

NETWORK MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT (NMJD)



THE CITIZENS AND THE MINES AND MINERAL ACT 2009

April 2010

DEDICATION

This guide is dedicated to all well meaning Sierra Leoneans.

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Important information

This User's guide is based on the "Mines and Minerals Act, 2009 (the "MMR Act"); it has not been updated of any further amendments made to the Act, nor of the implementation regulations of the Act.

This User's Guide is for information only; any application for a licence or any other permit or authorisation under the Act or the implementation of any right or action under the Act should be made after a full review of the Act (as enacted) and its implementation regulations, and after having sought proper legal advice from Sierra Leone lawyers.

While every care has been brought to the drafting of this User's Guide, the author and producer of this User's Guide do not accept a duty of care or any other legal responsibility whatsoever in relation to this User's Guide to any person. Any person who receives, or is given access or obtains access to, a draft or a copy of this User's Guide, does so on the basis that he acknowledges and accepts such exclusion of the authors' liability.

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GLOSSARY

Act	The Mines and Minerals Act 2009
Director	The Director of Mines
Minister	The Minister of Mineral Resources of Sierra Leone, or the successor minister charged with the responsibility for regulating the development and exploitation of mineral resources

1. **General principles**

1.1 **Acquisition of mineral rights**

(A) **Ownership of minerals (§2)**

All rights of ownership and control of minerals – diamond, gold, bauxite et al- under or on top of any land in Sierra Leone belongs to the State notwithstanding any rights or ownership that any person may have in or to the soil on, in or under which minerals are found or situated.

► Rights of ownership or otherwise on the soil or sub-soil are different from the right to explore or mine minerals in the soil or sub-soil.

(B) **Licences to carry out mining operations (§22)**

Mining operations of any kind can only be carried out following delivery of one of the following licences:

- (1) a reconnaissance licence
- (2) an exploration licence
- (3) an artisanal mining licence
- (4) a small-scale mining licence
- (5) a large-scale mining licence

(C) **Eligibility (§26)**

Subject to additional eligibility conditions, no mineral can be granted to:

- (1) an individual who is not at least 18-year old and is not a citizen of Sierra Leone or has not been ordinarily resident in Sierra Leone for 10 years immediately preceding the application;
- (2) a co-operative society which is not registered in Sierra Leone; or
- (3) a company which is not registered in Sierra Leone.
- (4) A person who has been convicted for any crimes that involves fraud and dishonesty

(D) **Processing applications for mining licences (§27-31)**

Applications for mineral rights must be submitted to the Mining Cadastre Office in the prescribed form and with all prescribed documents. All applications are subject to the payment of fees.

(1) **Priority of applications (§27)**

There are two types of applications for the grant of a mineral right over the same area or an overlapping area, the application first registered will have priority.

(2) Duration of application process (§29)

An application for a mineral right must be processed within 60 days after submission of the completed application form, except for applications for artisanal mining licences which must be processed within 14 days.

(3) Specific areas

- (a) Mineral rights in areas designated by a Minister notice following governmental surveys can only be awarded by way of public tender.
- (b) The Minister may allocate areas for artisanal or small-scale mining operations where only artisanal mining licences or small-scale mining licences can be granted.

1.2 Key Institutions for the administration of the Mines and Minerals Act (the “Act”)

(A) The Minister of Mineral Resources (§3)

The Minister is responsible for the general administration of the Act.

(B) The Director of Mines (§4-6)

The Director of Mines is the administrative authority in charge of the implementation of the Act. He is in charge of extensive functions and duties which he may delegate with the Minister’s approval, such as:

(1) Regulatory Powers

- (a) to promote and facilitate the effective management and development of mineral resources;
- (b) to exercise regulatory administration and supervision over all reconnaissance, exploration and mining operations;
- (c) to determine that all conditions relating to mineral rights and the requirements of the Act are complied with;
- (d) to approve reconnaissance, exploration and mining work programmes;
- (e) to issue directions or impose restrictions related to health and safety issues.

(2) Administrative Powers

- (a) to maintain a Mining Cadastre Office and mining cadastre;
- (b) to collect and provide information to the public on mining rights, registration processes et al.
- (c) To prepare reports such as annual reports, keep records and provide data to the public

(3) Controlling Powers

- (a) to ensure the compliance of all persons with the requirements provided in the Act relating to mineral rights;
- (b) to carry out investigations and inspections;
- (c) to require from the holder of a mining licence the submission of any information or record related to the mining operations.

(C) The Director of Geological Survey (§8)

The Director of Geological Survey is in charge of advising the Minister on all geological matters and in developing data and information concerning the geology and mineral resources of Sierra Leone.

Geology is the study of the Earth, the materials of which it is made, the structure of those materials, and the processes acting upon them. It includes the study of organisms that have inhabited our planet. An important part of geology is the study of how Earth's materials, structures, processes and organisms have changed over time

(D) The Mineral Advisory Board

(1) Composition (§11)

The Mineral Advisory Board is composed of the Directors and Government representatives.

Also, it includes civil society, paramount chiefs and youth representatives

(2) Responsibilities (§12)

The responsibilities of the Mineral Advisory Board include:

- (a) advising the Minister on matters relating to minerals including reconnaissance and exploration for mining, processing, import and export and marketing of minerals;
- (b) formulating recommendations of national policy and monitoring the implementation of Government policies relating to minerals;
- (c) advising the minister on environmental issues;
- (d) advising the Minister on decisions related to the granting, renewal, suspension, transfer or cancellation of licences where its participation is expressly provided in the Act.

(E) The Mining Cadastre Office

The Mining Cadastre Office maintains the register of mineral rights, the register of mineral right applications and the cadastral survey map of mineral rights and mineral rights applications.

These registers are accessible to the Public and contain details such as the name of the holder of the mineral right and if it is a company the names of the principal

owners or shareholders, the type of mineral rights, the area subject to the mineral right, the duration of the right and the date the licence was registered.

All grants, renewals, area enlargements or relinquishments, transfers, surrenders, revocations, pledges, fees paid, discoveries, reports submitted, changes of address or names or any other matter affecting any mineral right must be registered with the Mining Cadastre Office.

Certificates relating to the status of the mining rights or copies of the information held by the Mining Cadastre Office are available upon payment of the prescribed fees (except for confidential agreements or reports).

