



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
Ministry of Mineral Resources

**Outcomes and Next Steps from Presidential Workshop on Minerals
Sector Reform**

On Monday 7th July the Strategy and Policy Unit (SPU) of the Office of the President and the Ministry of Mineral Resources (MMR), with the assistance of the UK Department for International Development (DFID), held a Presidential workshop on minerals sector reform. The workshop was attended by representatives from government, the private sector, civil society, local community and donors.

As agreed in the panel discussion at the end of the workshop, it is the responsibility of the MMR to clarify and report the outcomes of the workshop and also to lead and coordinate implementation of agreed actions.

This note therefore intends to clarify:

1. The constraints to minerals sector growth that were identified
2. Priority reform areas that were identified
3. Actions that will be undertaken and allocation of responsibility

1. Constraints

The main constraints to sector growth identified in the workshop include:

- Legislation that is not properly defined
- Lack of geological information to attract investment
- Inadequate infrastructure
- Lack of adequate management of environmental matters
- Inadequate assessment and collection of revenues
- Ineffective monitoring mechanisms
- Poor community governance structures
- Dysfunctional public sector institutions
- One company with disproportionate share of license holdings
- Inconsistent and non-transparent licencing and transfer of licences
- Mining companies not organised and do not speak with one voice

2. Priority reform areas

The priority reform areas that were identified in the workshop include:

- Review of mineral rights and appropriate actions taken
- Restructuring of MMR
- Capacity building in MMR
- Revisiting the Core Minerals Policy
- Developing appropriate legislation and regulations to better manage the sector
- Encouraging transparency, communication, level playing field and accountability
- Assisting communities to improve their governance structures
- Ensuring strong fiscal and monetary policies affecting the sector
- EIA licensing process
- Assessing and collecting revenues from taxes and fees to maximize financial returns
- Providing more effective allocation of minerals sector revenue to mining communities
- Re-establishing the Chamber of Mines
- Ensuring better consultation with parliamentarians, civil society organisations and other stakeholder groups
- Developing a Public-Private Partnership (PPP)/infrastructure policy

3. Actions to be taken

No.	Action	Who is responsible for implementing?	What other stakeholders are involved?	When will it be done?
1	Cabinet submission for restructuring of MMR	MMR	PSRU Establishment Secretary Cabinet Secretary	To be submitted by the end of August 2008
2	MMR training needs analysis	MMR, European Commission (EU Rutile Fund) / DFID		Ongoing
3	Re-visit the Core Minerals Policy	MMR / DFID	SPU	(after mineral agreements review)
4	Implement the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process	MMR & Ministry of Lands		
5	Develop new policies and procedures for the DACDF	MMR / DFID	Paramount Chiefs District councils	September 2008
6	Consultation with Parliamentarians in the reform process	MMR	Parliamentary sub-committee on mining	Ongoing
7	Determine what geological information currently exists	MMR		September 2008
8	Determine the cost and feasibility of airborne surveys to improve Sierra Leone's geological information	MMR / DFID EC		September 2008
9	Make functional the minerals revenue collection working group	MoF	MMR NRA	1 st August 2008
10	Re-establish Chamber of Mines: - Appoint chairperson - Form board - Register as legal entity - First AGM	Mining companies		4 th September
11	NMJD to join task force for review of mineral rights	Task force	n/a	Immediately
12	Fast-track the process of reviewing mineral rights	Task force Technical team	Civil society organisations	Ongoing
13	Develop and implement communications/public outreach strategy for the review of mineral rights	Task force, NMJD NACE, DFID	All stakeholders	Ongoing