

Join the Cashless Lifestyle!
Shop, Pay, Trade anywhere with the UBA Prepaid Card.



Africa's Global Bank

CFC: +232 78 200 200

www.ubasierraleone.com



Follow us: Concord Times Newspaper | @Concordtimes | sl_concord_times

CONCORD TIMES

NEWSPAPER

Vol. 17, No 140250782

Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022

Price: Le 2

ALSO INSIDE

Road accident will be 5th causes of death by 2030
-NDMA Director General



Former FCC Mayor Bankole Johnson writes international community



APC challenges provisional voter registration figures, demands independent audit



Leaders of the main opposition All Peoples Congress (APC) in Parliament, Chernor R.M. Bah, has challenged the recent analysis of voter registration figures and called on the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) to carry out independent audit on the voter registration process.

On Thursday, 17 November, ECSL published what it called voters registration analysis associating figures to districts and regions and informed the public about figures it claims relate to new registration, confirmed registration and 'double registration,' but again only in terms of districts and regions.

Cont. Page 5



APC strongman, Bankole Johnson

Over four decades: IFAD's support to Sierra Leone around \$200 million



Two political giants declare to lead APC diaspora



Alfred Kabbie Sesay and Dasuwa Blaq Karama

ECOBANK SAVE AND WIN PROMO!
The more you Save the Greater Your Chances of Winning
ecobank.com

Terms and Conditions Apply

Save NLE 5,000, NLE 10,000, NLE 20,000 or more and enter the draw

Ecobank
The Pan African Bank

LETTER AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR MORAL GUARANTORS

1. THE UN RESIDENT CO-ORDINATOR IN SIERRA LEONE
2. THE AMBASSADOR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO SIERRA LEONE
3. THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO SIERRA LEONE
4. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO SIERRA LEONE
5. THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND TO SIERRA LEONE
6. THE WORLD BANK COUNTRY MANAGER – SIERRA LEONE OFFICE
7. THE HEAD OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORP IN SIERRA LEONE

Greetings Your Excellences, Ambassadors and High Commissioners and I hope this letter meets you all in the best of health.

Actually I should have written to pay homage much earlier to also express my profound appreciation for your commendable joint and several efforts to help stabilize and sanitize governance in this our beloved country, but was in my own small ways otherwise engaged in addressing other areas of the continuing social deficiencies, degradation, degeneration and political retrogression that would seem to have engulfed this country since April 2018.

But as the adage goes it is: "Better late than never". So here's to firsts of all thank you all very much particularly for your continued engagements with HE President Bio and other heads of key government institutions that also have pivotal roles to play as we move to our next multi-tier elections in June 2023, such as the Hon. Speaker of Parliament Dr. Abass Chernoh Bundu, the Hon. Chief Justice of the Judicature Babatunde Edwards (CJ), the Inspector General of Police (IGP), the Chairperson of Electoral Commission Sierra Leone (ECSL) Mr. Mohamed K Konneh and the Chairman of the Political Parties' Registration Commission (PPRC) Mr. Abdulai Massianday Bangura.

The need for your choices of interactions with each and all of them is not only informed by your convictions on the important that they play in our national political to ensure that peace, stability and national cohesion is sustained, but also that with the abundance of evidence at your disposal, you very well know which buttons to press to rein them into orderliness or if they fail to comply, to also nominate them for prosecution and to even support us in that direction as appropriate, when time and circumstances may so warrant for their gross dereliction of duties, and as harbingers bearing the greatest responsibility for fomenting chaos and unrest in this country, in addition to other restrictions that will have to be placed on their persons and their close relations as may be necessary.

Permit me therefore to make a few comments from observations and/or cross references on the outcomes of your interactions with some of them so far, but particularly with the Hon. Speaker of Parliament and the Hon. Chief Justice respectively.

THE HON. SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

I wasn't particularly pleased about his crass concluding inferences that the Proportional Representation (PR) system of voting is "...already in the 1991 Constitution", without any of you finding the patience to have asked him to clarify those inferences. That would have been necessary especially as that insinuation was coming from the very Hon. Speaker who had informed the entire world that to alter Sec. 108 (5 – 9) of the Constitution so as to replace our customary First Past the Post (FPP) Constituency Elections with the PR system without conducting the requisite referendum would be treasonable. I shall therefore be most obliged if you could please obtain clarifications from the Hon. Speaker if he has now "fallen on his own sword" and wishes enjoin the President and the Chairman of the Electoral Commission to commit "Treason" by imposing a PR system of voting at the next elections, knowing full well that it is, and will be "unconstitutional".

Your Excellencies and High Commissioners, unless with an intention for gerrymandering and to foment chaos, I am at a loss as to why this government should be so suspicious or afraid of the next elections as to so desperately want replace the credible FPP voting system that brought them into power with an untried, untested and unpopular PR voting system, without first ensuring the supporting legal and constitutional frameworks are in place.

As you are no doubt aware the consequences of keeping an unpopular regime in office can be costly and could also have far reaching repercussions on the polity of the entire sub-region. Valuable resources that should otherwise have been applied towards promoting and sustaining the democratic gains we have made over the past fifteen years in social-political advancement would again have to be diverted towards reconstruction, resettlement and rehabilitation. They have to be dissuaded against imposing the PR voting system to avoid derailing governance in this country.

THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE JUDICATURE THE POLICE IG, THE PPRC AND ECSL COMMISSIONERS

Your Excellencies and High Commissioners at the very least I believe that based on your various experiences about our justice delivery sectors thus far in-country (Judiciary and Police particularly), you are obliged to encourage first off the Chief Justice to ensure that the judicature under his watch begin to reflect the rectitude of their Logo of balanced Scales depicting Equity.

For the past four years citizens at large have lost confidence in it, and even yourselves as our moral guarantors are challenged to decipher its independence (if any) of the Presidency. In the event the cardinal rule of equity: "Audi alteram Partem" (Let the other side be heard as well) would seem to have disappeared from their vocabulary insofar as matters against the main opposition APC are concerned. What obtains now is that:

- Cases filed by opposition elements especially APC members (whether constitutional or civil or criminal) against the government are either not assigned for hearings at all or deliberately delayed ad-indefinitum in their adjudication.
- In a particular instance even where substantial evidences do not exist to indict prominent APC stalwarts, their names are maliciously included so as to sully their reputation and forestall their political ambitions in many ways that would ultimately undermine the chances of the party at the next polls.
- Government cases against APC stalwarts or even cases affecting the party are assigned to a particular Contract Judge (no matter how overburdened he would seem to be in their deliberations) that was recruited at the sole discretion of the Executive and without Parliamentary scrutiny in accordance with Sec. 135 (2) of the Constitution. This has left the public much perplexed and possibly justifiably so, having regard to the adage that "He who pays the Piper might be calling the tune".
- Much as no tangible evidence exists to suggest that the Judiciary is malleable by the Executive or is being influenced by it, it does seem odd that delays to expeditiously conclude APC Court cases would seem to tie up with utterances of key government functionaries that the APC are unlikely to be fielding a Presidential candidate at the 2023 polls because of the many cases they have in the Courts. Add to those speculations the inordinate delays by the Hon. Adrian Fischer (J) to promptly deliver ruling on a vexatious matter of "contempt" against his own judgment and in his own Court, and in a matter as crucial as forestalling the smooth administration of the party that should take it up to its next National Delegates' Convention.

In my humble opinion there is definitely a desperate need to sanitize both our Judiciary and the enforcement regulations (Standard Operating Procedures) of the Police. Otherwise should this untenable trend continue in our present polarized system of governance with a penchant for retribution and revenge, the future will have ominous portents for this country. We all could very well recall that it is those two institutions (the Judiciary and the Police) that are on record in the Truth and Reconciliations Reports as bearing the greatest responsibility for the start of our rebel war. So I think as our moral guarantors you owe it as your duty to continue guiding the HE the President, the Hon. Speaker, the Police IG, the ECSL and PPRC Commissioners against traversing those same dangerous political paths that plunged this country into the carnage it suffered between 1991 – 2002, all on account of disregard for constitutionality and the Rule of Law.