(F) General duties of public officers (§19-20)

- (1) No public officer shall directly or indirectly acquire any right or interest in any mineral right, including any shares in a company carrying out reconnaissance, exploration or mining operations or the import, export or marketing of minerals in Sierra Leone, and shall divest such right or interest or any such shares upon assumption of the functions of his office.
- (2) Any public officer is restricted to disclose or use any information acquire under the Act.

2. **Mining licences**

2.1 **Reconnaissance licences**

A Reconnaissance License shall entitle the licensee to survey and investigate the area indicated in the license for the designated period of time

(A) **Eligibility (§56)**

Only a company incorporated in Sierra Leone can apply for a reconnaissance licence.

(B) **Duration (§63)**

A reconnaissance licence cannot exceed 1 year.

(C) **Size (§62)**

A reconnaissance licence cannot exceed 10,000 km².

(D) **Application (§57)**

An application for the grant of a reconnaissance licence must be submitted to the Mining Cadastre Office and contain:

- (1) the registered name and place of incorporation of the company, its certificate of incorporation, a certified copy of its memorandum and articles of association, the names and nationalities of its directors and the name of every shareholder who is the owner of 5% or more of the issued share capital;
- (2) the company profile and history of reconnaissance and exploration operations in Sierra Leone and elsewhere;
- (3) the name and qualifications of the person responsible for supervising the proposed programme of reconnaissance operations;
- (4) a plan of the proposed reconnaissance licence area;
- (5) a description of the contiguous blocks comprising the proposed reconnaissance licence area;
- (6) a statement of the technical and financial resources available to the applicant and a certified copy of its audited accounts for the year immediately preceding the application;
- (7) a proposed programme of reconnaissance operations setting out in detail the work intended over the next 12 month period together with the estimated costs, plus an indicative programme for the remainder of the period, with details of the equipment expected to be used and the names and particulars of the persons to be responsible for the conduct of the work;
- (8) the period applied for which cannot be longer than one year;
- (9) details of any mineral held within Sierra Leone by the applicant or by any person controlling, controlled by or under joint or common control with the applicant;

- (10) details of any significant adverse effects which the reconnaissance operations would be likely to have on the environment and any monument or relic in the proposed reconnaissance licence area, and an estimate of the cost of combating such adverse effects; and
- (11) proposals with regard to the employment and training of Sierra Leone citizens.

The reconnaissance licence is granted by the Minister. Within 30 days of receipt of the Minister's decision, the applicant must notify to the Minister his acceptance of the licence.

(E) Renewal (§63)

- (1) Applications for renewal of a reconnaissance licence must be lodged with the Mining Cadastre Office no later than 90 days before its expiry.
- (2) The application must be accompanied with:
 - (a) a report on reconnaissance operations carried out so far and the direct costs incurred;
 - (b) a proposed programme of reconnaissance operations to be carried out during the period of renewal and the estimated costs;
 - (c) a plan identifying the part of the reconnaissance area for which renewal is sought;
 - (d) a description of the blocks comprising the reconnaissance area for which renewal is sought; and
 - (e) details of any alteration in the matters stated in the application for the grant of licence pursuant to paragraph (D)(1) above.
- (3) On certified advice from the Minerals Advisory Board, the Minister may renew the licence for the reduced area applied for with or without variation of the conditions of the initial licence.
- (4) The renewing reconnaissance licence will be issued for a period not exceeding 1 year.

(F) Rights of the holder of a reconnaissance licence (§64)

The holder of a reconnaissance licence, his employees, servants or agents in the reconnaissance licence area, have the right to:

- (1) enter or fly over the reconnaissance area to carry on approved reconnaissance operations on a non-exclusive basis;
- (2) take and remove specimens and samples from the reconnaissance area for the purpose of the reconnaissance operations, subject to the laws in force;
- (3) sell mineral specimens and samples with the prior written permission of the Director;

- (4) take timber and water from any lake or watercourse for the purposes of reconnaissance operations;
- (5) erect camps, temporary buildings and remove them before the termination of the reconnaissance.

(G) Obligations of the holder of a reconnaissance licence (§65)

Such obligations include:

- (1) to commence reconnaissance operations within 90 days of the date of issue of the exploration licence and carry them out in accordance with the approved programme of reconnaissance operations;
- (2) not engage in drilling, excavation or other subsurface exploration technique;
- (3) not to remove any mineral from the reconnaissance area except for the purpose of having it analysed, valued or tested;
- (4) to be subject to all taxes, royalty and other fees relating to an authorised sale of minerals as if the minerals sold were obtained under a mining licence;
- (5) to compensate users of land for any damage to land and property resulting from reconnaissance operations in the licence area;
- (6) to comply with environmental laws in maintaining and restoring the damage caused to land on the reconnaissance area;
- (7) within 60 days of the expiration of the licence and unless the Director otherwise stipulates, to remove any camps, temporary buildings or machinery, or otherwise make good any damage to the ground-surface;
- (8) to comply with the specification of the reconnaissance licence regarding the expansion of the operations;
- (9) to submit annual reports to the Director and the Director of Geological Survey and the full results of any airborne geophysical survey within 6 months of acquisition. Further, an audited statement of expenditure directly incurred under the licence must be submitted no later than 90 calendar days after the end of each year of licence; and
- (10) to keep full records at the registered address in Sierra Leone.

(H) Transfer of reconnaissance licence (§68)

A reconnaissance licence is not transferrable.

2.2 Exploration licences

An exploration licence is the government permission to explore the soil of a particular area for mineral. It provides the authority to mine minerals.

(A) Eligibility (§69)

Only a company incorporated in Sierra Leone can apply for an exploration licence.

(B) Duration (§76)

An exploration licence cannot exceed 4 years.

(C) Size (§75)

An exploration licence cannot exceed 250 km².

