



INVESTMENT DESK



SLDIC NEWS BULLETIN • OCT 2026

When Government Gets Diaspora Engagement Right

Sierra Leone Diaspora Week • Prepared by VR&C Marketing

SLDIC LONDON, 19–20 JUNE 2026

The diaspora came ready. So did government.

For its first edition outside the US, SLDIC met at the InterContinental London Park Lane. The **National Investment Board (NIB)** served as the Government of Sierra Leone’s lead agency, under the oversight of the Office of the Vice President.

400+

diaspora professionals answered the SL Diaspora Fund Survey before London

78%

ready to put in \$1,000–\$5,000 once a transparent vehicle exists

33%

named trust as the biggest reason they hold back capital

Day 1

government engagement and policy dialogue, led by the NIB

The theme: “From Capital to Catalyst: Mobilizing Diaspora Finance to Power Sierra Leone’s Industries.”

HOW THE PARTNERSHIP WAS BUILT

Government didn't just attend. It co-owned the event.

- 18 Mar** ○ **NIB signs on**
The NIB and the Office of the Vice President pledge their backing and help shape the London agenda.
- 21 Apr** ○ **Official announcement**
The NIB names itself the government's lead agency for SLDIC 2026, leading Day 1.
- 19 Jun** ○ **Government's day in London**
Day 1: a policy panel with the NIB, Finance and Trade.
- 20 Jun** ○ **The Vice President's keynote**
Day 2: the case for moving from remittances to investment.
- 30 Sep** ○ **On to Freetown**
The NIB accepts the invitation to partner again, now on home soil.



Diaspora members “not merely as remittance contributors, but as strategic investors and partners.”

National Investment Board, announcing the SLDIC partnership (Executive Director Dr. Edward Hinga Sandy, May 2026)

DAY 1 ON STAGE

One stage, one message: here's how to invest at home

Panel: “Best Practice for Sierra Leone Diaspora Investment: Policies, Incentives and Resources on the Ground”

Moderated by Millicent Lewis-Ojumu, Solicitor of the High Court, England & Wales · with Alex Kucharski, Director of Market Building, British International Investment

