



Sierra Leone

A Safe Haven For Global Stability In Uncertain Times

In a world filled with uncertainty—be it global conflict, environmental disaster, or economic collapse—finding a secure, stable refuge becomes paramount. Sierra Leone, a country rich in natural resources, vast agricultural potential, and abundant minerals, is positioning itself as an ideal haven for those seeking stability in times of crisis. With its “Go-for-Gold” Permanent Residency (PR) program, the country offers a unique opportunity for foreign nationals to invest in physical gold, which is stored securely in government reserves, while also becoming part of an optimistic future for this rising African nation.



Gold as Your Insurance: Financial Security in a Time of Crisis



The foundation of Sierra Leone’s PR program lies in its physical gold investment model. This gold is stored in the country’s secure government facilities, giving investors the assurance that their wealth is safe and protected during times of global instability. Gold has always been a universal hedge against currency depreciation and economic collapse, and by physically holding gold in Sierra Leone, investors have an added layer of

security—outside the reach of volatile financial markets.

With PR status based on this gold investment, not only are investors securing their financial future, but they are also gaining a legal foothold in a nation that could provide the very safety and stability many seek in uncertain times. Additionally, the program allows for three generations to be included in one application, making it an ideal solution for families looking to ensure a secure future for their children and grandchildren.

Self-Sufficiency and Abundant Natural Resources

Sierra Leone's food self-sufficiency potential is perhaps one of its strongest selling points. Its rich soils are ideal for agriculture, and the country already has a strong agricultural sector producing a variety of crops. The low population density and available arable land mean that, with further investment, Sierra Leone could become entirely self-sufficient in terms of food production—a critical factor in a world where supply chains are often disrupted in times of crisis.

From rice to cocoa, palm oil to cassava, Sierra Leone is capable of growing its own food. This not only guarantees food security for residents but also makes it a potential supplier to other regions, creating an opportunity for agricultural expansion and export. Moreover, the natural resources that enrich the land, such as diamonds and minerals, add additional layers of economic stability.

Infrastructure and Investment Opportunities

While many associate Sierra Leone with its troubled past, the country's infrastructure has significantly improved over the last two decades of stability. Roads are being rebuilt, and there is a strong focus on renewable energy projects such as solar power, which could eventually make the country energy-independent. For those who make Sierra Leone their new home, this improved infrastructure makes everyday living comfortable and reliable.

Moreover, with a cost of living significantly lower than in many Western countries, Sierra Leone offers an affordable, high-quality lifestyle. Access to a growing economy and a country on the rise provides numerous opportunities for investment, from infrastructure projects to tourism, agriculture, and mining.



A Legal Framework That Protects

Sierra Leone's English-speaking population and its common law legal system make it especially attractive for foreign investors. The legal framework is familiar to many, reducing the potential for misunderstandings or complications, especially for those coming from English-speaking countries. The government's two decades of stability following the end of the civil war—which was largely a spillover from neighboring Liberia—add to the sense of security for those considering residency.



This period of peace and growth has allowed Sierra Leone to rebuild its institutions and strengthen its governance, making it a trusted partner for foreign investors. Stability and legal predictability are crucial for anyone looking to relocate, and Sierra Leone offers both in abundance.

Welcoming Foreign Nationals: Be Part of the Africa Story

The government of Sierra Leone is not just passively offering its residency program; it actively seeks to welcome foreign nationals as part of its broader development strategy. The “Go-for-Gold” program is an invitation to become part of Sierra Leone’s success story. This is a country on the rise, and foreign residents will have the opportunity to contribute to that growth while securing a safe and prosperous future for their families.

In Sierra Leone, you are not simply an outsider; you are part of the country’s future. The government wants foreign investors to feel at home and to contribute to the long-term development of the nation. By investing in gold and agriculture or other industries, you become part of a larger movement that is building a sustainable, prosperous future for the country.



Two Decades of Stability

One of the most reassuring factors about Sierra Leone is its twenty years of peace and stability. After a devastating civil war in the late 1990s, Sierra Leone has seen consistent growth, a testament to the resilience of its people and institutions. The country is a prime example of how nations can recover and emerge stronger from conflict, and this stability is a bedrock for any investor or resident looking for long-term security.

For those concerned about global conflict, Sierra Leone is well-positioned to remain a peaceful and secure haven. Its geographical location and internal focus on rebuilding and development mean that it is relatively insulated from the more volatile regions of the world.

