

SIERRA LEONE 2025

# CITIZEN'S BUDGET



T H E M E :

# *Improving the Well-Being and Quality of Life of Sierra Leoneans*



# Introduction

This citizen's guide to Sierra Leone's 2025 National Budget seeks to highlight and simplify key provisions of the budget to enhance their understanding of government spending priorities for the year and empower them to demand service delivery. It aims to create an active community of informed citizens to hold the government accountable and to drive participatory governance through the budgetary process.



# What is a Government's Budget?

A government's budget is a financial roadmap that outlines how much money the government expects to collect (through taxes and other sources) and how it will be spent over a specific period, typically a year. This plan is critical to funding national priorities such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. It

is a comprehensive tool that guides policy, promotes fiscal responsibility, fosters transparency, and contributes to economic stability and citizens' well-being. Understanding the government budget empowers citizens to participate actively in shaping their communities and holding their leaders accountable.





# Government Budgeting Process In Sierra Leone

The public budget process is typically divided into four stages:



## PREPARATION

Budget preparation begins with the Ministry of Finance issuing budget guidelines, which outline budget priorities and provide instructions for budget preparation for the current year. The Ministry of Finance then receives and consolidates various expenditure requirements from ministries, departments, agencies, and local government authorities



## APPROVAL

using the expected revenue collection. Following preparation, the budget is submitted to the Cabinet by the Minister of Finance for cabinet approval. The Cabinet will discuss and approve the budget to be laid before Parliament and monitor and review the execution of the budget and the financial management of the government.



## IMPLEMENTATION



## MONITORING

After cabinet approval the budget is formally submitted to Parliament by the Minister of Finance, typically in the form of a budget speech. After the budget speech, Parliament has the responsibility to thoroughly review the proposed budget. This involves examining the revenue and expenditure proposals to ensure they align with national priorities, economic goals, and social

welfare needs. Parliament members, especially those in relevant committees like the Public Accounts Committee or the Finance Committee will now debate the proposed budget. They may ask questions, propose amendments, and suggest changes. These discussions often focus on ensuring the budget is equitable, transparent, and fiscally responsible.

After a thorough review and any necessary amendments, the budget is put to a vote. The approval process requires

a majority of Parliament to agree to the budget. If the budget is rejected, the government may be required to revise the proposal. After the parliamentary scrutiny The Appropriation Bill is gazetted to allow public access and input before it is adopted and passed into law, ensuring it undergoes the due process and receives Presidential assent.

Parliament's role continues with its oversight function. Parliament through the Public Account Committee ensures that the Executive follows the

budgetary guidelines and uses public funds effectively. This may involve regular reporting, audits, and investigations into any discrepancies in the budget's implementation. Parliament may also engage with the public, including through consultations and hearings, to ensure that the views of citizens and civil society groups are considered in the budget process. Parliament can also perform monitoring and audits to ensure that there is no misappropriation.



# Government's Focus For 2025

In 2025, the Sierra Leone government plans to stabilize the macroeconomic fundamentals, including inflation, exchange rate, and interest rates, to achieve its plans to improve the well-being and quality of life. Therefore, the theme for the budget is **“Improving the Well-Being and Quality of Life of Sierra Leoneans.”**



## Priority Areas of The Government

**The Sierra Leone government will prioritize the following areas this year:**

- Reduce inflation and stabilize the exchange rate to enhance household incomes, improve purchasing power and standard of living Sierra Leoneans
- Prudently manage public finances to create the fiscal space for investment in the social and economic sectors
- Support the Feed Salone Initiative to boost agricultural productivity for food security
- Sustain investments in human capital development to improve the productivity and quality of our workforce
- Continue to invest in infrastructure, technology and innovation to boost productivity and the growth potential of the economy
- Deepen and broaden social protection programmes to support the poor and vulnerable groups in our society, thereby ensuring social and economic inclusion
- Improve the business environment to promote growth and create job opportunities
- Support activities that promote a greener environment and address climate change risks
- Strengthen public administration for effective and efficient public service delivery and good governance.



## 2025 Macroeconomic Targets

The government anticipates that this budget will bring about the following:

**\$4.74**

The GDP is expected to be at \$4.74 as a constant price

GDP at market prices is expected to be Nle 3.97bn

**Nle 3.97bn**

**4.5%**

Overall real GDP is expected to grow by 4.5%.

Consumer prices (end-of-period) is expected to grow by 52.16 %

**52.16%**

**\$461**

GDP per capita will be \$461

Gross International Reserves will be \$432.9m

**\$432.9m**

# A Few Public Projects To Be Implemented in 2025

These are the projects that the government intends to implement this year, categorized by sector:



## EDUCATION

**NLe 10.3 million** has been allocated for the construction and equipping of a National Archive and Record Centre and for the transformation of Government Technical Institutes into Community Technical Colleges.

**NLe 308.1 million** has been allocated to construct the University of Science and Technology in Kono District; rehabilitation of Government schools; Milton Margai Technical University; and Bunumbu Teachers College.



