



Government of Sierra Leone
Ministry of Technical and Higher Education
New England Ville, Freetown

MTHE, MBSSE Hold a Two-Day Project Implementation Workshop on SLESSP

19th-20th October, 2021

The Ministries of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE) and Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE), in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), have held a two-day implementation workshop for the Sierra Leone Education Sector Support Project (SLESSP) on the theme “Ensuring Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promoting Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All.” The workshop spanned from 19th to 20th October, 2021 at Golden Tulip Hotel, Kimbima Essential, Aberdeen.

Being a project which aims at providing support to the education sector with a view to improving quality and accessibility to education in hard-to-reach communities of the country, the SLESSP got its approval in June, 2019, and on 28th July, 2021, the two beneficiary Ministries (MTHE and MBSSE) had a signing ceremony with two consulting firms (IDEAS Ltd, a local firm in joint venture with ALHABSHREE JV based in Kuwait as well as Engineering Consultants Group [ECG] based in Egypt) regarding the project at the Ministry of Finance, George Street.

The SLESSP, which is a \$68 Million funded project, got its funding from Saudi Development Fund (SDF) with the sum of \$25 Million, OPC Fund for International Development (IFID) with the sum of \$20 Million, African Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) with the sum of \$20 Million, and the Government of Sierra Leone with a counterpart funding of \$3 Million.



Group Photo of Participants of the SLESSP Workshop

MTHE's Deputy Minister, Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara, noted that since they had the signing ceremony with the consulting firms on the 28th of July this year, the project has seen significant progress. He stated that the project is one that has been well-conceived under the leadership of H.E. President Bio. "The theme for our Medium Term National Development Plan 2019-2023 is 'education for development', and for the Government to add its own resources to this, is a direct commitment to H.E's intent that for this country to move, we have to give education the priority it deserves," he said. He expressed delight over the steps taken by key players in ensuring that the funds are made available in time. According to Mr. Aziz-Kamara the project is coming in when education is taking a different trajectory, and the country could not have had it at a more significant time than now. "We have seen massive enrolment. We have seen dropouts coming back to school. To address that, we need to have a project of this nature to be able to accommodate those pupils that will be merging from the schools," he said.



Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara
Deputy Minister, MTHE

In giving a brief overview of the project, SLESSP's Project Coordinator, Ing. Neilford Rose noted that the project aims generally at contributing to the achievement of Objective Four of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all. He said that there are six major beneficiaries of the project (four regional schools and two higher learning institutions). According to Ing. Rose, the project, which focuses on the promotion of quality education at both basic and senior secondary level & technical and higher level, will target the reconstruction as well as construction of two higher learning institutions (Bunumbu Teachers' College and Milton Margai Technical University respectively), the reconstruction of four public secondary schools (Bo Government Secondary School, Kenema Secondary School, Magburaka Boys Secondary School, and Prince of Wales School), and the construction of a seven-story administrative building for both MTHE and MBSSE. He noted that there is a commitment of \$50 Million to civil works infrastructure which constitutes a huge percentage of the overall cost of the project, adding that plans are already in place to have a project launch at regional and district level where the beneficiary institutions are located in a bid to further inform the public about the existence of such an infrastructural project.



Ing. Neilford Rose
Project Coordinator, SLESSP

MBSSE' Deputy Minister, Madam Emily Kadiatu Gogra, expressed gratitude to H.E. President Bio for pioneering the project and putting premium on human capital development. She commended all the donor agencies for putting money into the project, especially the construction of a seven-story administrative building which would create the atmosphere for MTHE and MBSSE to strengthen their partnership. She admonished all key players to accelerate the programme through community engagement and augmentation of quality so as to enhance sustainability of the project. "Let us engage and coordinate with one and another to implement this programme faithfully and successfully," she entreated members.



Madam Emily Kadiatu Gogra
Deputy Minister, MBSSE

According to the Project Coordinator of Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), Mr. Mohamed Aziz, BADEA was established pursuant to the 6th Arab Summit at Algiers in November, 1973, and it began operations in March 1975. He mentioned that the Bank was established with an overriding aim of strengthening economic, financial and technical cooperation within the Arab-African Region, specifically to participate in financing economic development in Africa, stimulate the contribution of Arab capital to African development, and help provide the technical assistance required for the development in Africa. He assured members of their continued commitment to strengthening the friendly cooperation that exists between BADEA and the Government of Sierra Leone.



Mr. Mohamed Aziz
Project Coordinator, BADEA

In his keynote address, the Senior Deputy Financial Secretary in the Ministry of Finance (MOF), Mr. Samuel E.B. Momoh, pointed out that the SLESSP is one of the priorities of the Government of Sierra Leone, as it falls within the framework of the country's human capital development strategy and the promotion of education, which is in line with the country's education plan that aims to make education accessible to all. "This project aims to contribute to the implementation of the strategic plan of the education sector to improve free and comprehensive basic education and to promote higher and technical education in the different regions of the country which suffer from the low level of services and their low distribution," he said. According to Mr. Momoh, the design stage of the project is expected to last for a period of 90 days, and after which, the complete design, drawings and specification, together with tender documents, will be submitted for the commencement of the tender stage in November, 2021. He urged all stakeholders, especially the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and the beneficiary institutions, to ensure that their needs are met in accordance with the project objectives.



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