LEAD AGENCY

National Investment Board

represented by Executive Director Dr. Edward Hinga Sandy

FINANCE

Ministry of Finance

Deputy Minister Kadiatu Allie

TRADE

Ministry of Trade and Industry

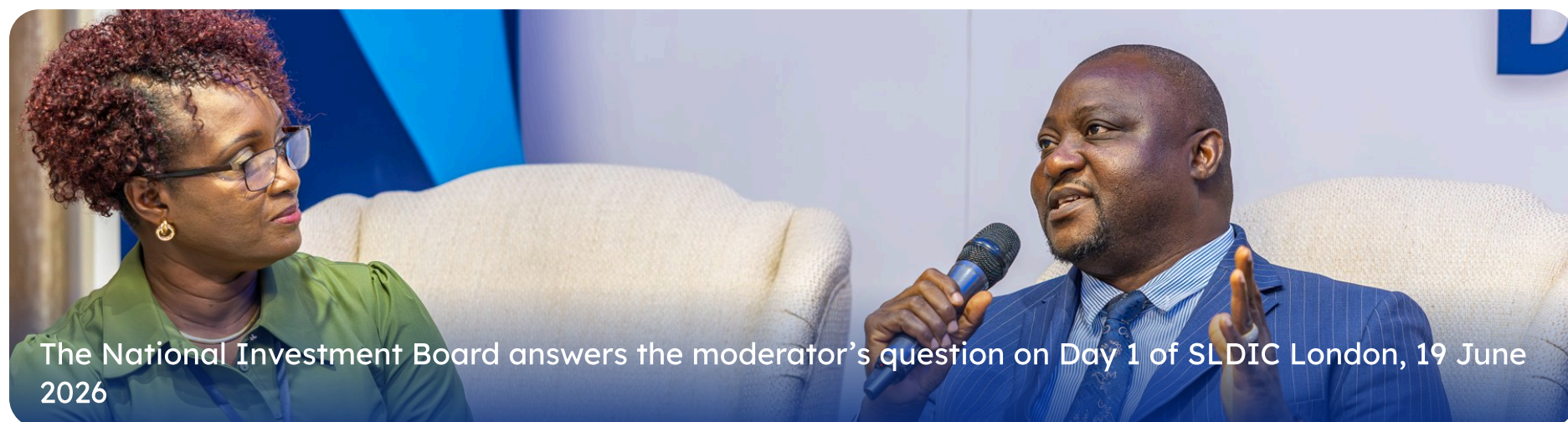
Minister Alpha Ibrahim Sesay

On Day 2, the Vice President's keynote put this on the table

- **Power:** electricity access up from 16–18% to 34–36%, with a 78% target by 2030.
- **A plan for diaspora money:** a national diaspora finance framework is in development, with diaspora funding prioritised in the Integrated National Finance Framework.

DAY 1, IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“What happens when there’s a problem on the ground?”



The National Investment Board answers the moderator’s question on Day 1 of SLDIC London, 19 June 2026

THE QUESTION FROM THE MODERATOR

“The protection mechanism, the interface you provide, where there are conflicts, even at the community level, what are you doing?... When the average Sierra Leonean from the diaspora comes in...”

THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT BOARD’S ANSWER

“[We are] rolling out an aftercare framework that makes sure we are visiting investments, looking at the challenges, and actually trying to deal with those challenges.”

A real example: the NIB pointed to **Sierra Tropical**, the Dole subsidiary growing pineapples in Sahn Malen, Pujehun District, whose fruit reaches global brands. “They had challenges with the community, and we were able to deal with that.”

Remarks by the NIB, represented by Executive Director Dr. Edward Hinga Sandy, at SLDIC London, 19 June 2026.

DAY 1, IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Ministers pointed investors to the NIB



“I must thank the National Investment Board... [they] have been very supportive in helping us develop bankable projects.”

Hon. Nabeela Tunis, Minister of Tourism & Cultural Affairs

“Come to the ministry, we’ll give you that expert advice, and then you can also go to the National Investment Board and register your business.”

Hon. Nabeela Tunis, on Sulima, Cassava Island and the Julius Maada Bio Conference Centre in Lungi



“Investing in Bo, Kenema, Makeni, we don’t just leave you at the mercy of those... saying, ‘This is our land.’ We are coming to you... Make use of me. Make use of the government now.”

Hon. Dr. Turad Senesie, Minister of Lands, Housing and Country Planning

CHAMPIONING INVESTORS AT HOME

What the NIB is fixing on the ground

1 stop

One Stop Shop Centre, opened 30 March 2026: registration, licensing, tax and approvals under one roof, with Immigration, NRA, EPA, NMA and the National Land Commission.

24 hrs

Target for business registration, including online registration, through the new centre.

NIN

National ID linked to registration, agreed with the NCRA in April 2026 to cut paperwork.

2025–30

National Investment Strategy and an aftercare framework, so investors get support after they arrive.

Why it matters for the diaspora: fewer offices, fewer middlemen, and one door to knock on when you invest from abroad.

WHAT LONDON PROVED

Five things government got right

- 1 It showed up at the top.**
The Vice President gave the keynote, and ministers came to meet the diaspora in person.
- 2 It spoke with one voice.**
One lead agency, the NIB, coordinated the government side.
- 3 It brought reforms, not speeches.**
The One Stop Shop and registration fixes were already under way.
- 4 It met the trust gap head on.**
The survey said trust holds money back. Government answered with structure and transparency.
- 5 It treated the diaspora as investors.**
Partners to build with, not just senders of remittances.



DIASPORA WEEK

DIASPORA WEEK · FREETOWN

FROM LONDON TO FREETOWN

Now the conversation comes home

The NIB returns as a partner for the Sierra Leone Diaspora Investment Conference in Freetown, with a **government showcase** on policy reforms and investment opportunities, including the **diaspora bond**.

WHEN Mon 28 – Tue 29 December 2026

WHERE Radisson Blu Mammy Yoko, Freetown

PASS Conference Pass \$125 · both days, meals included

Get your tickets →

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