(D) Application (§70)

An application for the grant of an exploration licence must be submitted to the Mining Cadastre Office and contain:

- (1) the registered name and place of incorporation of the company, its certificate of incorporation, a certified copy of its memorandum and articles of association, the names and nationalities of its directors and the name of every shareholder who is the owner of 5% or more of the issued share capital;
- (2) the company profile and history of exploration operations in Sierra Leone and elsewhere;
- (3) the name and qualifications of the person responsible for supervising the proposed programme of exploration operations;
- (4) a plan of the proposed exploration area;
- (5) a description of the contiguous blocks comprising the proposed exploration licence area;
- (6) a statement of the technical and financial resources available to the applicant and a certified copy of its audited accounts for the year immediately preceding the application;
- (7) a proposed programme of exploration operations setting out in detail the work intended over the next 12 month period together with the estimated costs, plus an indicative programme for the remainder of the period, with details of the equipment expected to be used and the names and particulars of the persons to be responsible for the conduct of the work. Such programme must be adequate and appropriate in relation to existing knowledge, describe the known geology and mineral prospectivity and set out a plan that is likely to significantly build on the existing knowledge or the further definition of a known mineral deposit;
- (8) the period applied for;
- (9) details of any mineral held within Sierra Leone by the applicant or by any person controlling, controlled by or under joint or common control with the applicant;
- (10) details of any significant adverse effects which the exploration operations would be likely to have on the environment and any monument or relic in the proposed exploration licence area, and an estimate of the cost of combating such adverse effects;
- (11) proposals with regard to the employment and training of Sierra Leone citizens; and

(12) any other matter the applicant wishes the Minister to consider.

(E) Renewal (§76)

(1) First renewal

- (a) Application for the first renewal of an exploration licence must be lodged with the Mining Cadastre Office no later than 90 days before the expiry of the licence.
- (b) The renewal can only be applied for no more than the bigger of (i) 50 km², and (ii) half of the initial exploration licence area.
- (c) The application must be accompanied by:
 - (i) a detailed annual report describing all operations carried out in the previous year together with an annual financial report for the same period, plus a surrender report covering in detail all work carried out over the portion of the exploration licence area to be surrendered and accompanied by all results, data, information and interpretation since the grant of the exploration licence;
 - (ii) a proposed programme of exploration operations to be carried out during the renewal period and the estimated cost thereof;
 - (iii) a plan identifying the part of the exploration licence area for which the renewal is sought;
 - (iv) a description of the continuous blocks comprising the exploration licence area for which renewal is sought; and
 - (v) details of any alteration to the matters stated in the application for the grant of the licence pursuant to paragraphs (D)(1), (D)(6), (D)(8), (D)(10) and (D)(11) above.
- (d) On the certified advice of the Mineral Advisory Board, the Minister will renew the licence for the reduced area applied for with or without variation of the conditions of the initial licence.
- (e) The renewed exploration licence will be issued for a period not exceeding 3 years.

(2) Second renewal

Same conditions and proceeding as for the first renewal, except that:

- (a) there is no obligation to give up an additional part of the licence area;
- (b) the report under paragraph (1)(c)(i) above must cover exploration operations carried out so far and the direct costs incurred thereby;
- (c) the proposed programme under paragraph (1)(c)(ii) above must cover the proposed programme of exploration operations, feasibility studies and environmental impact assessments to be carried out during the period of second renewal and the estimated costs thereof;

- (d) the applicant must provide evidence that a mineral discovery that may be of commercial value has been made; and
 - (e) the renewed licence cannot exceed 2 years.
- (3) When an application to renew an exploration licence is refused by the Minister and the cause given can be remedied by the licence holder, if the cause has been remedied within 30 days of receiving the notice, the licence holder may reapply for a renewal of the licence within such 30-day period.

(F) Rights of the holder of an exploration licence (§77 & 79)

The rights of the holder of an exploration licence include, in the exploration licence area:

- (1) exclusive rights to carry out approved exploration operations;
- (2) right to explore for all minerals;
- (3) right to drill boreholes and make excavations;
- (4) right to take and remove reasonable specimens and samples;
- (5) subject to any law in force, right to take timber and water from any lake or watercourses for the purposes of exploration;
- (6) right to erect camps and temporary buildings; and
- (7) exclusive right to apply for a small-scale or large-scale mining licence over any part or the entire exploration licence area, no later than 90 days before expiration of the exploration licence.

(G) Obligations of the holder of an exploration licence (§78)

The obligations of the holder of an exploration licence include:

- (1) to commence exploration operations within 90 days of the date of issue of the exploration licence and to carry them out in accordance with the approved programme of exploration operations (proposed amendments can be notified to the Minister from time to time and will have effect unless rejected by the Minister within 60 days after being notified);
- (2) to comply with the annual programme of exploration operation expenditure requirement;
- (3) not to remove any mineral from the exploration licence area except for the purpose of having it analysed, valued or tested;
- (4) to inform landowners and users of the land;
- (5) to notify the Minister of the discovery of any mineral deposit of possible economic value within 30 days of such discovery;
- (6) within 60 days of the expiration of the licence and unless the Director otherwise stipulates, to remove any camps, temporary buildings or machinery,

backfill or otherwise make safe boreholes or excavations and repair or otherwise make good any damage to the ground-surface;

- (7) to submit semi-annual and annual reports to the Director and the Director of Geological Survey, and the full results of any airborne geophysical survey within 6 months of acquisition;
- (8) to submit an annual audited statement of expenditure incurred (any moneys required to be spent under the annual programme of expenditures shall be a debt due to the Government);
- (9) to employ and train Sierra Leoneans in accordance with the proposals appended to the licence;
- (10) to notify the Director whenever there has been a change in the ownership of the licence holder and any single interest exceeds 40% in the licence holder; and
- (11) to keep full records at the registered address in Sierra Leone.

(H) Transfer of an exploration licence (§83)

- (1) Application for the transfer of an exploration licence must be made to the Mining Cadastre Office in the prescribed form.
- (2) Approval for transfer will be given in writing by the Minister on the certified advice of the Minerals Advisory Board, subject to such conditions he deems necessary.
- (3) Upon registration of the transfer, the transferee shall assume and be responsible for all rights, liabilities and duties of the transferor under the exploration licence.
- (4) A transfer, assignment, pledge or other encumbrance of an exploration licence will not take effect unless registered in the mining cadastre.

2.3 Artisanal mining licences

(A) Eligibility (§84 & 87)

- (1) An artisanal mining licence can only be granted to:
 - (a) an individual who is a citizen of Sierra Leone;
 - (b) a co-operative company registered in Sierra Leone comprising exclusively citizens of Sierra Leone;
 - (c) a joint-venture or partnership registered in Sierra Leone comprising citizens of Sierra Leone exclusively; or
 - (d) an entity incorporated or registered in Sierra Leone having 100% of its shares held by citizens of Sierra Leone.
- (2) An artisanal mining licence can be granted on an exploration licence area only to the holder of the exploration licence or with his consent.

