

Ambassador Ibrahim Sorie: *“Sierra Leone should be a favoured destination for Dutch Investors”...*

At the end of a three-day tour to three cities in Holland dubbed ‘Ambassador’s tour to promote Sierra Leone’s Trade and Investment Opportunities, Ambassador Ibrahim Sorie has assured Dutch Investors that his country should be a favoured destination for them because of the government’s friendly policies for investors.

The Sierra Leone government, Ambassador Sorie revealed, has created the enabling environment to attract serious investors ranging from tax holiday, duty-free concessions for some capital investments, one-stop shop for registration of business, Fast-Track Commercial Court to expedite settlements of commercial disputes and many other facilities.

“Sierra Leone has very attractive incentives for investors that can match any other country in the sub-African region”, the Ambassador reiterated..

The three-day Trade and Investment Promotion tour which took Ambassador Sorie and his entourage to three major cities in Holland: Wageningen, Tilburg and Amsterdam was organised by the Sierra Leone Central Union (SLCU) which is the umbrella organisation of Sierra Leoneans in Holland, to promote economic growth that will accelerate the implementation of the Agenda for Prosperity and at the same time help put Sierra Leone investment opportunities on a networking platform in Holland.

About fifteen companies ranging from Circular Economy (Zero waste tolerance), Sustainable Agriculture and Agri-business, Drink Water supply and Sanitation, Sustainable Energy, Port Development , Logistics, ICT and Telecommunications have expressed an interest to invest in Sierra Leone.

The first days of the tour (February 26th-28th) was at the Wageningen University where the ambassador and his delegation took a guided tour of the world-renowned Agricultural research University and later paid another visit to the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). Furthermore, the Embassy team visited the King Willem XI school in Tilburg. This school is twinned with the SLMB primary school at Makonkarie village in the Yonibana chieftdom, Tonkolili district. The team also toured *De Rooi Pannen* vocational Institute, where students are trained to become professional entrepreneurs, whilst the Ambassador further held fruitful bilateral discussions with the Mayor of the Tilburg city, Peter G.A. Noordanus, briefing him on the expected visit to Holland in April of His Excellency President Ernest Bai Koroma.

Moreover, the team toured the *Attero* Waste Management Company (which prides itself as the largest company in Holland handling waste from households) and the *Waterschap De Dommels* Company Treatment Centre which specialises in the collection and treatment of rain and sewage water.

The last lap of the tour organized by the Netherland Africa Business Council was at the Amsterdam Port, the world’s fourth largest Port after the Rotterdam, Antwerp and Hamburg Ports respectively, where the Ambassador was able to address investors, some of who are already operating businesses in Sierra Leone and served as living testimonies of the peaceful

and friendly atmosphere that exists for investors in Sierra Leone. The Embassy delegation toured the Warehouses of *Connecting World Trade* (CTW): buyers of world cocoa and coffee. At the end of the tour, praises were heaped on the executive of the Sierra Leone Central Union for organising such a remarkable and spectacular programme. Ambassador Ibrahim Sorie asked the SLCU executive, headed by Abubakarr Bangura, to export their ideas to other Sierra Leone Diaspora Organisations to help attract more credible investors to Sierra Leone.

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