## HEALTH

Construction of a Cancer and Diagnostic Medical Centre and the Rehabilitation and Expansion of District Hospitals.

The implementation of various projects in the health sector, including the construction of a Pharma Grade Warehouse.

**NLe 72.0 million** has been allocated as a counterpart contribution for donor-funded projects in the health sector.



## ENERGY

Plans to complete seven Districts Electricity Project

Rehabilitation of the Goma-Dodo Hydro Dam

Extension of transmission and distribution lines to mining companies

Enhancing energy generation and transmission.

Development partners will disburse NLe1.4 billion for the implementation of several projects in the energy sector, including the Regional Emergency Solar Power Intervention Project (RESPITE).





## ROADS

**NLe 345.7 million** is allocated to the Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA) for the ongoing construction, rehabilitation and completion of trunk and township roads and bridges. The allocation makes provision for the completion of the following trunk roads and bridges: Kabala-Falaba-Limbaya Junction to Guinea Border Road; Targrin-Lungi-Konakridee Road; Bandajuma-Pujehun-Gbondappi Road; Taiama-Njala Road; Moyamba-Sembehun-Shenge Road; Kambia-Madina-Kukuna-Konta-Guinea Border Road; and Jojoma; Geoma; Yifin; Banekeh; and Walihun bridges.

**NLe 15.0 million** is allocated for sport improvement of major highways

**NLe 35.9 million** for the re-gravelling of selected trunk roads, including Mano Junction-Tongo-Kangama-Bumpeh Road, Sumbuya Junction Briamaia-Kukuna Road, and the Mobai Junction-Baiwala-Bomaru Road.

**NLe 133.9 million** is made for the completion of city and township roads in Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Moyamba, Pujehun, Mattru Jong, Bonthe, Waterloo, Tihun, Makeni, Kono and Kambia.

Development partners (World Bank, AfDB, BADEA and the Kuwaiti Fund) will disburse **NLe 497.3 million** to support the ongoing construction and reconstruction of several roads and bridges: Tokeh-Lumley Road; Buedu-Koindu Road; Tikonko Kpetema-Mattru-Jong Road; Kailahun-Buedu Road; and Moselelo, Komrabai, Sumbuya and Batkanu Bridges.

**NLe 37.1 million** as counterpart contribution towards the implementation of these roads and bridges projects.



## SOCIAL PROTECTION

The government will establish of rehabilitation centres for drug addicts



## WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

**NLe1.8 million** is allocated for the construction of water quality laboratories.

**NLe20.0 million** is for the completion of the construction of water supply facilities in six district capitals

**NLe15.0 million** for the construction of gravity flow schemes in Kenema

**NLe15.0 million** for the construction of water supply system in the Bonthe Municipality.

**NLe8.5 million** for the construction of 45 boreholes and the restoration of water supply at the IMATT and Hill Station communities.

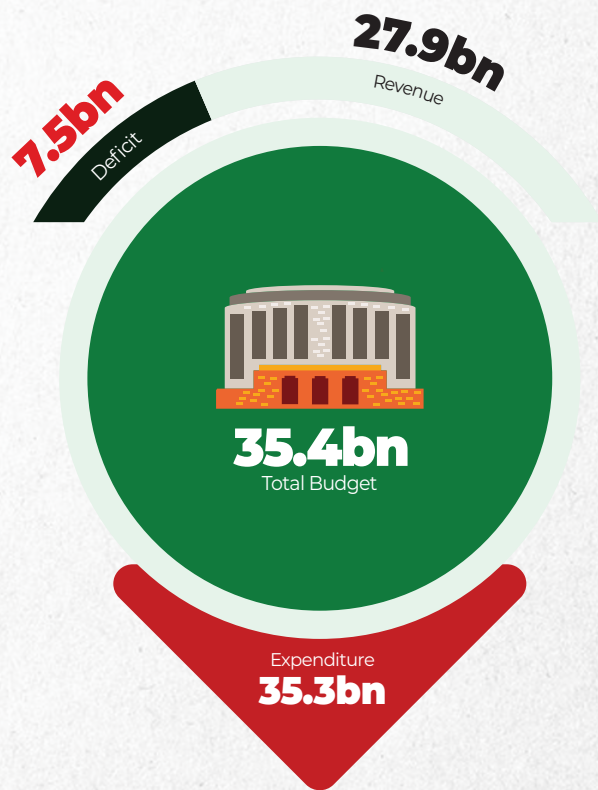
Development Partners will allocate **NLe48.3 million** to SALWACO for the drilling of 100 solar powered boreholes and the implementation of the Four Towns Water Supply Project in Mongo, Daru, Njala and Mattru Jong.

**NLe54.5 million** to the Guma Valley Water Company for the implementation of the Freetown WASH and Aquatic Environment Revamping Project.



