

FOURTH STATE OF THE NATION SYMPOSIUM
CONTRIBUTION BY THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND
TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE.

Mr. Chairman,
Cabinet Ministers,
Members of Parliament,
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corp,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

Infrastructure is pivotal in poverty alleviation and economic development. The Ministry of Works, Housing and Technical Maintenance appreciates this and is thus working assiduously towards achieving the goals of its mandate.

Consequently, the **MISSION STATEMENT** of the Ministry is the development of appropriate policies and programmes to implement Public Works, Housing and Technical Maintenance and carry out activities under the following major headings:

(A) PUBLIC WORKS

- Design, construction and maintenance of all government buildings, quarters and access roads.
- Internal Airfields.
- Regulation of building and Civil Engineering standards
- Registration of Contractors
- Supervision of the Sierra Leone Roads Authority
- Civil Engineering Works.

(B1) HOUSING DIVISION

- Act as the Focal point for all housing matters.
- Formulate and monitor the implementation of the National Housing Policy.
- Research into Local Building, Materials and monitor the construction of all houses.

(B2) SIERRA LEONE HOUSING CORPORATION (SALHOC)

(i) Though a Parastatal follows Government policies. Their mission is to provide housing service to the country, create partnerships with the private sector, NGO'S and the public sector.

(ii) To make housing services accessible to all sectors of society particularly the poor.

© **SIERRA LEONE ROADS AUTHORITY (SLRA)**

(i) To provide safe, reliable and sustainable national road system for the enhancement of the socio-economic development of the country

Structure of the Ministry: - The Ministry of Works, Housing and Technical Maintenance is two-tier consisting of the Administrative and Professional Divisions.

(D) Professional Wing: - The Professional Wing of the Ministry consists of Civil Engineers, Architects, Mechanical Engineers, Quantity Surveyors and the Director of Housing.

(a) ACHIEVEMENTS

HOUSING

(i) Formulation of a housing policy framework document is being finalised.
(ii) Cooperating with shelter provision organisation both national and international including NACSA, CRS, Action Aid etc.

(b) INTENTIONS

(i) Design and construction of model houses in the provincial headquarters.
(ii) Enhance through research, the use of local building materials to cut down on cost.
(iii) After the transfer of all the housing sector officials we will continue with the supervision of all construction works in the country.

© **THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE HOUSING SECTOR**

(i) The Ministry of Works, Housing and Technical Maintenance should be given the free hand to control all construction activities as stipulated in the statutes.
(ii) Provision of plants, equipment and vehicles for supervision.
(iii) Prompt provision of finances to carry out the activities of the Ministry.

PROFESSIONAL WING

ACHIEVEMENTS

Actively participate in the design of major constructions e.g.

- 1) Rehabilitation and refurbishing of State House.
- 2) Minor repairs and refurbishing of Parliament Building.
- 3) Rehabilitation and refurbishing of Spur View Lodge.

THOSE PHYSICALLY DONE BY THE MINISTRY: -

- (1) Repairs to National Policy Advisory Council building (former ADC building State House).
- (2) Rehabilitation of Ministry of Works Car Park at Headquarters New England.
- (3) Renovation and repairs of technical and administrative blocks of the Ministry.
- (5) Reconstruction of Work shed at Pademba Road.
- (6) Rehabilitation of Villa 47 for the National Security Adviser.

Rehabilitation and refurbishing of Ministerial and Civil Servants Quarters:

M.Q. 1, M.Q. 2, M.Q. 3, M.Q. 7, M.Q. 8, K.T. 5, 29 Signal Hill Road, W.11, W.13, W.25, W.26 7 Spur Road, 13B Lower Pipe Line, 2 Mamba Ridge, 34 Spur road, 41 Bath Street, 59 Kelsey Road, 5C Cockerill South etc.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

The Ministry is presently reconstructing the residence of the Provincial Secretary North and the Presidential Lodge in Makeni that were burnt down by the rebels.

