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Vol. 17, No 140250785

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2022

Price: Le 2

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Tax burden, increase operational cost on MNOs: Thousands of Sierra Leoneans risk losing their jobs

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Foreign Affairs Minister launches 60 years anniversary celebration of Sierra Leone -South Korea relationship



Professor Koroma sets the wheels in motion for Njala University's takeover of BONTECH

By Alhaji Haruna Sani
With the exponential increase in operations cost, Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) in Sierra Leone have noted that, if their cry to review tariff is not adhered to, they will be left with no option, but to scale down operations and investment, which will pose a serious economic hardship than what is currently felt in the country.
Cont. Page 2

Sierra Leone students excel at UNESCO-India-Africa Hackathon 2022



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LOCAL NEWS

By Jariatu S. Bangura

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Professor David Francis, has launched the 60 years anniversary celebration of the friendship between South Korea and Sierra Leone, an event that will be followed by cultural exhibitions till December 2nd, 2022.

He said the Freetown City Hall building is an evidence of the impressive relationship between the two countries that has been maintained since 1962.

He said the Korean Consul has given strong support on very clear programs of the country, nothing that over the years, students from Sierra Leone have benefited with educational support and for the past decades, South Korea has shared solidarity during the civil war, the Ebola endemic and Coronavirus pandemic, among others, which signifies a long standing relationship.

He stated that no country can ever develop without the private sector and that the Korean private sector investment is the key to taking forward the partnership to the next 60 years.

"As we celebrate, let us renew our commitment to improving on our trade and investment in the areas of mining,

Foreign Affairs Minister launches 60 years anniversary celebration of Sierra Leone -South Korea relationship

agriculture, education, tourism, energy and infrastructure. I am pleased to inform you all here that we have agreed, with discussion ongoing that, in the next coming years, there would be 20% increase in Korean private business investment establishment in Sierra Leone," he stated.

He noted that gone were the days when government Ministers will have to go round to beg for development, but rather they should present opportunities for trade and investment so that they can work together.

He said no country has developed being alone and appealed that all come on board and join the country and showcase Sierra Leone in the trade fair process and become great like South Korea.

Ambassador Kim Young Chae from South Korea, said they were about to launch the celebrations to further deepen the symbol between the two countries.

He said the launching will be followed by cultural events and exhibition to showcase the 60 years of friendship between the two countries.

He expressed appreciation to the

Tax burden, increase operational cost on MNOs: Thousands of Sierra Leoneans risk losing their jobs

From Cover

"I would like to emphasize on the criticality and the urgency to salvage our cry for tariff review or else we would be left with the only option of scaling down our operations and investment. This will pose serious economic hardship than what is presently felt. We therefore call for the urgent intervention of our regulatory stakeholders as our ability to further invest in Sierra Leone is dependent on resolving our prevailing challenges".

In their feedback at the Media CSO retreat on November 26, the MNOs said their sector has created jobs for over 100, 000 Sierra Leoneans with direct and indirect employment and they remain a strong pillar of Corporate Social Responsibility (CRS) and sponsorships in the country.

Mobile Network Operators which includes the two biggest networks (Orange and Africell) informed the press that since the last tariff adjustment in 2017, the combined increase on key cost variables presently stands at an alarming rate of 698%.

In their joint statement, the mobile network operators highlighted several factors that were alarmingly causing serious setback on their investment. Those factors they said, included increase in foreign exchange against the Leones, increase in fuel cost, cost of electricity tariff, cost of internet (zoodlabs, cost of Terrestrial Fibre (Leonecom) cost of site

construction materials (steel and cement), among others.

The MNOs said there has been increase of 148% since the last GSM tariff changed in 2017 when the exchange rate was Le 7,258 (old Leones) to \$1, which is currently at Le 18,000 (old Leones) to \$1. They said fuel cost which was Le 6,000 in 2017 is now sold at Le 25,000 (old Leones) for bulk litres and electricity tariff facing significant increase of 78% from Le 1,890 (old Leones) to Le 3,364 as at July 2022.

"Previously, the cost of internet (zoodlabs) 1 Mbps was \$ 8, today it is \$13 per GB recording 63% increase and continue to increase when the Leones value of the USD increases. While the cost of cement per bag and steel per ton were Le 65,000 and Le 6,000,000 in the past, they presently stand at Le 145,000 and Le 11,500,000 respectively accounting for 92% increase. Inflation as at today stands at 30% and could increase further in the future".

The MNOs said although they have struggled to absorb those increases over the years, the prevailing challenges were stifling business; a situation which they said was no longer sustainable.

They went on to state that their tariff remains stagnated whilst all other businesses have the freehand to increase their costs reflexive of inflation and the devaluation of the Leone against the USD and other international currencies.



Minister of Foreign Affairs for providing the necessary support to the event and the celebrations and commended the cultural team from across the country for making the event colorful.

Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyer said sixty years of diplomatic ties is an excellent one, adding that over two months they have been working with the Korean Consul to make the occasion a success. She urged that all Sierra Leoneans come out in their numbers and witness the event within the next seven days.

She said she saw the transition period of

Korea from a low income country to where they are today and has a lot to learn from.

"We do not only have the opportunity to have the building to show how partnership can be but we also have the opportunity to be inspired. To the Korean family, this week we will be seeing our different cultures. Thank you for sixty years relationship and we pray to see more. It would be good to participate and also showcase our culture to Korea in the following years," she said.

Sierra Leone students excel at UNESCO-India-Africa Hackathon 2022



Students representing Sierra Leonean universities at the UNESCO-India-Africa Hackathon 2022 have excelled at the just concluded 36-hour non-stop Hackathon in Delhi, India held from 22nd -25th November. Three of the themes in which Sierra Leone students participated relating to developing healthcare and agriculture technology application solutions received prizes for innovation.

The awards were presented by the Vice President of India Hon. Shri Jagdeep Dhankar and UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations, at the Guatam Budha University Auditorium in New Delhi.

The Deputy Minister of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE) Hon. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara led the delegation comprising 13 student innovators (four females). MTHE Director of Technology and Innovation and senior

lecturer/researcher from University of Sierra Leone.

The students joined young innovators from 22 countries to find technology based solutions to issues relating to education, agriculture, health, energy, water, and other socio-economic challenges.

The hackathon is an annual 36-hour event that brings together students, educators, teachers and the research community of India and its African partners to tackle common challenges faced by their countries and serves as a facilitator for cultural amalgamation. Twenty-two countries participated in this year's Hackathon including Ministers of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation.

