ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ONS IN 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2024 Annual Report of the ONS highlights its unwavering commitment to safeguarding Sierra Leone's sovereignty, promoting peace and stability, and addressing emerging threats through coordinated and proactive measures in an increasingly complex security landscape. As the lead institution for security sector coordination, the ONS is tasked with protecting Sierra Leone against diverse threats, including armed conflicts, terrorism, cyber threats, and organized crime. Central to its operations are the core values of professionalism, integrity, transparency, and accountability, which underpin its efforts to build public trust and ensure an effective security apparatus.

Key Achievements in 2024

1. **Enhanced Security Architecture**
    - Strengthened operationalization of the Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) mechanism to monitor and mitigate potential threats such as political tensions and social unrest.
    - Successfully coordinated security for major national events, ensuring public safety through inter-agency collaboration with the Sierra Leone Police (SLP), Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF), and other stakeholders.

2. **Conflict Resolution and Community Stability**
    - Facilitated the resolution of localized disputes in districts and chiefdoms, preventing potential escalations and reinforcing peace at the community level.

3. **Combating Organized Crime**

    - Advanced the Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP) to bolster maritime security against drug trafficking, illegal fishing, and other illicit activities, enhancing Sierra Leone's regional cooperation in the Gulf of Guinea.
    - Strengthened collaboration with the Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU) to combat cross-border trafficking and other transnational crimes, disrupting criminal networks and improving regional stability.

4. **Policy Development and Legal Frameworks**
    - Reviewed and updated key security frameworks, including the Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Implementation Plan and finalized the Counter-Terrorism Bill.
    - Launched the National Security Policy and Strategy (NSPS), outlining a comprehensive approach to national security with a focus on defence, intelligence, and crisis management.

5. **Improved Governance and Oversight**
    - Coordinated the development of a Standard Operating Procedure for Financial Services Oversight, addressing regulatory gaps among agencies such as the National Investment Board (NIB), Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL), and Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA).