

14 May 2021

The Honourable Minister of Lands, Housing and Country Planning
3rd Floor
Youyi Building, Brookfields
Freetown

Dear Sir,

Land acquisition for the construction of a fish harbour at Black Johnson- request for information

We write on behalf of the Institute for Legal Research and Advocacy for Justice (ILRAJ) and Namati Sierra Leone on the above subject. ILRAJ and Namati are non-governmental organisations working on public policy research, land rights and environmental justice, among others.

We have become aware of plans to establish a fish harbour and carry out waste management activities at Black Johnson in the Western Area peninsula, a project which the Government of China will fund.

We are also in receipt of a press release dated 10th May 2021, titled "Setting the Records Straight about the Fish Harbour" purportedly issued by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources in response to claims made by inhabitants of the Black Johnson community, and in which the Ministry asserts that "the Ministry of Finance had put aside a compensation package of Le 13.76 billion for the affected landowners after the Ministry of Lands had secured the 252 acres space for the fish harbour."

We, therefore, write to request pursuant to section 2 of the Right to Access Information Act 2013 the following:

1. Clarification of the process of land acquisition for the project, i.e., whether it is a compulsory acquisition in the context of section 21 of the 1991 Constitution and the Public Lands Act (Cap 116) or on a willing seller basis?
2. If it is a compulsory acquisition, a copy of the Parliamentary resolution authorising the acquisition.

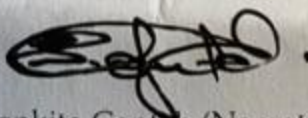
The requested information, if available, may be sent to Namati, 17B Murray Town Road, Freetown, or by email to sierraleone@namati.org.

Thank you in anticipation of a speedy response.

Yours sincerely,

Basita Michael

Basita Michael (ILRAJ)



Sonkita Conteh (Namati)