern Regional Coordinator of the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC). The training was conducted under the "Strengthening Peace, Human Security and Resilience in Border Communities Affected by the Situation in Yenga" programme, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Government of Japan and the Government of Sierra Leone.



August to 1 September 2026 in Koindu, Kissi Teng Chiefdom, bringing together 25 men and 25 women from Koindu, Yenga and nearby communities, including Gbondu, Sokoma, Pengobengu and Fendu. The group included 10 community mediators and 40 peace monitors. They received practical lessons in conflict prevention, mediation, negotiation, early warning, peace monitoring, reporting and response. A major focus of the training was helping participants recognize early warnings and understand what action to take when concerns begin to emerge. Discussions covered rumors, threats, hate speech, political disagreements, land and natural resource disputes, insecurity and changes in relationships between individuals and groups. Participants were taught to check information carefully before reporting it. Facilitators explained that passing on unverified information could create fear, cause confusion and increase tension in places already facing difficulties. The training also introduced practical approaches to mediation. Participants examined how dialogue and community

Through conflict mapping exercises, participants identified actual and possible sources of disputes in their areas and neighboring border communities. They looked at the people involved, the causes of the problems and the relationships



between those affected, and considered where dialogue or mediation could help. The situation in Yenga was among the concerns discussed during the training. Participants shared experiences from the border communities and examined some of the difficulties involved in monitoring developments and responding to concerns before they

At the close of the workshop, participants expressed appreciation for the knowledge and practical skills gained. They said they were ready to use what they had learned to identify early warnings, report concerns through the proper channels, support dialogue and help resolve disputes in their communities.

Spotlight On Health Care

Early Action at the Heart of Sierra Leone's Drive to End Preventable Maternal Deaths

Sierra Leone's Ministry of Health is intensifying its call for pregnant women across Sierra Leone to seek antenatal care early, emphasising that timely action can play a critical role in preventing avoidable complications and saving the lives of mothers and their babies.

Under the campaign message "R dae go clinic early. Early action dae save life," the Ministry, through the Directorate of Reproductive and Child Health (DRCH), is urging pregnant women, families and communities to make early antenatal care a priority. The call forms part of Sierra Leone's 300 Days of Activism for Triple Zero, a national drive aimed at achieving Zero Preventable Maternal Deaths, Zero Preventable Child Deaths and Zero-Dose Children. The campaign was launched in March 2026 as part of intensified national efforts to improve maternal and child health outcomes.

Early Care, Early Detection

The Ministry stresses that antenatal care is more than a routine clinic visit. It provides an opportunity for health workers to monitor the health of both mother and baby,

community leaders, religious leaders and other family members to encourage pregnant women to attend antenatal care early and continue with recommended visits.

Health authorities emphasise that preventing maternal deaths cannot be the responsibility of health workers alone. Families and communities have an important role to play by helping women overcome barriers that may delay access to care.

The message is therefore being taken beyond health facilities: when a woman becomes pregnant, early action should begin immediately.

Sierra Leone has made significant progress in reducing maternal mortality over recent years, supported by investments in maternal healthcare, skilled health workers and improved health services. The Ministry has identified maternal and child health as a national priority and continues to strengthen interventions aimed at protecting mothers and children. The Government's current 300 Days of Activism campaign seeks to accelerate that progress by bringing greater urgency, accountability and collective action to the prevention of maternal and child deaths.

The Ministry has also introduced innovations to improve pregnancy tracking and follow-up. Its PReSTrack initiative, for example, was designed to help health workers register pregnancies, monitor care and facilitate timely referrals. Early implementation recorded improvements in antenatal care attendance and enabled real-time referrals for women requiring additional attention.

A Collective Call to Action

As Sierra Leone advances its Triple Zero agenda, the Ministry of Health is reminding the public that preventing maternal deaths begins long before an

emergency occurs.

For pregnant women, the message is simple: go to the clinic early.

For families, it is to support and encourage pregnant women to seek care. For communities, it is to help create an environment where no woman is left behind.

And for the health system, it is to ensure that every woman who seeks care receives timely, respectful and quality services.

"R dae go clinic early. Early action dae save life."

With every early antenatal visit, every complication detected in time and every woman supported to access appropriate care, Sierra Leone moves closer to its ambition of Zero Preventable Maternal Deaths.

Early action saves lives.

Early action dae save life," the Ministry, through the Directorate of Reproductive and Child Health (DRCH), is urging pregnant women, families and communities to make early antenatal care a priority. The call forms part of Sierra Leone's 300 Days of Activism for Triple Zero, a national drive aimed at achieving Zero Preventable Maternal Deaths, Zero Preventable Child Deaths and Zero-Dose Children.

identify potential complications and provide appropriate care, counselling and referrals.

Early contact with the health system can help health workers detect conditions that may become life-threatening if left untreated. It also provides an opportunity for pregnant women to receive essential information on nutrition, danger signs, birth preparedness and when and where to seek emergency care. The Directorate of Reproductive and Child Health is responsible for coordinating key reproductive and child health interventions within the Ministry, including efforts to strengthen maternal and child health services.

Families and Communities Have a Role

The Ministry is also calling on husbands, partners, parents,

Ahmadiyya College Produces Scholars Memorizing the Quran

“Today, we are gathered here to celebrate excellence; to acknowledge scholarship; to release those of us who have memorized the Quran; those of us who are drenched in missionary call. It is my honour to stand here gracing this auspicious occasion. I am pleased; I am satisfied - we keep increasing on the numbers of those trained to guide the soul of society, and those guarding the content of a Book illuminating the very soul of society,” Amir Musa Mewa told graduands at the Ahmadiyya college in Bo.