A Future of Stability and Prosperity

Sierra Leone’s unique combination of rich natural resources, agricultural potential, low cost of living, strong infrastructure, and decades of stability make it a prime candidate for those seeking refuge from a world that increasingly feels unstable. Its innovative “Go-for-Gold” PR program not only secures your financial future but also provides the legal security and opportunity for your family to thrive for generations.

As global conflicts and economic uncertainties loom, Sierra Leone is carving out a new narrative—one of growth, opportunity, and stability. By choosing to invest in Sierra Leone, you are not only protecting yourself from the challenges of the present but also contributing to the country's bright and promising future.



LIVING IN SIERRA LEONE

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Schedule A Time To Talk



SIERRA LEONE **GO-FOR-GOLD** PERMANENT RESIDENCY COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2025

SERVICE	INCLUDES	CLIENT INVESTS	APPROVAL IN
SINGLE APPLICANT	1 applicant 18 years or over	Program Fee USD65,000 1KG of Gold (2% discount)	40 Days
NUCLEAR FAMILY	4 Qualifying Family Members	Program Fee USD75,000 1KG of Gold (2% discount)	40 Days
EXTENDED FAMILY	8 Qualifying Family Members	Program Fee USD100,000 2KG of Gold (2% discount)	40 Days
ADDITIONAL QUALIFYING FAMILY MEMBERS	Any number of additional Qualifying Family Members	USD10,000 each additional Qualifying Family Member	40 Days
LEGAL CHANGE OF NAME	See USE-CASE OPTION description	Up to 4 family members. Each additional family member USD2,000 extra	45 Days
TAX RESIDENCY	See USE-CASE OPTION description	USD10,000 for 2 adults plus USD1,000 taxation contribution per adult	45 Days

QUALIFYING FAMILY MEMBERS

Father, mother, children 18 years or younger, grandparents, second (or additional) legal spouse



Sierra Leone

Benefits

GO-FOR-GOLD | USE-CASE OPTIONS

[WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)

PRPLUS | TAX RESIDENCY

USD30,000

A **Tax Residency Certificate (TRC)** confirms an individual's tax residency in Sierra Leone, helping avoid dual taxation or home country presumptions of tax residency. It is issued based on criteria like physical presence, economic activity, or permanent residence. A TRC enables access to double taxation treaty benefits, proving taxation elsewhere and countering home country claims. It establishes a clear tax base, reducing global liabilities, especially in low-tax jurisdictions. Maintaining ties in the issuing country and cutting taxable ties with the home country strengthens its validity.

SERVICE PACKAGE INCLUDES

(all services provided remotely)

- Establishment of a Sierra Leone limited liability company as a sole shareholder and a director
- Establishment of a corporate bank account with Access Bank
- Establishment of a personal bank account Sierra Leone Commercial Bank
- USD1,000 taxation contribution for Year 1 Tax Residency
- Official Tax Residency Certificate issued by the National Revenue Authority of Sierra Leone



Sierra Leone

Benefits

GO-FOR-GOLD | USE-CASE OPTIONS

[WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)

PRPLUS | LEGAL CHANGE OF NAME **

USD30,000

In Sierra Leone, legally changing your name as a permanent resident involves submitting an affidavit of name change to a **Notary Public** or **Commissioner for Oaths**, followed by publication in the national gazette to formalize the change. Once gazetted, you can update personal identification documents such as your Sierra Leonean PR card and tax file number. With updated identification, you can open personal bank accounts in your new name at local banks, providing proof of name change, residency, and other required documents. Similarly, as the **Ultimate Beneficial Owner (UBO)** of a company incorporated in Sierra Leone, you can open corporate bank accounts under your new name.

SERVICE PACKAGE INCLUDES

(all services provided remotely)

- Establishment of a Sierra Leone limited liability company as a sole shareholder and a director
- Establishment of a corporate bank account with Access Bank
- Establishment of a personal bank account Sierra Leone Commercial Bank
- Completion of the Change of Name legal formalities
- Reissue of your Sierra Leonean official documentation in your new name

**** IMPORTANT ****

A foreign national may want to change their name for cultural reasons after becoming a citizen or permanent resident of Sierra Leone to better integrate into the local community and reflect their new identity. Adopting a local name can help the individual align with Sierra Leonean cultural practices, especially if their previous name was difficult to pronounce or disconnected from their new environment. A name change is also a way to express respect for the local traditions, enhance personal or professional relationships, and foster a sense of belonging in the country. Additionally, a name change can symbolize a new chapter in life, signifying the individual's commitment to their new home and identity as a Sierra Leonean citizen or resident. This is particularly important in Sierra Leone where names hold significant cultural, familial, or ethnic meaning, and can facilitate smoother social interactions and acceptance within the local community.

Disclaimer:

The information provided herein regarding the legal process for changing one's name in Sierra Leone is intended solely for legitimate, lawful, and culturally respectful purposes. We expressly advise that clients refrain from pursuing a name change for any nefarious, fraudulent, or illicit reasons. Our services do not condone, support, or encourage any activity that seeks to deceive, mislead, or engage in unlawful conduct. Any attempt to alter one's identity for fraudulent purposes, including but not limited to evading legal responsibilities or committing financial or criminal offences, is strictly prohibited and violates both Sierra Leonean law and international legal standards. Clients are urged to consult with legal professionals to ensure full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations in all applicable jurisdictions.

goforgold.center

EXCLUSIVE **GFG CLUB** MEMBERSHIP



The **GFG Club** is an exclusive membership for individuals who obtain citizenship or permanent residency under Sierra Leone's innovative **GO-FOR-GOLD** program. This prestigious club embodies the program's commitment to fostering economic growth and connecting members to unique opportunities in the nation's thriving gold market.

As a **GFG Club** member, you gain access to discounted gold purchases, enabling you to expand your investment portfolio with 99.99% pure bullion certified by international standards. Beyond gold, the **GFG Club** offers unparalleled networking opportunities, linking you with Sierra Leone's top business leaders and facilitating public-private sector partnerships.

Membership benefits also include personalized services such as streamlined business incorporations, government introductions, and access to exclusive events. The **GFG Club** positions its members at the forefront of Sierra Leone's national development and economic transformation. By joining, you become a key stakeholder in a dynamic initiative that marries investment with impactful growth.

Current Government

Julius Maada Bio's Presidency

Performance Overview



The President

Brig. Rtd. Julius Maada Wonie Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

Supreme Head of State and Grand Commander of the Order of the Republic

Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces

Fountain Head of Unity, Honour, Freedom, and Justice

On May 12th, 2018 **H.E. Julius Maada Wonie Bio** was inaugurated as the 5th President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Born on May 12th 1964 in Tihun, Sogbini, Bonthe District, Julius Maada Wonie Bio is one of 35 children born to Paramount Chief Charlie Wonie Bio II, Sogbini Chiefdom.

H.E. President Bio completed his primary, secondary and undergraduate education in Sierra Leone. Always driven by a passion to serve his country, H.E. President Bio started his illustrious public service journey as a school teacher before joining the Sierra Leone Army where he rose through the ranks as Brigadier. He previously served as Chief Secretary of State, Chief of Defense Staff, Minister of Information, Minister of Marine Resources, Deputy Head of State and ultimately as Head of State of Sierra Leone from January to March 1996.

His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio has been in office since April 4, 2018, after winning the presidency as the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) candidate. His presidency has focused on human capital development, governance reforms, and addressing economic challenges, but it has not been without controversy. Below is a detailed overview of his performance in key areas during his ongoing tenure:

Economic Development

Achievements:

- **Human Capital Development Focus:** Bio's administration has heavily emphasized investing in education and human resources. He has championed his "Free Quality Education" program, which offers free schooling to millions of children at the primary and secondary levels. Education has become the largest item in the government's budget, and this initiative is widely regarded as one of his signature policies.

- Improved Infrastructure: His government has continued to invest in infrastructural projects, including road rehabilitation and energy sector improvements. Bio's focus has been on ensuring that infrastructure supports long-term economic growth and development.

Challenges:

- Inflation and Unemployment: The economy continues to struggle with high inflation rates and widespread unemployment. The challenges have been exacerbated by the global downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic and disruptions in international commodity markets, which affect Sierra Leone's resource-dependent economy.
- Debt Levels: Like his predecessor, Bio has faced criticism for increasing Sierra Leone's national debt. His administration has borrowed to fund infrastructure and social programs, raising concerns about long-term economic sustainability.

Healthcare and Education

Achievements:

- Free Education Policy: One of Bio's most significant accomplishments is the Free Quality Education initiative. Since its implementation, school enrollment has increased significantly, and it is viewed as a positive step toward building a better-educated future workforce.
- Healthcare Improvements: Bio's government has worked to improve healthcare access, particularly in rural areas. During the COVID-19 pandemic, his government responded with various health protocols, establishing isolation centers and conducting public health campaigns.