I am therefore submitting for your consideration and further discussion with HE the President, the Hon. Speaker, the Hon Chief Justice, the Police IG and Chairpersons of the ECSL and PPRC recommended talking points as under:

1. Discard of the proposed PR voting system forthwith. It is untenable, unfeasible and unacceptable
2. The Judiciary to either conclude all protracted APC political cases and cease their prosecutions by latest 1st December 2022. And this should include even all or any matter where all prosecution witnesses have been exhausted without any one of them making incriminating reference to any APC member maliciously indicted
3. The Judiciary and the Police IG to also cause to be released (and unconditionally too), all suspects/detainees on account of the August 10th riots (including those already convicted). It is incongruous for a government to continue with the prosecutions and detentions of those they once termed "insurrectionists" but for whose surviving relations were "compensated" with "funeral expenses".
4. The Police IG to also commit his institution to replicating the same standard operating procedures used for combating riots in the South-East in the North-West to reduce the numbers of arrests, detentions and fatalities in opposition strongholds.
5. The PPRC to be urged to live up to its constitutional role as "arbiter" of intra-party imbroglios instead of subsuming its authority to the Courts. If indeed the PPRC Chair was correct that the present intra-APC imbroglio was outside his purview why then did he reprimand both the Peter Conteh and Abdulai Kargbo factions in the first place?

Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners I am concerned that unless you deepen your engagements with HE the President and the other key stake holder aforementioned on the concerns highlighted, the polity of our beloved country will remain volatile and our future bleak.

In anticipation that you will treat the concerns in this "Open Letter" with the urgency it deserves, please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

Winstanley. R. Bankole. Johnson
Copy: The Press



Enjoy the **UBA** No Wahala Loan

EXECUTIVE LOAN

Up to Le 500 Million with 48Months payments plan to meet your needs: This loan caters for officials of public and private sector executives and expatriates of institutions.

Africa's Global Bank

CFC: 078 200 200

www.ubasierraleone.com

TeachMi

Skool na mi Fone

Featuring "Ask-a-Teacher"



Daily **NLE 1**

Weekly **NLE 6.3**

Monthly **NLE 24**

*Terms and conditions apply

Dial ***4910#**

Get lessons and quizzes on primary and secondary school subjects instantly on any mobile phone.



LOCAL NEWS

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

Nigeria's Permanent Representative to the Rome-based food agencies (WFP, IFAD & FAO), Dr. Yaya Olaniran on Monday disclosed that the International Fund for Agricultural Development's (IFAD) support to Sierra Leone is around \$200 million. He made the revelation as spokesperson of the organization's Executive Board weeklong mission to Sierra Leone during a media gaggle after visiting two projects' sites and interacting with the beneficiaries in Kalia and Bendu communities in Bo District.

The former Regional Minister of Agriculture, Ogun State Nigeria, Africa Development Bank and World Bank consultant said this span about a period of forty years.

A media advisory released last week to announce the visit states: Since 1979, IFAD has partnered with the Government of Sierra Leone to combat hunger and rural poverty. To date, the Fund has invested US\$171.25 million in nine projects and programmes in the country benefiting 547,500 rural households."

The spokesperson for the mission told to newsmen that the visit of the Executive Board members is to see how project they have supported

Over four decades: IFAD's support to Sierra Leone around \$200 million



The project site in Bendu and Kalia and IFAD engaging farmers

through the Government have been operating.

According to the the advisory, "the objective of the visit is to promote strategic partnerships with the government and IFAD on agriculture and rural development." In addition, "the visit is also a great opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of IFAD's work in the field, including the challenges and constraints faced by IFAD-supported operations."

Dr Olaniran said he realized that just by traveling from Freetown to Bo on Monday that the country has a lot of unused land and the potential to be self-sufficient and to export crops and livestock is great. "Let us work

together to see that the people have a better life," he pleaded.

According to the Fund, it is the largest and most active donor in Sierra Leone's agricultural sector. It supported the government in its fight against the Ebola Outbreak More recently, the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility, implemented through the Agricultural Value Chain Development Project, has helped mitigate the negative impacts of Covid-19 on the livelihoods of the small-scale farmers and other rural people across the country.

The delegation is now in Kenema and will continue its visit to IFAD

project sites in the District and then, Makeni and Lungi where they hope to see how programme participants, in particular women and young people, have improved their lives and discuss with them what further challenges they face.

The Board is IFAD's second main Governing Body, consisting of 18 elected Members and 18 Alternate Members and it has full authority to decide on the programme of work; approve projects, programmes and grants; and adopt or recommend (pending the final approval of the Governing Council) action on matters related to policy, the annual administrative budget, applications for membership and staffing within the Fund.

APC challenges provisional voter registration figures, demands independent audit



From Cover

Hence, Honourable Bah on Monday November 21st issued a press release stating that it was unclear how the ECSL arrived at the figures under those categories, particularly how the Commission arrived at deleting over 250,000 registrants on account of double registration.

The opposition leader in parliament went on to state that the fact that a majority of the deletions reportedly occurred in areas where the APC draws its strongest support is a cause for concern and thus; the APC would be constrained to accept the figures under the circumstances.

He referenced his press statement of 10 September, 2022, following the first phase of the voter registration process and a follow-up letter to the Chairman of ECSL, at the end of the second phase in October, where he urged ECSL to engender public

and stakeholders' confidence in the credibility of the electoral process by demonstrating inclusiveness, transparency and cooperation with stakeholders.

Hon. Bah said during his personal engagements with the leadership of the commission, he also urged ECSL to provide a breakdown of the voters' registration by centres.

"It is therefore disappointing that the ECSL has neither acknowledged nor acted upon the repeated requests I made on behalf of the main opposition All Peoples Congress (APC) and in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. The lack of cooperation and responsiveness is concerning. Also concerning is the fact that the ECSL similarly disregarded the protestations about the lack of clarity relating to the entire Voters Registration process made by the APC representatives in the Political

Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC)".

He charged that the ECSL ignored the APC representatives' concerns about how it (the ECSL) arrived at the huge number of over 250,000 which it says represents the number of 'double registration'.

Another concern he raised was regarding the district and regional tally announced by the ECSL on Thursday, compared with registration figures of 2017 and that there has been a considerable increase in 'New Registrations' in the South, East and Western Rural regions. "At the same time, there is significant decrease in registrants in the Northeast, Northwest and Western Urban regions".

He said such dramatic demographic shifts clearly warrant inter-institutional dialogue and the willingness to provide required clarifications.

"In view of the mistrust that appears to have characterized population figures emanating from the controversial Midterm Housing and Population Census versus the School Population Census and this highly problematic voters registration exercise and in the interest of transparency and credibility of the electoral process, it would have been expedient for the ECSL to accede to the calls for the centre - by - centre analysis of the registration figures as there could be no better way to verify the accuracy of the figures we are being inundated with".

He said the refusal by the ECSL to avail the public, the APC and other parties with the centre - based breakdown of what essentially should be public information, only subscribes to the position of the APC that the figures published may not have been the true reflection of the voter registration exercise.

He also expressed concerns over the five days allocated for the voter verification exercise as per the ECSL's 14 November, 2022 public notice, which he said is

inadequate.

"This is particularly so in the absence of a centre -by- centre breakdown of both the registration figures and the over 250,000 registrants the Commission says it has deleted. The lack of consultations on these critical actions, timelines and ECSL's refusal to publish the registration figures by centre would suggest that our electoral commission intends to conduct such important elections without due reference to the concerns of the main opposition party".

The Hon. MP Bah lamented on the failure on the part of the ECSL to provide the necessary access to the main opposition APC and other parties to verify the figures generated for elections in Sierra Leone, which he said undermines the trust of our party in the process.

"Consequently, as the Leader of the APC in Parliament, and as the Opposition Leader in Parliament, I would like to notify the ECSL that in the absence of the centre -by- centre breakdown of registration figures, including the breakdown of registrants deleted, my party would demand for an independent audit of the voter registration process and the figures that emanated from it".

He said way from the registration numbers, he has been intimidated about a proposal to enlarge Parliament to 135 seats and that the instruments seeking to change the electoral system from constituency based to proportional representation have been sent to Parliament.

He disclosed that none of those are before the House, adding that should they be brought before Parliament, the APC will stand on its existing position on the PR system and will address the proposed parliamentary enlargement accordingly and in the best interest of our people and country.

LOCAL NEWS Two political giants declare to lead APC diaspora

In a top notch ceremony held in the United States of America, Alfred Kabbie Sesay and Dauda Blaq Kamara on Saturday 19th November 2022, have declared their candidacy for the APC Diaspora Executive positions.

Mr. Alfred Kabbie Sesay declared his candidacy for the APC Diaspora Regional Chairman and Dauda Blaq Kamara also declared for the APC Regional Organizing Secretary.