- (3) Artisanal mining licences cannot be granted in an area designated for small-scale mining.
- (4) The director can grant or refuse to grant any artisanal mining license to an application
- (5) Any person whose application for artisanal mining license is rejected by the Director can appeal to the minister
- (6) ► Note that it is not clear whether an artisanal mining licence can be granted outside an area designated by the Minister for artisanal mining in accordance with paragraph 1.1(D)(3)(b).

(B) Duration (§90)

- (1) An artisanal mining licence cannot exceed 1 year.

(C) Size (§89)

- (1) An artisanal mining licence cannot exceed one half hectare of land.
- (2) Artisanal mining areas must be demarcated by an authorised officer.

(D) Application (§85)

Applications for an artisanal mining licence must be submitted to the Director and contain:

- (1) a statement giving details of the capital and the experience of the applicant to conduct exploration and mining operations of minerals efficiently and effectively;
- (2) a plan of the area over which the licence is sought;
- (3) evidence that the right to use the land for mining purposes has been given to the applicant by the Chiefdom Mining Allocation Committee or rightful occupiers or owners of the land;
- (4) statement of the period applied for;
- (5) the programme of the proposed mining operations and impacts, including the likely environmental and local impacts, particular risks involved, proposals for mitigation and compensation measures, and marketing arrangements for the sale of the mineral production ;
- (6) any other matter the applicant wishes the Minister to consider.

Artisanal mining licence are granted by the Director.

(E) Renewal (§90)

An artisanal mining licence may be renewed for a maximum of three further periods not exceeding 1 year each.

- Note that it is not specified when the application for renewal must be lodged.

An artisanal mining licence can be refused renewal in the following instances:

- (1) if the artisanal area has ceased to be an area declared for artisanal mining operations or in respect of minerals which have ceased to be prescribed for artisanal mining operations

(▶ note that this latter condition is not expressly set out for the initial granting of an artisanal mining licence);
- (2) unless the applicant carried on in good faith mining operations in the licence area and intends to continue to do so;
- (3) if the applicant failed to carry out effective rehabilitation and reclamation of mined out areas, or failed to pay the prescribed fees;
- (4) if the applicant failed to diligently report on his mining operations, or
- (5) if the applicant is in default and the Director does not agree to waive the default.

(F) Rights of the holder of an artisanal mining licence (§91.1)

The rights of the holder of an artisanal mining licence include the exclusive right to carry out exploration and mining operations that do not exceed a depth of ten metres in the artisanal mining area, and to dispose of the minerals in respect of which the licence was issued.

(G) Obligations of the holder of an artisanal mining licence (§91.3)

The obligations of the holder of an artisanal mining licence include:

- (1) to carry out the exploration or mining operations in good faith in the licensed area;
- (2) to provide the Director with all the information required in relation to its operations and to comply with the Director's directives for the purpose of ensuring safety or good mining practices;
- (3) to personally carry out the operation or to employ a "Mines Manager" approved by the Director for the purpose of supervising the operations;
- (4) to employ a maximum of 50 labourers or "tributers" per artisanal mining licence;
- (5) to sell the minerals obtained in the artisanal mining licence area as prescribed;
- (6) to carry out rehabilitation and reclamations of mined out areas; and
- (7) to keep records of the operations and submit such reports as required from the Director.

(H) Revocation of an artisanal mining licence (§92)

The Director is entitled to revoke the artisanal mining licence if the holder is not a Sierra Leone citizen or if no mining operations have commenced within 180 days from the date of registration or the date of renewal of the licence.

(I) Transfer (§94)

An artisanal mining licence is not transferrable.

2.4 Small-scale mining licences

(A) Eligibility (§95)

- (1) A small-scale mining licence can only be granted to
 - (a) an entity incorporated or registered in Sierra Leone having a minimum of 25% of its shares held by citizens of Sierra Leone; or
 - (b) a co-operative society registered in Sierra Leone having a minimum of 25% of its members being citizens of Sierra Leone.
- (2) A small-scale mining licence can be granted on an exploration licence area only to the holder of the exploration licence or with his consent.
- (3) A small-scale licence cannot be granted in an area designated for artisanal mining.
- (4) ► Note that it not clear whether a small-scale mining licence can be granted outside an area designated by the Minister for small-scale mining in accordance with paragraph 1.1(D)(3)(b).

(B) Duration (§101)

A small-scale mining licence cannot exceed 3 years.

(C) Size (§100)

- (1) A small-scale mining licence cannot be less than one hectare but cannot exceed 100 hectares.
- (2) Small-scale mining areas must be demarcated by an authorised officer.

(D) Applications (§96)

Applications for the grant of a small-scale mining licence must be submitted to the Mining Cadastre Office and contain:

- (1) a plan of the area over which the licence is sought, which must not exceed the area reasonably required to carry out the programme of mining operations;
- (2) evidence that the right to use the land for mining purposes has been given to the applicant by the Chiefdom Mining Allocation Committee or rightful occupiers or owners of the land;

- (3) the period applied for;
- (4) a technological report on mining and treatment possibilities and the intention of the applicant in relation to them;
- (5) the programme of the proposed mining operations and impacts, including the likely environmental and local impacts, particular risks involved, proposals for mitigation and compensation measures, and marketing arrangements for the sale of the mineral production ;
- (6) an environmental impact assessment licence in accordance with section 3.2(A)(2);
- (7) detailed forecast of capital investment, operating costs and revenues and the anticipated type and source of financing;
- (8) a report on the goods and services required for the mining operations which can be obtained in Sierra Leone and the proposals with respect to the procurement of such goods and services;
- (9) proposals for the recruitment and training of citizens from Sierra Leone;
- (10) details of insurance plan (including health and life) for the employees;
- (11) details of expected infrastructure requirements;
- (12) proposed marketing arrangements for the sale of the mineral production;
- (13) the details of any mineral right held in Sierra Leone by the applicant or any person controlling, controlled by or under joint or common control with the applicant;
- (14) where the applicant is not the holder of an exploration licence on the proposed mining area, details of the financial and technical resources available to the applicant; and
- (15) any other matter the applicant wishes the Minister to consider.

Small-scale mining licences are granted by the Minister on the certified advice of the Minerals Advisory Board.

(E) Renewal (§101)

An artisanal mining licence may be renewed for further periods not exceeding three years at a time.

