

Graff Buys 476ct. Prosperity Diamond for \$16.5M



RAPAPORT... Graff Diamonds has spent \$16.5 million on the 476-carat Meya Prosperity diamond, the second high-profile Sierra Leone rough stone that the luxury jeweler has bought this month.

Meya Mining, a subsidiary of Trustco Resources and Germinate Sierra Leone, recovered the stone last month during its first extraction of diamonds from its mine in the nation's Kono district. The company later named it the Meya Prosperity diamond.

"Graff is best-placed to take the Meya Prosperity story forward, with a proven track record in exceptional stones," said Meya Mining CEO Jan Joubert in a statement Thursday. "It is important that we align ourselves with companies that understand our core values and aspirations — transparency, accountability and integrity. Graff is a company that represents that."

Graff's purchase of the 29th largest diamond in history for an undisclosed amount comes shortly after the London-based brand spent \$6.5 million on the 709-carat Peace Diamond at an auction managed by the Rapaport Group.

"This year we have acquired four of the most important diamonds in history," said Laurence Graff, chairman of Graff Diamonds. "We are extremely proud to be the

custodians of such exceptionally rare stones. The coming months will bring much excitement as we begin to unveil the results of cutting and polishing these incredible stones. We will soon reveal some of the most fabulous and valuable diamonds that the world has ever seen.”

Image: The Meya Prosperity diamond. (Donald Woodrow)