Challenges:

- Healthcare System Struggles: Despite some improvements, the healthcare system remains under-resourced, with issues such as a shortage of medical personnel and inadequate healthcare infrastructure. Sierra Leone's healthcare system still suffers from the legacy of the 2014-2016 Ebola crisis, which exposed significant weaknesses.

Governance and Anti-Corruption

Achievements:

- Anti-Corruption Drive: Bio's administration has made strides in fighting corruption. The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has prosecuted several high-profile cases, recovering

millions of dollars in stolen public funds. This has earned Bio praise both locally and internationally.

- **Democratic Reforms:** His government has initiated electoral reforms aimed at ensuring fairer elections, including establishing a committee to review the electoral system following the contentious 2023 general elections.

Challenges:

- **Accusations of Political Suppression:** While Bio has been commended for anti-corruption efforts, critics argue that his government has also used these efforts to target political opponents. Some have accused the administration of political suppression under the guise of fighting corruption.
- **Election Transparency Issues:** The 2023 general elections, which Bio won, were marred by violence and accusations of vote rigging. International observers raised concerns over the transparency of the electoral process, although Bio's government has denied any wrongdoing.

Infrastructure and Urban Development

Achievements:

- **Ongoing Infrastructure Development:** Under Bio, there have been continued efforts to improve the country's infrastructure, particularly in urban areas. His administration has worked on rehabilitating roads and improving public utilities to stimulate economic activities and facilitate trade.
- **Energy Sector:** The Bio government has sought to expand access to electricity and improve the reliability of energy supplies, especially in rural areas. Renewables have been a focus in line with sustainable development goals.

Challenges:

- **Funding and Maintenance Issues:** As with past administrations, securing sustainable funding for long-term infrastructure projects remains a challenge, particularly in a country where foreign aid and loans are critical sources of funding.

Security and Post-Conflict Recovery

Achievements:

- **Regional Leadership:** Bio has played an active role in regional diplomacy, particularly within the framework of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). His government has expressed strong opposition to unconstitutional regime changes in West Africa, which have become more frequent in recent years.

- **Security Sector Reforms:** Efforts to professionalize Sierra Leone's military and police forces have continued under Bio. His government has focused on improving security and stability within the country, although internal security challenges remain.

Challenges:

- **Internal Security Concerns:** Sierra Leone continues to face issues related to crime and border security. Managing these security challenges, especially in the context of economic hardship, has been difficult.

Foreign Policy and Regional Engagement

Achievements:

- **International Relations and Peacekeeping:** Bio has maintained strong relationships with key international partners and has promoted Sierra Leone's role in regional peacekeeping efforts. His government secured a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2024-2025 term, demonstrating his focus on international diplomacy.
- **Commitment to Regional Stability:** Bio has been vocal about maintaining regional stability, condemning military coups in West Africa and advocating for democratic governance across the continent.

Challenges:

- **Dependency on Foreign Aid:** Like previous administrations, Bio's government has relied heavily on foreign aid to fund key projects. This has raised concerns about the country's long-term ability to sustain growth without external assistance.

Environmental and Natural Resource Management

Achievements:

- **Focus on Environmental Protection:** Bio's government has made some efforts to protect Sierra Leone's natural resources. Conservation projects and efforts to address illegal logging and mining have been initiated, although results have been mixed.
- **Climate Action Initiatives:** In line with global climate action goals, the Bio administration has taken steps toward implementing policies that encourage environmental sustainability, such as renewable energy projects and reforestation efforts.

Challenges:

- **Illegal Mining and Environmental Degradation:** Despite these efforts, illegal mining and deforestation remain significant problems. Weak enforcement of environmental regulations has continued to plague the country's natural resource management.

Social Development and Human Rights

Achievements:

- **Gender Equality Initiatives:** Bio's administration has enacted the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act, which mandates that 30% of elected and appointed positions in government be held by women. This has been widely praised as a progressive step toward gender equality.
- **Child Rights and Education:** The government has prioritized policies aimed at protecting children, especially with initiatives like the "Hands Off Our Girls" campaign led by First Lady Fatima Bio, aimed at ending child marriage and sexual exploitation.

Challenges:

- **Human Rights Concerns:** While there have been advances in gender equality, human rights groups have raised concerns over the government's handling of dissent. Some opposition groups and civil society organizations have accused the government of stifling freedom of speech and assembly.
- **Poverty and Social Inequality:** Despite some progress, poverty remains widespread, with economic inequality being a persistent issue. Bio's administration has struggled to fully address the deep-rooted social inequalities that continue to affect large segments of the population.