The students will return to Sierra Leone on 28th November and a special session will be at the India High Commission in Freetown to reflect on their experiences at the Hackathon.



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LOCAL NEWS When you support the media, you are supporting democracy

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

While making his statement at the 3rd Annual Ministry of Information and Communications' (MIC) Civil Society Organizations and Media Dialogue on November 26 in the Kenema District Council Hall, President of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ), Ahmed Sahid Nasralla noted that when one supports the media, he or she would be supporting democracy.

"When you support the media, you are supporting democracy and by extension peace and stability which are prerequisites for the functioning of the state and for businesses to operate and thrive. In June next year SLAJ will be here in Kenema for its annual general meeting ahead of the public elections and we hope to officially open the SLAJ East office by the Grace of God," he said.

Nasralla was speaking on the theme: 'Consolidating Democracy: Our collective, shared and patriotic responsibility', he noted that Parliament has just enacted the

-SLAJ President

much publicized Gender and Women Empowerment Act, but that the President has not yet signed it into law.

"Let me start by thanking the Ministry of Information and Communications, especially the dynamic Minister, Mohamed Rahman Swaray, for organising this CSO and media engagement for the third consecutive year. This forum brings the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and its agencies, CSOs and the media to track delivery of manifesto promises and provides an opportunity for the media and CSOs to interrogate activities of critical agencies of the Government of Sierra Leone," he said.

He said over the last three to four years, SLAJ has been collaborating with the ministry to address the challenges facing the media because government has a sacred responsibility to support the growth of independent and thriving media, to help democracy functions well.

"This collaboration should in no way

be misconstrued as SLAJ selling out journalism or the Government buying out journalism. We are not selling, and the GoSL is not buying," he noted. He said at no point in the period of that collaboration has anyone in Government called SLAJ to influence work or position on national issues that members of the press feel very strongly about.

President Nasralla said the collaboration was partly fulfilling the collaborative role of the media- to work with relevant agencies of government, and agencies outside of government, to promote the media development and, by extension, the national development agenda.

He encouraged the media to generally continue to perform the radical role of scrutinizing the collaboration, and holding the Government and its agencies to account on a daily basis.

The SLAJ boss said there are many positives that have come out of this collaboration, and I think the foundation upon which we are together building a new media landscape is the historic repeal of the criminal libel law; an obnoxious law that took us more than 50yrs to delete from our law books.

"There is free media here. There is freedom of information here (the recent MCC scorecard puts this at 98%). There is media pluralism here that can probably not be compared to any country in the world. No journalist is in jail in Sierra Leone for what they publish or broadcast or tweet."

He said the usual visits to the Criminal Investigations Department almost every other week are no more. "We have made the biggest leaps in the World Press Freedom Index two years in row since the repeal of the criminal libel law in 2020. The Government saw the need to support SLAJ with an annual subvention, which was doubled last year".

Nasralla encouraged Government to take affirmative action to promote

community media and the public broadcaster- Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC). He urged that local councils should support community media to improve information provision as well as civic engagement around local development policies and initiatives. He went on to state that Government should introduce new tax incentives and waivers for especially community media- reduce taxation on equipment, and the raw materials used by the print media.

President Nasralla urged Government of Sierra Leone should introduce regulations for fair and transparent allocation of public sector advertisement using criteria such as compliance with NRA, NASSIT, IMC, NATCOM requirements. "So, we can work out a system to ensure advert invoices are honoured 50 percent upfront and the other 50 percent after publication not later than one month".

He said one of the critical challenges for the coming public elections is information disorder- fake news, disinformation, hate speech, and political propaganda.

Nasralla intimated that SLAJ was putting modalities in place to work with Elections Monitoring Bodies and international partners to promote information integrity during the elections and ensure the citizens have the correct information to be able to make informed decisions.

"Finally, Mr. Vice President, we have talked enough about the media. Let me now convey a message from ordinary Sierra Leoneans: THINGS ARE HARD. It's really difficult. The standard of living is going higher. We know it's a global crisis, and we know the Government is doing a lot to cushion the effects through various incentives and subsidies but it is like they are doing nothing. Salaries of the majority of the working class have remained firmly constant while prices of goods and services continue to soar by the day. We need to do more".

Africa – Dubai Summit Honours RCBank MD



Rokel Commercial Bank, Amb, Dr Walton Ekundayo Gilpin

The Managing Director of Rokel Commercial Bank, Amb, Dr Walton Ekundayo Gilpin was among business executives and leaders from across the Globe to be honoured by the Africa-Dubai Business Investment Summit that

was recently held at the Hotel Raffles in Dubai. Gilpin was honoured for "Excellence in Leadership and Global Enterprise." Under the auspices of the Private Office of Dubai's prominent royal family member and business mogul, Sheikh Ahmed Bin Fasal Al-

Qassimi, the event was organized by Leaders without Borders (LWB) to discuss the future of global investments, business sustainability and collaborative business strategies across the world.

The BLW is a global initiative created to encourage strong strategic and geopolitical partnership by promoting trade and investment.

The yearly investment summits and Global Honours brings together high-achieving level professionals in the business world to leverage on available business opportunities and form coalitions that would invariably serve to improve the business climates of their respective countries. Consequently, the Global Honours is a side event hosted to celebrate key players including captain of industries, companies, corporations, government officials, public office holders and individuals that have contributed to the global growth and development of mankind. The

honourees would have demonstrated share resilience as well as records showing how their contributions to economic growth through enterprise development schemes have benefitted entrepreneurs.

Due to work load back home, Gilpin could not travel to Dubai to receive the prestigious award but in a conversation with this medium, he expressed great delight at been once again recognized by an independent and reputable international organization like Leaders Without Borders.

"I am deeply honoured for yet another recognition from outside Sierra Leone. This is indeed inspiring...with great humility, I will dedicate this award to all those hardworking staff of Rokel Commercial Bank and our esteemed customers. They are the reason we are here and keep excelling to mark our footprints in the sands of time..." he said.



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LOCAL NEWS NaCCED organises reggae peace concert for youth

By Yusufu S. Bangura

National Council for Civic Education and Development (NaCCED) in collaboration with Salone Reggae Movement (SRM) and Social Linkages for youth Development and Child (SLYDC), has organised free Reggae Peace Concert for youths.

The event took place on Friday, November 25 at the Casablanca Playing Field, Aberdeen in Freetown. Speaking to youth during the event, Director of Programmes and Research of NaCCED, Thomas Johnny, said they organised the program to engage youth in a music concert just to educate them on the dangers of drug abuse.