However the renewal will be denied if:

- (1) if the small-scale area has ceased to be an area declared for small-scale mining operations or in respect of minerals which have ceased to be prescribed for small-scale mining operations (► note that this latter condition is not expressly set out for the initial granting of a small-scale mining licence);
- (2) unless the applicant carried on in good faith mining operations in the licence area and intends to continue to do so;

- (3) if the applicant failed to carry out effective rehabilitation and reclamation of mined out areas, or failed to pay the prescribed fees;
- (4) if the applicant failed to diligently report on his mining operations, or
- (5) if the applicant is in default and the Director does not agree to waive the default.

(F) Rights of the holder of a small-scale mining licence (§102)

The rights of the holder of a small-scale mining licence include the exclusive right to carry out mechanised mining operations that do not exceed a depth of twenty metres in the small-scale mining area, or involving the sinking of shafts, driving of adits or other various underground openings, and to dispose of the minerals in respect of which the licence was issued.

(G) Obligation of the holder of a small-scale mining licence (§102)

The obligations of the holder of a small-scale mining licence include:

- (1) to carry out exploration or mining operations in good faith in the licensed area;
- (2) to provide the Director with all the information required in relation to its operations and to comply with the Director's directives for the purpose of ensuring safety or good mining practices;
- (3) to personally supervise the operations or to employ a "Mines Manager" approved by the Director for the purpose of supervising the operations;
- (4) before the beginning or ceasing of the operations, to notify the appropriate local government authority or local authority;
- (5) to substantially comply with any community development agreement;
- (6) to sell the minerals obtained in the artisanal mining licence area as prescribed;
- (7) to carry out rehabilitation and reclamations of mined out areas; and
- (8) to keep records of the operations and submit such reports as required from the Director.

(H) Revocation of a small-scale mining licence (§103)

The Director is entitled to revoke a small-scale mining licence if the holder is not a Sierra Leone citizen or if no mining operations have commenced within 180 days from the date of registration or the date of renewal of the licence.

2.5 Large scale mining licences

(A) Eligibility (§105)

Only a company incorporated or registered in Sierra Leone is eligible to apply for the grant of a large-scale mining licence.

(B) Duration (§111)

A large-scale mining licence cannot exceed the shorter of: (i) 25 years from the date of registration of the licence at the mining cadastre, or (ii) the estimated life of the ore body.

(C) Size (§108)

The area of land over which the large-scale licence is granted cannot exceed 125 km².

(D) Government participation (§162)

The Government is entitled to a thirty percent (30%) interest in the operations related to a large-scale mining licence, with no financial contribution paid to the Government

The Government shall be entitled to acquire further interest in the rights and obligations of any large-scale mining operations, on terms to be agreed between the holder of the mining licence and the Government.

Preference to Sierra Leonean Product (163)

The holder of mining rights shall give preference to

- Materials and product made in Sierra Leone
- Sierra Leoneans for employment
- Companies and other establish in Sierra Leone
- Public cooperation

(E) Application (§106)

(1) Application for the grant of a large-scale mining license must be submitted to the Mining Cadastre Office and contain:

- (a) a plan of the area over which the licence is sought, which must not exceed the area reasonably required to carry out the programme of mining operations;
- (b) the period applied for;
- (c) identification of minerals in respect of which the licence is sought and details of all known minerals, proved, estimated or inferred in the area;
- (d) technological report on mining and treatment possibilities;
- (e) the proposed programme of mining operations, including:
 - (i) the estimated date by which the applicant intends to work for profits;
 - (ii) the estimated capacity of production and scale of operations and the estimated overall recovery of ore and mineral products;

- (iii) the nature of the products;
 - (iv) proposals for reclamation and rehabilitation of land disturbed by mining and for the minimalisation of the effects of mining on surface water and ground water and on neighbouring lands;
 - (v) the effects of the mining operations on the environment and on the local population and proposals for mitigation, compensation and resettlement measures;
 - (vi) any particular risks involved in the mining operations and proposals for their control or elimination;
- (f) detailed forecast of capital investment, operating costs and revenues and the anticipated type and source of financing;
 - (g) identification of interested and affected parties including land owners and lawful occupiers of the proposed mining area, and details of consultation with the affected parties and the results hereof;
 - (h) a report of the goods and services required for the mining operations which can be obtained in Sierra Leone and proposals for the procurement of those goods and services;
 - (i) proposals for the employment and training of citizens from Sierra Leone;
 - (j) proposals for insurance cover (including life and health) for employees;
 - (k) details of expected infrastructure requirements;
 - (l) proposed marketing arrangements for the sale of the mineral production;
 - (m) details of any mineral rights held in Sierra Leone by the applicant or any person controlling, controlled by or under joint or common control with the applicant;
 - (n) an environmental impact assessment licence in accordance with section 3.2(A)(2) ;
 - (o) any other matter the applicant wish the Minister to consider;
 - (p) the prescribed non-refundable fee; and
 - (q) if the applicant is not the owner of an exploration licence to which the proposed mining area relates, details of the financial and technical resources available to the applicant for the proposed mining operations.
- (2) A large-scale mining licence must be granted by the Minister if certification has been made by the Minerals Advisory Board, if it is in respect of land for which the applicant holds an exploration licence and if the application is made no later than 180 days after the holder has given notice to the Minister of the discovery in commercial quantities of the mineral for which the licence is requested.

- (3) The Minister may grant a large-scale mining licence to an applicant who is not the holder of an exploration licence on the mining area concerned, but only on land which is not the subject of an exploration licence.
- (4) In order to make a decision on an application for the grant of a large-scale mining licence, the Minister may require the applicant to commission at its own expenses an independent study to assess the feasibility of the programme of mining operations proposed or to make recommendations about matters arising out of the application.
- (5) The applicant must notify to the Minister his willingness to accept the proposed large-scale mining licence within 60 days of the notification of the Minister's decision.

(F) Renewal (§112)

Applications for renewal must be lodged with the Mining Cadastre Office in respect of all or part of the large-scale mining licence no later than one year before the expiry of such licence. It must include:

- (1) the period for which the renewal is sought which shall not exceed 15 years;
- (2) a statement of:
 - (a) the latest proved, estimated or inferred ore reserves;
 - (b) the capital investment plan, production costs and revenue forecast for the renewal period;
 - (c) mining operations proposed to be carried out during the renewal period if substantially different from the previous operations, and any expected changes in the method of mining and treatment;
 - (d) any likely social and environmental effects and proposals for mitigation and compensation, and
 - (e) if the renewal is sought for a part only of the large-scale mining licence area, the application shall provide a plan with the description of the area.

