



CORPORATE PROFILE OF THE NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Background Information: Why the National Professional Awards?

Individuals and organisations – both foreign and local – play important role in advancing the social and economic development of Sierra Leone. Their participation is essential to the success of the government's national development agenda and programme priorities. Over the years, new entrants – both citizens and foreigners – have taken leading role in pushing the national agenda forward. However, the African Consulting Group (ACG) has decided to establish the National Professional Awards to engage those men and women at the centre stage and recognise excellence, commitment, and innovation among individuals and organisations and enhance their contribution to sustainable development across the country. The work of the awards is anchored in the belief that leadership recognition and empowerment of individuals and organisations that are playing tremendous role in society is very essential to moving the country forward. It is vital to ensure that individuals and organisations are empowered to realise their potential as resources, and to recognise and nurture their ability to contribute to national development, and the success of their common achievements.

The National Professional Awards aim to raise the profile of dedicated individuals and committed organisations and highlight the contributions they are making towards developing a fairer, sustainable, peaceful, and prosperous future for all Sierra Leoneans. This year's edition of the awards will be held on 15th June, 2019, under the theme *"Celebrating professional excellence across Sierra Leone"* and will highlight the contribution that individuals and organisations are making nationwide, in areas such as poverty alleviation, conflict resolution and prevention, human rights, good governance, gender equality, democracy and environmental preservation, entrepreneurship, business development, economic livelihoods, the professions, and sustainable economic growth.

Awards Profile

The National Professional Awards are established to recognise outstanding development programmes, agencies, leaders, projects and success stories across Sierra Leone. The awards will be presented to award winners to honour excellence, innovation and dedication in the work for social and economic development at the community and national levels, as well as the individuals who champion these efforts. Organisations and individuals are selected based on their contribution to community and national development for one or more of the categories and criteria stated by the Organising Committee.

Organised by the African Consulting Group, in collaboration with its strategic partners across the country, the awards cover a wide variety of humanitarian, development, environment, democracy and human rights, gender empowerment, good governance, banking and finance, technology and innovations, and other categories and provide for both the public and private sectors to be honoured. The awards honour excellence, leadership and the creative use of professional services and expertise, development efforts, finance and other resources to move Sierra Leone forward. The Committee considers skills, talents and abilities. The awards also honour the cutting edge use of development cooperation to support innovation and energy development in local communities in Sierra Leone.

Celebrating professional excellence across Sierra Leone

In addition, the National Professional Awards will recognise excellence, demonstrated support and commitment, through professional services, best practices and sound management principles, corporate governance, good stewardship, and innovation and effectiveness in improving the lives of the poor and those most vulnerable in local communities in the country. As a multi-sector-driven initiative, the awards will select and honour the legacy of aid workers who lost their lives in service these past years, and celebrate the achievements of the leading local, regional and international NGOs and their leaders, both at the head office and field levels. In addition however, it will honour donor agencies, UN institutions, regulatory authorities, and private foundations and corporations that have that exemplify through their leadership excellence, hard work, innovation and commitment, above and beyond their expected responsibilities, the principles upon which the National Professional Awards was founded.

The inaugural awards ceremony will hold at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Aberdeen, Freetown, on Saturday, 15th June, 2019, beginning at 6 PM with a reception followed by a gala dinner. The awards ceremony is anticipated to be a major national platform for the recognition of key professionals and distinguished personalities, public officials, donor representatives, civil society leaders and well performing organisations that have demonstrated competence and raised the benchmark of excellence in sound corporate governance, excellence in planning and efficiency in service delivery, and as such, all awardees are respectfully required to attend to receive this recognition. Additional information about the Awards ceremony, including the event's Programme is available online at www.africanconsultingcorp.com/awards.

Key Objectives

The National Professional Awards give national recognition and support to those individuals, organisations, agencies and companies who have demonstrated capacity and potential to make positive contributions to their communities across the country. However, honourees are integrally involved in the process of change as they continue to work side by side with decision makers as key actors and stakeholders contributing to national development. The individuals and organisations who will receive this award demonstrate measurable/tangible impact through their social and economic development work in their communities or field of operation.

The main Objectives of the National Professional Awards are to:-

- Highlight the contributions individuals and organisations are making to promote the common goal of a future built on fairness, peace, prosperity and sustainability and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in local communities across Sierra Leone;
- Acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by individuals and organisations to overall national development and best practices through professional services;
- Create an environment which will encourage and sustain investments in sustainable human and economic development;
- Illustrate the depth and breadth of talent, commitment and creativity that exists among individuals and organisations in different fields across the country by highlighting honourees' success stories;
- Motivate, encourage and challenge the winners to set high standards for their work/service at community, national, regional or international levels.

Selection Requirements

- An Individual Awardee must have been engaged in professional services or development work for more than four or five years, either in a professional or voluntary capacity;
- An Organisation or Corporate Awardee must be presently engaged in social or economic development work, or foundations engaged in development work, either in the private sector or the NGO sector;
- An individual honouree shall be between the ages of 25 years and 55 years by June 2019;
- An Individual Honouree or Corporate Honouree must have not been engaged in any criminal act or convicted or found guilty of any unprofessional or unethical behaviour, crime or corrupt practice(s) in any court of law, either home or abroad in any part of the world;
- The winners must agree to take part in publicity generated by the organisers.

Awards will be decided on the basis of:

1. Level of impact and effectiveness in society;
2. Level of innovation/fresh approaches to problem solving;
3. Quality of achievement in past work;
4. Quality of the evidence provided;
5. Sustainability in the long term.

Awards Process

There will be 30 finalists in the overall award program in 2018/2019, with the top entry receiving the “Best of the Year” Award category and the second top winner category receiving the “Special Recognition of the Year” Award in that particular category for the Year 2018/2019.

The honourees will each receive a Le1,000,000.00 complimentary VIP ticket to the venue, a trophy and a certificate of recognition.

The honourees will be invited to receive their awards at an official ceremony and awards banquet at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Aberdeen, Freetown, on Saturday, 15th June, 2019, beginning at 6 PM with a reception followed by a gala dinner.

Organising Committee

The organising Committee was chosen by the ACG and is made up of independent and outstanding personalities in different sectors across Sierra Leone. The seven-person committee is comprised of:

1. Christiana George (Chairperson)
2. Sylvester Sesay (Secretary)
3. Eleanor Koroma, Member
4. Michael Webber, Member
5. John T. Sesay, Member
6. Emmanuel M. Brima, Member
7. Rockslyn Alwyn Findlay, Coordinator

Contact the Organising Committee

Contact Person:

Rockslyn Alwyn Findlay

Coordinator, National Professional Awards 2019

Tel: 078415579 **Email:** awards@africanconsultingcorp.com or info@africanconsultingcorp.com