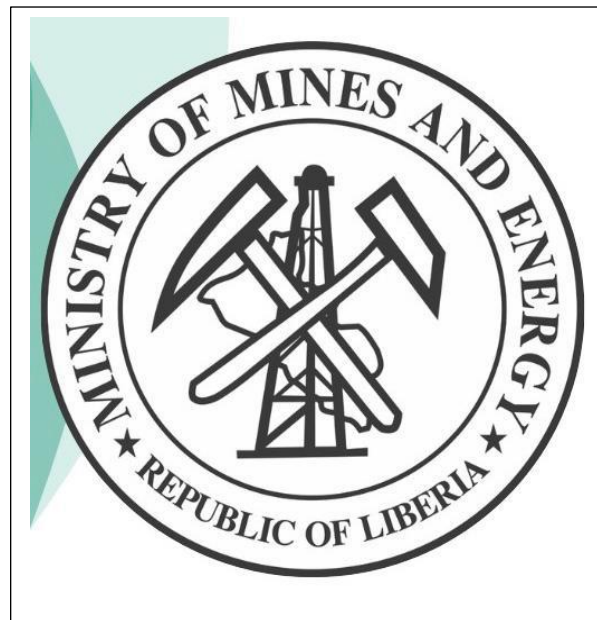


FIRST QUARTER REPORT FOR THE 2025 FISCAL YEAR



Republic of Liberia

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List of Abbreviations:

AFDB.....	African Development Bank
CLSG.....	Cote D'Ivoire Liberia Sierra Leone Guinea
DOE.....	Department of Energy
ELL.....	Electricity Law of Liberia
LGS.....	Liberia Geological Survey
LHS.....	Liberia Hydrological Survey
MCIMU.....	Mining Cadastre Information Management Unit
MFDP	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
MME.....	Ministry of Mines and Energy
NEP.....	National Energy Policy

1.0 Introduction

The Ministry of Mines and Energy (formerly the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy) is the government ministry responsible to ensure efficient administration of the mining sector and has a statutory oversight for the energy, mineral and water sectors. These sectors are governed by the Minerals and Mining Law of 2000, the Exploration Regulations of 2010, the Minerals Policy of 2012, the Electricity Law of Liberia of 2015, and the National Energy Policy of 2009, respectively. They play a role in Liberia's economic governance and transformation.

This report covers the activities of the ministry for the period January to March, 2025.

2.0 key accomplishments

During the first quarter of 2025, the following were accomplished by the ministry of Mines and Energy.

2.1 Draft amendments of the Minerals and Mining Law

The draft proposed amendments to the Minerals and Mining Law of 2000 and the National Energy Policy were submitted to the Legal Section of the Ministry for concurrence before being submitted to the office of the President for consideration to form part of the President's Legislative agenda for 2025.

2.2 Regulations on critical minerals including Heavy Mineral Sand

For the period, several regulations were formulated, to include regulations for River Sand Mining, Ground Water Development and Heavy Mineral Sand (HMS). These regulations, once adopted, will enhance the ministry's regulatory capability and ensure an all-inclusive stakeholder's participation in the governance of the mineral sector.

Additionally, a proposed draft of the SOPs for mine surveyors and draftsmen was completed. This will serve as a guideline by which mine surveyors and draftsmen can be held accountable in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities.

2.3 Decentralized offices

The decentralization of the Ministry is intended to ensure the provision of quality administrative and technical support services at county level.

So far Thirty (30) Geologists and Mining Engineers have been recruited to be assigned at the various county offices. This represents the first batch to be assigned as a total 100 Mining Engineers and Geologists is the target for the decentralization.

2.3.1 Establishment of regional offices

Procurement process for awarding contracts for the rehabilitation of designated offices in the capitals of the fifteen (15) counties, was initiated and will be concluded in the second quarter. The office spaces were obtained through collaborative efforts with local county officials. Where available, offices were provided at the administrative buildings or otherwise arrangements were made with private properties owners for the renting of their properties.

To date, the Superintendents of Rivercess, Bomi, Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Montserrado, Lofa, Rivergee, Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties have offered spaces in their administrative buildings. However, in the counties of Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Sinoe and Grand Kru, there were no spaces, therefore the ministry is renting private buildings to host her counties operations.

The purpose for establishment of these county offices is for the provision effective and efficient compliance monitoring of the operations of mineral rights holders. These county offices will be headed by County Mine Officer and assisted by Geologist or Mining Engineer and vice versa.

County officers will supervise all Mining Agents, Inspectors and Patrolmen assigned in the counties.

2.4 Digitalization

Preliminary discussions on the possibility of transitioning the licensing process from paper-based to digital was held with key stakeholders to include, GIZ, RDF and the LRA. The Digitalization of all license process is expected to improve the Licensing regime and enhance revenue generation. Additionally, digitization will allow clients/companies to be able to register online and submit all required documentation online which will forester timely application processing and license management, data entry and uploading new applications to MCAS.

