

## **London Mining and Sierra Rutile provide Sierra Leone's journalists with specialised training on the mining industry**

Sierra Leone mining companies, London Mining and Sierra Rutile are providing 30 Sierra Leonean journalists with specialised training to help them better understand the country's mining industry. The two mining companies have sponsored places for the journalists to attend **'An Introduction to Mining in Sierra Leone'**, which is being held on 24 June 2014 at the Bintumani Conference Hall, Freetown. The journalists, will have backgrounds in print, radio and TV, and will be chosen for their interest in the extractive industry.

An Introduction to Mining in Sierra Leone is a one-day seminar, which is aimed at people with a non-mining background. It explains how the mining sector works, how it is financed and regulated, and why it plays a central role in the country's 'Agenda for Prosperity' and the recently introduced 'Local Content Policy'.

Osman Lahai, London Mining's Head of Communications & Media Relations, says: "Our goal is to introduce journalists who cover Sierra Leone's extractive industry to the critical issues surrounding the extraction and utilisation of the country's mineral resources. Journalists have a crucial role to play in public debate on this issue and we hope that enhancing their knowledge of the subject will help them fulfil that role."

Abdul Koroma, Sierra Rutile's Head of Corporate Affairs said: "The mining industry in Sierra Leone is an important subject for journalists in Sierra Leone. Revenue from mining contributes substantially to our GDP and active and informed reporting by the media is vitally important. This training course is the first of a regular programme of training which we hope will facilitate the media's work in this area."

Speaking at the seminar will be some of the best minds in the mining business. They include Sahr Wondy, Director General of the National Minerals Agency (NMA) and his colleague Arnold Mason, Director of Geological Survey; Tani Pratt and Andrew Keili from CEMMATS, Sierra Leone's leading engineering consultancy; Yves Ilunga - Chief Financial Officer of Sierra Rutile Ltd; David Carew of Freetown Nominees (SL) Ltd; Jordon Kuschminder of Independent Social Performance Pte. Ltd; Dr Mustapha Thomas of the National Advocacy Coalition on Extractives, and Janne Kaiser from development agency GIZ.

Explaining the importance of the seminar Mr Sahr Wondy said: "Sierra Leone's mineral resources are critical to the success of our Agenda for Prosperity, and understanding how the mining sector works is a prerequisite for anyone wanting to contribute to making it a driver for inclusive and sustainable growth."

The seminar is also aimed at suppliers and providers of business and professional services, future employees and others who are looking to work with or in the mining sector. It is organised by two Freetown-based companies – Elixir Marketing and Media, and JobSearch; and attendance costs Le750,000.

For further information or to register contact: [info@jobsearchsl.com](mailto:info@jobsearchsl.com)