SHORT TERM GOALS OF THE MINISTRY: - The Short Term Goals of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Technical Maintenance, which range from six months to one year, are in line with the recovery programme prepared by government. This entails among others:

- a) Supervision of the construction of all government and donor funded projects nationwide.
- b) To determine the rehabilitation needs of all government institutions.
- c) Chief Technical Adviser to the Central Tender Board on both national and international procurement procedures.

MEDIUM TERM GOALS OF THE MINISTRY: - Quantification of all damaged quarters in the country has been completed. That being done, the Ministry could embark on the construction of burnt-out quarters with funds being available as already started in Makeni. Other Medium Terms Goals include the following: -

- a) The design, construction and maintenance of government buildings and quarters.
- b) To set up an effective mechanism for rehabilitation, maintenance and refurbishing of all government quarters, offices and buildings.
- c) To establish a plan of action for the construction of government quarters and offices nationwide.
- d) Rehabilitation of roads leading to government offices and quarters throughout the country.
- e) To source funding through funding agencies other than the Government of Sierra Leone for effective implementation of projects.
- f) To recruit competent staff to enhance our human resource base.

LONG TERMS GOALS OF THE MINISTRY: - The Long Term Goals of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Technical Maintenance range from three years and above. The following are the Long Term Goals: -

- a) To commence implementation of Action Plan for the construction of at least ten houses per year as quarters for Ministers, Judges and Civil Servants.
- b) To construct government offices and quarters in the provincial headquarter towns with the view to support the decentralisation effort of government.

CONSTRAINTS

The Ministry is faced with the following problems: -

- a) Lack of plants, equipment and vehicles for the proper supervision of the Ministry's activities.
- b) The Housing Division of the Ministry has not fully taken over its responsibilities since most of the staff have not left the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment.
- c) Shortage of professional staff, skilled personnel and essential staff such as messengers and cleaners.

THE WAY FORWARD

- a) The Ministry of Works, Housing and Technical Maintenance should be given the free hand to control all construction activities as stipulated in the statutes.
- b) Provision of plants, equipment and vehicles for supervision.
- c) Prompt provision of finances to carry out the activities of the Ministry.

SIERRA LEONE ROADS AUTHORITY (SLRA) The Sierra Leone Roads Authority is an integral part of this Ministry.

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS

1,700 K.M. of Feeder roads in the rural areas rehabilitated.

Construction of trunk roads such as: -

Construction of office blocks at Port Loko, Bo, Kenema, Mile 91.

Bo – Yele – Petifu Junction – 65 km

Koribundu – Blama – Gendama Ferry – 86km

H.I.P.C. FUNDS

Under the HIPC Funds the following roads have been rehabilitated Waterloo-Kent etc.

Bandujuma – Pujehun – 27km

Mano Junction – Tongo – 21km

MEDIUM TERM

The following are the Medium Term Goals of the Authority: -

Masiaka – Rogbere Junction – Makeni – Peninsula Road contract awarded for implementation.

Gbere - Junction – Pamlap

Pamlap - Kamakwei

Masiaka – Taiama – Bo

Songo – Moyamba – Moyamba Junction

Korobola – Woordu – Kayima – Koidu

Pendembu – Kailahun – Koidu

Regent – Grafton

Routine Maintenance on rehabilitated Roads.

FREETOWN LUNGI LINK AND BANDAUMA – MANO RIVER UNION BRIDGE

Consultancy on track

LONG TERM

We are hopeful that Sierra Leone will be linked with neighbouring countries through the Trans-West African highways.

As much as possible, we will link District headquarter towns to neighbouring headquarter towns.

Furthermore all feeder roads will be rehabilitated.

CONSTRAINTS

- (i) There is need to physically review an increase in the road funds since it is the most important source of Government's financing to SLRA.
- (ii) With the expansion of the road network there is need for the expansion of the manpower base of SLRA.
- (iii) To approve the privatisation of the Mechanical Services Unit (MSU) of the Authority but Government's policy for road construction must be a priority of this institution.