# Visualizing The 2025 Budget





#### Revenue

Domestic Revenue

**18.9bn**

Grant

**9.0bn**



Project grant from  
other Development  
Partners

**6.9bn**

World and EU  
budget support

**2.1bn**

#### Expenditure

Capital Expenditures  
and Net Lending

**13.0bn**

Recurrent  
Expenditure

**22.1bn**



Wages  
& Salaries

**7.6bn**



Interest  
Payments

**7.4bn**



Goods and  
Services

**4.3bn**



Subsidies, Transfers  
and Other Payments

**3.2bn**

# How Much Will The Government Spend In 2025?

Expenditure refers to how the government intends to spend taxpayers' money. This year, Sierra Leone's total expenditure is projected to reach NLe 35.3 billion.

It is expected that the government will spend NLe 35.3 billion in 2025 on various expenditure outlays such as wages and Salary (NLe 7.6 bn), interest payments (NLe 7.4bn), capital expenditure (NLe 13.0 bn), Subsidies, goods and services (NLe 4.3bn), Transfers and Other Payments (NLe 3.2bn).

# 35.3bn



Capital  
Expenditure  
**13.0bn**



Interest  
Payments  
**7.4bn**



Wages  
& Salaries  
**7.6bn**



Subsidies, Transfers  
and Other Payments  
**3.2bn**



Goods and  
Services  
**4.3bn**



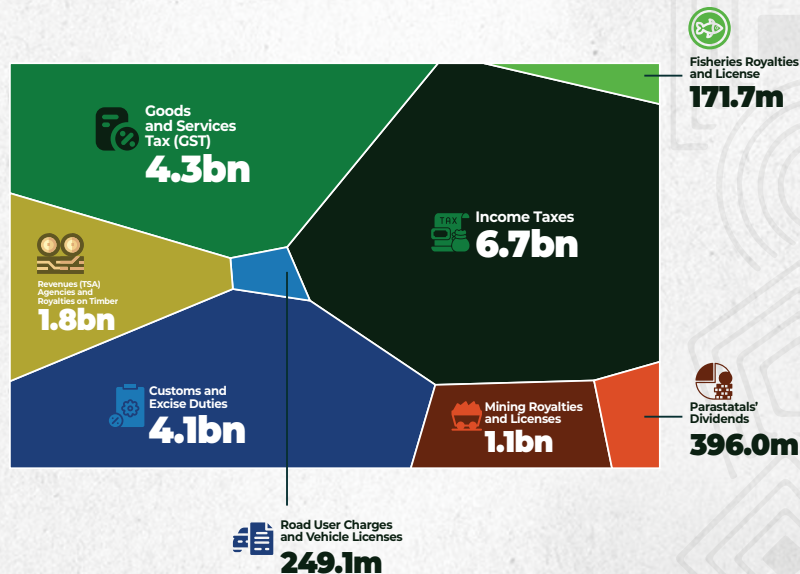
# Sectoral Analysis of The 2025 Budget

Budgetary Allocations by Sector in 2025



# Where Will This Money Come From?

The government intends to raise a total revenue of **NLe 27.9 bn** in 2025 from its internal and external income streams. Over 65% of the total revenue is expected to come internally, while the remaining is expected to be accrued from grants.





## The Expenditure Figure Seems To Be Greater Than The Revenue Figure

Yes, the expenditure exceeds the expected revenue by NLe 7.5 billion. This means there is a shortfall in revenue. This is called a Budget Deficit.

## How Then Will The Government Finance The Deficit?

The deficit will mainly be covered through borrowing from the domestic banking system, amounting to **NLe 6.1 billion** (3.1% of the GDP). Additionally, borrowing from the non-bank sector is anticipated to be **NLe 640.3 million**.

## What Are The Implications of Borrowing To The Citizens

As the government embarks on excessive borrowings to meet its revenue shortfalls, it is obliged to pay these debts with interest on a future date. The following are some of the implications of excessive borrowing to citizens:

- Citizens would have to pay more taxes in the future, and developmental projects would have to be forfeited to pay for these debts and their accrued interest.
- Higher interest payment on debts reduces government ability in spending on key areas education, health, infrastructure and social programs.
- Increased borrowing may lead to debt sustainability risks making it difficult to repay debt, raising the risk of further borrowing and higher interest rates.
- Financing debt by printing money can increase inflation, eroding purchasing power.
- Government borrowing can push up interest rates, crowding out private investment and slowing growth.
- Excessive debt may cause investors to lose confidence, leading to capital flight or a credit downgrade, raising borrowing costs.
- High debt levels can weaken the currency, increasing import costs and inflation.
- Future generations may face higher taxes or reduced services to manage the debt.
- Over-reliance on borrowing can make an economy vulnerable to shocks, undermining growth and financial stability.
- Governments may cut spending or raise taxes to control debt, leading to social unrest and slower growth.

# How Can Citizens Participate In Budget Decision-Making?

**To participate in the budget decision-making process;**



Citizens should also attend public hearings or budget forums organised by the government or CSOs.



Citizens should follow government news and announcements related to the budget.



Citizens should use social media platforms to raise awareness about budget issues, share information, and mobilise others to take action.



Citizens should utilise advocacy groups and platforms to express their views and concerns about the budget.



During elections, research candidates' positions on budgeting and public finance. Vote for those prioritizing transparency, citizen participation, and a budget that reflects the community's needs.



