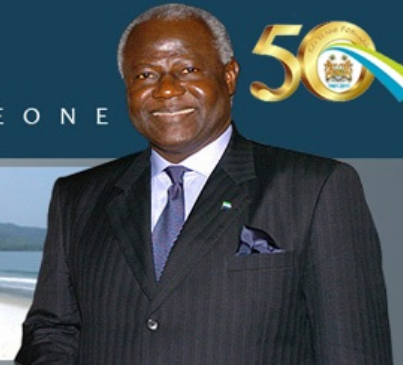




State House

THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE



U.N. Special Event Luncheon



U.N. Special Event Luncheon



U.N. Special Event Luncheon



President Ernest Bai Koroma with German Chancellor Angela Merkel

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GOVERNMENT SECURES MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY



His Excellency the President, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, is pleased to announce that the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) has approved a request from the Government of Sierra Leone for fifty million dollars (US\$50 million) in support of the Government's Smallholder Commercialisation Programme.

The Smallholder Commercialisation Programme, whose motto is 'Farm For Business', will support small-scale farmers to move from subsistence to commercial farming and to connect them to markets.

With the pilot programme already underway and showing signs of success, the President will be officially launching the programme on 31st July 2010 in Kenema in eastern Sierra Leone.

In another development, the Islamic Development Bank has approved fifteen million dollars (US\$15 million) to expand the Mattru Oil Palm Plantations and to build a processing plant therein.

The public will recall that the President has publicly declared that agriculture is now his topmost priority after the significant progress made in the energy sector.

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and development in Sierra Leone.

His Excellency the President, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, would like to extend profound thanks to all the countries and agencies that have contributed to the GAFSP funding, and to all our development partners, the private sector, the Parliament of Sierra Leone, farmers and civil society who have contributed in diverse ways to these important developments.

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