Legacy and Public Perception

Achievements:

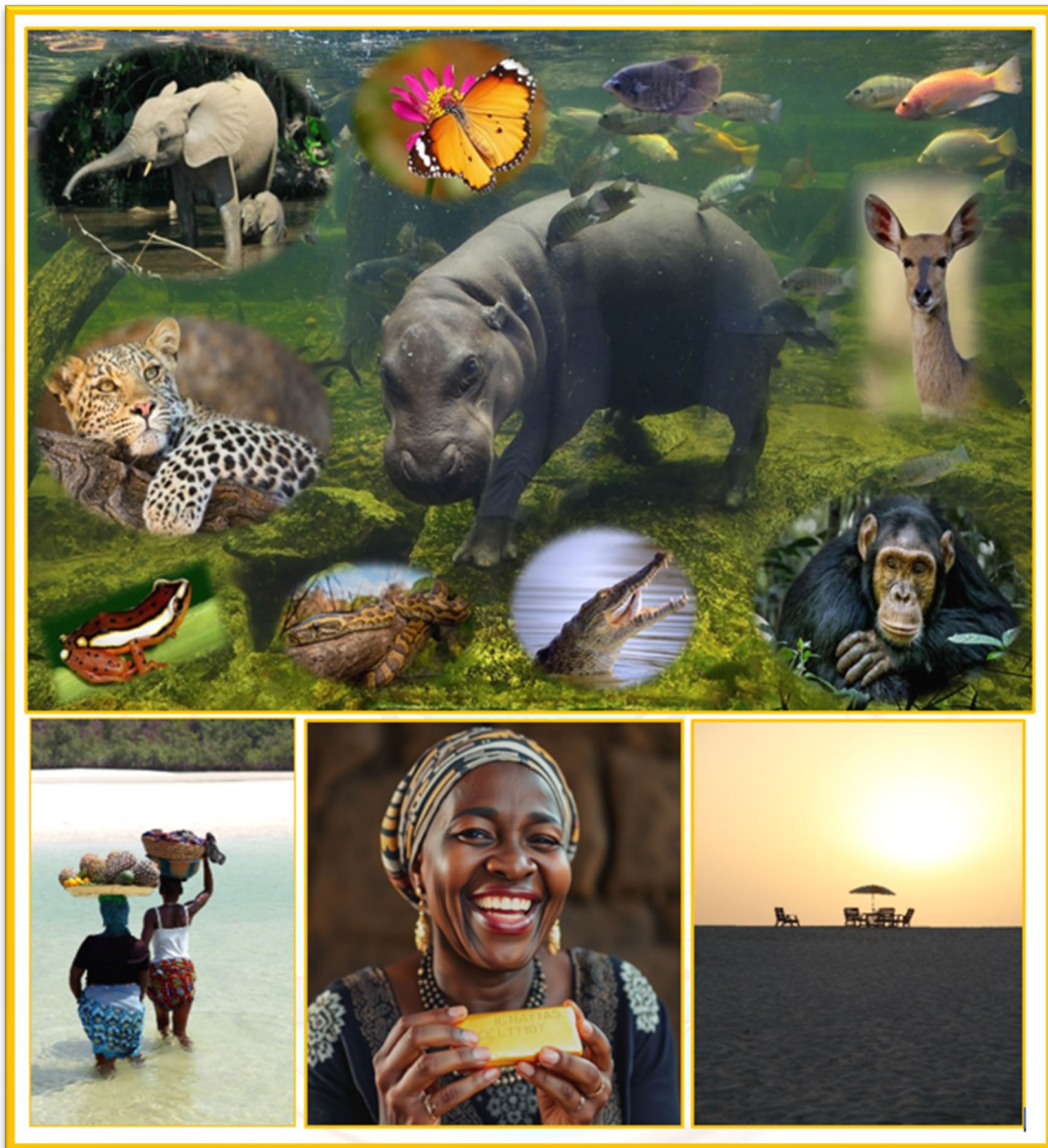
- **Education Reforms:** Bio's focus on education is perhaps his most lasting legacy. The Free Quality Education initiative is seen as a significant milestone in the country's development and a model for other nations facing similar challenges.
- **International Leadership:** Bio has gained respect internationally for his commitment to regional security and democratic governance, which have earned Sierra Leone a seat on the UN Security Council.

Challenges:

- **Mixed Public Opinion:** Bio's presidency is viewed with a mix of approval and skepticism. His education policies and anti-corruption efforts are popular, but accusations of electoral fraud, political suppression, and economic mismanagement have tainted his reputation.
- **Electoral Controversy:** The contentious 2023 elections remain a blot on his record, with critics arguing that they cast doubt on his commitment to transparent governance.