In his statement, Mr. Alfred Kabbie Sesay told the gathering that he is vying for the Diaspora Regional Chairman to change lives, adding that, politics is not only about exercising powers on people but to change the lives of others. He assured the gathering that he will embrace everyone to promote the ideologies of the APC party. He further informed the gathering that he is not entering into politics to make money but to change lives, stating further that, he has lectured and served in senior executive positions for several years in the United States of America.

"I am running for the Diaspora Regional Chairman to make a difference in the APC party," he declared, adding that, if elected, he will go heaven and earth to establish a Diaspora Secondary or Primary School in Sierra Leone. He went further to say that, he will also establish a maternal unit for all pregnant women. He further noted that Sierra Leone is among the worst countries where pregnant women died during child birth. He assured that he will also support the main opposition APC party to win the forthcoming 2023 Presidential Elections.

On his part, Dauda Blaq Kamara, son of the late Themne Tribal Head that met his untimely death in 1998 for mainly supporting the APC party. He expressed that he joined the politics of the country to continue the legacy of his late father in the APC party.

He continued by thanking members of his family for supporting his political ambition. He further stated that, the love and passion he has for the APC party has prompted him to embark on several developmental activities in Sierra Leone, adding that, he has constructed roads,

provided miller tanks for communities that faced serious challenges with water facilities, provided scholarships to deprived children, supported schools with furniture and organized syndicate for pupils that have taken public exams in Sierra Leone.

He explained that he is vying for the Regional Organizing Secretary to champion activities in the interest of the APC party and promote the interest of all Disaporas in the United States of America, Australia, England, Canada and other places. He thanked the various branch chairman for gracing the ceremony. He also thanked the former President Ernest Bai Koroma, Alhaji Minkailu Mansaray and other stakeholders in the APC party for the trust they bestowed on them.

"We are aware that lots of mistakes have happened in the past but we are vying for the Regional Organizing Secretary race to correct them," he assured, adding that, he is passionate about sustaining the Diasporas activities of the APC party so that they can serve as a force to reckon with. Mr. Dauda Blaq Kamara further expressed that every day he has been engaging members of the Diasporas to help the APC party back home.

"I have been targeted by the SLPP party; mainly because I am APC," he disclosed, stating further that, he is not afraid because he knows that he is pursuing a genuine cause to for his political party. In the midst of the threats and intimidation, he said that he sacrificed and come back home to support the APC party in the capacity as party agent in Koya, informing the gathering that, this is how we have been sacrificed for the APC party. He continued by stating that he was part of those that advocated for the number of Diasporas to be increased in NAC, which he said, is the highest decision making body of the APC party. He expressed that, members of the Diasporas need leader like him that can sacrifice for them.

"In emergency situation, that person should be able to represent us well," he said, adding that, leaders that have the courage to spend their resources without



Alfred Kabbie Sesay and Dauda Blaq Kamara

counting on their members. Recently, during the just concluded registration process, he said that he supported the APC party with finance, donated three hundred megaphones and we mobilize people to register.

"It is not money that we have," he noted, adding that, it is the love for the APC party that has prompted him to support the APC party in thick and thin. He further informed the gathering that he believes in giving back to the APC party in serving as a motivating factors to others. Due to the love for the APC party, he said that, he has embarked on several developmental activities back home. He emphasized that he is not doing it because of Dauda Blaq but because of the APC party. He stated that he is also giving support to lots of APC members. He called on members of the APC party to continue to mourn and pray for the late Evangelist Samson, who he

described as a loyalist of the APC party.

"I am humble to stand before you all and declare my intention for the APC Regional Organizing Secretary in the Disapora," he said, adding by appealing to all to vote for him so that they can represent well the interest of the APC party in the Disapora. He further stated that he is aware that the job is a tough one but he is able to handle it. He recalled that in 2018, he performs functions that are analogue to the work of Regional Organizing Secretary, which he said, was performed well. He called on the gathering to vote for him so that they can work in the interest of the APC party well.

After this inspiring message, the APC members in the Diaspora have showered their support for both Alfred Kabbie Sesay and Dauda Blaq Kamara to run the affairs of the APC Diaspora Regional Executive.

Road accident will be 5th causes of death by 2030

By Alfred Koroma

Death by road accident is projected to be fifth leading causes by 2030, Director General, National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), General Brima Sesay said.

The NDMA head was speaking at a wreath-laying ceremony organized by the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority in honor of 154 people who died in the Wellington tanker explosion that happened during the evening hours of November 5, last year.

A research has indicated that 1.2 million people die from road accidents yearly and over 20 million people are suffering from road accidents injuries. Road accident will be the fifth leading causes of death by 2030 if not avoided, Director Sesay said.

Data from SLRSA Executive Director, Rev Smart K Senesie shows alarming rate of road accident in Sierra Leone. In less than a year, over 9, 623 accidents have been reported with

-NDMA Director General

225 deaths.

AIG Brima Kanneh, Head of Traffic and Road Safety reechoed similar statistics, saying Sierra Leone Police recorded over one million accidents just within three months, January and March this year.

Lack of road signs and in some cases reckless use of roads by drivers and motor bike riders has been blamed for most road incidents in the country.

There are so many causes of accidents but most of it is caused by human errors and that consequences follow. People drink while driving; take advantage of road signs, jump traffic signals and drive without putting on seat belt. We have to pay attention to rules and regulations governing the road, NDMA Director Sesay said, hitting on commercial motor bike riders or 'okada' as one of the greatest risks in the country's roads presently.



NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Ivory Coast and Ghana note progress in making buyers pay cocoa premiums



Sylvain N'goran, who has been a cocoa farmer for the past 17 years, holds cocoa beans ... - Copyright © africanews Diomande Bleblonde/Copyright 2022 The AP. All rights reserved

Ivory Coast and Ghana, the world's two largest cocoa producers, noted Monday "efforts" by some manufacturers to better pay producers, after giving them an ultimatum earlier this month.

In a joint statement, the national cocoa management bodies of the two countries, as well as the Ivory Coast-Ghana Cocoa Initiative (CIGCI), created to guarantee a minimum income to farmers, "noted the efforts made by some companies and their willingness to find solutions together for a sustainable production of cocoa that places producers at the heart of this strategy."

They "encourage all manufacturers to take action and show that they sincerely believe in sustainable cocoa production".

For several weeks, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana reproached the chocolate manufacturers for not paying the decent income differential (DRD), a premium of 400 dollars (390 euros) per ton, introduced in 2019 to ensure a decent income for farmers.

They had given the industry until November 20 to meet their commitments, threatening to "ban access to plantations to make crop forecasts" and "suspend sustainability programs."

These programs, aimed at fighting deforestation and child labor, allow manufacturers to claim that their chocolate is sustainably produced, a criterion often favored by consumers.

But Monday, the producer countries announced to

continue discussions and the establishment of "a working group of experts" who will provide "recommendations by the end of the first quarter of 2023 to find sustainable solutions."

Questioned on the subject at a press conference, Ivorian Prime Minister Patrick Achi hoped that an "intelligent compromise" would be found.

"The solution is to process 100% of our cocoa" in Côte d'Ivoire, he continued. Currently, about a quarter of Ivorian cocoa is processed locally.

Ivory Coast's cocoa, which accounts for 45% of global production, accounts for 14% of the country's GDP and feeds 24% of the population of this country of about 27 million people.

Côte d'Ivoire is also considered a major regional destination for child trafficking from neighboring countries to work on its crops.

Many farm families still face persistent poverty on less than a dollar a day, a situation that is one of the factors contributing to child labor on cocoa farms.

But according to Matthias Lange, executive director of the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI), a Swiss foundation created by the chocolate industry to fight child labor, "a lot of progress has been made."

Mr. Lange praised the establishment of the Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMS), "a mechanism that has reduced child labor by 35% in three years and has helped remove several tens of thousands of children from the plantations," he said.

IMF, South Sudan in pact for emergency funds of \$112.7 mln



The International Monetary Fund seal is pictured at IMF Headquarters September 30, ... - Copyright © africanews ZACH GIBSON/AFP or licensors

The International Monetary Fund and South Sudan have reached a staff-level agreement for the release of about \$112.7 million in emergency financing.

"This emergency financing under the new Food Shock Window will help South Sudan address food insecurity, support social spending, and boost international reserves," the IMF said in a statement on Tuesday (November 22).

