



REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE
OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT
**DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CO-ORDINATION OFFICE
(DACO)**

PRESS RELEASE

The Government of Sierra Leone is pleased to inform the general public that it held its 10th Development Partnership Committee (DEPAC) Meeting on the 13th of January 2005 at the Country Lodge Hill Station, Freetown. As usual the meeting was chaired by the Vice President Solomon E. Berewa and discussed the following:

1. Final draft PRSP
2. Implementation Arrangement for the PRSP
3. Youth and Employment
4. Arrangements for the Consultative Group meeting

The Government extends gratitude and appreciation to its Development Partners for their continued support in the drive to alleviate poverty in Sierra Leone. This 10th DEPAC meeting agreed on the following:

Final Draft PRSP:

The meeting concluded that:

- The draft document has been greatly improved since the last DEPAC and the Technical Working Group (TWG) was commended for their effort.
- The development partners endorsed the document and proposed that it can be forwarded to the executive boards of the IMF and the World Bank with some suggested amendments.
- The Technical Working Group was encouraged to create a stronger link between existing review documents and the PRSP. A closer link between the PRSP and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) should also be highlighted especially in terms of cost implications.

- Baseline statistics for each pillar identified in the PRSP should be established to give an indication of progress to be made during implementation of the PRSP.
- A PRSP programme document will be prepared in February this year. This document will focus on the yearly priorities, monitoring indicators and a resource mobilisation strategy.
- The PRSP should be looked at as a living document that will be constantly reviewed and improved to meet desired needs and outcomes.

Implementation Arrangement.

With regards to the implementation arrangement, the following were agreed upon:

- The coordination mechanism for implementation of the PRSP was endorsed.
- The proposal to set up the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) secretariat to coordinate the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the PRS was also endorsed.
- The PRS secretariat will be located in the office of the vice president as an interim measure for the first year of implementation of the PRSP.
- A functional review of the Ministry of Development and Economic Planning and the Ministry of Finance should be undertaken within a year to determine the final location of the PRS secretariat.

Youth and Employment

In the area of youth and development, the following were agreed upon:

- The role of youths in national development initiatives was underscored and government was encouraged to strengthen efforts in addressing their concerns.
- The link between youths and security should be properly addressed to avoid the recurrence of crisis and to further strengthen the peace process.
- There is a need to identify and mobilise resources for specific programmes to address youth related issues. A special Trust Fund should be established to administer the funds.

- To successfully implement youth programmes, youth issues should be addressed both as a public sector and as a private sector initiative.
- The UNDP offered **US\$50,000** for the development of a special programme to address youth issues for submission to donors at the Consultative Group Meeting along side the PRSP.

Arrangement for the Consultative Group Meeting on the PRSP

- The meeting proposed that the Consultative Group Meeting- where the PRSP would be tabled for funding - will be held in Paris, France on the 26th –27th May 2005.