



# Sierra leone backup power

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In 2020 Power Leone signed an MOU with the Government of Sierra Leone to construct and operate 40 solar mini-grid sites with 1.4 MW capacity across rural Sierra Leone. In 2024, Sierra Leone is constructing and commissioning 17 of these mini-grid sites (800 kW). This work is made possible with the support of Sustainable Energy 4 All's Universal Energy Facility.

Freetown, SIERRA LEONE – The Parliament of Sierra Leone has ratified two key agreements to generate and supply renewable energy to the communities of Lungi and Waterloo. The agreements, which were tabled on November 22, 2024, will pave the way for a significant boost in energy production through solar power projects in these areas.

The approved projects include a 15-30 megawatt solar grid connection for Waterloo and Samuel Town, as well as a 65-megawatt solar plant with battery storage facilities for Lungi. In addition to energy generation, the Lungi project will involve the rehabilitation of the Lungi playing field and the construction of access roads within the township, according to the Deputy Minister of Energy I.

Chairman of the Energy Committee, Hon. Kekurah Vandi, highlighted the country's heavy reliance on fossil fuels, particularly diesel and petrol, which are not environmentally sustainable. He emphasized that with the full implementation of these agreements, Lungi and Waterloo will become hubs for clean, renewable energy, marking a significant step towards reducing Sierra Leone's carbon footprint.

"The Lungi project will be a game-changer for the people of Kaffu Bullom and will finally end the longstanding energy crisis in Waterloo," Hon. Vandi stated. He also pointed out the ongoing challenge of electricity distribution, citing that even if 1,000 megawatts were available at King Tom, parts of eastern Freetown would still struggle with connectivity.

Opposition Chief Whip Hon. Abdul Karim Kamara from the All People's Congress (APC) welcomed the agreements and encouraged Parliament to extend similar renewable energy initiatives to other districts. He also called for future investments in marine energy and urged the government to open up the sector for private investors.

"We cannot solve Sierra Leone's energy crisis if we continue to rely solely on government institutions," Hon. Kamara argued.

Hon. Rebecca Yei Kamara of Kono District echoed support for the agreements and emphasized the vast potential for renewable energy investments in Sierra Leone, noting the country's natural resources.

"Sierra Leone has abundant sources of renewable energy--whether it's water, sunlight, or wind. We



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should shift from fossil fuels and fully embrace cleaner alternatives," she urged.

The ratified agreements represent a critical step towards diversifying Sierra Leone's energy portfolio and advancing its commitment to sustainable development. SEG/27/11/2024

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In June 2018, Karpowership signed a contract with Sierra Leone's national utility company, Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority (EDSA), the Ministry of Energy (MOE), and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) to deploy a Powership with 30 MW capacity. Later in 2018, the capacity was increased to 50 MW, followed by another increase in 2020 to provide 65 MW capacity. Karpowership has been operational in the country since 2018 and supplying 80% of Sierra Leone's total electricity demand.

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