Below is a table showing the summary of activities for the first quarter

Table 1

License Issued

#	License Type	Quantity
1	Scrap Broker	3
2	Scrap Dealer	1
3	Blasting	4
4	Broker	14
5	Dealer	3
6	Class B	5
7	Class C	571
8	Exploration	7
9	Development Exploration	3
10	Prospecting	10
11	T o t a l	621

2.5 Installation of CCTV-Internet service and Web site Development

The procurement process for the awarding of contract for internet service provider was completed. It is expected that the entire complex will have internet coverage before the end of the second quarter. A fully functional website was developed and launched using a Liberian owned company. The link to the website is www.mme.gov.lr. Technical specification for the CCTV was generated pending the advertising of the bid. The aim of installing the CCTV is to improve security surveillance and reduced incidents of fraud.

2.6 Service Delivery Charter

Implement 100% of priority service standards by the creation of a Customers Service Center, where mining/minerals related questions can be answered. This process was also backed up by placing a bill-board at the entrance of the ministry.

2.7 Monitoring and evaluation

For the period under review, compliance review for all Class B Mining Licenses was conducted and licenses that have expired and did not meet the requirement as per the Minerals and Mining Law of 2000 within the MCAS system were removed and placed UNDER COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION.

Licenses in delinquency were served DEFAULT NOTICES and placed under review for 60 days to cure (make annual fee payment & provide compliance documents) as of the date the notices were served. Licenses that are in compliance and active were placed in ACTIVE FILES.

2.8 Revenue Actualization and other financial related activities

Revenue actualization as at March 31, 2025 (first quarter) was USD \$ 31,232,087.50, broken down as follows: January \$ 11,606,000. February \$ 8,012,932.98, and March \$11,612,000. These amounts represent 22% of the projected revenue for 2025 which is \$143,619,052.88. The variance from the projection is \$112,386,964 which is expected to be generated by the end of the fourth quarter.

The ministry participated in the Monthly External Trade Validation exercise, and did a Full analysis of MME Revenue versus Projection report. The sitting for the month of February ended

with the Trade Data Team coming up with a harmonized export data that will be computed in the national BOP.

The Ministry is currently participating in the MDA review process at the inter-ministerial technical committee of which western Cluster Mineral Development agreement amendment proposal has been under review. Also under review is HPX Access Agreement on the Yekepa- Buchanan rail corridor, currently used by Arcelor Mittal Liberia (AML) and the Arcelor Mittal Liberia's third amendment.

MME collaborated with FIA to formulate the rationale, scope, questionnaires, and communications for the National Risk Assessment for Dealers in Precious Mineral & Stones/ High Value Items (DPMS/HVIs) to counter Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Proliferation Financing (ML/TF/PF). The objective was to identify gaps and advance solution to counter Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing, Proliferation Financing (ML/TF/PF) within the DPMA/HVIs sector.

As focal point, we work along with CBL, MOJ, LACC & FIA on the SecFin-Liberia sponsor by the Swedish government, to identify problems relative to curb smuggling of gold within the Artisanal and Small-Scale Sector (ASM).

2.9 Energy Sector Working Group (ESWG)

The ESWG which was established to improve coordination and collaboration between government ministries and agencies within the sector, hosted the second Energy Sector Working Group (ESWG) meeting that, calls for sector coordination so as to meet government development agenda. High on the agenda was the formation of a WhatsApp group chat and the development of its Term of Reference (ToR) as well as the updated reporting from other ministries and agencies MME as a sector lead on energy matters.

2.10 Prepaid metering

MME through DOE (with LEC, RREA, LERC, EPA and UL Climate Action Laboratory) for Liberia joined regional counterpart, in the Gambia on for a 2-day (Feb. 17-18, 2025) knowledge sharing and technical exchange workshop on net metering policy and legal framework. The Net Metering Project is renewable energy (solar) scale up support to meet NDC/ national climate goal, from the Canadian Government. As being implemented by NovaSpere, Canada, it will deploy net-metered solar PV system (50 -200kW) pilots for MME, EPA and the UL Climate Action LAB. However, the support is tied to a prior action on formulating comprehensive policy and regulatory frameworks (from MME and LERC), and grid readiness study by LEC to accommodate net metering.

The MME graced the commissioning of Liberia Energy Efficiency and Access Project (LEEAP). The project marks significant milestone in expanding electricity access, improving energy efficiency, and strengthening both human and institutional capacity within Liberia's electricity. The following milestone were achieved by the projects:

- Connected 39,792 new customers, along with 50 health facilities/pharmacies, 65 academic institutions, 43 government/public facilities and 250 small businesses
- Constructed 45km (66kV) double circuit transmission lines from the Paynesville substation to the RIA substation.
- Built new substations at Schifrin (66/22kV) and RIA (66/33kV)
- Expanded 980km of distribution networks across the Paynesville – RIA – Owens grove Corridor and the Pleebo – Fish Town Corridor
- Expanded 980km of distribution networks across the Paynesville – RIA – Owens grove Corridor and the Pleebo – Fish Town Corridor
- Provided institutional capacity building (training for MME, LEC and RREA).