On Saturday it released four Hufaz (those who memorize the Quran) and eleven missionaries who would be deployed to communities to engage in moral upliftment of the locals to preach them to conducts that guarantee spiritual freedom to attain social wellbeing. The college, Jamiatul Mubashireen, was instituted to train missionaries and nurture students for the memorization of the Holy Quran.

Amir said periods of residence in the college were a strong foundation for preparing the graduands for the bulky task ahead. Teaching the Quran required a wholesome education on the subject-matter to avoid misguidance.

Jamia was not a punishment but a training ground for coaching and building men dedicated to the service of Ahmadiyyat for the service of mankind.

Graduation was the beginning of a new phase in the lives of the missionaries, who would translate injunctions into guidance, prayers into practice, and recitations into spiritual fulfilment.

The call required them to continuous reading and researching to be able to respond to society on issues touching on their social and spiritual lives.

The Missionaries would be expected to be righteous, humble, and disciplined in their day-to-day interactions with their jamaats and in the communities they find themselves. They should remain constantly mindful of Allah Almighty in all their activities and be devoted to Khilafat.

Maulana Naeem Azar addressed parents of future candidates to take greater responsibility for the wellbeing of their children. The Missionary-in-Charge said the college existed to train good students. While it was an institution for reforming people, that refurbishment must start by parents taking the lead in teaching and guiding their children as they prepare to enroll.

Principal of Jamiatul Mubashireen, Murabbi Tahir Ahmad Bhatti, welcomed guests, parents, teachers and members of the Jama'at to the graduation ceremony. The graduation was to motivate parents to commit their children for missionary activities and inspire entrants to dedication to Khilafat.

At the ceremony, Ahmadis in Liberia represented their jamaat and showed

a conduct of brotherhood belonging to a unified system of Islamic monotheism in the house of Khilafat under the Headship of the Caliph. Jamiatul Mubashireen has existed for over thirty years teaching students an amalgam of Islamic education and western courses to produce wholesome scholars built to navigate through contemporary societies. The local missionaries can also take international deployment.

#end# contact# Secretary of Ishaat# Ahmadiyya Headquarters#Freetown



Local Content DG Honored At 3rd Africa Emerging Leaders Conference In Lagos

The Director General of the Sierra Leone Local Content Agency joined emerging African leaders and distinguished guests from both the public and private sectors at the Oriental Hotel in Lagos, Nigeria, on Friday, 28th August 2026, for the 3rd Edition of the Africa Emerging Leaders Conference and Awards.

The Forum provided a platform for frank, sincere, and honest discussions on transformative leadership, with African youth at the forefront of this transformation.

Participating as the Keynote Speaker, the Director General emphasized the importance of Africans working together as "One Africa" to take greater ownership and leadership of our continent's socio-economic development.

Drawing from the Local Content concept and initiatives as a leadership philosophy, he shared experiences and reflections on what has worked - and what has not - in building the next pipeline of African



leaders.

In recognition of outstanding leadership and significant contributions to the advancement of Africa, the Director General was also honored with an Award. He received it with humility and dedicated the milestone to:

1. *His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio* for the opportunity to

serve

2. The *Management and Staff of the Sierra Leone Local Content Agency*
3. His *supportive family and friends* for their belief and encouragement

He concluded that this achievement belongs to Sierra Leone and to Africa as a whole.

Elizabeth Kargbo, Information Officer, Ministry of Trade and Industry

Parliamentary Select Committee Assess SLPHA Operations

A Parliamentary Select Committee has visited the Sierra Leone Ports and Harbours Authority (SLPHA) to assess the Authority's productivity, achievements and contribution to national development.

The delegation, led by the Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma, and comprising senior Members of Parliament, was received by #SLPHA Director General, Yankuba Askia Bio, who highlighted key gains recorded by the Authority in recent years.

Notably, SLPHA has transferred US\$19 million to Government of Sierra Leone over the past three years (US\$4 million in 2023, US\$7 million in 2024 and US\$8 million in 2025). The DG also highlighted improvements in berth infrastructure, which have increased operational capacity and enabled larger vessels,



including Panamax vessels, to call at the Port.

The Members of Parliament commended SLPHA Management and staff for the progress made, while emphasizing the importance of consistently communicating the

Authority's activities, achievements and contributions to national development.

The visit concluded with a tour of the port facilities and a visit to the proposed Kent and Banana Island Seaport.

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HRMO DG Entreats Newly Recruited Civil Servants To Be Dedicated To Service



Addressing the third batch of inductees in the 2026 Induction Training Programme for the 740 newly recruited civil servants at the Public Service Academy today, Dr. Ansu Samuel Tucker informed the participants that the induction training is a critical component in the wider reform currently undertaken in the civil service to ensure effective and efficient service delivery in the civil service. The Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service, Prince E.O. Cole, said as civil servants they are to always put up good character in both their official and private lives. The Secretary to the

President who also serves as the principal adviser to the president on Public Service matters, Baba Fortune, outlined the opportunities in the civil service for civil servants that give their time, effort and commitment in the service. The Director of Training and Career Development in the Human Resource Management Office, Matthew Gbechio, advised the inductees to focus on the topics that will be treated during the training session as they will be covered in the one week tutorial for their pre confirmation examination. Lansana Bayoh Sesay, Information Officer, HRMO

Sierra Leoneans Among 22 African Nations Eligible For UK Ancestry Visa

The United Kingdom has unveiled a major immigration pathway that opens new opportunities for Sierra Leoneans and citizens of 21 other African countries. The UK Ancestry Visa, rooted in Commonwealth membership, allows qualifying individuals to live and work in Britain for up to five years, with the possibility of permanent settlement thereafter.

