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# CONCORD TIMES

## NEWSPAPER

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# Fighting in Parliament: Speaker punches three APC MPs, deprives them of their parliamentary privileges

By Jariatu S. Bangura

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Following the fight that erupted during the parliamentary sittings on Wednesday, November 23, the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Abass Bundu, has ruled that three Members of Parliament of the main opposition All People's Congress (APC) be withdrawn from all parliamentary proceedings until a final determination is made by the Committee on Privileges.

The three MPs including Hon. Aaron Aruna Koroma of Constituency 048, Hon. Lahai Marah of Constituency 042 and Hon. Abdul Karim Kamara of Constituency 059, have ceased to enjoy their privileges, immunities, remuneration and allowances withdrawn, until further notice.

The Deputy Minister of Justice was in Parliament to lay the Public Elections Regulations Bill, when Hon. Hassan Sesay, opposition Whip, who on that day doubled as the acting leader of the main opposition APC in the absence of the substantive Leader, rose on a point of order and proceeded to proffer an argument on why the motion moved by the deputy minister should not be entertained by the House.

His reaction was followed by a response from Hon. Mathew Nyuma, Leader of Government Business, who was equally argumentative as to why the Motion should be allowed.



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## New initiative to end violence against women and girls



**MTHE receives students from UNESCO- Indian, African Hackathon 2022**



**YACAN launches report on implementation of child welfare policy**

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## LOCAL NEWS

From Cover

The presiding Speaker then intervened and advised both MPs to hold their fire and not to put the cart before the horse.

The arguments advanced by both sides were more germane to a Motion for Annulment of the Statutory Instruments after they shall have been laid as provided for in subsection (7) of section 170 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991. During the fight, it was alleged that several property were destroyed, and according to the Speaker, the three MPs should pay equally to Parliament within two weeks the total amount of NLe380,000 being the cost of the property of Parliament damaged as a result of the fight.

He ordered that should they fail to pay the said amount within the time as stipulated, it shall be deducted from any gratuity due to them at the end of the life of the Fifth Parliament.

He said for the avoidance of double punishment, no further action shall be taken by the Sierra Leone Police against the three Members of Parliament aforementioned, but that appropriate action shall be taken by the Sierra Leone Police against all strangers who participated in the incident of 23rd November.

He also ruled that with immediate effect, no stranger should be allowed into the galleries of the Well of Parliament, except by official invitation from the Office of the Speaker and that all strangers so invited shall be subjected to proper search before admission.

He further ruled that with immediate effect no strangers should be allowed to enter the premises of Parliament with mobile phones, drinks and food items, adding that with immediate effect all drivers to Members of Parliament shall only be allowed to stay in their vehicles or in the vicinity where their vehicles are parked.

# Fighting in Parliament: Speaker punches three APC MPs, deprives them of their parliamentary privileges

The speaker opined that parliamentary privilege is the sum total of certain fundamental rights of Parliament and its members, which are generally accepted as necessary for the exercise of their sacred constitutional functions.

"Parliament and its members must be seen as complementary to each other because the House cannot perform its constitutional functions without the unimpeded use of the services of its Members. This ancillary character is the distinctive mark of a privilege. Though part of the law of the land, it is to a certain extent an exemption from the ordinary law. From the import of the provisions in section 99 of the Constitution, it is clear to me that the intention was to grant to the Members of Parliament a certain degree of protection when they make statements in Parliament but it does not and cannot afford protection to Members of Parliament for statements that are found to be reckless or malicious, still less can it afford any protection to a Member of Parliament for acts that constitute assault or malicious damage to property," he said.

He added that such acts properly constitute contempt of Parliament because they obstructed and impeded Parliament in the performance of its functions, as well as an affront to the dignity of Parliament.

"Fighting, throwing of missiles and malicious damage to Parliament property fall into that category."

He maintained that the terms stated in Section 99 of the Constitution protects wholly and absolutely anything that is said and said decently by the Members of Parliament in Parliament and not what they say indecently, recklessly or maliciously.

"And where a Member transgresses beyond its permissible boundaries, and the Speaker so opines, the matter must be committed to the Committee



of Privileges for inquiry and the findings of the Committee must be reported to Parliament within 30 days. Where the statement of a Member of Parliament is adjudged to be defamatory, that member is liable to render an apology at the bar of

Parliament within seven days. If he refuses to render an apology the Speaker shall suspend the Member for the duration of the session of Parliament with the consequential loss of privileges, immunities and remuneration," he stated.

## Convict gets 24 months imprisonment for stealing 36 million

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

Justice Alusine Sesay (JSC) has sentenced 35-year-old Alie Koroma to 24 Month imprisonment after pleading guilty to have fraudulently converted 36 million Leones to his own use.