The Minister must then renew the licence subject to certain conditions, including that the applicant must have proceeded with the development of the large-scale mining licence area with reasonable diligence.

(G) Rights of the holder of a large-scale mining licence

The rights of the holder of a large-scale mining licence include:

- Exclusive right to undertake exploration and mining in large scale
- Enter any land which is covered by the license
- Take reasonable measure to mine minerals on a large scale
- Use the necessary machines, equipment , plan and building necessary to carry out his duty

- Sell any minerals recover
- Stack or dump any minerals or waste product, with approval from the Director
- Use water and timber that are necessary for mining

(H) Obligations of the holder of a large-scale mining licence (§142)

The obligations of the holder of a large-scale mining licence include:

- (1) Provide and promote condition for safe operations and healthy working environment
- (2) to commence mine development within 180 calendar days of the registration of the licence;
- (3) to demarcate and keep demarcated the licence area as prescribed;
- (4) to keep a registered address in Sierra Leone where all communications and notices can be addressed;
- (5) to notify the Minister when work for profits starts;
- (6) to comply with the community development agreement; and
- (7) to keep the prescribed technical and financial records of all operations, and geological reports or related information. The holder shall provide the Director with a copy of all technical documents every 6 months and every annual financial report within 90 days from the end of each financial year.

(I) Transfer (§119)

- (1) Application is to be made to the Mining Cadastre Office in the prescribed form.
- (2) Approval of a transfer will is given in writing by the Minister on the certified advice of the Mineral Advisory Board, subject to such conditions he deems necessary.
- (3) A transfer takes effect upon registration and the transferee must assume and be responsible for all rights, liabilities and duties of the transferor under the large-scale mining licence.
- (4) A transfer, assignment, pledge or other encumbrance of an exploration licence cannot take effect unless registered in the mining cadastre.

Note that the procedure applicable to the creation of a pledge or other encumbrance on an exploration licence is not clearly provided.

(J) Termination, suspension or reduction of production (§118)

The holder of a large-scale mining must notify the Minister in case of termination, suspension or reduction of production. Such a notification must include justifications grounds and is to be filed:

- (1) 1 year in advance, if it proposes to permanently terminate mine production;
- (2) 6 months in advance if it proposes to temporarily suspend mine production (provided that the suspension does not exceed 24 months);
- (3) 3 months in advance, if it proposes to reduce the level of production;
- (4) within 14 days in case of events beyond the holder's control have occurred and have led to the termination, suspension or reduction of mine production.

After investigation, the Minister must approve the termination, suspension or reduction of production and provided that it is the case, cancel a large-scale mining licence whose production has been terminated or whose production has been suspended for a continuous period of 24 months.

2.6 Dredging for minerals (§125)

Holders of mineral rights must not carry out any dredging activity unless authorised by a dredging permit.

- (A) A dredging permit is granted by the Minister.
- (B) If dredging is intended in the scope of exploration, the application for an exploration licence must indicate the proposed programme of dredging and the machine or equipment intended to be used and whether dredging is the only economically viable process of exploration.

The same condition is required for an artisanal small scale or large scale mining licence.

- (C) Direct application for a dredging permit must be made to the Mining Cadastre Office and:
 - (1) state the consequences of dredging (including the destruction of monuments and relics, sacred places and burial ground);
 - (2) be accompanied by a performance bond as security for rehabilitation of mined out areas;
 - (3) include the prescribed, non-refundable application fee.
- (D) A dredging permit is separate and distinct from a mineral right.

2.7 Exploiting radioactive minerals (§120-124)

- (A) Any discovery of radioactive minerals in the course of exercising any mineral right or otherwise must be notify to the Minister no later than 7 calendar days after the discovery.
- (B) Any exploration, mining, treatment, possession, importation or exportation of radioactive minerals can only be made under the terms and conditions of a permit granted by the Minister.

3. **General rights and obligations of mineral licence holders**

3.1 **Relationship with third parties**

(A) **Restriction on exercise of rights under a mineral right (§32)**

The holder of a mineral right cannot exercise his rights in respect of:

- (1) Any land dedicated for public purpose except if duly authorised by the Minister;
- (2) any land dedicated to a place of burial, or a place of religious or cultural significance except if authorised by the landowner or lawful occupier;
- (3) any land which is within 200 metres or such greater distance as may be prescribed of any inhabited, unoccupied or temporarily unoccupied house or building except if authorised by the landowner or lawful occupier;
- (4) any land which is within 50 metres of land which has been prepared or upon which there are agricultural crops except if authorised by the landowner or lawful occupier;
- (5) any land within 100 metres of any cattle dip, tank, dam or other body of water except if authorised by the landowner or lawful occupier;
- (6) any land reserved for the purpose of any railway, highway or waterway and its surroundings except if duly authorised by the administrative authority in charge of the construction; or
- (7) any land within any township and its surroundings, except if duly authorised by the administration having control over the township.

(B) **Acquisition of exclusive surface rights by the holders of large-scale mining licences (§34; 36)**

- (1) The holder of a large-scale mining licence is entitled to a land lease or other right to use the land covered by the mineral licence, on terms to be agreed with the owner or lawful occupier and, failing agreement, by the Minister on the advice of the Mineral Advisory Board.
- (2) The Government may also compulsory acquire private land for use by the holder of a large-scale mining licence, where the licence holder and the owner of the land failed to reach an agreement.

(C) **Compensation for disturbance of rights (§35)**

The holder of a mineral right can be bound to pay to the owner or lawful occupier of a land a reasonable compensation for any disturbance of the rights of such owner or lawful occupier and for any damage caused to the surface of the land by the holder's operations. Failing an agreement, such compensation will be determined by the Minister on the advice of the Mineral Advisory Board.

(D) Compulsory acquisition of private land (§37)

The Government may by order acquire in the name of the Republic private land or rights over or under private land for the use by the holder of a large-scale mining licence.

Such order can be made in case the holder of a large-scale mining has taken all reasonable steps to lawfully acquire the land he wishes to use and has been unable to do so., and the acquisition of such land is necessary for mining purposes or ancillary to mining.

