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Sierra Leone becomes the first country participating in the UK's Energy Africa Campaign to sign an energy agreement

Sierra Leone signs compact with the UK at its first-ever renewable energy conference

FREETOWN: Sierra Leone will be the first country participating in the UK's Energy Africa campaign to sign an agreement to ensure power for all Sierra Leoneans by 2025.

The Government of Sierra Leone will eliminate tax on qualified internationally certified renewable energy products to ensure modern power to 1 million people by 2020. This will position Sierra Leone as a leader in promoting renewable energy – both for investors and its citizens.

The signing between the UK and Government of Sierra Leone will take place during the country's first-ever decentralized renewable energy conference in the nation's history at Bintumani Conference Centre on 10th May. Over 500 people will witness the landmark agreement, including 149 paramount chiefs, government officials, local businesses, and international renewable energy companies.

The Energy Revolution event is hosted by Sierra Leone's Ministry of Energy and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). The one-day event, organised by global development experts [Adam Smith International](#), is the launch of a series of renewable energy initiatives to eradicate energy poverty in Sierra Leone. The Government aims to deliver off-grid technology and solar home systems to its population, where currently less than 1% have access power in rural areas.

Sierra Leone is one of ten African nations that have joined the UK's Energy Africa campaign to expedite universal energy access to lift millions out of poverty and end dependency on aid.

The Minister of Energy Henry Macauley and the UK's International Development Minister Nick Hurd will sign the unprecedented Sierra Leone Energy Africa Compact agreement launching the Energy Revolution. His Excellency the President of Sierra Leone Ernest Bai Koroma is the confirmed keynote speaker and will champion this new agreement that reinforces his Government's commitment to provide all its citizens with access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy.

"It is unacceptable that today more than 600 million people across sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to electricity. In Sierra Leone alone, less than 10% of the population have electricity, and in rural areas where the majority of people live, it is practically non-existent," said Minister Hurd.

"Working in partnership with Sierra Leone, the Energy Africa campaign can help to change that. I am very proud to sign the first ever compact agreement on this campaign with the Government of Sierra Leone to ignite the solar energy market - helping to power business, hospitals and homes, making sure the poorest people no matter where they live can access clean, reliable and affordable energy."

In addition to the Presidential Address and signing of the Compact, the Energy Revolution will also feature:

- The official launch announcement of the Renewable Energy Association of Sierra Leone
- A trade fair & exhibition supported by [Power for All](#), a collective of public and private organizations dedicated to delivering universal energy access before 2030
- Attendance by the country's top renewable energy companies and international industry leaders

"Light is right," said the Minister of Energy, Ambassador Henry Macauley who will also be presenting at the conference.

Contact

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UK's Department for International Development

The Department for International Development (DFID) leads the UK's work to end extreme poverty. We're ending the need for aid by creating jobs, unlocking the potential of girls and women and helping to save lives when humanitarian emergencies hit.

Read more here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development>

Adam Smith International

Adam Smith International is a global award-winning development consultancy that delivers real impact, value and lasting change through projects supporting economic growth and government reform. Our reputation as a global leader has been built on the delivery of transformative change in challenging environments.

Adam Smith International has worked in Sierra Leone since 2007 across a range of sectors including: energy, water, private sector development, governance, revenue reform and extractives. We have worked within the energy, and specifically the renewables sector, across West Africa through several flagship projects including: Nigerian Infrastructure Advisory Facility, Sierra Leone Opportunities for Business Action, our Solar Nigeria programme, and the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Support Programme which established the Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission.

<http://adamsmithinternational.com>