It was alleged that the convict on the 1st October, 2021, in the Western Area of Freetown, conspired together with other persons unknown to fraudulently convert Johnson Baby lotions

Justice Sesay, speaking yesterday while sentencing Alie Koroma, who pleaded guilty to the fraudulent conversion charge, said the accused was a first time offender and a promising young man.

He said the convict didn't waste the time to plead guilty to the offence as the

charge was read to him by the court registrar.

The convict pleaded with the judge to temper justice with mercy.

Pleading for and on behalf of the convict, Lawyer C. Tucker, from the Legal Aid Board of Sierra Leone, asked the court to temper justice with mercy.

She informed the court that the convict was a first time offender and must have learnt his lessons during his stay at the Male Correctional Centre.

She called on the judge to take into cognizance the fact that the convict did not waste the court's time to plead guilty to the charge, arguing that he had shown some amount of remorse for his wrongdoing.

## Convict gets 5 years imprisonment for manslaughter

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

28-year-old Rebecca Mansaray, who pleaded guilty to the offence of manslaughter, has been sentenced to five (5) years imprisonment at the Freetown Female Correctional Centre for killing her boyfriend. Mansaray was standing trial before Justice A.S Alieu for the offence of manslaughter contrary to the laws of Sierra Leone.

According to the State Prosecutor, P. Hasting Spaine, the accused on the 19th of December, 2019, at No. 4 John Street, Off Old Road, Kamajor Bridge, Waterloo, Western Rural District, unlawfully killed one Mohamed Kamara.

During the trial, the convict severally told the court that she wanted to change her initial not guilty plea to guilty.

The convict had admitted to the police that she killed the deceased.

After the murder charge was replaced with manslaughter, Justice Alieu asked the clerk to read the charge again to the accused person, who pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

Justice Alieu said because the accused didn't waste the court's time, he sentenced him to 5 years imprisonment for the offence of manslaughter.

According to the convict, the deceased was his husband, who they have been in relationship for a very long time, and they have three children together



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## LOCAL NEWS

By Yusufu S. Bangura

The Minister of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE) has received 13 Sierra Leonean students that participated in the UNESCO- Indian, African Hackathon 2022 after they embarked on a 36 hours academic coaching in India.

The ceremony took place at the ministry's conference hall, New England Ville in Freetown. The ceremony was attended by the leadership of the ministry, lecturers, and representatives from the Indian High Commission and students that participated in the competition.

Welcoming the delegation, Chief Technical and Higher Education Officer at MTHE, Dr. Josephus Brimah, said some time ago, the Director of Science Technology and Innovation, met with him and informed him about the Hackathon in India.

He said that the country has had a long standing relationship with India which is a top notch country in science and technology, but before long, Sierra Leone was included to participate in the Hackathon.

Dr. Brimah disclosed that he is proud of the students whom he said have made the country proud.

"Sierra Leone is one of those countries that are moving towards digital economy and we want to be part of the industrial revolution. I want to urge you the beneficiaries to serve as ambassadors," he added.

He said 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 services as a facilitator for cultural amalgamation.

Director of Technology and Innovation of MTHE, Victor Sesay, disclosed that the Ministry received a call from India that they wanted to bring together African countries and tap into higher learning institutions, get their top brains to think of solution around African problems.

Sesay continued that twenty-two (22) countries participated in the competition, adding that twenty (20) problem statements were established from areas such as education, energy, drinking, agriculture and health, noting that the Indians wanted to use technology to find solution to those problems.

Sesay told all present that the ministry contacted higher institutions and informed them of the challenge and for the country to participate, adding that institutions were contacted to look into the computer related programs in public and private universities in the country and select the best.

Also speaking at the event, Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Professor Alpha Tejan Wurie, disclosed that the thirteen students were selected from among students that have demonstrated innovative skills within their various colleges, adding that the ministry selected the top ones.

He stressed the need for everyone to believe in the education system which he said is one of the best. "We should believe in our training package and to let us know that we are doing extremely well in the education sector over the years," he added.

## MTHE receives students from UNESCO- Indian, African Hackathon 2022



Minister of MTHE, India Commissioner & the Students pose for photo

Minister Wurie spoke highly of the number of women that are in the sciences, adding that the president support to the sciences have started yielding dividend. He said the 13 students were selected from both public and private universities across the country and that they won three prizes in areas such as energy, education and health which showed that the government is also focusing on private universities.

"Now is the time for us to consolidate our education and believe in ourselves so that people will stop to beat ourselves down. Everyone should know that our schools and colleges are very good so there is a need for us to improve on what we do," he said.

