



Sierra Leone Covid-19 Status, Dec 22<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Confirmed cases: 6,397
Recovery: 3,439
Death: 121

Source: <https://mohs.gov.sl/>

DEAR READERS,

We hope you are doing great. We want to encourage you to keep adhering to all the appropriate measures that are there to protect us from the coronavirus.

IN THIS ISSUE

- H.E Jeroen Verheul meet with the Dutch/SL Community and Members of SLNBCC In Freetown.
- World Bank approved another grant \$75 million to Sierra Leone government for economic reform
- Investment opportunities in Africa in full display at IATF's Investor Forum
- Procurement notices
- How to protect yourself from Covid19

**Notice: SLBCC office will be closed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> until the 10<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2022 for the holidays.**

## H.E Jeroen Verheul meet with the Dutch/SL Community and Members of SLNBCC In Freetown.



On the 3rd of December the newly assigned ambassador of the kingdom of the Netherlands, to Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Togo; H.E Jeroen Verheul, meet with some Dutch nationals living and working in Sierra Leone and a few members of the Sierra Leone Netherlands Business and Culture Council at the country lodge hotel Freetown.

The event was part of an effort to ensure that the ambassador meet and interaction with members from the Dutch community in the country and other important associates. H.E Jeroen Verheul listens to what the attendee has to say about their experience in living, doing business and working in diverse capacities in Sierra Leone.

The event occurred on the same day the ambassador presented his credentials to the presidents of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Such activity denotes the official acknowledgement and commencements of his services in that capacity.

The ambassador thanked everyone who took their time to attend the event and he emphasized the Netherlands commitment to maintaining ties with Sierra Leone and promotes the “Netherlands and Sierra Leone growing together” initiative.

The ambassador of the kingdom of the Netherlands to the designated countries is permanently residing in Accra, Ghana. However, he monitors events and foster ties with the other countries through visits and other available means.

---

*SLNBCC wishes to express special gratitude and thanks to all those who attending the dinner reception within a short notice and in a difficult time for the world. We hope you will continue to honour our future invitations with your time and presence.*

---

## World Bank approved another grant \$75 million to Sierra Leone government for economic reform



The World Bank Board has approved an International Development Association (IDA) grant of \$75 million to improve natural resources governance, enhance inclusiveness and promote sustainability of development financing in Sierra Leone.

According to the World Bank, this Development Policy Operation (DPO) is the first in a series of three operations focusing on Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Financing, aimed at supporting the government's efforts to build the foundations for a robust, inclusive, and sustainable economic recovery from the pandemic.

Since the start of the pandemic, the World Bank has provided over \$100 million to the government of Sierra Leone to help cope with the impact of the Covid pandemic. Just last week, the World Bank approved another \$60 million to support Sierra Leone's crumbling health sector.

But with growing poverty across the country and this week's publication of the country's Auditor General Report for the 2020 Financial Year showing grotesque misappropriation and misuse of public funds, questions must be asked as to the effectiveness and impact of donor funds in Sierra Leone. Where is all the money gone? "The World Bank continues to be an active partner in supporting Sierra Leone's recovery from severe shocks in the aftermath of the Ebola Virus Disease, and the current COVID-19 pandemic," said Abdu Muwonge, World Bank Country Manager for Sierra Leone.

"We stand ready to further support the Government of Sierra Leone to transform the economy, make it resilient to shocks while improving the well-being of the Sierra Leonean people." Sierra Leone faces major economic and social challenges, including substantial gender gaps, that lead to low human development outcomes say the World Bank. The country's growth potential it says, has been constrained by limited spill overs from the mining sector, and poor access by the population to financial services, natural resources (such as, land and minerals), and high-quality education.

According to a statement issued by the World Bank, the reforms supported by this DPO address some of the most critical structural impediments to raising potential output and improving resource allocation in key sectors of the economy and are well-anchored in Sierra Leone's Medium-term National Development Plan (MTNDP, 2018–2023).

This DPO supports the Government's efforts to build the foundations for a robust and inclusive economic recovery from the pandemic and promote sustainable development financing of the Budget. In the short term, the operation will help the government close the country's large

financing gap, as it emerges from the pandemic. It supports policy reforms under three pillars: improving natural resources governance through land and mining reforms; enhancing inclusion through reforms to support women's economic participation, access to quality education and financial inclusion; and ensures sustainable development financing through measures to improve fiscal sustainability and debt transparency and management.

This DPO will address poor governance of the mining and land sectors, limited access to financial services, limited job creation, and the quality of education. As the COVID-19 shock has eroded the country's fiscal position, this DPO proposes reforms that will help minimize the immediate trade-off between supporting the economy and maintaining fiscal sustainability. It aims to improve fiscal and debt sustainability and address weaknesses in the public procurement process.

By addressing regulatory issues in the land and mining sectors, this DPO is expected to help mitigate climate risks through progressive afforestation of mining sites, protection of forest reserves, improved environmental standards and community involvement in managing the environment.

“This Operation builds on previous development policy engagement in Sierra Leone, while also introducing new elements. It has a direct connection with the previous DPO series (“Productivity and Transparency Support Grant” over the period 2017-2020) and continues two policy reforms –the mineral and mines and lands reforms – whose implementation was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Kemoh Mansaray, Senior Economist and Task Team Leader. The financing by this DPO closes a critical fiscal gap essential for maintaining macroeconomic stability during the pandemic.

