

MINUTES OF INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY (NSPA) BY EDWARD SHEKU KOROMA – PROGRAM EXPERT

Date & Venue

Tuesday, 22nd July 2025

@Ministry of Employment, Labor and Social Security

The National Social Protection Authority (NSPA), recently inaugurated to lead and coordinate the national social protection agenda, convened its first formal meeting with strategic partners and stakeholders to lay the foundation for its operational rollout. This high-level engagement marks a pivotal moment in the nation's pursuit of inclusive social development.

Participants

The meeting brought together prominent figures whose collective expertise and commitment underscore the gravity and ambition behind the NSPA's mission:

- **Dr. Abu Kargbo** – World Bank Task Team Leader for Social Protection
- **Amb. Ernest M. Ndomahina** – Commissioner, National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA)
- **Mr. Mohamed Rado Swarray** – Honorable Minister of Employment, Labor and Social Security
- **Mr. Abu B. Kokofele** – Director General, National Social Protection Authority (NSPA)
- **Mr. Edward Sheku Koroma** – Development and Policy Advisor

Their presence reflected a unified front to bolster and accelerate social protection interventions across Sierra Leone.

Meeting Objective

The primary aim of the inaugural session was to:

- Outline the institutional roadmap for NSPA's full operationalization
- Define the technical and financial support required

- Establish immediate priorities and actionable timelines
- Foster collaboration among existing social protection bodies to ensure efficiency and impact

Key Discussions & Strategic Decisions

1. Institutional Strengthening & Capacity Building

Dr. Kargbo emphasized the need for robust capacity-building initiatives, technical support, and strategic resource mobilization. The conversation highlighted the importance of engaging bilateral and multilateral donor communities to reinforce NSPA's institutional frameworks.

2. Coordination & Harmonization of Efforts

Amb. Ndomahina addressed the necessity for effective alignment between NSPA and existing entities like NaCSA. The goal: reduce fragmentation, eliminate redundancy, and expand beneficiary outreach through joint planning and an integrated national framework.

3. Policy & Legal Enablement

Minister Swarray reaffirmed the government's dedication to establishing enabling legislative and regulatory structures. These would not only empower NSPA to function independently but also create a conducive environment for innovative social protection initiatives.

4. Operational Planning & Timeline Design

Participants mapped out key milestones to transition the NSPA from formation to functionality. This includes:

- Recruitment of professional and administrative personnel
- Formulation of operational guidelines and tools
- Setup of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
- Launch of pilot programs targeting vulnerable populations

Agreed Actions & Timeframes

Initiative	Timeline
Recruitment of core staff	Within 3 months
Courtesy visits to major donors and development partners	August 2025
Inter-agency coordination meeting	August/September 2025

**Official launch of the NSPA & National
Social Protection Basket Fund**

To be officiated by HE President Julius
Maada Bio in October 2025

Conclusion

The inaugural engagement of the NSPA represents a landmark stride in Sierra Leone's commitment to inclusive social development. With coordinated backing from governmental agencies, development partners, and civil society, the authority is poised to revolutionize the delivery of social protection services—ultimately uplifting vulnerable populations and driving progress toward the country's broader national development agenda.











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