When the land is acquired compulsorily, those persons having rights or interests over the land concerned shall be entitled to an adequate compensation paid by the holder of the mineral rights. The payment shall be made prior to any rights exercised on the land.

As an alternative to compensation, owners of lawful occupiers have a right to resettlement on suitable alternate land with due regard to their economic well-being and social and cultural value so that their condition is equivalent or improved compared to their situation before the resettlement.

(E) Resettlement according to relevant planning laws (§38)

Land owners or lawful occupiers may elect to be resettled, at the costs of the licence holder, as a result of being displaced by a proposed mining operation, with regard to their economic well-being and social and cultural value so that their circumstances are similar to or improved when compared to their initial situation.

3.2 Environmental and social obligations

(A) Protection of the Environment

(1) General duty to protect the environment (§132)

Every holder of a mineral right has the obligation to conduct his operations so as to minimize, manage and mitigate any environmental impact.

(2) Environmental Assessment (§ 131; 133)

An environmental impact assessment licence in accordance with the Environment Protection Act 2000 is required for the grant of a small-scale mining or large-scale mining licence.

The related environmental assessment shall reflect the best international mining practices and shall include:

- (a) a detailed documentation on the licence area environment prior to any mining operations;
- (b) a detailed description of the project (as detailed in the Act) with an evaluation of all the environmental impacts, and means foreseen for the minimization of the risks, timetables of implementation, budgets, person or agency responsible for the management programme;
- (c) Copies of environmental impact assessment reports submitted by applicant for mining license shall be public documents, not confidential.

- (d) the applicant must consult the public and submit every updates of the environmental management programme for approval;
- (e) the assessment must be made available to the public at the Mining Cadastre Office.

(3) Annual report (§134)

A detailed annual report must be submitted to the Director from the beginning of production in order to evaluate the compliance with the assessment. If the requirements are not fulfilled, the Minister is entitled to suspend the licence until measures are taken to insure its success.

(4) Financial guaranty (§136)

Where a small-scale or large scale mining licence is granted subject to specific conditions for the rehabilitation of damaged areas, the Minister must require the licence holder to provide a financial guaranty for the performance of such works, under the following forms:

- (a) surety bond;
- (b) trust fund with pay-in period;
- (c) insurance policy;
- (d) cash deposit;
- (e) annuities.

The amount of the financial guaranty will be determined by the environmental assessment plans.

In case of default, the Minister is entitled to pronounce the cancellation of the mining licence. In addition, the person responsible can be fined.

(5) Obligations upon termination of a mineral right (§137)

Upon termination of a mineral right, the Minister may give notice to the last licence holder to satisfy any environmental obligation provided in the mineral right, at its expenses.

(B) Community Development

(1) Obligation to enter into a Community development agreement (§139)

In addition to a general obligation to promote community development, the development and implementation of a community development agreement with the primary host community is required for small-scale or large-scale mining licence holders, if any of the following limits are exceeded:

- (a) in case of extraction of minerals from primarily alluvial deposits, where annual throughput is more than one million cubic metres per year; or

- (b) in case of underground mining operations where annual combined run-of-mine ore and waste production is more than 100,000 tonnes per year; or
- (c) in the case of open-cast mining operations extracting minerals from primarily non-alluvial deposits, where annual combined run-of-mine ore, rock, waste, and overburden production is more than 250,000 tonnes per year; or
- (d) where the licence holder employs or contracts more than 100 employees or workers at the mine site on a typical working day.

(2) Definition of the “primary host community” (§139)

The primary host community shall be regarded as any person residing within thirty kilometres of any boundary defining the large-scale mining licence area.

(3) Contents of the community development agreement (§140)

The contents of the community agreement are detailed in the Act and must include:

- (a) obligations of the licence holder to comply with its commitment as regards to economical and social contributions towards the primary host community;
- (b) obligations of the primary host community with regard to the licence holder;
- (c) the commitment to be bound by the agreement and the reviewing process;
- (d) a dispute resolution clause (settlement between the parties or submission to the Minister who will render a final and binding decision on both parties);
- (e) the agreement shall address the following issues: education, health and other community services through the organisation of trainings and financial support, agricultural product marketing and local government enhancement; and
- (f) the agreement signed by both parties shall be submitted for approval to the Minister.

The community development agreement must be approved by the Minister.

3.3 Health and Safety

(A) Duties of holders of mineral rights (§142)

The duties of mineral right holders for ensuring safety of workers include:

- (1) to provide and promote conditions for safe operations and a healthy working environment;
- (2) institute appropriate health and safety measures

- (3) to ensure that the mine is commissioned operated and maintained in such way that workers can perform their work without endangering health and safety for themselves or any other person;
- (4) to ensure that people who are not employees but who may be directly affected by the activities of the mine are not exposed to any hazards to their health and safety;
- (5) to ensure that employees have skills competence and resources to undertake their work safely and to ensure the safety of others;
- (6) to prevent any damage caused by the mine even when it is not functioning;
- (7) to establish a policy for the compensation of injured workers; and
- (8) to report any accident involving the loss of life or serious injury to any person in connection with mining operations to the Director or any other authorised officer, and a record of any report made shall be kept for 5 years.

(B) Duties of workers at the mines (§143)

Any person involved in reconnaissance, exploration or mining operations must (as further detailed in the Act):

- (1) comply with all the measures and procedures prescribed by the holder of the mineral right to ensure health and safety;
- (2) adopt a diligent behaviour by using safety facilities and equipment provided for their protection;
- (3) report any existing risk likely to damage health or safety
- (4) comply with all health and safety measures.

(C) Right of mine workers (§144-145)

- (1) Every worker is entitled to leave the mine under circumstances which appear to him, with reasonable justification, to be likely to pose a serious danger to his health or safety.
- (2) The employees shall not be discriminated against for exercising a right provided in the Act, a collective agreement or any other provisions by law.

(D) Duties to report accidents (§146)

- (1) Every mineral right holder must report as soon as possible any accident on site in relation with its operations.
- (2) Every mineral right holder shall keep and maintain records of every report made for at least five years.

3.4 **Miscellaneous obligations of a licence holder**

(A) **Preference to Sierra Leone Products (§164)**

The holder of a mining licence must in the conduct of his mining operations give preference to:

- (1) materials and products made in Sierra Leone;
- (2) services agencies located in Sierra Leone and either owned by Sierra Leoneans or by companies registered or incorporated in Sierra Leone; and
- (3) Public Corporations.