The IMF's executive board will approve the financing in the coming weeks, the fund said.

In early November, United Nations agencies said up to 7.8 million people in South Sudan, two-thirds of the population, may face severe food shortages during next

year's April-to-July lean season due to floods, drought, and conflict.

On Tuesday, the IMF put the number of people experiencing severe food insecurity at an estimated 8.3 million.

"The combination of continued localized conflict, four consecutive years of severe flooding, and the rising price of staple commodities from Russia's war in Ukraine has increased the number of people experiencing severe food insecurity," it said.

South Sudan erupted into civil war shortly after getting independence from Sudan in 2011 and while a peace agreement signed four years ago is largely holding, the transitional government has been slow to unify

Malawi gets \$88.3M from IMF under 'food shock' loan window

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund approved on Monday (Nov 21) a disbursement of US\$88.327 million to Malawi under the Food Shock Window of the Rapid Credit Facility.

The country became the first low-income nation to receive financing under this new mechanism.

It provides, for a year, a channel for emergency Fund financing to member countries that have urgent balance of payment needs due to acute food insecurity, a sharp increase in their food import bill, or a shock to their cereal exports.

Malawi is one of the 48 countries the IMF identified as

worst affected by the global food crisis aggravated by the war in Ukraine.

The news comes days after the IMF Executive Board approved a Staff-Monitored Program.

This informal agreement with the IMF should enable the Malawian authorities to build a track record of policy implementation before it possibly implements an IMF-supported program.

The deputy managing director and acting chair of the IMF executive board strongly invited the authorities to "to swiftly implement [its] debt restructuring strategy", with the aim "to bring Malawi back to moderate risk of debt distress in the medium term."

Equatorial Guinea: Incumbent president takes lead in election

Equatorial Guinea's President has taken the lead in Sunday's presidential election.

The Interior Minister unveiled the provisional results Monday (Nov 21).

In this race for a sixth seven-year term, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo has so far obtained 44.2% of the votes cast in nearly half of the country's polling stations.

He is Africa's longest-serving president and the world longest serving head of state today except for monarchs.

His contenders Andrés Esono Ondo of the CPDS party and former ally Buenaventura Monsuy Asumu of the PCSD each got 1.34% and 0.35% of the vote.

The final results of the one-round election will be announced on November 26.

Obiang's ruling Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea (PDGE) holds 99 of the 100 seats in the outgoing National Assembly and all 55 seats in the Senate, which are also up for re-election. Sunday's polls included municipal elections.



Equatorial Guinea's President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo speaks after casting his ballot, on November 20, 2022. - Copyright © africanews SAMUEL OBIANG/AFP or licensors

Over 400,000 people registered to vote in the country of about 1.5 million.

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo aged 80 took the reins of the country in a coup in 1979.

Mali bans NGOs funded or supported by France



Malian newly appointed Prime Minister Abdoulaye Idrissa Maiga looks on during the ... - Copyright © africanews HABIPOU KOUYATE/AFP or licensors

The Malian junta announced Monday evening that it would ban the activities of all non-governmental organizations financed or supported by France, including those operating in the humanitarian field.

This decision is likely to affect many NGOs that France has continued to support despite the abrupt deterioration in relations between the two countries for more than a year.

The interim Prime Minister, Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga, justified the decision in a statement posted on social networks by the recent announcement by France that it had suspended its official development assistance to Mali.

The French Foreign Ministry had cited the use of the Russian paramilitary group Wagner by Malian authorities. The junta, which came to power by force in August 2020, has consistently denied having used this company, whose actions have been criticized in several countries. It speaks of Russian army instructors deployed in the name of a former collaboration between the two countries. The Quai d'Orsay had specified that France maintained its "humanitarian aid" and some support to Malian civil

society organizations.

Colonel Maiga denounced in his statement "fanciful allegations" and a "subterfuge intended to deceive and manipulate national and international public opinion for the purpose of destabilization and isolation of Mali."

"As a result, the transitional government has decided to ban, with immediate effect, all activities carried out by NGOs operating in Mali with funding or with material or technical support from France, including in the humanitarian field," it said.

A multitude of NGOs are working in Mali in the fields of health, food or education. The poor, landlocked

country has been facing the spread of jihadism and violence of all kinds since 2012, but also a serious political and humanitarian crisis. Hundreds of thousands of people are displaced by the conflict.

Since May 2021 and a second coup d'état that consolidated their grip, the colonels have turned away from France, which was pushed out and whose last soldier left the country in August after nine years of engagement against the jihadists alongside the Malian army. The colonels have turned militarily and diplomatically to Moscow.

A group of NGOs, including CCFD Terre-Solidaire, Handicap International, Médecins du Monde, and Oxfam, had expressed concern about France's suspension of its aid.

Recipients of a large part of this funding, these NGOs were alarmed in a letter to President Emmanuel Macron that the withdrawal of such funding would lead to "the cessation of essential, even vital activities (...) for the benefit of populations in situations of great fragility or poverty".

They pointed out that 7.5 million Malians were in need of assistance, "or more than 35% of the population", and that Mali was ranked 184th on the Human Development Index.

Famous Moroccan lawyer and former human rights minister jailed

The Moroccan opponent Mohamed Ziane, former president of the Rabat Bar and Minister of Human Rights between 1995 and 1996, was arrested and imprisoned Monday evening after being sentenced on appeal to three years in prison, a judicial source and his son said.

"He was transferred to the prison of El Arjat (near Rabat). He was not even legally notified (of his conviction) and never appeared," Ali Reda Ziane, a lawyer defending his father, told AFP.

"He was convicted (by the Court of Appeal in Rabat) for all possible and imaginable charges, it is an aberration that I have never seen," protested the opponent's son.

In a statement, the prosecutor's office then confirmed that "the services of the competent judicial police, and on the instructions of the Public Prosecutor's Office, have arrested the person concerned and have imprisoned him in the execution of the provisions of the appeal decision."

Before his arrest, Mohamed Ziane told AFP on Monday that he had "never received a summons to appear before the Court of Appeal", assuring that "he is being tried because of his opinions".

His son denounced "a spiral against my father since he took a stand in favor of the +Hirak+ of the Rif", a powerful social movement that agitated this Berber mountainous region of northern Morocco in 2016-2017.

A famous lawyer in Morocco, Mohamed Ziane, 79, also defended Taoufik Bouachrine, an opposition media boss imprisoned since 2018 after being sentenced to 15 years in prison for "sexual assaults" against eight women, charges he has always denied, denouncing "a political trial."

Mr. Ziane was prosecuted under a complaint from the Moroccan Ministry of Interior, for eleven counts, including "contempt of public officials and justice", "insult against a constituted body", "defamation", "adultery" or "sexual harassment".

- Faked" video -

He was sentenced on February 23 to three years in prison and a fine of 5,000 dirham (470 euros) but was left free.

In a statement, the Moroccan Committee for the Support of Prisoners of Conscience said it was "extremely



Mohamed Ziane, the lawyer of Moroccan newspaper publisher and journalist ... - Copyright © africanews FADEL SENNA/AFP or licensors

shocked" by Ziane's arrest.

"His appeal trial was held in a single hearing, without giving Barrister Ziane the opportunity to defend himself. The court did not hear him or his defense," criticized this collective of human rights defenders in Morocco.

"He was arrested by more than twenty plainclothes police officers who burst into his office (...), without presenting any judicial decision, which is a flagrant violation of the code of criminal procedure, the Constitution, and international conventions," the NGO lamented.

Founder of the Moroccan Liberal Party (PML) and a senior government official, Mr. Ziane is known for his critical statements against the government, mainly the Moroccan intelligence services.

In November 2020, the former Rabat barrister accused the security services of "rigging" a video that compromised an interview between him and a married client in a hotel room.

The video had been broadcast by a Moroccan web-tv, which caused a stir on social networks.

At the time, Mr. Ziane accused the head of the police and domestic intelligence, Abdelatif Hammouchi, of being responsible for "faking" the images.

Mohamed Ziane was Minister of Human Rights between 1995 and 1996. Close to the circles of power, he was also the government's lawyer in the 1990s. In recent years, he has become famous for his outspokenness toward the Moroccan security apparatus.

Africanews with AFP



Give your children what they truly deserve.

*Open a **Zenith Children's Account**, invest and secure your ward's future today.*

Sign up today!



■ Terms and Conditions Apply

ECOBANK SAVE AND WIN PROMO!

