

## Energy Reformation

### **Deputy Energy Minister Commissions Sambaia Bendugu Mini Grid, Commends President Bio's Rural Electrification Drive**

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Sambaia Bendugu, Tonkolili District, Northeast Sierra Leone, Saturday October 29, 2022----- Deputy Minister of Energy, Dr. Eldred Taylor, has at the commissioning ceremony of a mini grid facility at Bendugu in Tonkolili district, commended President Julius Maada Bio for his genuine desire to light up towns and villages in Sierra Leone through rural electrification or renewable solar energy.

Welcoming the Deputy Minister and his entourage, Paramount Chief of Sambaia Chiefdom, on. PC Alhajie Musa Bamba Foray Kulio Jalloh III, described the occasion as an historic one, adding that a moral duty was imposed on his chiefdom to appreciate the development strides of President Bio in the chiefdom and by extension reciprocate the love the President had shown the chiefdom.

He said the people of Sambaia had now received two of the key basic amenities President Bio had promised them with respect to pure drinking water and electricity, noting that with electricity now available in his jurisdiction, the many bore holes that had been dug would now become fully functional.

While commissioning the mini grid, Deputy Minister of Energy, Dr. Eldred Taylor, said President Bio had entertained an unrivalled vision for the maximization of the country's renewable energy space, adding that he was happy to see that vision now being actualized.

He praised stakeholders at Sambaia Bendugu for their efforts in actualizing the project and informed the gathering that chiefdoms like Malal and Kholifa Mabang-all in the Tonkolili district, had also benefitted from rural mini grids.

Dr. Taylor said detailed mini grid feasibility studies had been completed for Mile-91, Mamaka and Rothen in Tonkolili district. He said through the Government of Sierra Leone's aggressive and impressive pursuit of its rural electrification program, over 75 chiefdoms had benefitted from mini grids.

The Deputy Minister of Energy noted that the Bendugu facility was one of the biggest in terms of capacity and appealed to all to cooperate with the operators by paying their bills and by refraining from engaging in the illegal abstraction of electricity.

Deputy Minister of Justice, Umaru Napoleon Koroma, who is a son of the soil, said he was delighted to witness such an important occasion.

He praised the human capital development initiative of President Bio and explained the link between energy and the realization of the human capital notion.

Director General of EDSA, Abu Kamara, spoke about the role of EDSA in government's electrification drive and praised the Minister of Energy for keeping the energy dream of the President alive.

Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Energy, Hon. Kekura Vandi, lauded the efforts of the Ministry of Energy and private partners in expanding or increasing access to electricity in the country.

Earlier on, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Energy, Emmanuel Junisa, gave a brief background of the rural electrification programs across the country.

The energy sector reforms continue.