

MOD RSLAF DPC RESTRICTED



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE ARMED FORCES**

DEFENCE ESTATES POLICY

Review Date: 2017 or on Demand

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CONDITION FOR RELEASE


The Defence Estates Policy contained herein is by no means a contrary tool to all existing rules and regulations, national and international; but rather should be seen as complimentary effort. The policy belongs exclusively to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF), and by extension for the use of the wider public, upon request and so authorised by the Defence Policy Committee (DPC).


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Authentication. This document is hereby issued under the authority of Defence Policy Committee with the Minister of Defence as Chairman, on behalf of the Defence Council of the Republic of Sierra Leone. More precisely, the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff for Support and Logistics is the sponsor. The Deputy Secretary for Policy and Procurement prepared the details for promulgation with the concurrence of the Chief of Defence Staff.

Legal Status. This document has no formal status in legal terms but provides clear military guides drawn from most recent experiences and prevailing best practices, for the regulation of the affairs of the MoD and RSLAF to the tune of acceptable democratic norms and values.


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Dated: 20 August 2014*

INTRODUCTION

1. On Thursday 17 July 2014 the Defence Policy Committee (DPC) meeting held in the Ministry of Defence on unanimously endorsed and adopted the Defence Estates Policy. The aim of the initiative is to reduce the cumbersomeness of work in the branch of defence estates. This Policy details the responsibilities of all Committee Members involved in the process, as well as the implementation to which members of the Estates Committee will be working. The purpose of this policy is to enlighten the staff about what the committee should be addressing (**as a course of action adopted or proposed by the MoD**) at any point in time in terms of Defence Estates issues across the MoD/RSLAF.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

2. Prior to the outbreak of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) Civil War, the personnel size of the army was 3,500. Therefore accommodation and other estate facilities were less felt. At the start of the RUF Civil War on 23 March 1991, arose the demand for large scale recruitment of personnel in order to speedily prosecute the war. At the end of the war in 2002 inflated considerably. Thus creating a situation where the available accommodation could not be evenly allocated.

OBJECTIVE

3. Defence Estates **Mission** is to facilitate the provision of technical and residential accommodation, including training areas and the management of those infrastructure in order to provide a fit-for-purpose estates of the MoD/RSLAF within the framework of democratic governance.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

3. The under mentioned terms of reference shall apply:
- a. The Defence Estates Committee shall ensure that all serving personnel in the MoD/RSLAF are well housed/accommodated.
 - b. The Committee shall develop and implement estates policies for the MoD/RSLAF.
 - c. The Committee shall receive and process utility bills (GVWC, NPA etc) for payment.
 - d. Prepare the Minister of Defense's Performance Contract on Estates issues.
 - e. They shall comply with the CDS's aspirations in order to improve the status of serving personnel.

- f. The Estates Committee progressions are to be factored into the Defence Planning Assumptions (DPA) to compensate for the Minister of Defence's Performance Contract.
- g. Approval of bids/BOQ shall be endorsed by the CDS.
- h. The Defence Estates Committee shall report its activities to the Minister of Defence.

DEVELOPMENT OF ESTATES POLICIES

- 4. In order to make this policy effective, sustainable and operationally capable, the under mentioned rules apply:
 - a. The Estates Policy shall remain important in terms of rules, procedures and vision of the Ministry of Defence.
 - b. The performance, standard and conditions required by the Ministry should be evaluated or validated from time to time.
 - c. In essence, the head of the committee, the CDS, would be appropriate to exhibit his authority effectively and efficiently through the MoD/RSLAF chain, in developing this policy.
 - d. The Ministry of Defence would develop and amend realistic Estates Policy in order to be implementable and sustainable.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 5. The need for transparency and accountability in Estates matters cannot be overstressed as Estates matters involve huge sums of money. The monitoring of the Estates Policy, directives and supervision of defense spending therefore requires senior leadership for transparency and accountability. There should be clear justification for estates development which should be factored into the Defense White Paper from the Defense Planning Assumptions mainstream. As such the CDS will be able to advice on this as he continues to develop the estates policies across the MoD/RSLAF. The committee shall investigate/audit Defence Estates spending periodically.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE ESTATES COMMITTEE

6. The ACDS Support and Logistics is responsible for the implementation of Defence Estates Policy on behalf of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). The full composition of the Defence Estates Committee is as under:

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------------|
| a. | CDS | Chairman |
| b. | DG | Member |
| c. | DCDS | “ |
| d. | CJF | “ |
| e. | ACDS Sp/Log | “ |
| f. | D Def Estates | “ |
| g. | D Def Pers | “ |
| h. | CO Engr Regt | “ |
| i. | Rep of MLCPE | Co – opted Member |
| j. | Representative of the Ministry of Works and Infra (if required) | Co – opted Member |
| k. | SO2 J4 Infra (HQ JFC) | Secretary |

MEETINGS OF THE ESTATES COMMITTEE

7. The Estates Committee shall convene meetings quarterly at a time and place to be determined by its Chairman (the CDS). Emergency meetings shall be convened when necessary. In the absence of the Chairman, the DCDS or any other person so appointed shall act as Chairman. Activities of the Estate Committee shall be reported to the MD.

CONCLUSION

8. The expansion of Estates activities especially in the area of barracks construction requires an effective body for efficient implementation, management, transparency and accountability. Defense spending especially on Estates requires estates policy, transparency, accountability and Defense Planning Assumptions for its effective implementation. Therefore the need to set up an Estates Committee to be headed by the CDS should be as vital tool towards and a mitigating approach.