The more you **Save** the
Greater Your Chances
of **Winning**



Save **NLE 5,000, NLE 10,000, NLE 20,000**
or more and enter the draw

ecobank.com

Ecobank
The Pan African Bank

ActionAid Sierra Leone
97c Wilkinson Road
Off Thompson Bay
Church Yard Junction
Private Mail Bag 1058
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Phone +232 73 461370
Email aasl@actionaid.org
<https://sierra-leone.actionaid.org/>

act:onaid



Invitation for Bids

Action to Empower Marginalised Adolescent Girls (AEMAG) Project

Introduction

ActionAid Sierra Leone is a registered international organization (NO: 27264198) founded in 1972 operating in more than 45 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. ActionAid started operations in Sierra Leone in October 1988, ActionAid Sierra Leone is operating in the Western Area, Kambia, Bombali, Tonkolili, Bo, Kono and Moyamba Districts. The agency works in partnership with poor and marginalized people to eradicate poverty by overcoming the injustice and inequity that causes it.

Project Overview

People's Postcode Lottery has recently awarded a fifteen-month project to ActionAid Sierra Leone and its Partners: titled "Action to Empower Marginalized Adolescent Girls". One of ActionAid's key activities provide start up kits to skills training Beneficiaries. The project will be implemented in Bo District and Western Area. ActionAid, therefore, seeks a supplier to bid for the following Lot of items:

LOT ONE (1):

Skills Centre Start-up Kits Listing Information				
Sn	Description of Catering items	Unit of measurement	No. of item per student	Quantity
1.	Locally made Aluminum Pots (set)	Set of 1	1	17
2.	I. Manual Oven (same as Wonder stove) built with clay – 031 631003 – Mr. Turay II. Portable oven/coal pot	Pieces	1	17
3.	Sets of Assorted Cooking Spoons, both wooden and metal: I. Flat spoons, II. Dip spoons, III. Perforated Frying spoons IV. Mixing spoons	Sets of 2	1	17
4.	Sets of Assorted kitchen Knives	Set of 1	1	17
5.	Local Assorted cake baking pans (round, square, heart shaped)	Set of 1	1	17
6.	Serving Tray (Aluminum big size)	Pieces	2	17
7.	Frying Pan (Aluminum)	Pieces	1	17
8.	Big Chopping Board	Pieces	1	17
9.	Hand Cake Mixer – Aluminum	Pieces	1	17
10.	Cake Decorating Set: I. Piping tube and tips II. Turntable – is use during piping III. Cake knife IV. Fondant cutter (like a wheel) V. Cake Spatula	Set of 1	1	17
11.	Rolling Pin (Board)	Pieces	1	17
12.	Founting	Pieces	1	17
13.	Plastic Table	Pieces	1	17
14.	Food Warmer (set) OR Coolman	Pieces	1	17
15.	Blender - normal blending			

LOT TWO (2):

Skills Centre Start-up Kits Listing Information				
Sn	Description of Hairdressing items	Unit of measurement	No. of item per student	Quantity
1.	Plastic stools – (Low and High)	Pieces	1	9
2.	Handheld Hair Dryer – (Medium size electric)	Pieces	1	9
3.	Hairdresser Mirror – (Big size)	Pieces	1	9
4.	Stretching Comb	Pieces	1	9
5.	Curling Pin	Pieces	1	9
6.	Flatter (Electric)	Pieces	1	9
7.	Rollers – (Assorted)	Pkts	3	9
8.	Hair for Braiding (Expression) Assorted	Pkts	4	9

9.	Weavons Assorted	Pieces	3	9
10.	Wool	Roll	1	9
11.	Mannequin Head/ Dummy Head	Pieces	1	9
12.	Perming Kits: I. Perming cream, II. Vaseline, III. Comb, IV. Styling gel, V. Oil sheen,	Set of 1	1	9
13.	Big Weavon Needle	Pkts	1	9
14.	Scissors (small size)	Set of 2	1	9
15.	Black Weavon Threads	Pkts	1	9
16.	Assorted Hair Exits	Pieces	1	9
17.	Foot Spar – (A bowl that feet of pedicure customers are placed for the purpose of washing them with chemical).	Pieces	1	9

LOT THREE (3):

Skills Centre Start-up Kits Listing Information				
Sn	Description of Tailoring items	Unit of measurement	No. of item per student	Quantity
1.	Pedal Butterfly Sewing Machine	Pieces	1	34
2.	Machine needles	Box	1	34
3.	Machine oil	Can	1	34
4.	Shuttle	Pieces	3	34
5.	Riller	Pieces	5	34
6.	Charcoal pressing IRON	Pieces	1	34
7.	Tape Measure	Pieces	1	34
8.	Pair of Scissors	Pieces	1	34
9.	Hand needle	Box	1	34
10.	Needle clap	Pieces	3	34
11.	Wax Cotton Material	Pieces of 12 yards	1	34
12.	Poplin Material	Roll	1	34
13.	Sticker	Roll	1	34
14.	Assorted Threads	Pkt of 12pcs	1	34
15.	High Stool	Pieces	1	34

- Bidders should quote for above item in Leones, Bids will be evaluated, and contract will be awarded to the Bidder meeting the required qualification criteria.
- The selected supplier should supply 100% of the goods within 2 (two) weeks after receiving the purchase order.
- Payment will be done within 2 (two) weeks after 100% supply of goods is received with invoice, and delivery note.

3 This requirement is for National bidders only

*A Certified True Copy of a Valid Business Registration/Renewal Certificate

*A Certified True Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate from the National Revenue Authority (NRA)

*A Certified True Copy of National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT) clearance certificate

*Valid Municipal/Local Council license

- Bids must be sent in either hard or soft copies. Hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to:

Procurement Committee
ActionAid Sierra Leone Head Office
97c Wilkinson Road, Off Thompson Bay
Church Yard Junction
Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Soft copies can be submitted to AASL's procurement committee with

Email: procurement.aasl@actionaid.org

Bids must be delivered to the above address on or before **3Pm** Wednesday 23rd November 2022.

Late Bids will be rejected.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders or representatives at the above address on Thursday 24th November 2022 at 10:00 AM at the Head Office ActionAid Sierra Leone – 97

Wilkinson Road; Church Yard – Freetown.

AASL Procurement committee



LAPO
MICROFINANCE COMPANY (SL) LTD
...improving lives



Open A

SAVINGS

account

TODAY

and secure your future

Email: Management@lapo-sl.org
 Website: www.lapo-sl.org
 Mobile: +23230900606 / +23230900691
 67 Adelaide Street, Freetown
 Sierra Leone



Toll free Line
+232 30 900999
for Africel only



PUJEHUN DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCIL COMPLEX, PUJEHU
SOUTHERN PROVINCE, SIERRA LEONE



Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures in accordance with Sierra Leone Public Procurement Act, 2004 and Guidelines for Procurement of Works

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address below between 9:00am – 5:00pm (Sierra Leone Time) from Mondays to Fridays.

Procurement Unit
Pujehun District Council
Jah Street, Pujehun town

Bidding documents may be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Leones (Le500.00)

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **30th November, 2022 at 10:00AM**. All bids must be accompanied by:

- q *A valid Business registration certificate*
- q *Bid Security of 15,741.00 for Lot:1 and 10,667.00 for Lot:2 from a reputable Commercial Bank;*
- q *A valid tax clearance certificate;*
- q *Local Council Certificate (as per locality of bidder)*
- q *A valid NASSIT clearance certificate;*
- q *A signed Integrity Pact; [see attached]*
- q *[list all other required documents and samples where applicable]*

Bids will be publicly opened on 30th November, 2022 at 10:10AM in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders.

Invitation for Bids

National Competitive Bidding (NCB)

Ministry of Finance through Accountable Governance for Basic Service Delivery
Project for Pujehun District Council
Procurement Number: AGBSDP/LDG/PUJ-DC/NCB/2022/01

Date of Issue: 16/11/2022

The Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Finance has received funds from the World Bank towards the Accountable Governance for Basic Service Delivery Project (AGBSDP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of the funds to be implemented by the **Pujehun District Council** for the *Rehabilitation of Bayama PHU and its facilities, and Expansion of PDC Primary school at Tambiyama in Pujehun District*

LOT #	SCOPE OF WORKS	LOCATION	CHIEFDOM	DISTRICT	BID SECURITY
1	Rehabilitation of PHU and its facilities,	Bayama	Kpanga	Pujehun	15,741.00
2	Expansion of PDC Primary school	Tambiyama	Barri	Pujehun	10,667.00

Procurement Officer
Pujehun District Council
Jah Street, Pujehun
Southern Province, Sierra Leone
076-788-125



UNICEF Public Notice for Sale of Used Items November 2022

UNICEF intends to dispose of two used Toyota Hilux Pick up 4x4 vehicles and one used Toyota Hiace Minibus. Sealed bids are invited from interested persons.