To qualify, applicants must be Commonwealth citizens aged 17 or above, able to prove that at least one grandparent was born in the UK, the Channel Islands, or the Isle of Man. They must also demonstrate financial independence and an intention to work during their stay. Successful candidates enjoy broad work freedoms, including self-employment and voluntary work, and may apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain after five years of continuous residence.

For Sierra Leone, this announcement carries significant implications for tourism and cultural diplomacy. Industry experts highlight that the scheme could deepen diaspora engagement, encouraging Sierra Leoneans abroad to invest in heritage tourism and cultural initiatives back home. Increased travel between Sierra Leone and the UK is expected to strengthen bilateral ties, boost visitor numbers, and enhance the visibility of Sierra Leone's tourism assets, from historic Bunce Island to vibrant cultural festivals such as the One Nation Reggae Festival.

Tourism officials argue that easier mobility for Sierra Leoneans will expand professional opportunities abroad while simultaneously creating a stronger network of cultural ambassadors. These ambassadors can promote Sierra Leone as a destination, translating into higher tourist arrivals, greater investment in hospitality, and a more dynamic cultural sector.

Despite its benefits, awareness of the ancestry visa remains limited. The Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (MTCA) is being urged to collaborate with diaspora networks to ensure

Sierra Leoneans take advantage of this opportunity. Analysts believe that positioning Sierra Leone as a hub for heritage tourism, supported by diaspora connections, could be transformative for the sector.

As Sierra Leone continues to diversify its economy beyond mining and agriculture, the ancestry visa scheme offers a timely boost. By leveraging diaspora ties and cultural heritage, the country can strengthen its tourism brand and secure a brighter future for its cultural and economic development.



Acting Local Gov't Minister, Basic Education Minister Seek Negotiated Solution To Property Dispute In Kono

By Sahr Sewa, Senior Information Officer, MLGCA

The Acting Minister of Local Government and Community Affairs (MLGCA), Alfred Moi Jamiru, and the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE), Conrad Sackey, have expressed their willingness to support dialogue and negotiations to address concerns surrounding Ables International Academy's continued occupation of a facility in Kono District that has been formally handed over to the Kono University of Science and Technology (KUST). The concerns were raised by the Proprietress of Ables International Academy, Rebecca Jimmy Yambasu, following the return of the facility, which houses the school's preschool and primary programmes, to KUST as its bona fide property. The Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs facilitated the resolution of the ownership dispute involving Gbense Chiefdom authorities and KUST, culminating in the execution of a Deed of Gift in favour of the University. Rebecca Yambasu explained that the school had occupied the property under a lease arrangement initially expected to expire in 2019 but later extended to 2030. She expressed concern about the impact on the development of enrolled pupils, their parents and the school's 31 staff members, adding that the pupils are from low income families. During their visit to Kono District, the two Ministers and their delegation inspected both the facility currently occupied by Ables International Academy and an alternative site proposed for the school and located in



Tankoro Chiefdom. The delegation included MLGCA's Permanent Secretary, Prince Alex Soriba; MBSSE's Permanent Secretary, Abdulai R.M. Fofanah; MBSSE's Chief Education Officer, Edward Kpakra; MLGCA's Director of Local Government, Brima Newman Combey; MBSSE's Deputy Director of Education- Kono District, Kai Lusen; Chairman of Kono District Council, Augustine Sheku; and other education and local government stakeholders. The Paramount Chief of Tankoro Chiefdom, Hon. PC Paul Ngaba Saque, received the delegation. Minister Sackey extended traditional courtesies to the PCMP, who accompanied the delegation to the alternative site. The delegation subsequently visited the current location of the school to gain a better understanding of the situation. Hon. PC Paul Ngaba Saque pledged to work with the Ministers and other stakeholders towards finding an amicable resolution to the matter.

Responding, Acting Minister Jamiru said dialogue offers the best path towards resolving the matter. He stressed that while KUST's rightful ownership must be respected, the concerns of the school, children, parents and the wider community also deserve consideration. He reaffirmed MLGCA's commitment to facilitating consultations among relevant stakeholders to reach a peaceful and mutually acceptable solution. He also acknowledged the role of Minister, Amb. Tamba Lamina, in supporting efforts aimed at finding a lasting solution to the matter. Minister Sackey similarly emphasised that the education and welfare of children must remain central to the discussions. He said the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education is ready to work with MLGCA, KUST, Ables International Academy and other stakeholders to support a practical and sustainable resolution. The two Ministers and the PCMP will continue to engage on resolving this issue.



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Policy & The People

Beyond Custody: Education as a Second Chance

By Alice A. Kamara Esq.