(B) **Employment (§164)**

- (1) The holder of a mining licence must give preference to qualified citizens of Sierra Leone rather than imported unskilled labour for the carrying out of the operations under the mineral right.
- (2) The employment of children is prohibited.
- (3) A training program scheme must be organised by the holder of a small-scale or large-scale mining licence for each phase of operations taking into account the requirements of safety and the need to maintain acceptable standards of efficiency in the conduct of the operations. The scheme must include the development of skills for administrative, supervisory, technical and managerial tasks.

An annual written report shall be submitted to the Director describing the number of employees, their nationality, their position and the status of training programmes set up for citizens of Sierra Leone.

4. **Financial duties**

4.1 **Royalties (§148)**

The holder of a mineral right shall pay to the Government royalty in respect of any mineral obtained pursuant to his mineral right.

The royalty shall be the following percentage of “market value”:

- 6% for precious stones - (15% for “fancy stones” - above 10.8 carats)
- 5% for precious metals
- 3% for other minerals

Any default of payment of such royalty shall entitle the Minister to prohibit the disposal of any minerals in the possession of such holder until all outstanding royalty has been paid or until an agreement has been made.

4.2 **Annual charges (§152)**

An annual charge must be paid by the holder of a mining licence, first on the grant of the licence, and then each year at the date of anniversary of the grant of the licence until the termination of the mineral right.

4.3 **Submission of financial agreements (§153)**

Any holder of a large-scale mining licence must deliver to the Director and the Commissioner-General of the National Revenue Authority certified copies of all sales, management, commercial and other financial agreements with a total amount higher than 100,000,000 USD concluded with any other person, including its affiliates, and related to the mining operations, within 30 days of their execution.

4.4 **Separate accounting for large-scale mining licences (§155)**

The chargeable income for any year of assessment of a holder of a large scale mining licence must be calculated separately for each large-scale mining licence, with separate balance sheet, statements and books of accounts.

4.5 **Foreign currency retention**

Where at least 50% of the capital investment in the mining operations is financed out of freely convertible currency, such holder has the right to freely receive, hold in banks wherever located and dispose in any country all revenues and other foreign currency funds from the mining operations.

4.6 **Duty to report revenue payments to Government (§160 and 161)**

A person engaged in the extractive industry must submit to the Minister no later than 15 calendar days after the end of each quarter of a year:

- (A) a general report on his activities and revenue payments made to the Government including taxes, royalties, dividends, bonuses, penalties, levies for that period;

(B) a report on payments made to landowners, lawful occupiers, chiefs, including surface rents, development project contributions, material contributions towards vehicles, buildings or other civil works.

► Note that while there are some provisions in the Act in relation to the transparency initiative in the extractive industry (§160), there is no obligation for the mining licence holders to comply with such initiative.

5. **Surrender, cancellation and suspension of mineral rights**

5.1 **Surrender of an area covered by a mineral right (§51)**

The holder of a mineral right may, under a 90-day prior notice addressed to the Minister, surrender the area covered by his mineral right or part of it. Upon completion of the conditions prescribed or stated in the mineral right, the Minister shall issue a certificate of surrender to the holder, either cancelling the mineral right if the whole area is concerned, or amend the mineral right if the surrender is in relation to part only of the area.

The surrender is effective once the Minister has issued a certificate of surrender in respect of that area upon payment of a compulsory fee by the holder.

5.2 **Temporary suspension (§52)**

The Director or any person authorised by the Director may temporarily suspend mining operations on an emergency basis which can be the prevention from danger to life, property or environment, or the compliance with the law.

The temporary suspension cannot exceed 21 days unless it is confirmed in writing by the Minister.

5.3 **Suspension or cancellation (§53)**

The Minister can suspend or cancel a mineral right if, after consultation of the Mineral Advisory Board and except for artisanal mining licences where the Director shall have sole authority to do so:

- (A) fails to make any of the payments required;
- (B) fails to meet any prescribed minimum annual programme of work or work expenditure requirement;
- (C) grossly violates health and safety regulations or causes environmental harm;
- (D) employs or make use of child labourers;
- (E) fails to submit reports required by the Act;
- (F) contravenes any provisions of the Act or provided by the mineral licence;
- (G) dies and his successor in title is not qualified to hold the mineral right;
- (H) becomes an un-discharged bankrupt or becomes of unsound mind;
- (I) makes false statements to the Minister;
- (J) fails to comply with the term of a community development agreement; and
- (K) becomes ineligible to apply for a mineral right.

A prior notice of no less than 30 days must be sent to the holder of the mineral right.

5.4 **Obligations on termination of mineral rights (§54-55)**

- (A) Upon cessation or termination of mining operations, the holder must address to the Director a full register of assets showing the assets he intends to remove and those he intends to leave in the area and notify to the Director any potentially hazardous substances, erections or excavations in the licence area.

The Director shall notify the licence holder:

- (B) if an asset is considered necessary for the care and maintenance of the area and shall not be removed;
- (C) if specified buildings or other items of fixed machinery must be removed; and
- (D) if potentially hazardous substances, erections and excavations be removed or made safe in such manner as he direct.

If removal of assets the holder wanted to remove is prohibited, the Government must pay reasonable compensation to the licence holder.

The area will then revert to its owner unless the Director determines that the area must be retained by the Government, in which case fair compensation must be paid to the owner.

Fresh water dams must be left intact.

- (E) In case of termination, all reports and relevant information pertaining to the exploration and mining operation under the mineral rights must be delivered to the Director.

5.5 **Recourse (§176)**

Any decision or order of the Minister may be reviewed upon the application of any affected party to the court, within 60 calendar days of the date of such decision or order.



OUR MISSION

THE NETWORK MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT IS A SIERRA LEONEAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION THAT DOES ADVOCACY AND STRENGTHENS/ENHANCES THE CAPACITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE WOMEN, MEN, CHILDREN, COMMUNITIES, GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ACTORS FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY.

OUR VISION

A JUST AND SELF-RELIANT SOCIETY (SIERRA LEONE) WHERE WOMEN, MEN, CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES, ARE CONSCIENTIZED AND LIVE IN DIGNITY WITHOUT FEAR AND DISCRIMINATION ESPECIALLY ON GROUNDS OF SEX, RACE, FAITH, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STATUS.

For further information contact any of the following:

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