Conditions

1. **The 3 vehicles** can be inspected at the UNICEF Country Office within the Central Medical Stores Compound, New England, Freetown, on Thursday 17th November and Monday 21st – Thursday 24th November, from 2pm- 4pm on these stated days.
2. During inspection standard COVID-19 procedures will be followed including temperature checking, hand washing, and regulating number of persons entering the premises.
3. The items will be sold to the bidder with the **highest acceptable bid** on an "as is where is basis".
4. After inspection interested persons may collect **BID FORMS** from UNICEF Offices at Central Medical Stores - Freetown, Caritas/Pastoral Centre, Teko Road – Makeni or 51 Maxwell Kobi Street – Kenema.
5. **An advance payment of 10% of the offer price is required (in the form of a certified cheque in the name of UNICEF Sierra Leone) when sending sealed bids. The certified cheque should be enclosed in the sealed bid. Bank certified checks are bank checks guaranteed by the bank that funds stated on the check are available for payment to UNICEF. This advance is non-refundable for all successful bidders.** The successful bidder will be required to make payment of the remaining 90% within five working days after the offer is given by UNICEF; and to take possession of the items won for immediate removal from the office premises. Unsuccessful bidders will have their cheques returned to them.
6. UNICEF agrees to sign the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority (SLRSA) Vehicle Transfer Form for transfer of ownership of the vehicle from UNICEF to the successful bidders.
7. UNICEF was exempted from taxes on these vehicles, successful bidders will now be required to pay the applicable taxes to the government through the National Revenue Authority. The taxes will be determined by the National Revenue Authority based on the value and physical condition of the vehicle.
8. Items once sold will not be returned to UNICEF under any circumstances.
9. Sealed bids containing the completed BID FORM and cheque, clearly marked "BID FOR USED UNICEF ITEMS November 2022" on the envelopes' front side and addressed to:

The Secretary, Property Survey Board,
UNICEF Freetown Office,
Central Medical Stores Compound,
New England Freetown

should be dropped in the bid box at the above address not later than 10 am on Monday 28th November 2022. Bidders in the provinces can drop their sealed bids at the offices in Kenema or Makeni observing the same deadline above.
10. Bidders are responsible for the accuracy of their bids and for meeting all conditions set out in the advertisement, including enclosing the 10% certified cheque in the required format. Non-compliance with any element of the guidelines in the advert for preparation and submission of bids may be grounds for disqualification and declaration of bids as invalid.
11. UNICEF reserves the right to accept or reject any bid AT ITS SOLE DISCRETION.





UNION TRUST BANK LIMITED

...Empowering Sierra Leone Commerce

► SCAN N PAY

- Easy to use merchant payment.
- Person to person (P2P) or person to business (P2B) payment.
- Make payment using mobile phone.
- Total visibility of your transaction

Head Office: 2 Howe Street, Freetown,
PMB 1237, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Mobile: 077 713533, 077630832, 088 635750

SWIAG Account

- Savings Account targeted at student at tertiary levels from 18 years and above
- Sum saved can be used to pay exam fees, purchase reading materials or start small scale businesses
- Free SMS alert, Internet banking network of your choice
- Customer has the authority to order his/her priority



CALL 2527 FROM ORANGE II 079 925 921 FROM OTHER NETWORKS



rokelsl@rokelbank.sl

Bank of Choice RC Bank the Caring Bank!



HALF-TIME/FULL-TIME



Set 17870

(*) All bets subject to Mercury International rules. In case of discrepancy terminal data prevails. Canceled fixtures pay 1:1. Bets placed after kickoff are void. Single bets permitted.

Fix No.	Sales Close	Competition	Home Team	Home Goals	Draw	Home Goals	Away Team	1 / 1 (1)	1 / X (2)	1 / 2 (3)	X / 1 (4)	X / X (5)	X / 2 (6)	2 / 1 (7)	2 / X (8)	2 / 2 (9)
1	8/5/2022 13:55	Romania 2	UNIREA SLOBOZIA	12	v	14	FCM BAI A MARE	2.35	14.00	45.00	4.00	4.90	8.80	23.00	15.00	7.00
2	8/5/2022 15:40	Italy Cup	CAGLIARI	0	v	0	PERUGIA	2.85	16.00	50.00	4.40	4.60	8.20	29.00	16.00	6.80
3	8/5/2022 15:55	Poland	FKS STAL MIELEC	5	v	2	CRACOVIA	5.20	14.00	29.00	7.00	4.70	5.20	35.00	14.00	3.35
4	8/5/2022 15:55	Denmark	RANDERS FC	7	v	3	HORSENS	2.80	15.00	45.00	4.60	4.80	8.60	27.00	15.00	6.60
5	8/5/2022 15:55	Romania	UNIVERSITATEA CLUJ	13	v	15	PETROLUL	3.70	15.00	40.00	5.20	4.20	6.40	35.00	15.00	5.00
6	8/5/2022 15:55	Italy Cup	UDINESE	0	v	0	FERALPISALO	1.79	22.00	99.00	3.60	7.00	18.00	25.00	23.00	15.00
7	8/5/2022 16:25	Bundesliga 2	GREUTHER FURTH	15	v	18	KARLSRUHER	2.49	15.00	40.00	4.70	6.20	9.60	23.00	15.00	6.60
8	8/5/2022 16:25	Bundesliga 2	SANDHAUSEN	10	v	3	FORTUNA DUSSELDORF	4.70	14.00	28.00	6.80	5.00	5.60	35.00	14.00	3.45
9	8/5/2022 17:55	Denmark	LYNGBY	10	v	5	MIDTJYLLAND	7.00	16.00	23.00	9.60	5.80	4.50	45.00	15.00	2.49
10	8/5/2022 17:55	Croatia	VARAZDIN	8	v	1	DINAMO ZAGREB	12.00	20.00	22.00	16.00	7.40	3.85	80.00	20.00	1.85
11	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland	HEERENVEEN	16	v	17	SPARTA ROTTERDAM	3.00	15.00	45.00	4.80	5.00	8.20	29.00	16.00	6.40
12	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	DEN BOSCH	4	v	6	FC EINDHOVEN	4.90	14.00	25.00	7.40	5.60	5.20	35.00	14.00	3.15
13	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	DORDRECHT	5	v	16	RODA	8.40	17.00	20.00	13.00	7.80	4.30	50.00	17.00	2.02
14	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	HERACLES	8	v	1	ADO DEN HAAG	2.65	15.00	40.00	4.70	5.80	8.60	23.00	15.00	6.20
15	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	BREDA	14	v	7	HELMOND	1.95	18.00	70.00	4.00	7.00	14.00	22.00	19.00	11.00
16	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	TOP OSS	17	v	11	JONG UTRECHT	3.00	14.00	35.00	5.20	5.80	7.60	24.00	14.00	5.20
17	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	VENLO	19	v	2	ALMERE CITY	4.40	13.00	25.00	7.00	5.60	5.80	30.00	13.00	3.35
18	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	WILLEM II	20	v	12	JONG PSV	2.28	16.00	45.00	4.30	6.60	10.00	22.00	17.00	7.40
19	8/5/2022 17:55	Slovenia 2	TRIGLAV KRANJ	13	v	16	PRIMORJE AJDOVSCINA	1.94	16.00	60.00	3.65	5.80	12.00	21.00	17.00	9.20
20	8/5/2022 17:55	Hungary	VASAS	9	v	1	PAKSI	3.80	13.00	30.00	6.00	5.20	6.40	28.00	13.00	4.20
21	8/5/2022 17:55	Turkey	ISTANBULSPOR AS	13	v	18	TRABZONSPOR	7.40	15.00	25.00	9.80	5.20	4.50	50.00	15.00	2.50
22	8/5/2022 18:10	Switzerland 2	XAMAX	10	v	1	YVERDON-SPORT	3.95	14.00	28.00	6.20	5.40	6.20	29.00	14.00	3.90
23	8/5/2022 18:10	Switzerland 2	THUN	9	v	6	AARAU	3.45	14.00	27.00	6.00	6.20	6.60	25.00	14.00	4.10
24	8/5/2022 18:25	Poland	LEGIA WARSZAWA	7	v	17	PIAST GLIWICE	3.00	15.00	45.00	4.70	4.70	7.80	28.00	15.00	6.20
25	8/5/2022 18:25	Poland 2	ODRA OPOLE	18	v	3	WISLA KRAKOW	5.20	14.00	27.00	6.60	4.30	4.40	40.00	14.00	3.00
26	8/5/2022 18:25	Bundesliga	EINTRACHT FRANKFURT	7	v	3	BAYERN MUNICH	9.20	18.00	20.00	14.00	8.80	4.50	60.00	18.00	1.96
27	8/5/2022 18:25	Slovakia	TRENCIN	12	v	7	MICHALOVCE	2.60	13.00	35.00	4.50	5.20	7.60	22.00	13.00	5.40
28	8/5/2022 18:40	Ireland	DUNDALK	2	v	3	DERRY CITY	3.75	14.00	35.00	5.40	4.60	6.40	30.00	15.00	4.70
29	8/5/2022 18:40	Ireland 2	CORK CITY FC	1	v	9	ATHLONE TOWN	1.41	27.00	99.00	3.30	9.40	26.00	21.00	26.00	20.00
30	8/5/2022 18:40	Ireland 2	GALWAY UNITED FC	2	v	6	WEXFORD FC	1.92	16.00	50.00	3.75	6.40	11.00	19.00	17.00	8.40
31	8/5/2022 18:40	Ireland 2	TREATY UNITED	5	v	3	WATERFORD FC	7.20	15.00	21.00	9.60	5.60	3.95	45.00	14.00	2.17
32	8/5/2022 18:40	Scotland Championship	QUEENS PARK	6	v	8	AYR UNITED	3.75	15.00	40.00	5.20	4.40	6.20	35.00	15.00	4.90
33	8/5/2022 18:40	Championship	BIRMINGHAM	14	v	19	HUDDERSFIELD	4.10	15.00	40.00	5.60	4.50	6.40	35.00	15.00	4.80
34	8/5/2022 18:40	Belgium	CLUB BRUGGE	8	v	7	WAREGEM	1.61	24.00	99.00	3.80	9.40	22.00	22.00	24.00	16.00
35	8/5/2022 18:55	Ireland	FINN HARPS	10	v	8	DROGHEDA UNITED	3.50	15.00	40.00	5.20	4.70	6.60	30.00	15.00	5.00
36	8/5/2022 18:55	Premier League	CRYSTAL PALACE	7	v	2	ARSENAL	7.20	16.00	26.00	9.40	5.40	4.60	50.00	16.00	2.70
37	8/5/2022 18:55	France League 1	LYON	9	v	1	AC AJACCIO	1.85	22.00	90.00	3.90	7.60	17.00	24.00	22.00	14.00
38	8/5/2022 18:55	Italy Cup	LECCE	0	v	0	CITTADELLA	2.31	17.00	60.00	4.00	5.40	11.00	26.00	18.00	8.80
39	8/5/2022 19:10	Portugal	BENFICA	2	v	1	AROUCA	1.52	30.00	99.00	3.45	8.80	29.00	27.00	30.00	25.00
40	8/5/2022 19:10	Italy Cup	SAMPDORIA	0	v	0	REGGINA	2.04	19.00	80.00	3.75	5.80	14.00	26.00	20.00	12.00