What should happen to a person while serving a prison sentence? The obvious answer is that the person serves the punishment imposed by law. But Sierra Leone's correctional framework goes further. It also recognises rehabilitation and reintegration as important parts of the correctional process. This thinking is reflected in the Sierra Leone Correctional Service Act, 2014, which provides a legal basis for educational facilities and skills-training programmes within correctional centres. The strategic direction of the Correctional Service similarly places reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration among its priorities. This makes the recent discussion around expanding educational opportunities for persons in custody particularly important. At this week's Government Press Conference, Director General of the Sierra Leone Correctional Service, Joseph J. Senessie, spoke about efforts to strengthen partnerships with universities and other educational institutions. The aim is to create opportunities for eligible persons in custody to pursue education and, where possible, recognised qualifications. Alongside formal education, vocational and practical skills training can also prepare people for employment and self-reliance after release. There is a simple policy reason for this. Most people in correctional facilities will eventually return to society. If someone spends several years in custody without opportunities to learn, develop a skill or prepare for life outside, that person may leave with the same difficulties that existed before imprisonment, or even greater ones. Rehabilitation does not excuse crime or remove personal responsibility. Rather, it recognises that protecting society is not only about keeping offenders securely in custody. It is also about reducing the likelihood that they will return to offending after their sentences have been served. This is why education, vocational training and reintegration are not merely acts of kindness towards persons in custody. They form part of a wider approach to public safety and justice. The challenge, as with many policies and laws, is turning that intention into practice. Educational programmes require teachers, learning materials, facilities, partnerships and funding. Skills training must also provide abilities that are useful when people return to their communities. The discussions with universities therefore present an opportunity to strengthen an approach that is already recognised within Sierra Leone's correctional framework. A correctional sentence may temporarily remove someone from society. But rehabilitation asks an equally important question: how do we prepare that person to return?

'This Day In History'

September 3

On September 3, 2003, the Special Court for Sierra Leone turned over the body of notorious rebel leader Sam Bockarie (also known as "Mosquito") to the Sierra Leonean government for burial after positively identifying his remains.

African Proverbs

1. "Wisdom is like a baobab tree; no one individual can embrace it."

Meaning: True wisdom is vast and multifaceted, requiring the collective understanding and contributions of many people.

2. "The child who is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth." Neglect and isolation can lead to destructive behaviour as a means of seeking attention and care.

3. "Even if the cock does not crow, the sun will rise." Meaning: What is meant to be will be.

DID YOU KNOW?

- (1) A cloud weighs around a million tonnes. Even though they look light and fluffy, a typical cumulus cloud holds a massive volume of water droplets spread out over a huge space.
- (2) Octopuses have three hearts. Two pump blood through the gills, while the third pumps it to the rest of the body.
- (3) The sunset on Mars looks blue. The fine Martian dust scatters the light in a way that makes the sky bluish near the setting sun.
- (4) A single teaspoon of honey takes the lifetime work of about 12 bees to produce.
- (5) Identical twins do not share the same fingerprints. While their DNA is the same, subtle environmental differences in the womb create unique patterns on their fingers.
- (6) Sharks existed before trees. The earliest shark scales date back around 450 million years, whereas the earliest trees appeared about 350 million years ago.
- (7) A shrimp's heart is located inside its head.
- (8) Africa is the only continent that sits in all four hemispheres (Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western).
- (9) The first computer mouse was invented by Douglas Engelbart in 1964 and was made entirely of wood.

FOREIGN MISSION
In Focus

Sierra Leone Strengthens Labour And Governance Cooperation With China

Sierra Leone has taken a significant step towards strengthening international cooperation in labour, employment and governance following the successful participation of the Commissioner of Labour and senior officials from the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Security in a high-level China-Africa Ministerial Workshop on State Governance held in Beijing. The week-long programme, which ran from 25 to 31 August 2026, brought together government officials from across Africa for intensive discussions and knowledge-sharing on key areas of state governance and national development. The workshop was organised by the China Center for Urban Development under the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). Participants explored a broad range of development issues, including national development planning, governance, urbanisation, digital transformation, poverty reduction and high-quality development. The programme offered valuable insights into China's development journey and its approach to modernisation, particularly within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. A major feature of the workshop was a field visit to the Xiong'an New Area in Hebei Province, where participants gained practical exposure to China's evolving model of smart urban development. The visit highlighted the role of technology, digital innovation and the

digital economy in shaping modern cities and strengthening effective urban governance. For Sierra Leone, however, the engagement extended beyond the classroom. The Commissioner of Labour used the opportunity to build meaningful relationships and strengthen institutional connections with Chinese officials, experts and other development partners. Discussions and exchanges focused on areas of mutual importance, including labour administration, employment creation, skills development, governance and sustainable economic growth. These engagements opened opportunities for future cooperation and knowledge-sharing that could support efforts to strengthen Sierra Leone's labour governance framework and enhance the capacity of institutions responsible for employment and social protection. The workshop also created an important platform for the Sierra Leone delegation to contribute to wider discussions by sharing the country's own governance experiences, development challenges and national priorities. At the same time, participants examined opportunities for deeper international collaboration and practical cooperation under the Belt and Road framework. The Commissioner's participation underscores the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Security's commitment to expanding strategic partnerships that deliver

lasting institutional benefits. Such partnerships are increasingly focused not only on traditional cooperation, but also on capacity-building, technical knowledge transfer, skills development, digital transformation and policy innovation. China's development experience remains particularly relevant to Sierra Leone's national aspirations. Its approach demonstrates the importance of linking effective development planning with strong institutional coordination, technological advancement, infrastructure investment and human-capital development in the pursuit of sustainable economic transformation. The Beijing engagement has therefore laid an important foundation for strengthening China-Sierra Leone cooperation, particularly in the areas of labour, employment and governance. The relationships established and lessons gained during the week-long programme have the potential to develop into practical initiatives capable of benefiting workers, employers and the wider Sierra Leonean economy. As the delegation returns to Sierra Leone, attention will now turn towards sustaining the relationships built during the engagement and exploring concrete avenues through which the knowledge, experiences and partnerships developed in China can be translated into meaningful institutional cooperation and tangible development outcomes.

