

# Prelude to a conflict that seems to have no end

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For the records, it is important to state here, before submitting our findings during the month long investigation that the impasse between London Mining Plc and African Minerals, formerly Sierra Leone Diamond Company (SLDC), first came to our attention in May this year when His Excellency Ernest Bai Koroma made a brief stop over in Britain en route to Japan where he was to attend the fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development. On that day and, by coincidence we bumped into the Chief Executives of London Mining Plc: Mr Christopher Brown, the managing director, and his deputy Mr Graeme Hossie. The two had gone to see His Excellency to present their portfolio and present their case. They waited patiently while other potential investors had left without seeing the President. In the end they could not see His Excellency after several diplomatic manoeuvrings by officials at the embassy.

Reason: a group of APC party activists hijacked His Excellency and kept him in an enclosure for close to four hours caring less whether others were present or not. What that meeting yielded is still unclear. But the fact is, valuable time was wasted. The pair having been directed to talk to the Globe, because we were present at the scene, gave a run down of what they had gone to see His Excellency for. Their presentation at a meeting in their office in London was considered impressive and we decided to get involved especially as it involves the development of our nation - a nation with an uncertain future, deprived and battered after years of political, economic and social mismanagement. Sierra Leone, it **MUST** be recalled has been through Hell and back. For it to be deprived of vital opportunities from foreign investors and the international community will be morally and legally wrong if we do not intervene.

A detailed report of our findings to be serialised for the benefit of those ignorant of the real issues surrounding the iron ore saga at Marampa will reach you in coming issues. GOD HELP US.

Prior to the arrival of the Globe investigating team in Freetown, the capital city of Sierra Leone, the media had waged a war against London Mining allegedly financed and sponsored by African Minerals. In the ensuing media campaign a lot of damaging stories were written against London Mining without thorough investigation. Our presence on the ground however changed the negative perception that had been levied against the British public limited company over the past months. Headlines such as London Mining Plans being Bogus published by one of the nations leading newspapers owned by a senior minister of state, himself a journalist and a

former champion of press freedom hit the news stand. That headline and many others were considered misleading and so the editor of this paper, leading the investigating team from London decided to go on wire, conducting TV and radio interviews at the expense of his life to present the facts as they are to the

nation. Moments later the negative propaganda against London Mining changed. Talk of London Mining changing the co-ordinates in the original lease from TECSBACO received widespread media attention. The issue was promptly and appropriately addressed by TECSBACO, the company that sold their lease to London Mining Plc. The managing director Mr Abdul Bah of TECSBACO reportedly spent millions of leones to set the records straight through advertisements in the local media. Some of the information he dishd out to the media in the form of adverts will be published in full. Please be ready to feed your eyes and judge for yourself.

**NOTE: A Leading Newspaper editor, PR for AFRICAN MINERALS (name withheld for now) contracted to publish the Ad. for Le2m but declined in the last minute to avoid embarrassment.**

**WATCHOUT FOR RECEIPTS AND MORE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

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**Mr Abdul Bah, Managing Director of TECSBACO | Sold mining lease to London Mining Plc**