ALL CREDIBLE INSTITUTIONS HAVE ADVERTISED IN
CONCORD TIMES

FOR ADVERT PLACEMENT CALL: +232 76 694292/+232 99 822587 E-mail: concordtimes100@yahoo.com

Follow us: Concord Times Newspaper @Concordtimes sl_concord_times

LEGAL AID BOARD **TRANSCO** **HIV/AIDS**
BRAC **ACCESS BANK** **MINISTRY OF YOUTHS AND SPORTS**
FAO **MBSSE** **GUMA VALLEY WATER COMPANY** **NACSA**
GTB **CARE INTERNATIONAL** **MTHIE** **ACTIONAID** **SAVE THE CHILDREN**
SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS **NASSIT** **SIERRA LEONE POLICE** **SLRA**
EPA **SIERRA LEONE BREWERY** **SITC**
RMF **MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS** **NJALA UNIVERSITY**
SOS CHILDREN VILLAGE **ACC** **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE** **MMCET CHAI**
TRANSFAPAY **STAR TIMES**
CRS **ACTION AGAINST HUNGER** **WORLD VISION** **UBA**
MINISTRY OF FINANCE **ADB** **DSTV** **AUDIT SERVICES**
SEI **MINISTRY OF ENERGY**
SIERRA BAY HOTEL **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE** **NRA** **SLAJ**
MARIE STOPES **SEA COACH EXPRESS** **NEMS**
SLRSA **NATCOM** **OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT** **GIZ**
SALCAB **ECOBANK** **LAPO MICRO FINANCE (SL) LTD**
HRC **NPPA** **BSL** **SOLTHIS** **OKFARM** **AHF**
MIC **UTB** **SLCB** **RCB**
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT **ORANGE**
MERCURY SL **UNDP** **WHO** **M.R. DISTILLERIES** **IGR**
OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY **AFRICELL** **MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**
NMA **ZENITH BANK** **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**
NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD **KENEMA CITY COUNCIL** **EUROPEAN UNION** **SMEDA**
STATISTIC SIERRA LEONE **PPRC** **CHASL** **STANDARD BUREAU**
MARITIME **WORLD BANK** **AFRIGAS** **RADISSON BLU HOTEL**
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES **PLAN INTERNATIONAL**
PRA **FAWAZ BUILDING MATERIALS** **ECOMED** **PARTNERS IN HEALTH**
PEE CEE & SONS **SMALL ARMS** **MOTT MACDONALDS** **SLWREC**
KINGHO MINING COMPANY **PPRC**
NEC **NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD** **NPPA** **EBK UNIVERSITY** **JUDICIARY OF SIERRA LEONE**

INT'L SPORTS Rangers: Giovanni van Bronckhorst sacked after a year

Rangers have sacked Giovanni van Bronckhorst after a year in charge, with the Ibrox club nine points adrift of Celtic in the Scottish Premiership title race.

The Dutchman took over in November 2021, guiding his team to the Europa League final and lifting last season's Scottish Cup.

However, after recording the Champions League's worst ever group stage campaign and falling further off the title pace, Van Bronckhorst's 12-month tenure is over.

"I want to thank Gio for the hard work he has put in over the last 12 months and, especially, the achievements of taking the club to the Europa League final and winning the Scottish Cup last season," said Rangers chairman Douglas Park.

"Unfortunately, recent results have not met neither our nor Gio's expectations, and we have taken this difficult decision today. Everyone at Rangers wishes Gio every success in the future."

A 1-1 draw at St Mirren on 12 November meant Rangers dropped points in three of their last five league outings, following the previous weekend's loss at St Johnstone and a home draw with Livingston.

Heavy defeats by reigning champions Celtic and Champions League opponents Ajax,

Liverpool and Napoli had put Van Bronckhorst under increasing pressure, with several of the club's summer signings struggling to make an impact.

Defender John Souttar and midfielder Tom Lawrence have missed most of the season injured, while winger Rabbi Matondo and left-back Ridvan Yilmaz have had limited game time.

The Ibrox side did overcome Union Saint-Gilloise and PSV Eindhoven in Champions League qualifying to boost the club's finances early in the season, but they have lost nine of 27 games in all competitions this term, winning 14.

Rangers let a six-point league lead slip under the former Netherlands captain last term, before winning a first domestic cup since 2011 and losing out to Eintracht Frankfurt on penalties in the Europa League final.

After reporting an operating profit of £5.9m for last season, Rangers will hold their annual meeting early next month and resume their Premiership campaign at home to Hibernian on 15 December.

The Ibrox side face Aberdeen in the League Cup semi-finals and begin their Scottish Cup defence in January.

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football>



Cristiano Ronaldo: Portugal captain says he is 'bulletproof' after explosive interview criticising Manchester United

Cristiano Ronaldo says he is "bulletproof and iron-clad" following his explosive interview last week and says his relationship with Manchester United team-mate Bruno Fernandes is "excellent".