MELSS COMMUNICATIONS

Foreign Minister Hon. Mohamed Rahman Swaray Addresses 21st Extraordinary Session of AU Assembly on Behalf of President Bio



Sierra Leone has called for stronger political commitment, predictable financing and improved coordination to ensure that Africa's early warning mechanisms translate into timely action to prevent conflicts before they escalate. The position was delivered on behalf of His Excellency Dr Julius

Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Mohamed Rahman Swaray, at the 21st Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Luanda, Angola, on Sunday 30 August 2026. Conveying the President's greetings, Honourable Swaray commended His Excellency

João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of Angola and AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation, for his leadership in prioritising conflict prevention across the continent. He noted that Africa already has the institutions and frameworks for peace and security, but stressed the need to transform early warning into concrete and timely action through strong political will, predictable financing and effective coordination, adding that the continent should strengthen existing mechanisms rather than create new ones. Sierra Leone welcomed the proposed African Union Trigger Mechanism for Early Warning and Early Action, supporting its adoption on the basis of national ownership and close cooperation among Member States, the AU and the Regional Economic Communities. Honourable Swaray highlighted two priorities: a clear

implementation framework defining responsibilities, timelines and accountability, and adequate, predictable financing for conflict prevention. "Early warning must lead to early action," he emphasised. He also supported strengthening the African Union Peace Fund, particularly its Mediation and Preventive Diplomacy window, to ensure resources for mediation, preventive diplomacy and locally led peacebuilding. The true measure of the Session's success, he maintained, would be Africa's ability to prevent violence, resolve disputes early and sustain peace. "Let us move from warning to action, from reactive crisis management to sustained prevention, and from mechanisms on paper to measurable results for the people of Africa," he declared. Embassy of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Free Quality Education In Progress

SLTU Rates Free Quality School Education First Class

By Ophaniel Gooding



At university, scoring 75% means your degree is First Class, explained the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Conrad Sackey. However, by the same standards, Ibrahim Bankapoma Kargbo, president of Sierra Leone's Teachers Union, has assessed the government's Free Quality School Education programme and his verdict is 75%, which merits an excellent performance by university standards.

The reality facing Sierra Leone's basic and secondary education sector has never been simple, yet the measurement by the SLTU president articulates how far we've gone since the proclamation of the Free Quality School Education by President Bio in 2018.

Out of 20 strategic areas targeted for systemic transformation, 15 show substantive progress, five remain contested terrain, and that ratio, the SLTU president argues, is the kind of mathematics that defines genuine institutional reform.

According to Bankapoma's assessment, the introduction of free quality school education represents more than policy language it is the visible hand of government redirecting resources directly toward the classroom.

Upon President Bio's declaration of free quality education, the subsidy structure was recalibrated to significantly exceed pre-2018 levels: primary school subsidies increased from NLe 5 to NLe 10, junior secondary from NLe 30 to NLe 50, and senior secondary from NLe 40 to NLe 60.

Bankapoma recognises that few reforms matter if teachers themselves remain outside the machinery of implementation. The operationalisation of the Teaching Service Commission marks a shift the SLTU identifies

as foundational.

In his assessment, he highlights that in 2019, the government delivered a 30% salary increase to the teaching force. In 2022, it added a further 45%, a compounded elevation that reached 75% for some categories, and 80 per cent for lower-paid cadres. The SLTU president's evaluation pivots on this decisive point: government kept its word, twice.

Bankapoma's comprehensive audit documents advancement far beyond wage packets. He noted that the government sustained established teaching positions numbering approximately 38,000; supplied teaching and learning materials; expanded the school feeding programme from five districts to all the districts save the Western Area; developed assessment and promotion pathways; approved new technical and vocational institutions; strengthened support infrastructure for those institutions already operational; and also created ICT centers in all the districts.

Yet even first-class honours accommodate some missing marks, and here Bankapoma identifies them with surgical precision.

Salaries, whilst improved, remain insufficient to match the economic gravity of the work. Teaching and learning materials, though distributed, reach some rural areas with irregular frequency.

School feeding, expanded to most districts, still leaves gaps in remote zones. Teacher assessment and promotion, though designed, requires accelerated implementation across all 3,000 teacher respondents. And the allocation ceiling for primary schools, fixed at NLe. 5, strains under the



weight of uniform costs and identical operational burdens across disparate contexts.

A first class degree requires not only technical excellence but ethical distinction. Here too, Bankapoma affirms that the Union has drawn its line, which aligns with that of the government: a zero tolerance on examination malpractice, sexual exploitation of pupils, corporal punishment, financial impropriety, and misconduct among teachers. The SLTU president recognises this framework as a non negotiable guardrail.

When the SLTU affirms that government education policy merits first-class honours, it is not dispensing diplomatic courtesy. It is saying this: take the composite measure, free access, teacher compensation, operational infrastructure, ethical frameworks, material supply, and against the yardstick of systemic ambition, the performance reaches 75%, which is

excellence by academic classification.