He further stated that they would call it entertainment, but during the entertainment they would pass on messages to the youth on drug abuse, peace and non-violence.

"We and our partners are working on drug because we want to bring the attention of youth to the dangers of drug abuse and we also want to pass peace messages by advising them to maintain peace before, during and even after elections," he said.

He stated that it was the first time they were collaborating with SRM to target youth who love reggae music, because the menace of common drugs like Kush, tramadol and marijuana, was in the increase in Freetown, but that they were planning to do similar event in other parts of the country.

He said they have worked with

UNICEF to propagate the big six report on drug abuse using entertainment, not only in Freetown but also in the entire country.

He continued that the event was just one way of raising consciousness and raising awareness on peace as the election is fast approaching.

"We want youth to know that drug can destroy them and we depend on them as the economic power force for the country's development, so we want to tell them that if this country has to develop we don't need to import or export youth to do our work so let maintain our health and let be productive," he said.

He concluded that they need to have serious engagement with youth in other communities and that they were hoping that the youth of Aberdeen community listen to the messages for them to stop taken drugs that would affect them.

Executive Director of social linkages for youth development, Habib Taco Kamara said recently the country has been experiencing increase of drug abuse, more especially Kush.

He said it is necessary for them to reach out to the youth in the form of concert, adding that majority of the youth listen to reggae music which sends messages to young people.

He further stated that they were bringing reggae music in order to advising them. He said they appreciated the concert and thanked NaCCED for coming up to supporting the initiative, and reaching down to



NaCCED Staffs & Some Youths at Casablanca playing Field, Aberdeen

grassroots and people that are affected.

He said they needed to go to the communities and sensitise the youth about the harms of in the communities. Singing of reggae music climaxed the occasion.

Speaking on behalf of the youth at

Aberdeen during the event, Hassan Sesay thanked the organisers for educating them about the dangers of drug abuse.

Sesay promised that he and his colleagues would stay away from drugs abuse and that they would not engage themselves in any form of violence during and after the elections.

Professor Koroma sets the wheels in motion for Njala University's takeover of BONTECH



Professor Bashiru Mohamed Koroma, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Njala University officially declaring Njala University's takeover of BONTECH

Professor Bashiru Mohamed Koroma, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Njala University, and his team paid a weekend visit to Bonthe Sherbro Island where they met with the administrative and academic staff of Bonthe Technical Training College (BONTECH), the Mayor, and other district stakeholders to officially declare Njala University's takeover of the College.

The visit is in fulfilment of the VC&P's vow to travel to Bonthe during his first three months in office to actualise the takeover of Njala University by putting the 2021 Universities Act into practice

and implementing the University restructuring plan's recommendations.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal was accompanied by Miss. Pauline Floode, Njala University BONTECH task force Coordinator, Mr. Santigie Sesay, Director of Physical Plant Services, Mr. Alpha Jalloh, Senior Deputy Registrar, and Ayuba Koroma, Public Relations Unit.

The new Vice-Chancellor and Principal informed the stakeholders that his visit is a precursor for the March visit of the University Chancellor and representatives of the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education for the official commissioning of the Campus. Professor Koroma continued by expressing his gratitude to the inhabitants for their warm welcome, advising parents to encourage their children to take advantage of the opportunity, and thanking the community and the Anglican Church for agreeing to provide land for the Campus' establishment.

He revealed the University's proposed plan to establish two schools and two institutes, including the school of maritime studies, the school of sustainable tourism and hospitality management, the institute of technical entrepreneurship and vocational studies, and the institute of education, putting special emphasis on the school of maritime studies as the campus's primary focus.

Layemin Joe Sandi, His Lordship the



Professor Bashiru Mohamed Koroma, left, His Lordship the Mayor of Bonthe Municipality, Layemin Joe Sandi, right

Mayor of Bonthe Municipality, welcomed the Vice-Chancellor and Principal and noted that the visit was significant because it was the first by a Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Njala University.

He praised Professor Koroma for his unwavering efforts to make the dream a reality and added that the new VC&P had been involved in the process even before he was named Vice-Chancellor and Principal, which in his opinion makes the process easier now that he is on seat.

The Deputy Speaker of the Sierra Leone Parliament, one of the solid pillars

hoping for the dream to come true, was absent, Mayor Layemin Joe Sandi continued, and he gave a valuable explanation for his absence.

After revealing the land that the community and Anglican Church had provided for the establishment of the campus, Mayor Sandi asked the University Administration to survey the land as soon as possible and urged all Bonthe district descendants to support the new campus.

The residents of Bonthe expressed their anticipation for the new development and wished for a quick takeover by Njala University.

NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

UN's campaign against gender-based violence kicks off in Nigeria



Actresses perform during a stage play HEAR WORD! to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence in Lagos, Nigeria, Friday, Nov. 25, 2022. - Copyright © africanews Sunday Alamba/Copyright 2022 The AP. All rights reserved

The UN's campaign against gender-based violence kicked off on Friday in Nigeria's largest city, Lagos, with a play featuring an all-female

cast. The play opened on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the first day

of a 16-day campaign that runs until December 10th, Human Rights Day.

"Nothing connects with humanity the way poetry,

music and drama do and this comes in poetry, it comes in music, it comes in drama and these are wonderful vehicles and ways for us to reach people because these conversations are very serious conversations and it's very difficult to get people to talk about serious things..."

...but if you can get them through music, through drama it's easier for them to understand it while they are getting entertained but at the same time, it's touching the core of their humanity then it's getting their attention", said author and inclusion advocate, Uri Ngozi-Chukwuka.

The director of the stage play took inspiration from a Broadway show she saw called 'For Colored Girls'.

"When I started the work, I wasn't aware of how powerful the work was, but it's gone on for almost nine years, which means it's working. Then the other thing that tells me it's working is that people come back. So, in the lobby, you hear people say, 'this is my fifth time and then you hear somebody say five? Is it only five? My own is eleven, you know what I mean? So, people come back to see the show and people come back to see a show when it's more than entertainment", admits stage director, Ifeoma Fafunwa.

One of the main actors in the play believes it is a rewarding role as it carries a sense of responsibility and duty.

"Being a part of the show it's a different small bit of feelings. It's rewarding, it's exciting, it also gives you that sense of duty that responsibility has been handed to you and you have to carry out", said actor Zara Udofia Ejoh.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation with an estimated 200 million people, has always publicised issues around gender-based violence.

