



SLNBCC

Sierra Leone Netherlands Business & Culture Council

Sierra Leone Covid-19 Status, June 27th, 2021

Confirmed cases: 6,228
Recovery: 4,229
Death: 118

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.

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Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Bids Farewell to Sierra Leone's President Julius Maada Bio



State House, Freetown, Tuesday 13 July 2021 – Ambassador of Kingdom of the Netherlands to Ghana and accredited to Ghana, Togo, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Ronald Gerald Strikker, has called on His Excellency President Dr Julius Maada Bio to bid farewell after the end of his tour of duty this year.

Ambassador Strikker thanked President Bio and the people of Sierra Leone for their hospitality during his two separate visits to the country, noting that in 2018 he had discussions with the President on how to deepen bilateral relations between the two countries.

“Your Excellency, thank you very much for the beautiful moments during my visits to your beautiful country. This cooperation between our two countries will surely continue,” he assured.

In his remarks, President Julius Maada Bio thanked the outgoing Ambassador for the many moments shared in a great partnership, adding that he hoped that his successor would be able to continue the good relationship already established.

The President further stated that the Netherlands had helped Sierra Leone a lot in terms of providing postgraduate scholarships to Sierra Leoneans and expressed hope that the incoming Ambassador would continue on that path.

“As a government that focuses on Human Capital Development, we pay fees for school going children in all government and government-assisted schools. There is still a challenge with the payment of fees for undergraduate and postgraduate studies. I hope the gesture from the Netherlands in supporting education, which aligns very well with our educational priority, will continue,” he stated.

President Bio concluded by saying that he would love to advance the bilateral cooperation in the agriculture sector, adding that the Netherlands was doing very well in agriculture and food processing. “It is a pity to see you go, but you have to. You have served us well. So, on behalf of the government and the people of Sierra Leone, I want to say thank you and goodbye,” he concluded.

Source: [<https://www.facebook.com/TheBioPresidency>]

Ambassador of Kingdom of the Netherlands holds farewell reception for Dutch citizens in SL and SLNBCC Members



The ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Ghana – accredited to Togo, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Ron Strikker, on the 13th of July hosted a reception for citizens of the kingdom of the Netherlands residing and/or working in Sierra Leone and Members of the Sierra Leone Netherlands Business and Culture Council at country lodge hotel.

The event was a farewell gesture by the ambassador as he's set to retire from service at the end of his tenure in August.

In welcoming the Ambassador to Sierra Leone on behalf of the guests, Mr Price Allieu thanked the ambassador for making the trip even though the world is experiencing an unprecedented situation where travelling has become uncommon, “We want to welcome you here sir, we all feel humbled by your presence and this gesture to host us through this event”.

Ambassador Ron Strikker extends his appreciations to everyone who took their time to attend the event. “I appreciate your coming here today, it has been two years since my last visit to this country and I always love it here. This is a beautiful country with amazing people that will always be in my heart. It has been an honour to serve as your ambassador”.

The ambassador reveals to the guests that the embassy will soon establish an honorary consulate in both Sierra Leone and Liberia. The initiative will improve the relationship between the Netherlands and both countries – and hopefully, it will help strengthen cultural ties. He however emphasized that the consulate will not be handling any visa application or visa-related duties. “With the honorary consulate, you will be able to have your own Kings Day celebration organized over here,” he added.

Madam Binta Jalloh, the program manager for the Sierra Leone Netherlands Business and Culture Council (SLNBCC) thanked the ambassador for his support to the organization through his time. “I want you to know that, we are going to miss you so much, we appreciate what you've done for the country as a whole and we wish you all the best in whatever you have planned for yourself”.

The event was climaxed by the ambassador entertaining a few questions from the guests – followed by a light refreshment and networking interaction.

Source: [SLNBCC]

Sierra Leone abolished the death penalty from its laws



The Republic of Sierra Leone on Friday 23rd July 2021, completely abolished the Death Penalty from its Law books.

The move according to the Leader of Government Business in the House of Parliament, Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma, makes Sierra Leone the 120th country in the world and the 22nd country in Africa to have abolished the Death Penalty.

The removal of the Death Penalty was a manifesto promise made by President Julius Maada Bio during campaigns of the last general election in the country.

The Bill was piloted by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Anthony Y. Brewah.

The Bill entitled: “The Abolition of the Death Penalty Act, 2021” has been approved by Parliament, with a maximum penalty of not less than 30 years for a sentence of life imprisonment.

The Act seeks to abolish the death penalty in the case of persons convicted in Sierra Leone of murder under the Offences Against the Person Act, 1861, Robbery with Aggravation under the Larceny Act, 1916, Mutiny under the Sierra Leone Military Forces Act, 1961, Treason and related offences under the Treason and State Offences Act 1963, and to make alternative provision for the punishment of persons so convicted and to provide for other related matters.

After lengthy debates and careful considerations in light of international best practice, and judging from its sad history in the country, when people had been killed without evidence and fabricated lies over the years, the death penalty has been removed from the law books of Sierra Leone with a vote of unanimity.

Representatives from Civil Society and Human Rights Organisations who were in Parliament to witness the debate and vote on the abolition of the death penalty were recognised by the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu.