2.11 Coastal Defense Sinoe County

This report covers activities implemented between January to March 2025. Seven key activities were planned for this quarter relating to the project's four components. These activities primarily involved the hiring of international and national consultants to conduct data collection/research through field visitations, community engagements, conduct training/awareness exercises, development and submission of necessary and required reports, etc.

The approved budget as contained in the annual work plan (AWP) for this period is US\$367,950.73. At this time, it is difficult to state accumulative expenditure against delivery because of several outstanding expenditures and pending reports.

Almost all the consultancies planned for quarter one has been completed and reports submitted. Those that are being finalized for submission are: Needs Assessment of Gaps in the Liberia CIS project, development of Community Action Plan (CAPs), Participatory Community Monitoring Framework, the ESIA stakeholder engagement and consultation reports.

2.12 Establishment of Hearing Board

The Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), pursuant to authority granted it by the new Executive Law, title 12 and its amendments and the Mineral and Mining Law gave right to the establishment of the Board of Hearing. Accordingly, the Board of Hearing was established in order to provide due process for Mineral Right Holders who may be served notices of default, suspension or

revocation of their respective licenses. Below is a summary of cases heard in the first quarter of 2025.

Summary of Cases before the Hearing

No	Case	Status
1	MME Vs Notre Dame	Ruling: License Revoked
2	Liberia Mineral Export Vs MME	Ruling: License Revoked
3	Alexander King Vs MME	Complainant filed a Bill of Information to which the Hearing mandated that a site visit be conducted to ascertain if mining is actively ongoing, identify the miner and check the validity of said license. The cost is to be borne by the complainant.
4	MME vs Rhode Mining	Ongoing conference between complainant (MME) and Defendant for settlement of damages for illicit mining
5	MME vs Hongtu Mining	Ongoing conference between complainant (MME) and Defendant for settlement of damages for illicit mining
6	79 North Vs MME	Minister Setup a Special Investigative Committee to probe into this case after the Hearing Officer recused himself. The Hearing has been informed that the report from the Investigation has been submitted to the Minister
7	MME Vs SPJ	Ongoing conference between complainant (MME) and Defendant for settlement of damages for illicit mining
8	MME vs De Mining	Ongoing conference between complainant (MME) and Defendant for settlement of damages for illicit mining
9	MME Vs Da Tang	Ongoing conference between complainant (MME) and Defendant for settlement of damages for illicit mining
10	MME Vs East International	Ongoing conference between complainant (MME) and

		Defendant for settlement of damages for illicit mining
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2.13 Kimberly process and MRU Tax Harmonization

In order to enhance the ministry's diamond appraising capability, e-Valuer system was introduced. The e-valuer is an independent natural rough diamond valuation and price list platform that is currently actively been used in about 12 diamond producing countries around the world. The procurement package for the e-valuer included capacity building for staff through the training on the usage of the eValuer online system to price rough diamond for revenue generation. The office of Precious Minerals (OPM) valuations system is now linked to the MCAS to input minerals valuations statistics and generate receipts for payment of royalty to government revenue. This was *Sponsored by the Revenue Development Foundation (RDF).*

Stakeholders' engagements were conducted in several parts of the country with the objectives to provide information on the mineral sector to mining communities, knowledge on the Kimberley Process in Liberia, mining sensitization, export process/procedures, dos and don'ts in the mineral sector as well as the importance and benefits of our minerals *Sponsored by GIZ.*

There was also a study tour conducted in Ivory Coast to determine possible scenarios for the harmonization of fiscal regimes in the artisanal and small-scale mining sector of the Mano River Union (MRU) countries and to set up a national and regional working groups to address the tax harmonization policy in the MRU.

The table below shows revenue generated from Gold and Diamonds:

GOLD VALUATION AND EXPORTS

INDUSTRIAL GOLD		
WEIGHT (Kg)	APPRAISED VALUE (USD)	ROYALTY (USD)
2,777.26	238,017,139	7,140,514.17
ARTISANAL GOLD		
25.71	1,208,615.19	36,258.46

DIAMOND VALUATION AND EXPORTS

CARATS (weight)	APPRAISED VALUE (USD)	ROYALTY (USD)
7,980.80	2,055,502.20	61,665

Total Gold: **7,176,772.63**

Total Diamond: **61,665**

Funds generated from ID cards is **US \$ 7000**

Grand total: US \$ 7,245,437.63