Comoros court sentences former president Sambu to life in prison

A court in the Comoros on Monday (Nov 28) handed down a life sentence for high treason to ex-president Ahmed Abdallah Sambu.

The 64-year-old was convicted of selling passports to stateless people living in the Gulf. Sambu headed the Indian Ocean archipelago between 2006 and 2011.

In 2008, he passed a law allowing the sale of passports and was accused of embezzling millions of dollars under the scheme which was since referred to as "economic citizenship" scandal.

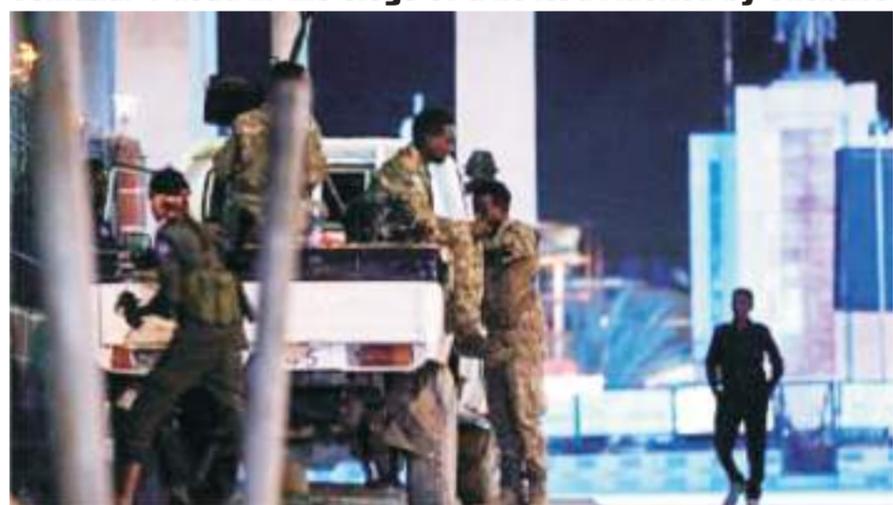
But Sambu's French lawyer, said there is no evidence of this money -- "no account discovered".

Sambu refused to attend the trial, as his lawyers said there were no guarantees he would be judged fairly. He appeared once with his defence asking the judge to recuse himself since he had previously sat on the panel that decided to indict him.

The rulings by the State Security Court, a special judicial body cannot be appealed.

Sambu is an opponent to current president Azali Assoumani.

Somalia: 4 dead in the siege of a hotel attacked by Shebabs



Headquarters of a hotel in Mogadishu - Copyright © africanews AFP

Sporadic gunfire and explosions continued on Monday (November 28) morning around the Villa Rose Hotel, a popular venue for senior government officials and parliamentarians located a few blocks from the offices of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud.

At least four people were killed during the siege, a Somali security official said Monday.

"The terrorists are trapped in a room in the building and the security forces are about to end the operation very quickly. Several people were injured, including government officials," Mohamed Dahir added, without specifying who the four victims were.

Witnesses had described two loud explosions on Sunday evening, marking the start of the Shebab attack on the hotel, which is located in the Bondhere district and is normally heavily secured.

On its website, the Villa Rose is described as "the safest accommodation in Mogadishu", with metal detectors and a high wall.

"A group of Al-Shabaab fighters attacked a hotel in Bondhere district this evening (and) security forces are engaged to eliminate them," national police spokesman Sadik Dudishe said in a statement on Sunday.

By Sunday evening, many civilians and politicians had been rescued and evacuated from the area.

"I was near the Villa Rose when two loud explosions shook the hotel. There was heavy gunfire. The area was cordoned off and I saw people fleeing," said a witness, Aadan Hussein. Mogadishu.

all-out war The Shebab, an al-Qaida-affiliated group that has

been trying to overthrow Somalia's central government for 15 years, claimed responsibility for the attack.

The African Union Force in Somalia (Atmis) condemned the attack and "commended" on Twitter "the Somali security forces for their swift response to prevent further casualties and property damage".

This new attack comes as the Somali president, elected in May, has decided to commit to a three-month "total war" against the Shebab.

The Somali army, supported by local clans, the Atmis, and with the support of American air strikes, has regained control of the province of Hiran and large areas of Middle Shabelle, in the centre of the country. But the insurgents retaliated with a series of bloody attacks, underlining their ability to strike at the heart of Somali towns and military installations.

On 29 October, two cars packed with explosives exploded within minutes of each other in Mogadishu, killing 121 people and injuring 333 others. It was the deadliest attack in five years in the fragile Horn of Africa country.

A triple bombing in the central city of Beledweyne also killed 30 people, including local officials, in early October, and at least 21 guests at a Mogadishu hotel were killed during a 30-hour siege in August.

According to the UN, at least 613 civilians have already been killed and 948 injured in violence this year in Somalia, mostly caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) attributed to Al-Shabaab. The highest figures since 2017, up by more than 30% from 2021.

Africanews with AFP

Sao Tome and Principe: Four dead in the coup attempt



Police patrol the street on New Year's Day in the city of Sao Tome, 1 January 2018 - Copyright © africanews RUTH MCDOWALL/AFP or licensors

The army chief of staff of Sao Tome and Principe announced on Sunday the death of four people who had been arrested following the failed coup attempt, which the power claims to have thwarted on the night of Thursday to Friday, deaths on which the Santomean justice will investigate.

"Four human lives were lost," said the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Olinto Paquete, quoted by the government news agency STP-Press.

Prime Minister Patrice Trovoada announced on Friday that he had foiled a coup attempt in this small Portuguese-speaking archipelago, considered a model of parliamentary democracy in Africa.

He said a four-man commando was captured on Friday after six hours of firefights at army headquarters. "Four citizens" with "12 army soldiers" tried to occupy military installations, the chief of staff said.

Regarding the four dead, three of them who had been "captured and neutralized", died of their "wounds", said Mr Paquete on Sunday, without giving further details on the circumstances of these deaths which remain unclear.

The fourth dead, Arlecio Costa, is a former Santomean mercenary from the sulphurous South African group "Bataillon Buffalo", dismantled in 1993 by Pretoria, who had been accused on Friday by Mr Trovoada of being one of the sponsors.

Here too, the circumstances of his death remain unclear: his arrest was announced by the authorities on Friday and, on Sunday, Mr Paquete explained that he died after "jumping from a vehicle", without giving

further details.

In this context, a judicial source contacted by AFP indicated on condition of anonymity the opening of two investigations: the first concerning the attack on the army headquarters, the second on facts of "murder" and "torture" against alleged perpetrators of the coup attempt.