Summary

President Julius Maada Bio's tenure has been characterized by ambitious reforms, especially in education and gender equality, alongside strong anti-corruption efforts. However, challenges in managing the economy, internal security issues, and criticisms of political repression continue to shape his presidency. His legacy, still in the making, will largely depend on how well his administration addresses these lingering issues during his second term.



Previous Government

Ernest Bai Koroma's Presidency

Performance Overview



Ernest Bai Koroma served as the President of Sierra Leone from September 17, 2007, to April 4, 2018. As the leader of the All People's Congress (APC), Koroma's two-term presidency was marked by a mix of significant achievements and notable challenges. His tenure played a crucial role in shaping the country's post-conflict recovery and development trajectory. Below is an overview of his performance across various sectors:

Economic Development

Achievements:

- **Economic Growth:** Under Koroma's leadership, Sierra Leone experienced steady economic growth. The country benefited from its natural resources, particularly diamonds and iron ore, which attracted foreign investment. The GDP growth rate averaged around 4-5% annually during his tenure.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Koroma's administration prioritized infrastructure projects, including the construction and rehabilitation of roads, bridges, and public buildings. Notable projects included the rehabilitation of the Freetown International Airport and improvements to the Port of Freetown, aimed at boosting trade and connectivity.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** His government fostered public-private partnerships to stimulate economic activities and enhance service delivery in sectors like telecommunications, energy, and transportation.

Challenges:

- **Dependency on Extractive Industries:** Despite economic growth, Sierra Leone remained heavily reliant on mining. Fluctuations in global commodity prices exposed the economy to volatility, limiting diversified growth.
- **Debt Management:** The administration faced criticism over increasing national debt levels, raising concerns about fiscal sustainability and long-term economic stability.

Healthcare and Education

Achievements:

- **Healthcare Improvements:** Koroma's government made strides in improving healthcare infrastructure, including the construction of new hospitals and clinics. Efforts were made to increase access to healthcare services, particularly in rural areas.
- **Education Initiatives:** The administration focused on expanding educational opportunities by building new schools and improving existing educational facilities. Programs aimed at increasing literacy rates and reducing school dropout rates were implemented.

Challenges:

- **Healthcare System Strain:** Despite improvements, the healthcare system struggled with inadequate funding, shortages of medical personnel, and limited access to essential medicines. The Ebola outbreak in 2014-2016 highlighted significant weaknesses in the public health infrastructure.
- **Educational Quality:** While access to education improved, the quality of education remained a concern. Issues such as overcrowded classrooms, insufficient teaching materials, and underqualified teachers persisted.

Governance and Anti-Corruption

Achievements:

- **Good Governance Initiatives:** Koroma's administration implemented several reforms aimed at enhancing governance and transparency. Efforts included restructuring government ministries and improving public sector management.
- **Anti-Corruption Measures:** The government took steps to combat corruption through the establishment of anti-corruption bodies and the implementation of stricter regulations. High-profile cases were prosecuted, signaling a commitment to tackling corruption.

Challenges:

- **Corruption Perceptions:** Corruption remained a significant issue, with reports indicating that public sector corruption was pervasive. Critics argued that anti-corruption efforts were sometimes selective and politically motivated.
- **Political Repression Allegations:** There were allegations of political repression, including the harassment of opposition parties and restrictions on freedom of the press. These actions raised concerns about the administration's commitment to democratic principles.

Infrastructure and Urban Development

Achievements:

- **Urban Development Projects:** Koroma's government invested in urban development, particularly in Freetown. Projects included the construction of new housing, commercial buildings, and recreational facilities to modernize the capital city.
- **Energy Sector Investments:** Efforts were made to improve the energy sector, including the expansion of electricity access and the development of renewable energy projects to address power shortages.

Challenges:

- **Urbanization Pressures:** Rapid urbanization led to challenges such as inadequate housing, traffic congestion, and insufficient public services in urban areas. Managing sustainable urban growth remained a persistent issue.
- **Infrastructure Maintenance:** While new infrastructure projects were initiated, maintenance of existing infrastructure was often neglected, leading to deterioration and inefficiencies.

Security and Post-Conflict Recovery

Achievements:

- **Security Sector Reform:** Post-civil war, Koroma's administration focused on reforming the security sector, including professionalizing the military and police forces to enhance their effectiveness and accountability.
- **Disarmament and Reintegration:** Programs aimed at disarming and reintegrating former combatants were implemented to promote long-term peace and stability.

