The Republic of SIERRA LEONE

Africa's First Smart Country

The Republic of Sierra Leone

Capital:
Freetown

President:
Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma

Population:
7.396 million

Total Area:
27,699 sq. mi
(71,740 km)

Website:
www.statehouse.gov.sl/

BACKGROUND

Sierra Leone became an independent state in 1961 and was among the world's poorest countries when a civil war began in 1991. Despite substantial advances since the war ended in 2002, problems of poor infrastructure, access to health care, rural impoverishment and problems in public financial management and governance persisted.

Elected in 2007, President Ernest Bai Koroma recognized the significant problems facing the country and offered a path out of the economic malaise with his "Agenda for Change". President Koroma restored basic services and began investing in the country's infrastructure. Free-market policies encouraged international investment and new fiscal policies helped to curb further increases in commodities prices through improved financial management, transparent taxation and public expenditure profiles.

In 2013, President Koroma built on his vision for the country with his "Agenda for Prosperity" which laid the foundation for prosperity through technological transformation. The President told the nation, "For the next five years, this agenda will be our road map toward meeting our goal of becoming a middle income country and donor nation by 2035."

Advancements in blockchain and cloud computing solutions, as well as countrywide embracement of mobile lifestyles in Sierra Leone, will enable the country to leapfrog legacy ICT systems to quickly make essential services and economic opportunities accessible. The nationwide implementation of RippleNami's blockchain-based solution will connect Sierra Leone's public and private organizations, and it's citizens with real-time, verifiable and tamper-proof data to accelerate positive change on a national scale.

The mass adoption of connected digital technologies and applications by public and private sectors will establish Sierra Leone as the standard-bearer for advancement and economic growth as Africa's first "Smart Country."