A judicial source was also unable to say whether or not Mr Costa had been arrested at army headquarters with the three other people. In February 2009, then leader of a small opposition party, Mr Costa had already been arrested and accused of being the leader of a thwarted coup attempt 12 days earlier.

At the end of a Council of Ministers held on Sunday, the government "firmly condemned" what it described as a "violent attempt to subvert the constitutional order", while ensuring that "all investigations will be carried out to determine the causes and circumstances of the deaths", in addition to the investigations to determine the responsibilities of the attempted coup.

The government notably urged hospital services to "properly preserve the bodies" of the victims, adding that an "international team", including a forensic doctor, must join the archipelago to support the teams of investigators.

The president of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Gilberto da Piedade Verissimo, and Abdou Barry, head of the UN Office for Central Africa, carried out a "fact-finding mission" this weekend -end in the archipelago, announced the two organizations in a joint press release.

Several other people, including the former number 1 of Parliament, Delfim Nevès, were arrested on Friday after being denounced by the commando responsible for the assault on the army headquarters, Mr Trovoada said after the events.

Mr Nevès was the president of the outgoing National Assembly and lost this function on November 11 during the installation of the new chamber resulting from the legislative elections of September 25, won by an absolute majority by the centre-right party of Mr.

Trovoada, Independent Democratic Action (ADI). "Some do not accept the will of the ballot box", had dropped the latter.

Following several coup attempts, the last in 2003 and 2009, the parliamentary regime asserted itself in this poor archipelago, independent from Portugal since 1975, which allowed several alternations between two parties: the Movement of the release of Sao Tome and Principe-Social Democratic Party (MLSTP-PSD, centre-left) and Mr. Trovoada's ADI.



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LOCAL NEWS

Statistics SL to register all business enterprises in Sierra Leone

By Alfred Koroma

Statistics Sierra Leone has embarked on training supervisors and enumerators to count all business establishments in Sierra Leone.

The training started yesterday with the supervisors who will in turn train the enumerators they will be supervising for the World Bank funded project.

The focus of the data collection, dubbed as Census of Business Establishment (CBE) is to register each and every active enterprise or organization in Sierra Leone, finding the contact details, main activity and employment of the businesses. This is to provide a universal census data of private business enterprises in the country.

The data will also serve as a sampling frame and a universal business register from which Statistics SL will be extracting sample to survey and estimate the country's Gross Domestic

Product (GDP), Mwaluma Andrew Gegbe, Director, National Accounts and Economic Statics Sierra Leone said.

The purpose of the census is to construct a statistics business registers that covers all economic activities in Sierra Leone, he added, stating that the data will be useful to various Ministries Department and Agencies, including the ministry of trade, NRA, NASSIT and the Bank of Sierra Leone.

According to Director Gegbe, Statistics will train about 700 enumerators who will collect business data of all enterprises in the country. He dodged stating when exactly the census will commence, but says it will start once the first set of the training is completed.

It is fine for all those with business enterprises ensure their businesses are included. This is because government may want to take decision or develop policies on businesses and will need data on businesses across the country, he said, emphasizing that the Census is



Statistics SL is training data collectors to count all business enterprises in Sierra Leone

necessary for policy development and decision making.

The census is covering two institutional sectors: private cooperation or enterprises and non-governmental organizations. This will include all

business establishments including branches, single entities and head office of business enterprises, says Osman A.S Koroma, Principal Statistician Head of Business and statistics...

EU allocates 40 million Euros to support education, human capital development

By Alfred Koroma

The European Union has allocated 40 million Euros to support education and human capital development in Sierra Leone, says Mario Aivano, Team Leader of EU Delegation following education.

The fund will be used to support education and related human capital development projects in Sierra Leone from 2023 to 2025.

The EU Diplomat made the disclosure while launching the distribution of equipment for science labs at the Prince of Wales schools last week Friday

afternoon.

Education is our priority, Aivano said, highlighting EU to improve access to education, improve the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education and the Teaching Service Commission.

We have constructed more than one hundred schools. Over the years, EU has committed to continue considering education as one of its priorities and 40 million Euros has been allocated for human capital development, he added.

Speaking at the event, Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, David



Photo of the equipment unveiled by Minister David Sengh, EU representative and other government officials

Sengh said more students are now pursuing science innovations in greater terms than ever before.

He highlighted various awards Sierra Leonean students have recently won at the global stage. He thanked the EU for their great partnership and called on the schools authorities to use the facilities and allow students to experiment.

About 126 items, including measuring devices, microscopes were unveiled for science programs in schools.

Recipient of the equipment, George A Lefevre, Principal of Prince Of Wales School expressed delight for benefiting

from the equipment and thanked the EU and the Government of Sierra Leone for their support.

Vice President of the Sierra Leone Teachers Union, Ibrahim Bankapoma Kargbo described the equipment as a mile stone and encouraged the beneficiaries to handle the materials with care.

Representatives from the Teaching Service Commission, the National Authorizing Office and the civil society organizations also made statements at the event, appreciating EU and the Government of Sierra Leone for equipping school labs.

Five police officers in court for allegedly possessing harmful drugs

By Jeneba A. Conteh

Haja Safinatu Conteh, Alpha Kargbo, Ibriham Collier Hazeley, Mohamed Nabieu and Santigie Turay, all members of the Sierra Leone Police, made their first appearance before Magistrate Mark Ngegba of the Pademba Road Court No.1 in Freetown.

All accused persons were on Friday, November 25, 2022, taken to court for allegedly being in possession of cannabis sativa, Kush and tramadol, at the police training school, Hastings in Freetown.

The accused were charged with six counts of unlawful possession of cannabis sativa, Kush and tramadol, all contrary to Section 48 (1) of the Pharmacy and Drugs Act of 2001.

After the charges were put before the first, second, third, and fifth accused persons, they pleaded guilty, while the fourth accused person, Santigie Turay, pleaded not guilty to the offenses charged.

The charge sheet indicated that the first accused, Haja Safinatu Conteh on Tuesday 8 November, 2022, at SILEA campus, police training school, Hastings, was found in possession of two hundred and twenty-six (226) wraps of cannabis sativa, contained in a black plastic bag weighing 20 grams without lawful authority.

The charge sheet further stated that the second accused, Alpha Kargbo, on the same day and place, was found in possession of ten (10) wraps of Kush contained in a medical sachet weighing 0.4 grams, without lawful authority and was also found in possession of six tablets of tramadol also contained in a medical sachet weighing 0.2 grams without lawful authority.