Challenges:

- **Internal Security Issues:** Despite reforms, Sierra Leone continued to face internal security challenges, including the presence of armed groups and crime-related activities, particularly in border regions.
- **Ebola Outbreak Management:** The Ebola crisis exposed significant deficiencies in the country's emergency response capabilities, highlighting the need for more robust public health and security systems.

Foreign Policy and Regional Engagement

Achievements:

- **Regional Leadership:** Koroma played an active role in regional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). He advocated for regional integration and cooperation on issues like security and economic development.
- **International Relations:** The administration maintained diplomatic relations with key international partners, attracting foreign aid and investment to support development projects.

Challenges:

- **Dependency on Foreign Aid:** While foreign aid was instrumental in supporting development initiatives, there were concerns about over-reliance on external funding, which could undermine self-sufficiency.
- **Regional Instability:** Ongoing conflicts and political instability in neighboring countries posed challenges for Sierra Leone's security and economic interests.

Environmental and Natural Resource Management

Achievements:

- **Conservation Efforts:** Koroma's government-initiated programs to protect Sierra Leone's rich biodiversity, including the establishment of protected areas and wildlife conservation projects.
- **Sustainable Mining Practices:** Efforts were made to promote sustainable mining practices and ensure that the extractive industries contributed to national development without causing environmental degradation.

Challenges:

- **Environmental Degradation:** Illegal mining and deforestation continued to threaten Sierra Leone's natural ecosystems. Balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability remained a critical issue.

- Resource Revenue Management: Ensuring transparent and equitable distribution of revenues from natural resources was an ongoing challenge, with instances of mismanagement and corruption affecting outcomes.

Social Development and Human Rights

Achievements:

- Gender Equality Initiatives: The administration promoted gender equality through policies aimed at increasing women's participation in politics and the workforce. Programs were implemented to address gender-based violence and empower women economically.
- Youth Empowerment: Koroma's government launched initiatives to engage and empower the youth, recognizing their potential as drivers of national development.

Challenges:

- Human Rights Concerns: Despite progress, human rights organizations reported instances of abuses, including arbitrary arrests and limitations on freedom of expression. Ensuring the protection of human rights remained a concern.
- Poverty Alleviation: While economic growth contributed to poverty reduction, significant portions of the population still lived below the poverty line. Addressing income inequality and ensuring inclusive growth were ongoing challenges.

Legacy and Public Perception

Achievements:

- Infrastructure and Development: Koroma is often credited with advancing Sierra Leone's infrastructure and fostering economic growth, laying the groundwork for future development.
- Peace and Stability: His tenure contributed to maintaining peace and stability in a country that had endured a devastating civil war from 1991 to 2002.

Challenges:

- Mixed Public Opinion: Public perception of Koroma's presidency is mixed. While many appreciate the economic and infrastructural advancements, others criticize the administration for corruption, lack of transparency, and perceived authoritarian tendencies.
- Election Controversies: The 2018 elections, which marked the end of his presidency, were relatively peaceful, but his party faced accusations of electoral manipulation and favoritism, impacting his overall legacy.
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Summary

Ernest Bai Koroma's presidency was a pivotal period in Sierra Leone's post-conflict recovery and development. His administration achieved notable progress in economic growth, infrastructure development, and governance reforms. However, persistent challenges such as corruption, economic dependency on extractive industries, and human rights concerns tempered his legacy. The mixed outcomes of his policies and governance style continue to influence Sierra Leone's political and economic landscape today.

Sierra Leone's 2023 Coup Attempt Trials | ECOWAS Involvement | The Path to Stability

Former Sierra Leone President Summoned for Questioning Regarding November 26, 2023, Coup Attempt

By Chief Editor | December 7, 2023 | 2 minutes, 29 seconds Read

In a surprising turn of events, the Sierra Leone Police have extended an invitation to the former President, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, for questioning in connection with the failed attempted coup on November 26, 2023. The unfolding developments have sent shockwaves through the nation, as citizens grapple with the idea that a former head of state could be implicated in such a serious and destabilizing incident.

The attempted coup, which occurred on November 26, 2023, took the nation by surprise as a group of insurgents sought to overthrow the government. The swift response from the Sierra Leone security forces managed to thwart the coup, preserving the democratic order.

However, the aftermath has been marked by a thorough investigation to uncover the roots and motivations behind the coup attempt.