The World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), established in 1960, helps the world's poorest countries by providing grants and low to zero-interest loans for projects and programs that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve poor people's lives. IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world's 76 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa.

Resources from IDA bring positive change to the 1.6 billion people who live in IDA countries. Since 1960, IDA has supported development work in 113 countries. Annual commitments have averaged about \$21 billion over the last three years, with about 61 percent going to Africa.

Source: <https://www.thesierraleonetelegraph.com/world-bank-to-sierra-leone-government-rescue-again-with-another-75-million-for-economic-reform/>

## Investment opportunities in Africa in full display at IATF's Investor Forum



The Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF) 2021, that took place at the Durban International Conference Centre, South Africa, host its Investment Day. The investment day organised under the theme “Unlocking Investment and Accelerating Deal Flow in Africa”, was a full day dedicated to showcasing Africa’s investment potential and showcasing investment-ready projects. It features sector specific parallel sessions on: Agriculture, Logistics, Technology and Tourism. IATF is Africa’s biggest in-person business-to- business (B2B) and business-to-government (B2G) event of the year and seven Heads of Government attended the opening ceremony.

The message was loud and clear that there is the political will and engagement to make the African Continental Free Trade Agreement a success and that at the heart of this is developing intra-African trade and investment. IATF featured three days of debates and discussions to help overcome the obstacles holding back trade such as the cost of moving goods and cross-border payments. Afreximbank has developed some specific products to help deal with these structural issues: the Afreximbank African Collaborative Transit Guarantee Scheme (AACTGS) and the Pan-African Payments and Settlements System (PAPSS).

The investor day focuses on investment opportunities on the continent and unlocking cross-border investment by African national champions, focusing on some key sectors and learning from investors and companies who are committed and invested in the African continent. The speakers for the forum include Ms. Bogolo Joy Kenewendo, Global Economist at Kenewendo Advisory and former Minister of Trade of Botswana; Mr. Amr Kamel, the Executive Vice President, Business Development & Corporate Banking at Afreximbank and many prominent individuals both from the private and public sector in the continent of Africa.

“I have always been a believer in the development of national champions and for these national champions to be the locomotive of private sector investment across the continent. We’re seeing it but the examples are still too seldom. The pandemic has highlighted the necessity to become self-reliant and this will require cross-border collaboration,” said Omar Ben Yedder, the project lead on the Investment Forum and publisher of African Business magazine. He added, “This Investment Forum is built on this same spirit of cooperation, bringing together projects from across the continent to present the investment potential in Africa,”.

Source: <https://www.thesierraleonetelegraph.com/investment-opportunities-in-africa-in-full-display-at-iatfs-investor-forum/>

## Procurement Notices

**Bid Summary:** Tenders are invited for the construction of cargo inspection facility

**Funded by:** National Revenue Authority

**Bid deadline:** 06 January 2022

.....

**Bid Summary:** Tenders are invited for printing, bindings and distribution of school safety protocols, PSS manuals, radical inclusion policy school approval guidelines & subsidies and design printing and installation of bill boards flyers with tailored messages on the radio teaching program

**Funded by:** The World Bank Group

**Bid deadline:** 10 January 2022

.....

**Bid Summary:** Supply and installation of five intermodal container cold rooms

**Funded by:** The World Bank Group

**Bid deadline:** 10 January 2022

**For full/more procurement's notices, visit:**

<https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice>

<https://www.nppa.gov.sl/>

<https://www.sl.undp.org/content/sierraleone/en/home/procurement.htm>

<https://www.biddetail.com/global-tenders/sierra-leone-tenders>

## How to Protect Yourself from covid-19

**Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions** like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. Please consult with your health care provider about additional steps you may be able to take to protect yourself.



Clean your hands often



Cover Coughs and Sneezes

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.
- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash. Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Avoid close contact



Stay home if you're sick

- **Stay home** if you are sick, and only go out when you need to get medical care.
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick
- Put **distance between yourself and other people** if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.



Wear a facemask if you are sick



Clean and disinfect

- **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room.
- **If you are NOT sick:** You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.

### SOURCES:

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/.html>
2. [http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/misinformation\\_related\\_to\\_the\\_2019\\_coronavirus\\_pandemic](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/misinformation_related_to_the_2019_coronavirus_pandemic)



# SLNBCC

Sierra Leone Netherlands Business & Culture Council

## COLOFON

### Credits

This newsletter is written and edited by Kemurl Fofanah for the SLNBCC. All articles are written by SLNBCC staff, or shared from news sources with correct references.

### Feedback

Do you have any comments, suggestions or remarks on this newsletter? Feel free to contact us at any time. Please send an email to [ibnfofanah@gmail.com](mailto:ibnfofanah@gmail.com) or [binta@gnbcc.net](mailto:binta@gnbcc.net). Also, we are looking for more press releases from our members. If you have anything you would like to share with our extensive network, our monthly newsletter provides the perfect platform to do so.

### Membership

If you are interested in becoming an SLNBCC Member, please contact Binta Jalloh directly through [binta@gnbcc.net](mailto:binta@gnbcc.net) or by calling **+232(0)78381007**.

[www.slnbcc.com](http://www.slnbcc.com)

[www.facebook.com/slnbcc](https://www.facebook.com/slnbcc)

*Thank you for reading our newsletter, the SLNBCC team: Binta Jalloh, Kemurl Fofanah,*