Also, the charge sheet indicates that Ibrahim Collier Hazeley, was also found in possession of one wrap of cannabis sativa weighing 0.4 grams without lawful authority and Santigie Turay was also found in possession of one wrap of cannabis sativa weighing 0.4 grams, while Mohamed Nabieu was found in possession of one wrap of Kush weighing 0.2 gram without lawful authority.

Police prosecutor, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Ibriham Mansaray, told the court that since the first, second, third, and fifth accused persons pleaded guilty, he will issue a subpoena for the exhibit clerk to come to court and tender the exhibits before the court.

Defense counsel S. Sankoh representing the fourth accused person, Santigie Turay, made bail application for him, but Magistrate Mark Ngegba refused bail and adjourned the matter to the 5th December 2022 for further hearing.

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Fix No.	Sales Close	Competition	Home Team	Home Goals	Home Halves	Home Score	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 BAIJA 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

ChildFund® International

ChildFund, a child protection and development international NGO intends to compile and vet all eligible Suppliers, Contractors, consultants and/or Service Providers in order to streamline its procurement processes. The registration is in line with the policy and procedures defined and specified under the procurement procedures of ChildFund International.

In this regard we are requesting expressions of interest from credible business institutions/houses/companies/individuals, to supply the following services/supplies/works for our Freetown office.

OFFICE SUPPLIES AND SERVICES:

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3. General merchandise (provisions, toiletries, kitchen items)
4. Printing (photocopy, binding, digital & offset, stickers & self-adhesive, vouchers
Clothing etc.)
5. Advertisement (Newspapers etc.)
6. Electrical appliances
7. IT materials (scanners, photocopiers, toners, cartridges Etc.)

TRANSPORT AND SERVICES:

8. Vehicle rentals
9. Garage for the maintenance of Toyota vehicles
10. Garage for the maintenance of motor bikes
11. Garage for the cleaning of vehicles

ENGINEERING SERVICES:

12. General Construction works (civil)
13. Electrical installation & maintenance
14. Plumbing installation & maintenance
15. Air Condition installation & maintenance
16. Building materials

OTHERS:

17. Hotel services
18. Hall rentals
19. Catering services/Restaurants
20. Audit services

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2. Updated NRA and GST certificate (where applicable)
3. Tax Clearance AND
4. Relevant Experience and references

Submissions must be hard copies in a sealed envelope addressed to The HR/Admin Specialist ChildFund Sierra Leone 84 Regent road, Hill Station, Freetown.

Please indicate on the envelope 'Expression of Interest for the service/supply/work of [name service/supply/work applying for] FY 23 on the right-hand corner of the envelope.

The documents will be reviewed and business houses verified, following which a list of pre-qualified suppliers will be determined.

Note: Further communications will only be made with these Pre-Qualified Suppliers.

Closing date for submission of envelopes; 2pm on Friday 9th December 2022.



Invitation for Bids GUMA VALLEY WATER COMPANY Supply of Liquid Chlorine Gas

Procurement Number: Guma/ChLGAS/Ing/Mile13/NCB/001/22

Date of First Issue 9th November 2022

THE GUMA VALLEY WATER COMPANY has allocated some of its funds for the Procurement of Water Treatment Chemicals, and hereby invites eligible and qualified bidders to submit sealed bids for any of the under mentioned Chemical below:

NO	ITEM	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Description of Cylinder	Bid Security
01	Chlorine Gas	12	Cylinders	Safety certified Iron, 8ft by 6ft each	NLe 8,000 (Eight Thousand New Leones)

Interested Bidders may obtain further information at the address below between 10:00 am to 3:30 pm from Mondays to Thursdays. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before Wednesday 7th December, 2022 at 14:30 GMT. All Bids must be accompanied by:

- A valid bid security from a reputable Commercial Bank
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- A valid copy of current NaSSIT Clearance Certificate
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- A valid copy of Council Certificate
- A valid EPA Environmental Permit for importation of chemicals
- Evidence(s) to demonstrate that bidder can successfully execute similar contract
- Partial bids will be disqualified

Bids will be opened on the Wednesday, 7th December, 2022 at 14:40 GMT. in the presence of Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late Bids will be rejected.

The Procurement Unit

Guma Valley Water Company
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E-mail: gumaprocurment@yahoo.com

Supply of Water Treatment Chemicals;

Procurement Number: Guma/ChLGAS/Ing/Mile13/NCB/001/22

Purchase of Tender Documents

Tender documents shall be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of SLE 400 (Four Hundred New Leones), into any of the accounts below, and submit receipts to the above-mentioned address.

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Account Number: 210 113 253-01

BBAN: 00-400 111 325 312 0144

Bank: Name: Sierra Leone Commercial Bank

Account Name: Revenue from sale of Bidding Sub Treasury

Account Number: 003 001 108 179 111 2183

Bank: Name: Rokel Commercial Bank

Account Name: Revenue from sale of Bidding Sub Treasury

Account Number: 02-0110 12 428

BBAN: 002 001 002 101 242 863

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INT'L SPORTS Mick Beale: Rangers set to appoint QPR boss after Giovanni van Bronckhorst's sacking

Mick Beale is close to finalising an agreement to become Rangers boss, with an announcement expected as early as Monday.

The 42-year-old has arrived at the club's training ground to complete his move from QPR after being granted permission to hold talks.

It is understood Beale - who has maintained good relations with the club since his departure as coach last November - will be joined by coaches Damian Matthew, Harry Watling and Neil Banfield at Ibrox.

Paul Hall will take training at QPR while the club continues their search for Beale's replacement.

Beale was a part of Steven Gerrard's backroom team when Rangers won their 55th top-flight title in 2021 before leaving for Aston Villa.

He then made his move to become boss at QPR less than six weeks ago and turned down an approach from Wolves last month, citing "integrity and loyalty" as the reason for rejecting the Premier League job.

Beale and his staff were understood to be in contract extension talks with QPR before Rangers' interest developed.

That is despite Beale's family struggling to

settle in the West Midlands - where he is still based - following his move from Glasgow last November.

It is also understood the Championship club were aware Beale wanted to return to Ibrox as boss one day when initial talks about his appointment at QPR took place.

Rangers players will return to training later on Monday, following the World Cup break, where they will be expected to meet Beale before starting preparations for their return to league action.

The Gers face Hibernian at Ibrox in the Scottish Premiership, live on Sky Sports, on December 15 - with the team nine points behind Celtic in the league.