In late 2023, Sierra Leone faced a political crisis when a coup attempt on November 26 shook the nation. Armed individuals targeted key locations in the capital, Freetown, including military barracks, a major prison facility, and police stations, resulting in the deaths of over 20 people and the escape of more than 2,200 prisoners. This violent episode appeared to be an

orchestrated attempt to overthrow the government of President Julius Maada Bio, raising serious concerns about the country's political stability.

The Coup Attempt and Immediate Aftermath

The attackers, many of them from military backgrounds, stormed critical sites in Freetown, including the Wilberforce military barracks, in what authorities deemed a coup plot. The government responded swiftly, declaring a nationwide curfew and deploying state security forces to regain control. The violence highlighted deep political divisions within the country, particularly tensions between supporters of President Bio and those loyal to the former regime of ex-President Ernest Bai Koroma.

In the days following the coup attempt, Sierra Leonean authorities arrested over 80 individuals suspected of involvement, many of them military personnel. A total of 85 people were arrested, and some of the weapons used in the attack, including assault rifles and rocket launchers, were recovered. Former President Koroma was also implicated in the plot, with accusations of treason leveled against him and his associates. Though Koroma denied the allegations, some of his former bodyguards, including Amadu Koita, were charged as key figures behind the plot.

The Legal Fallout: Trials and Sentences

In the aftermath, Sierra Leone began a series of high-profile trials aimed at bringing the perpetrators to justice. The trials were seen as pivotal for the country's democratic stability and for sending a clear message about the consequences of unconstitutional attempts to seize power.

A military court sentenced 24 soldiers to lengthy prison terms ranging from 50 to 120 years. Lieutenant Colonel Charles James Mishek Yamba, the highest-ranking soldier involved, received a 120-year sentence. Additionally, Amadu Koita, who had been a prominent figure during the coup attempt, was sentenced to 182 years in prison for his leadership role. These sentences were part of broader legal efforts involving 27 military officers, who faced 88 charges, including mutiny and murder.

Among those charged was former President Koroma, accused of being connected to the plot.

Although he has denied any involvement, claiming the charges were politically motivated, he faced several counts of treason. After being placed under house arrest, Koroma was later allowed to travel abroad for medical treatment.



ECOWAS and the International Response

In response to the coup attempt, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) played a crucial role in ensuring Sierra Leone's stability. ECOWAS, which has a strict policy of "zero tolerance" for unconstitutional changes of government, swiftly condemned the attack. On November 26, the regional bloc issued a statement reaffirming its support for the constitutional order and offering security assistance to prevent further unrest.

ECOWAS deployed a delegation to Sierra Leone within days of the attack, meeting with President Bio and other key officials. Nigeria, a leading member of ECOWAS, also provided diplomatic and security support, with its national security advisor warning against any threats to Sierra Leone's democracy. This quick response by ECOWAS and its allies helped bolster the confidence of both the government and the population, ensuring that the situation remained under control.

The Broader Context: Coups in West Africa

The attempted coup in Sierra Leone was not an isolated incident but part of a broader trend of political instability in West Africa. Several countries in the region, including Mali, Guinea, Niger, and Burkina Faso, have experienced coups since 2020, creating a heightened sense of insecurity across the continent. The coup attempt in Sierra Leone raised fears that the country, which had enjoyed relative peace for over two decades following a brutal civil war, might be at risk of sliding back into political turmoil.

Ensuring Future Stability

The swift response by both the Sierra Leonean government and ECOWAS ensured the country's stability. The successful prosecution of those involved in the coup and the ongoing court-martial of military officers demonstrate the government's commitment to holding perpetrators accountable. Meanwhile, ECOWAS continues to monitor the situation, offering security and diplomatic support to prevent any future attempts to undermine the country's democratic institutions.

Despite the tensions revealed by the coup attempt, Sierra Leone's government remains in control, and there is hope that the trials and sentences will serve as a deterrent against future instability. The international community, including the United States and the European Union, has also expressed support for Sierra Leone's efforts to uphold democracy and the rule of law.

Summary

The events of November 2023 marked a pivotal moment in Sierra Leone's recent history, underscoring the tensions in its political landscape but also the resilience of its institutions. Through decisive action by the government, the judiciary, and regional organizations like ECOWAS, Sierra Leone has been able to weather the threat posed by the coup attempt. However, the trials and legal proceedings will continue into 2025, shaping the country's political future and its long-term stability. As Sierra Leone moves forward, the vigilance of its security forces and the continued support from international partners will be critical in ensuring that it remains on a path of peace and democratic governance.



GO-FOR-GOLD | PERMANENT RESIDENCY IN SIERRA LEONE

