

# DIAMONDFACTS.ORG

## TESTIMONIAL

**Sadiq Silla**

**Chief Administration Officer, KOIDU HOLDINGS S. A.**

### **THE ROLE DIAMONDS HAVE PLAYED IN MY LIFE**

I must first begin with my dad. When he left school in the 50s he went straight into the extractive industry working for the Sierra Leone Selection Trust (SLST) where he trained as a draughtsman.

SLST whose main preoccupation was alluvial diamond mining then sent him to their London office where he went further to become a Civil Engineer.

I was born in those circumstances with diamonds and diamond money making everything possible for my family and, indeed, many others.

As I was growing up, the company was phased out to be succeeded by the National Diamond Mining Company (NDMC). NDMC funded my education as a deserving student with a series of scholarships from elementary to tertiary level.

On completing college, I was overwhelmed by changes (for the worse) in the corporate diamond mining business. NDMC was forced into liquidation first by fiscal problems and then, with finality, by internal strife.

One might suppose that at this stage I would be lost considering that this land of limited opportunities had just lost its major provider for all, including myself.

Then in 1995, at that crucial moment a kimberlite diamond mining company, KOIDU HOLDINGS S. A. and I was spotted and taken on board as Koidu Kimberlite Project , Finance/Personnel Officer. In ten short years with the current Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Jan Joubert as my mentor, I have moved up to the position of Chief Administration Officer having started from way down the ladder.

Now I am able to directly impact positively on the lives of some six hundred fellow Sierra Leoneans and their close to six thousand dependants.

All this was made possible by diamonds, the discovery and mining of which helped move my father to heights from where I was privileged to have direct access to the kind of education that has made me what I am today.