Neil Critchley is high on QPR's list of potential candidates to replace Beale.

Critchley is available after leaving Aston Villa when Gerrard was sacked, having taken over from Beale as his assistant in the summer.

He had mentored Gerrard's first steps into coaching at Liverpool while U23s boss, where they developed a good relationship.



Then in his first senior managerial job, Critchley led Blackpool to promotion to the Championship and made them competitive in their first season back in the division. He has recently been courted by Bournemouth to join Gary O'Neil's coaching staff.

QPR do have other options they are considering and have time to appoint a successor, with their next Championship game not coming until Sunday December 11.

"It's a fantastic opportunity and Michael will know that. He'll recognise the club, he'll have very good relationships within the club established by working with Steven [Gerrard], so should it come along, it will be a fantastic opportunity and I'm sure very hard to turn down."

"To manage a club of Rangers' stature is always a magnificent opportunity. Should it

go ahead, he'll have a very difficult decision to make, that's for sure."

Asked if the opportunity is too early in his career, Warburton replied: "I think he'll recognise that. Mick is a very smart guy. He will understand the implications of that and the challenge that he will face, but at the same time I think he recognises that such opportunities don't come along very often to manage a club the size of Rangers, so if it does all go ahead, I think he'll back himself to go and succeed."

"I think Mick would be honest enough to say a top-six or top-eight Premier League club is not going to come along immediately and, as such, the lure of European football, as you saw last year with what can be achieved and the backing they receive from the supporters, that type of attraction, that type of learning curve and learning experience, I'm sure will appeal to Michael."

"I think you have to weigh it up. He's in a good place right now, he's had a good start to the season with QPR so it's a difficult decision. But I think he'll be honest enough with himself to know that this type of opportunity doesn't come along every week."

"It's a huge club, big opportunity, a chance of European football, dealing with the Old Firm. He's been there with Steven, Steven was manager and did a magnificent job in that role and Micky supported him very capably and I'm sure now he'd be intrigued as to know whether he can do that job himself."

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

Cameroon's No 1 goalkeeper Andre Onana is removed from their World Cup squad



Goalkeeper Andre Onana has been dropped from Cameroon's World Cup squad after having 'a blazing row with manager Rigobert Song'.

The Inter Milan star's removal is believed to have come after a shouting match with Song over the keeper's style of play.

Marca claim the emotional dispute came after Song lambasted the stopper during training for taking too many risks playing with his feet. His replacement, Devis Epassy, conceded three goals in the 3-3 draw with Serbia on Monday.

After the draw with Serbia, Song claimed the axing of Onana was the trigger for their comeback from 3-1 down to draw.

The coach had wanted Onana to play in a more conventional, risk-free, fashion and was unhappy with the way the keeper advanced off his line to start attacks from the back.

After tensions cooled, Song and Onana are understood to have spoken after the session but the goalkeeper was adamant he would not change his style of play.

Epassy, who plays his club football for Abha in Saudi Arabia and had made just five international appearance before the

decision came to put him in the firing line against Serbia.

The point keeps Cameroon's hopes alive but they must beat Brazil in their final game to have any chance of progressing to the knockout stages.

If Cameroon do go further, it looks like it will be without Onana between the sticks.

According to reports from Helena Condis Edo, Onana sees his relationship with the team as 'irreversible' despite attempts from Cameroon Football Federation president and legendary striker Samuel Eto'o to mediate peace talks.

It was decided soon after that Onana should leave the squad and will play no further part in the tournament.

The controversy is the latest involving Onana, who last year served a nine-month ban for breaching doping regulations.

Onana was initially banned for 12 months after failing a drugs test but the sanction was cut by three months after UEFA accepted he mistook one of his wife's pills for a headache tablet.

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

Reprieve for Kenyan football as Fifa lifts indefinite ban



World governing body Fifa has confirmed lifting the indefinite ban previously slapped on Kenya following government interference.

Fifa has confirmed in a letter addressed to FKF CEO Barry Otieno that the ban has been lifted unconditionally.

WHAT FIFA SAID: "We would like to inform you that the situation of the FKF was submitted to the Bureau of Fifa Council for consideration and the decision on November 25," read part of the letter seen by GOAL.

"In view of these circumstances, the Bureau of the Council decided on November 25 to lift the suspension of the FKF with immediate effect."

"Upon the lifting of the suspension, a Fifa-Caf mission team will be deployed to Nairobi in order to define the next steps for FKF and to also meet with the newly appointed

Cabinet Secretary for Sports."

The ban on Kenya came last November when the then Cabinet Secretary for Sports Amina Mohamed ordered for an audit of FKF accounts.

The move saw FKF President Nick Mwendwa implicated with misappropriating money meant for the sport and was arrested and arraigned in court.

The ban meant Kenya were barred from taking part in the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers while the women's team - Harambee Starlets failed to play in two-legged qualifiers for the World Cup against Uganda.

This will be good news for clubs as the new season for the FKF Premier League is underway.

<https://www.goal.com/en-cm/news>



Bologna linked with a move for Yayah Kallon

Sierra Leone and Verona forward, Yayah Kallon, is reported to be the south-after Hellas Verona player presently after report emerged that Italian A side, Bologna are the latest to be linked with a move for the 22-year old, who is on loan from Genoa.

According to Tutto Mercato web who also quoted Gazzetta dello Sport, the club is already active on the transfer

market and Kallon is one of the many names linked with a move.

"Bologna is already active on the transfer market. As reported by La Gazzetta dello Sport, the idea that leads to Josip Brekalo is still alive for the front of attack, who could return to Italy from Wolfsburg and remains in the background. Among the many names paid attention there is also that of Yayah Kallon of Verona, as well as that of Michal Skorak of Lech



Poznan," Tutto Mercato reported.

L' Arena also reported that: "Yayah Kallon is one of the most sought-after players at Hellas Verona: he is finding more and more playing time by showing off his technical qualities and if Bologna really wants to take him to Dall'Ara, they will have to

speak with Verona and also with Genoa."

Also, SampNews24 stated that Bologna has offered the loan of Vignato to get Yayah Kallon, a talent that will be compulsorily redeemed by the Gialloblù by the end of the season.

Augustine Williams sets to return to Battery for 2023 USL Championship



The Charleston Battery announced on Tuesday the club's initial roster moves heading into the 2023 USL Championship season, featuring forwards Augustine Williams and Fidel Barajas, midfielder Avionne Flanagan, and defender Benji Ettienne amongst 10 key players returning from the 2022 squad.