Parliament also solicited inputs from them before the abolition of the death penalty from the law books of Sierra Leone.

Source: [<https://www.ayvnewspaper.com/ayv-news/sierra-leone-trashes-death-penalty/>]

**“Scaling-up off-grid solar to unlock energy access for 120 million households in Africa”
European Investment Bank and the International Solar Alliance, report, 2021.**



The European Investment Bank and the International Solar Alliance today published a new study outlining solutions to overcome key affordability and investment challenges holding back off-grid solar investment across Africa.

“Increased use of off-grid solar technology across Africa is essential to harness clean and affordable energy and transform the lives of millions of people. The new European Investment Bank and International Solar Alliance study published today combines experience and expertise from successful off-grid deployment to outline how investment can be unlocked to increase access to solar power.

“The ground-breaking analysis demonstrates how closer cooperation between African, European and global partners can unlock investment and technical barriers that hold back sustainable development and the green transition,” said Ambroise Fayolle, European Investment Bank Vice President.

“The joint International Solar Alliance – European Investment Bank study outlines a pathway to unlock access to off-grid solar in Africa. This builds on proven success, expert insight and commercial experience to identify and overcome investment gaps and financial barriers holding back off-grid solar. The study details what can be done to increase access to clean energy to off-grid rural areas including refugee camps, urban areas and remote villages across Africa.” said Dr Ajay Mathur, Director-General of the International Solar Alliance.

Unblocking off-grid energy investment to enable a better future for millions

At present more than 120 million households across Africa lack access to reliable and affordable energy, with 60 million households expected to remain without electricity by 2030 unless urgent action is taken.

The new in-depth overview of recent private sector-led deployment of small-scale solar energy systems across sub-Saharan Africa identifies five key challenges that can be addressed to unlock high-impact local energy investment essential for sustainable development and economic growth on the continent. The study, based on detailed consultations in Uganda, Rwanda and Nigeria and analysis of off-grid markets across the region, provides recommendations for effective intervention to scale up off-grid solar deployment depending on specific local issues.

Sharing best practice that allows investment and technical barriers holding back off-grid solar is key crucial to scale up off-grid solar, allow vulnerable and remote communities to access clean energy and deliver the sustainable development goal of universal access to reliable and affordable energy.

A new study provides technical and business solutions to scale up off-grid solar across Africa

Commissioned by the European Investment Bank, in partnership with the International Solar Alliance, and compiled by development advisors Dalberg, the new study gathers local technical and financial experience and insight from the successful deployment of off-grid solar investment in Africa. This includes examining how off-grid solar investment has benefits refugee communities in Uganda and enabled cost-effective energy access in Nigerian cities.

Investment challenges including affordability, working capital and exchange rate risks and political and economic stability holding back private sector investment in off-grid solar can be reduced through combining commercial financing and support from development finance partners. The key recommendations of the study outline different models of intervention to overcome financing, technical and customer challenges to scale up off-grid solar deployment were highlighted ahead of final publication in specialist workshops attended by representatives of AfD, KfW, FMO and the European Commission.

The report published today examines off-grid solar investment across Africa and assesses how investment barriers including affordability, equipment supply, access to working capital, regulatory challenges, insurance and technical expertise influence and hinder deployment.

The analysis uses solutions developed in local case studies to suggest how examples such as the aggregated purchase of solar home systems can reduce costs and rapidly enable low-income, urban and rural communities and refugees to access reliable energy through sustainable private sector-led off-grid solar projects. The study, based on the analysis by specialised development consulting firm Dalberg, was compiled following in-depth research on government policy, discussions with energy, business and development finance stakeholders across Africa and stakeholder workshops in Nigeria, Uganda and Rwanda.

The European Investment Bank is supporting 8 off-grid solar projects across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Last year the EIB provided EUR 5 million for private and public investment across Africa and is supporting off-grid solar across Africa including projects in, Chad, Comores, Gambia, Kenya, Mozambique and Uganda.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the long-term lending institution of the European Union owned by its Member States. It makes long-term finance available for a sound investment to contribute towards EU policy goals. The International Solar Alliance is undertaking joint efforts to reduce financing costs and the cost of solar technology applications and services. The ISA seeks to help countries mobilize \$1 trillion of investment for a massive deployment of solar energy technologies and expand solar markets. This would help achieve three different but interlinked objectives: promoting a clean energy transition, enabling energy access and energy security, and delivering a new economic driver for all countries.

Source: [see full report: <https://bit.ly/2Ut7bag>]

Procurement Notices

Bid Summary: Tenders are invited for Supply of Local Long Benches and Dock Manufactured with Mahogany or Red Board

Funded by: Judiciary of Sierra Leone

Bid deadline: 06 August 2021

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Bid Summary: Tenders are invited for Sierra Leone Threshold Program (Tenders are invited for Goods to Include)

Funded by: Millennium Challenge Account

Bid deadline: 10 December 2021

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Bid Summary: General Procurement Notice for Sierra Leone Threshold Program

Funded by: Millennium Challenge Account (MCA)

Bid deadline: 21 October 2021

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



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 or 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 or by calling **+232(0)78381007**.

www.slnbcc.com

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