But excellence is not complacency. This is why the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Conrad Sackey, has articulated that the government hears clearly what the SLTU has identified, that the 15% between current performance and optimal ambition as real challenges demanding real solutions.

"This Ministry does not accept that gap. We are not satisfied with 75% when 100% remains the true measure of our obligation to every pupil in this nation. The issues raised by the Teachers Union are not minor deflections. They are the priority areas where government is now directing sustained effort, deepening resources, and strategic focus."

This is not the rhetoric of comfort. This is the commitment of a government that understands that a first class rating carries with it an equally first-class responsibility to close the remaining distance, the Minister averred.

300 Days of Activism
For Triple Zero

R dae take
me **pekin**
for get all
e **maklate**
Early **action**
dae **save life.**

Zero Dae Start Wit Action



Ministry of
Health



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND CIVIC EDUCATION

ENTERTAINMENT

Spotlight On "Shady Baby" Abubakarr S. Turay From topping charts to promoting peace

The Music Star Now Serving as Peace Ambassador for Sierra Leone's Entertainment Industry

By Marian Magdalene Bangura |Daily Mail Entertainment Correspondent



Sierra Leone's music scene has produced many stars, but few shine as consistently and with as much cultural impact as **Abubakarr S. Turay** - better known to fans as *"Shady Baby"*. For years, Shady Baby has been a household name. From dancehall and afrobeat hits that dominate parties in Freetown to songs that speak to everyday Salone life, he has built a career on talent, hard work, and connection with the people.

THE ARTIST
"Shady Baby" first broke into the industry with his unique voice and energy. He quickly became one of Sierra Leone's celebrated music stars, known for songs that blend catchy melodies with messages that resonate. His music doesn't just make you dance. It tells stories. Stories of hustle, love, struggle,

and pride in being Sierra Leonean. Over the years, he has performed on major stages, collaborated with top artists, and earned the respect of fans across the country and in the diaspora.

THE NEW ROLE
Beyond the studio and stage, Shady Baby has now taken on an even bigger responsibility. He currently serves as the **Peace Ambassador for Sierra Leone's Entertainment Industry**. In this role, he uses his platform and influence to promote unity, tolerance, and peace through music and public engagement. At a time when artists are seen as voices that shape young people, his appointment recognizes the power of entertainment in nation-building.

WHY IT MATTERS
Appointing a respected artist like Shady Baby as Peace Ambassador sends a clear message: **music is more than*

*entertainment**. It's a tool for social change. From anti-violence campaigns to youth empowerment messages, he now bridges the gap between the booth and community leadership. Fans say it fits him - an artist who has always preached positivity while keeping his music real and relatable.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING
"From bangers to building peace. Proud of you, Shady Baby!"
"Salone music to the world. This is the kind of growth we need to see."
As he continues both his music career and his work as Peace Ambassador, one thing is clear: **Shady Baby isn't just making hits. He's making impact.** (You can input this in a separate box in one corner)
His mission: ** Using music and influence to unite the nation and inspire the next generation.*



Correctional Service Strengthens University Partnerships To Expand Education And Skills Opportunities For Inmates

system to a correctional service in 2014 represented a significant shift towards a system that places greater emphasis on custody, rehabilitation and reintegration. He noted that while the Service has the responsibility to protect society and maintain safe, secure and humane correctional environments, it also has a duty to help inmates address the factors that contributed to their offending and prepare them for responsible lives after their release. A key area highlighted by the Director General was the growing importance of education within correctional facilities. He said the Service is interested in strengthening collaboration with universities and other educational institutions to create meaningful learning opportunities for persons in custody. Among the institutions specifically mentioned was the University of Sierra Leone, as well as the University of Makeni, with discussions centred on how such partnerships could provide opportunities for inmates to pursue formal education and

obtain recognized academic qualifications while serving their sentences. Mr. Senessie emphasized that the university discussions are particularly important because some individuals may spend many years in correctional custody. He noted that persons who remain in custody for extended periods should not be deprived of opportunities to learn, develop their abilities and acquire qualifications that can improve their prospects after release. He explained that the Service is therefore exploring ways to deepen engagement with universities so that education can become a more structured and meaningful part of rehabilitation, including the possibility of enabling eligible persons in custody pursue programmes leading to recognized certificates. The Director General further stressed that academic education must be complemented by practical skills development. According to him, the Correctional Service wants persons in custody to leave its facilities

with skills that can help them establish livelihoods and become self reliant. He explained that vocational and practical training can provide individuals with the ability to earn an income, support their families and contribute positively to their communities. This approach, he added, is consistent with the Service's broader objective of ensuring that individuals return to society with the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to rebuild their lives. Mr. Senessie also highlighted the importance of welfare, human rights and humane treatment throughout the correctional process. He said the Service remains committed to respecting the fundamental rights of persons in custody while ensuring safe and secure conditions for both those in custody and correctional officers. He further referenced engagement with human rights organisations, prison monitoring groups and advocates as part of efforts to strengthen transparency, accountability and oversight within correctional facilities. Another important area of reform, he said, is improving access to justice and addressing overcrowding through more effective systems and the use of modern technology. Mr. Senessie pointed to the

importance of electronic information management and the potential application of artificial intelligence and other digital tools to improve the management of records. He said the Service is working towards systems that can make important information more accessible and organised, while also indicating that a consultant would be engaged to support the development and improvement of these systems. Mr. Senessie reaffirmed that the ultimate objective of the Sierra Leone Correctional Service is to ensure that every person in its custody has the opportunity to return to society as a useful, productive and peaceful citizen. He said continued collaboration with universities such as the University of Sierra Leone and the University of Makeni (Unimak) alongside education, vocational training, welfare, human rights protection and modern correctional management, can significantly strengthen rehabilitation and reintegration. He further noted the value of learning from the experiences of countries such as Kenya, demonstrating the Service's commitment to adopting effective practices and building a modern correctional system that protects society while giving individuals a genuine opportunity for a positive second chance.