The Battery has exercised contract options on defenders AJ Paterson and Leland Archer, midfielders Joseph Schmidt, Andrew Booth and Robbie Crawford, and forward Aidan Apodaca.

"We are thrilled to have these 10 young men return to the Battery for the 2023 season," said Battery Head Coach Ben Pirmann. "We have a great mixture of experienced veterans and young players ready to break out. One thing all 10 have in common is they're ready and willing to serve this club and community, and play with energy and selflessness."

"The USL Championship season is grueling and will undoubtedly have highs and lows. In order to achieve greatness on and off the field, we

must have players that are willing to suffer together and persevere through the tough moments, and this group reflects those qualities." The backline partnership of Paterson and Archer is set to continue for a fifth consecutive season, with Grenada international Benji Ettienne entering his second club season alongside his compatriot Paterson. Archer comes into the 2023 season as the longest-tenured player on the Battery with 100 matches played across all competitions since 2018.

Williams and Apodaca finished 1-2

in goalscoring for the Battery in 2022, with Williams bagging an individual career-high 16 goals. The Sierra Leone international's campaign was capped by his second USL Championship All-League selection. Apodaca, meanwhile, had six goals as he registered the most regular season appearances (33) and was tied for the most chances created (32) for the Battery last year.

"Even though I've only been on the job a short amount of time, I am really enjoying the opportunity to get to know all these guys," said Pirmann. "AJ is a great leader who is willing to do it all for this club and our community, as he has for multiple years. Leland is a tough competitor with loads of experience for the Battery, I'm excited to see him have a breakout season as a top center-back in this league."

"Augustine will be targeted by our opponents after a great individual 2022 season, but he'll be ready for the competition and eager to drive this team forward up top. Andrew has proven to be a consistent playmaking midfielder at the Championship level and I believe that his game is about to take off." The Battery also announced Joe Kuzminsky, Patrick Hogan, Matt Sheldon, DZ Harmon, Caden Theobald, Joel Bunting, Alexander Dexter, Burke Fahling had entered free agency, while the club declined contract options on Brett St. Martin, Dominic Oduro, Romario Piggott, Geobel Perez Jr., Preston Kilwien, Mauro Cichero, Enock Kwakwa, Daniel Kuzemka and Nicque Daley.

2030 Busan World Expo

In June 2021, the Republic of Korea submitted a letter of candidature to the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) to organize World Expo 2030 in the city of Busan. The Republic of Korea's candidature is based on the theme "Transforming Our World, Navigating Toward a Better Future", and if successful, the EXPO would take place in Busan's North Port district between 1 May and 31 October 2030.

Busan, the candidate city, is Korea's second-largest city and the largest port city with excellent infrastructure. The city has been a hub of transportation and logistics and a gateway at the intersection of the Eurasian continent and the Pacific Ocean. Busan represents the past, present, and future of Korea. It has played a crucial role in Korea's growth, from one of the poorest countries receiving economic aid to a donor country. During the Korean War, the city was home to a million refugees. The Busan Spirit embodies the World EXPO values of education, innovation, and cooperation.

In conclusion, Busan truly represents and embodies the proposed theme of the World EXPO, "Transforming our World" and this global and mega city has full capacity to host the World EXPO and powerful potential to realize the ideal of the BIE and World EXPO.



This year marks the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Sierra Leone. In order to celebrate the auspicious year, the Korean Embassy, in close cooperation with the government of Sierra Leone and Freetown City Council, has prepared a series of celebration events, starting with the kickoff ceremony and exhibition at Freetown City Hall lobby on Monday 28 November. The celebration events will run to Friday 2 December with colorful programs such as public policy seminar and Korean film screening. Particularly, the famous Korean group, LEENALCHI band, will visit Freetown to hold a joint cultural performance with the Sierra Leone Jazz Team which is expected to serve as an opportunity to showcase the cultural diversity of the two countries.

Even though geographically apart, our two countries have built friendly relations over the last 60 years, by helping each other in time of need and working together on the international arena such as the United Nations and the African Union. It is particularly significant that leaders of our two countries, President Yoon and President Bio, are expected to exchange good will messages to each other and to the peoples of both countries.

The symbol of our deepening relations is the reconstruction of Freetown City Hall, and the Korean government will further deepen its development cooperation with Sierra Leone in the coming years. President of KOICA, the major Korean government development agency, will sign an MOU with the Minister of Planning and Economic Development, during the 60th anniversary celebration week. This is another meaningful milestone in our bilateral relations.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to those who helped tremendously our preparations for the week-long celebration events, particularly, Sierra Leone Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Freetown City Council, and Korea's new Honorary Consul's office. Indeed, it is our strong hope that the celebration events of this week serve a memorable occasion to capture our 60-year history as well as to open a new chapter for upgrading our relations.



THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOREA-SIERRA LEONE DIPLOMATIC TIES EVENT



KICKOFF CEREMONY

Freetown City Hall Lobby | 28th November | 11:00



KOREAN CULTURE EXHIBITION

Freetown City Hall | 28th November - 1st December | 10:00-16:00 (Ground Floor Lobby)



KOREAN PERFORMING ARTS SCREENING: "SHIM-CHUNG & THE LAST EMPRESS"

Freetown City Hall Auditorium | 28th November | 16:00-19:00
Freetown City Hall Auditorium | 2nd December | 19:30-20:00



PUBLIC POLICY SEMINAR

Fench Bay College | 29th November | 9:00



MOU SIGNING CEREMONY BETWEEN SLBC & KCCN

SLBC | 30th November | 11:00-11:30



OPENING CEREMONY OF HONORARY CONSUL'S OFFICE

Office of Honorary Consul (22 Wilbraham Road) | 30th November | 14:00-16:00



MOU SIGNING CEREMONY BETWEEN MINISTRY OF PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND KOICA

Ministry of Planning | 1st December | 15:00-15:30



JOINT CULTURAL PERFORMANCE

Freetown City Hall Auditorium | 1st December | 19:00-19:30



VEHICLES HANDOVER CEREMONY

Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Int'l Cooperation | 1st December | 13:00



Published by Concord Times Communications, 44, Edwards Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone www.slconcordtimes.com

Editor: Alusine Sesay [+232 78 385923](tel:+23278385923); opinion@slconcordtimes.com Advertisement: [+232 79 355725](tel:+23279355725), [+232 76 694 292](tel:+23276694292) advert@slconcordtimes.com

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