Ronaldo's interview with Piers Morgan on TalkTV saw the 37-year-old criticise United and manager Erik ten Hag, who the player says he has "no respect" for, while he also said he had been "betrayed" by the club. But in a surprise and unadvertised media appearance for Portugal ahead of their World Cup opener against Ghana on Thursday, Ronaldo publicly addressed his bombshell interview for the first time since it aired amid questions whether it had been a distraction in the Portugal dressing room.

He said: "The atmosphere is excellent, no problems, we are completely focused. You can help by not talking about me. I'm completely bulletproof and iron-clad."

"If you ask other players about Cristiano Ronaldo I would be upset. If you want to ask him about the World Cup and the team, I would like you to do that."

He added: "In my life, the best timing is always my timing."

"I don't have to think about what other people think. I speak when I want. The players know me really well for many years and know the type of person I am."

"It's an ambitious group that is hungry and focused. So I'm sure it [the interview] won't shake the changing room's concentration and focus."

Referring to himself in the third person, Ronaldo said that "everything related to him will always spark criticism and controversy".

Sky Sports News understands Ronaldo was put up for the press on Monday because England were playing Iran that afternoon. The hope was the British media's attention would be elsewhere and they would not be able to

He was seriously injured in a collision with his own player Majid Hosseini after nine minutes. The pair ran into each other, face on, full pelt, a sickening clash.

Equally repellent was the delay in removing Beiranvand. He required significant treatment the pitch around him littered with medical debris yet, incredibly, seemed to get the green light to carry on. He look dazed, possibly concussed. How do FIFA find time to obsess over armbands but do not have a clear and

attend. Ronaldo confirmed the awkward handshake between him and United team-mate Fernandes that was caught on camera and went viral was the result of a joke between them.

He said: "My relationship with him [Fernandes] is excellent."

"I was joking with him. His plane arrived late and I asked if he had come by boat. That's it."

Ronaldo's comments echo Fernandes', who told Sky Sports News he has "no problem" with Ronaldo and says their awkward exchange in the Portugal dressing room was just a "joke".

After missing Thursday's friendly win against Nigeria in Lisbon due to a stomach problem, Ronaldo has been training as usual with team-mates since arriving in Qatar on Friday and he revealed he feels in shape.

"I'm feeling great, I'm recovered and I'm training well and ready to start the World Cup in the best way possible," he said.

"I feel that this Portugal squad has amazing potential. I think we can win for sure, but we need to focus on the next game. So, it's focusing on Ghana, get a win and go from there."

"We will see in the end who the best team is, but I believe Portugal is the best team in this World Cup. But we need to show it on the pitch."

<https://www.skysports.com/football/news/>

enforceable protocol over this?

So Beiranvand continue, but was flat in his goalmouth almost immediately. Eventually a stretcher was summoned, as it should have been earlier, and he was replaced by Hossein Hosseini - no relation - who was making his competitive international debut. It showed. He didn't have a save to make but was kept busy picking the ball from his net.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport>

England 6-2 Iran: Gareth Southgate gets EVERY big call right as his record-breaking England team run riot



He preferred Bukayo Saka to Phil Foden and Saka scored, twice. He stuck with Raheem Sterling, who also found the net, and Harry Maguire who did everything but. He brought on Marcus Rashford and he got the fifth with his first involvement in the game, while Callum Wilson combined unselfishly with another substitute, Jack Grealish, for the sixth. Harry Kane was the first man to make two goals in a World Cup match for England in 16 years.

So it was a clean sweep. All that can be asked of a manager is that he gets the big calls right and there was no shrewder judge than Gareth Southgate.

This was England's biggest win in the opening game of a major tournament and only the second time in competitive tournament history England have scored six. The first time was Southgate's doing, too - against Panama in 2018.

Momentum is important at tournament and England have come out here like a drag racer with no parachute brake. They were 3-0 up at half-time and doubled that Tottenham despite making many second-half changes.

The most worrying was Maguire, who looked as if he was undergoing concussion protocols. If verified, he will not play again in the group stage - and he was excellent.

In the 62nd minute, Sterling played him in and he cut inside Majid Hosseini eventually steering his shot through a gathering of Iranian players. It was a beautiful moment, assured and confident. This could be his tournament. At which point, Southgate brought on the

finishers and England completed their rout. Rashford had two touches before putting the ball in the net from Kane's pass, but the first was to control the ball and the second was to take him past Hosseini again.

Then with a minute to go of normal time - there were ten minutes injury time added, plus 14 in the first-half - Wilson broke and generously put the Grealish in rather than going it alone.

So, perfect? Not entirely. Iran scored twice and only one wasn't evidence of refereeing inconsistency. Their first, to make it 4-1, was a splendid finish from Mehdi Taremi, from Porto and arguably Iran's leading player.

The second was a deserved penalty, but only if referee Raphael Claus had awarded the one to England for an identical offence in the first-half. John Stones had a handful of Iranian shirt as the ball came into the area, but Maguire was as good as rugby tackled to the ground. Claus was asked to review one, not the other. VAR strikes again; as did Taremi, from the spot.

If there is one trait of England sides under Gareth Southgate it is that they are quick starters. Even in their biggest losses - Croatia in the World Cup semi-final, Italy in the European Championship final - they were the team that scored first, and early.

They were also the last to score three goals or more before half-time at the World Cup, against Panama in 2018. The next to do it? England again, here.

It was a fabulous start. England were actually three goals up after 31 minutes given the enormous first-half delay caused by the injury to Iranian goalkeeper Ali Beiranvand.



With Sator Morris for Tel 070-426003

After SWASAL calls for ACC... Parliament summons MOS, NSA & SLFA over clandestine UAE friendly



Thomas Daddy Brima, SLFA President

The Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Sports has summoned the Minister of Sports, the Executive Director of the National Sports Authority and both the President and Secretary General of the Sierra Leone Football Association over the 'clandestine' UAE friendly match. The parliamentary summon came just days

after the Sports Writers Association of Sierra Leone (SWASAL) called on the country's anti-graft agency to investigate the said trip with several questions to be answered. According to a leaked letter signed by the Senior Clerk of the Committee, Mohamed



Minister of Sports, Ibrahim Nyalenkeh



Kenneth Brima, NSA Director

Cricket: Edward Ngegba to lead Sierra Leone as SLCA names 14-man squad

All-rounder, Edward G. Ngegba, will have the opportunity to lead the Sierra Leone national cricket team again after the Sierra Leone Cricket Association (SLCA) has named its 14-man squad ahead of the ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup Africa Sub-Regional Group B Qualifier slated for 30th November through 10th December 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda.

The country's U-19 skipper, John Bangura also made the squad as one of the two selected wicketkeepers, while both Mohamed S. Khan and Zahid Khan got the selection nod.

Yegbeh Jalloh, Miniru Kpapa and Abass Gbla were all selected by newly appointed South African Head Coach Kenneth Masinga while Solomon Williams and former captain, Lansana Lamin are the two players named in the reserve list.

The full list of the 14-man squad and the two reserves; Edward G. Ngegba - Captain, Alusine Turay - Wicket Keeper, Raymond Coker, Ibrahim Kamara - Vice Captain, Chernoh Bah, George Sesay, Mohamed S. Khan, Zahid Khan, John Bangura - Wicket Keeper, Edmond Ernest, Yegbeh Jalloh, Miniru Kpapa, Samuel Conteh, Abass Gbla, Solomon Williams and Lansana Lamin.



Kargbo, the persons concerned are to report on Wednesday, November 30 and are to update Parliament about the said trip with documentary evidence.

"In light of the aforementioned, you are requested to submit 17 copies of the following document to the Committee Secretariat not later than Friday 25th November 2022."

"Full list of the fifty-one (51) Man delegation that travelled to Dubai and their respective roles indicated. The total amount of money disbursed by the government to the National Sports Authority for the Dubai trip. Receipt and all supporting documents on expenditures for the Dubai trip," the letter stated.

Earlier, the Sports Journalist body, SWASAL raised the red flag over the trip which was

shrouded in secrecy as local sports journalists were not even aware of their departure to UAE for the two scheduled 'unofficial friendlies' in which the team ended up playing a single match against the Algeria home-base squad. SWASAL stated in their release that majority of the officials who made the trip had no significance to either the players or the friendlies but were included for probably a jolly ride and the collection of per-diems.

"These people owe Sierra Leoneans a lot of explanation; they need to answer so many questions including the total cost of the trip and how much the Government of Sierra Leone contributed.

"Other important questions the authorities need to answer include: Who organized the said friendly and what is the engagement fee? Who are the opponent teams?