As Land and Pension Reforms advance...

Cabinet Approves US\$73.8 Million In Development Financing

Cabinet also approved approximately US\$23.8 million from the African Development Fund for Phase One of the Sierra Leone Rice Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone Project. The investment will support climate-resilient rice production, improve local processing and competitiveness, strengthen food security and nutrition and increase farmers' incomes. The project will also establish an agro-industrial hub and Agricultural Transformation Centres, with particular attention given to women and young people. "Feed Salone remains a priority for this government. This project will improve rice production and processing, create jobs and strengthen the country's food security," he said. Additionally, Cabinet approved a US\$40 million grant-financing agreement with the International Development Association for the Sustainable Agriculture Value Chain Intensification for Growth Project. The project will promote climate-smart agriculture, improve value addition and market access, support digital agricultural services, increase access to finance and attract private-sector investment. It is expected to directly benefit nearly 100,000 farmers, including approximately 40,000 women and 30,000 young people. "This is another major decision taken by Cabinet. It will create opportunities for farmers, women and young people while attracting more private investment into agriculture," the Minister noted. Beyond the financing agreements, Cabinet approved Sierra Leone's intention to seek a seat on the United Nations Tourism Executive Council for the 2027-2031 term. If successful, membership will give Sierra Leone a stronger voice in international tourism policy and support efforts to create jobs, earn foreign exchange and increase the country's global visibility. The Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs has been directed to establish an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate the international campaign. Cabinet further approved the comprehensive review and replacement of the National Social Security and Insurance Trust Act of 2001. The proposed legislation will be known as the National Social Security and Pensions

Authority Act, 2026. The new law will respond to changes in the labour market by extending consideration to self-employed workers, microenterprises and people engaged in digital forms of employment. It will also strengthen governance, transparency and service delivery while protecting contributors' benefits and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the national pension scheme. "The current law is 25 years old. The labour market has changed and the law must change to reflect those new realities," he explained, adding that the proposed legislation would soon be tabled in Parliament. On the mining sector, Cabinet approved the designation of certain mineral assets to the Sierra Leone Mines and Minerals Development and Management Corporation for identification, development and management. The decision is intended to strengthen structured state participation and investment in mineral exploration and development. The designated assets will be submitted to Parliament for approval before being allocated to the Corporation. Cabinet also approved the Land Adjudication Bill and Land Title Registration Regulations, marking a major step towards overhauling Sierra Leone's land-administration system. The reforms will facilitate the systematic registration of land titles under both formal and customary tenure, strengthen the protection of land rights and establish a unified National Land Register. "All land information will be available in one place. If somebody offers you land for sale, you will be able to check the title and confirm the ownership," he stated. He said the proposed online land-registration system would protect citizens, including Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora, from fraudulent transactions and make land administration more accessible, efficient and reliable. The Minister of Lands, Housing and Country Planning will present the legislation to Parliament, with the government expressing hope that the reforms will become law before the end of the year.

Vaccination Rate Hits 95% In 300 Days Campaign

identified when the campaign was launched in March have now received their first vaccination. The progress brings Sierra Leone significantly closer to one of the central ambitions of the campaign: ensuring that every child, regardless of where they live, has access to life-saving vaccines and protection against preventable diseases. The vaccination drive is part of the Government's broader Triple Zero agenda-zero preventable maternal deaths, zero preventable child deaths and zero zero-dose children-and reflects an intensified effort to move beyond simply making vaccines available to actively finding children who have been missed by the health system. **Closing the last-mile gap** The achievement is particularly significant because zero zero-dose children are often among the hardest to reach. They may live in remote communities, have limited access to health facilities or have been missed by routine immunization programs for a range of social and logistical reasons. Rather than waiting for these children to come to health facilities, health workers have increasingly taken vaccination services into communities, using local data to identify children who have never received a vaccine and directing outreach efforts towards them. The result is reflected in district-level performance, with some districts exceeding their targets. But the significance of the campaign extends beyond the performance of individual districts. The 95 percent national figure suggests that the country is now within reach of eliminating a major gap in childhood immunization: children who have had no contact with the vaccination system at all. From numbers to lives protected For the Ministry of Health, the achievement represents more than a percentage on a dashboard. Each additional percentage point represents

hundreds of children receiving protection that they previously did not have. The campaign has therefore placed considerable emphasis on using data to measure progress, identify communities where children remain unreached and adjust interventions accordingly. The approach is consistent with the Government's wider effort to make preventive healthcare a more central part of Sierra Leone's health system. Minister of Health Dr. Austin Demby has praised health workers across the country for their commitment to reaching mothers and children, urging them to sustain the momentum as the campaign progresses. "We can get to zero, with what we have built and the effort and professionalism our nurses, doctors are putting in," Dr. Demby said during a meeting with health professionals. The 95 percent vaccination rate comes as the campaign approaches its later stages, leaving a relatively small but important group of zero zero-dose children still to be reached. That final gap could prove more difficult than the first 95 percent. The children who remain unvaccinated are likely to be among those facing the greatest barriers to accessing routine health services, making targeted community engagement and persistent outreach particularly important. Health authorities are therefore encouraging districts that have already exceeded their targets to maintain their efforts, while calling on others to intensify the search for children who remain outside the vaccination system. The achievement provides a measure of how far the 300 Days Campaign has come-but also clarifies the task ahead. If the campaign succeeds in reaching the remaining five percent, Sierra Leone will have taken a significant step towards its ambition of ensuring that no child is left behind in the country's vaccination programme. And in the broader pursuit of Triple Zero, that distinction matters: every child reached represents not just a successful vaccination, but one less child exposed to preventable illness and death.

