

Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Sierra Construction Systems Wins Bid to Build Courthouse Freetown, Sierra Leone

On Saturday, 20 September, Registrar Robin Vincent made the following statement:



I would like to announce that on Friday the Special Court awarded Sierra Construction Systems Ltd a \$3 million contract for the construction of our new landmark courthouse in Freetown. The locally-based company, which has constructed other phases of the court complex, submitted the lowest bid which the Court deemed technically acceptable.

Sierra Construction Systems will employ about 800 local workers for the five month period of construction, which will provide a boost to Freetown's economy. Work on the courthouse is set to begin in early October.

The winning architectural design, by the UK-based architectural firm Norman and Dawbarn Ltd, is based on the image of the scales of justice. The building will comprise two courtrooms, giving the Court the ability to hold two trials simultaneously.

The building of the courthouse marks the final phase of construction at the Special Court's 11-1/2 acre site in Freetown. In January, the Registry moved into a block of prefabricated buildings at the complex, and the Prosecutor and his staff occupied their offices in July. Work was completed in August on the renovation of the detention centre. A number of other buildings have also been erected on the site.

In the event that trials are ready to proceed before the new courthouse is complete, the Special Court has arranged for an alternative venue for the proceedings.

#END

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996. To date, the Prosecutor has indicted thirteen persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Nine indictees are currently in the custody of the Court.

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Press and Public Affairs Office
Special Court for Sierra Leone
Mobile: 232 76 655 237
Email: SCSL-pressoffice@un.org
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