Sierra Leone's Juma Bah Joins Augsburg on Season-Long Loan from Man City

Sierra Leone international Abdulai Juma Bah has completed a season-long loan move to Bundesliga side FC Augsburg from Manchester City.

The 20-year-old centre-back was pictured with his agent, Chernor Musa Jalloh, after finalizing the deal ahead of the German transfer deadline. Augsburg reached a verbal agreement with City for the loan, which includes a non-mandatory purchase option valued at over €20m. Augsburg moved for Bah following Keven Schlotterbeck's departure, beating interest from clubs in Spain and Italy.

Standing at 1.95m, Bah will wear No.35 for Augsburg. It's his third loan since joining City in January 2025, after spells at RC Lens and OGC Nice where he made 41 appearances in all competitions last season.

Bah has 7 caps and 1 goal for the Leone Stars. The move gives the Freetown-born defender regular top-flight football in one of Europe's top leagues as he continues his development.

National Fire Force Gets New Equipment And Expands Nationwide

Speaking at the Weekly Government Press Conference held at the Miatta Civic Centre on Tuesday, 1 September 2026, the Force's Public Relations Officer and Legal Officer, Bintu Fatmata Kamara Esq., said the institution, established under the 1985 Fire Force Act, continues to strengthen its ability to respond to fire incidents and other emergencies across the country.

According to Madam Kamara, one of the major challenges facing the National Fire Force has been inadequate equipment and personnel. She disclosed that the government has taken steps to address these challenges, including plans to recruit 200 new firefighters. She said the recruitment process is expected to progress in the coming months, with successful recruits expected to commence training and subsequently join the Force officially.

She also informed that the government has procured four brand-new multipurpose fire engines, two already arrived and the remaining two expected before the end of the year. In addition, the Force has received donated fire engines and related equipment from Spain, further boosting its operational capacity.

Beyond equipment, Madam Kamara said the government is expanding the National Fire Force's infrastructure. New fire stations have been constructed in several locations, including Magburaka, Mattru Jong, Pujehun and Kabala, with commissioning and full operationalisation expected after the deployment of personnel and equipment. She said the development will significantly improve the Force's ability to respond to emergencies outside the capital.

The National Fire Force is also placing greater emphasis on fire prevention and public education. Madam Kamara explained that the Force is moving beyond responding to fires to educating citizens on how to prevent them. She said public awareness campaigns have already been conducted in the Western Area and North-Western Region, with plans to extend the initiative nationwide. The Force is also targeting 250 schools for fire-safety education and has reached approximately 58 communities through sensitisation activities.

"We are not only responding to fires; we are taking a preventive approach because most fire incidents can be reduced when people are properly educated and understand how to prevent them,"

Madam Kamara further highlighted ongoing efforts to improve access to water during emergencies through the rehabilitation and expansion of fire hydrants. She noted that only a limited number of hydrants are currently operational in Freetown, making water access a major challenge during firefighting operations. The Force is therefore working to improve the availability of hydrants, while additional fire stations and equipment are expected to strengthen emergency response.

She disclosed that from January to the end of August 2026, the National Fire Force had responded to 249 fire incidents across the country, including incidents involving major public facilities. During the same period, the Force also conducted 10 rescue operations, which resulted in the successful rescue of two people whose lives were at risk.

Madam Kamara stressed that the National Fire Force's responsibilities extend beyond firefighting to include rescue operations and other emergency interventions. She said the institution remains committed to protecting lives and property while strengthening its relationship with communities through education, prevention and rapid response.

"Our responsibility is not only to extinguish fires; we also carry out rescue operations and preventive activities to protect lives and property," she emphasised.

The National Fire Force says the combination of new personnel, modern firefighting equipment, expanded infrastructure, improved water access and nationwide public education will help build a more responsive and effective emergency service capable of meeting the needs of citizens across Sierra Leone.



Sierra Leone Descent Winger Monica Jusu Bah Joins Manchester United Women



Manchester United Women have bolstered their attack with the signing of Monica Jusu Bah, completing a permanent deal from Swedish side BK Häcken.

The 23-year-old forward, born in Sweden and of Sierra Leonean heritage, has signed a four-year contract that runs until June 2030. She will wear the No.23 shirt for the upcoming Women's Super League season. Jusu Bah arrives with strong Damallsvenskan experience and is expected to add pace and directness to Head Coach Eva Olid's frontline as United target a return to WSL title contention. Her move continues a growing trend of diaspora talent choosing to represent clubs at the top of European football. For Sierra Leonean football fans, the winger's switch to one of the world's biggest clubs is another landmark moment. United confirmed the transfer as part of their summer rebuild, with Jusu Bah set to link up with the squad immediately ahead of pre-season preparations. **Credit: Miracle Kargbo**