The Indian High Commission to Sierra Leone, Neeraj Kumar Saini started by thanking the Government of Sierra Leone and the Deputy Minister, who led the

students to India. He spoke highly of the students, noting that they possessed problem solving skills.

"As you know it was a 36-hour long Hackathon in which Sierra Leonean bright students have won prizes for their creative and innovative problem solving ideas for sustainable development issues like education, health, renewable energy, environment, climate change, agriculture among others and the prizes won is a big achievement for the whole team," he said.

One of the beneficiaries, Numu Bailor Barrie, expressed her appreciation to the Indians for providing the platform. She also thanked the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education for selecting them. Barrie said she has been able to sharpen her problem solving skills during her stay in India.

## YACAN launches report on implementation of child welfare policy

By Jeneba A. Conteh

Youth and Child Advocacy Network (YACAN) in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, on Tuesday, November 29, at the Cabenda Hotel in Freetown, officially launched a report on the assessment of the Child Welfare Policy implementation in Sierra Leone.

The assessment looked at the relevant issues that related to oversight of the policy, capacity of the sector preventing the likelihood of children experiencing abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation and delinquency, through strengthening the family and community environment, as well as the existing framework for responding to children already experiencing abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation or delinquency.

Executive Director of YACAN, Hassan Fuad Kanu, said the organization is not a stranger to issues around children and that they were delighted to support the ministry to see that children enjoy their childhood with respect and less expectations.

He said YACAN has turned to a new chapter in their work, stating that as the ministry launched the report they will now start to look at those recommendations that have bearing with advocacy and continue their advocacy work for children in the country.

He said when the ministry requested that they wanted to do an assessment they took that very important and were able to reach out to more than five thousand children across the country and that they were thankful for that.

He said in 2022 they consulted their parent ministries and put their demands towards their interest, to eliminate child sexual exploitation and abuse through advocacy in the area of law and policies as they are key in creating the foundation to both prevention, response and holistic



approach by not only the government but also for their development partners.

He said exploitation and abuse increases in an alarming rate for girls as well as boys and for far too long it has occurred in secrecy as it has been associated with shame, allowing the violence to continue with impunity.

He said as a local youth-led and child focus organization they wanted to use their energy to bring positive changes to end CSEA collectively.

Yeanoh Rukoh Bai-Kamara, speaking on behalf of children in Sierra Leone, said as children they needed protection, care and support from the ministries and that the month of November has been very good to them as they just launched the national street child strategy, a document that gives hope for children to be protected from street situation.

She said in some parts of the country their rights as children are limited with a lot of challenges that affect them physically, socially, mentally, and emotionally.

She continues that she was hopeful that the report will remind children to be more responsible and pleaded with authorities concerned to speed up the enactment of the Child Rights Bill 2022.

She urged that government should allocate more budget to child protection as the ministry continues to have the least budget, stating that should government fails to invest in prevention then they should be ready to spend on response, which will give little hope in the future.

Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Joseph, Sunday Sinnah, said the ministry as a mainstreaming advocate for children in all aspects, expects all schools to have child protection safeguards in the country.

He said the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs developed the child welfare policy in 2014 and that since the launch of the policy, the ministry has not received the wherewithal from sector partners to embark on

popularization and implementation of the costed plan they have developed to facilitate the implementation of the child welfare policy.

"In addition to this, several changes within the context of the child protection system have emerged, particularly changes that effect the main emphasis of the policy which is the role ascribed to families and community structures as well as the changes in the related provision of the Child Rights Act 2007 that have warranted its amendment," he said.

He said the objective of the 2014 child welfare policy assessment was to review progress of the status of the policy implementation from its approval to date, adding that the assessment adopted a highly participatory and targeted all mostly actors that were identified to play a role in supporting the provisions of the child welfare policy.

He said information was solicited at all levels including community structure groups, child protection services providers and policy related actors and a number of institutional strategy documents reports publications were also reviewed.

He noted that as they celebrate the assessment welfare policy, children should also have self-care as a responsibility and a collective responsibility to even their friends.

Deputy Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs, Buakai Hindowa, said they have the mandate to regulate policy concerning children and that there have been a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Gender and the Ministry of Social Welfare.

He said there were some other key regulatory and policy instruments that shape the environment that seeks to address child protection, and as a government Sierra Leone has made significant progress towards protecting children.



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## LOCAL NEWS

# New initiative to end violence against women and girls

**T**HE International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which was marked on Friday, saw the launch of the UNiTE campaign — an initiative of 16 days of activism ending on International Human Rights Day on December 10.

The World Health Organisation said that this period 'is a moment to reflect on, renew, amplify and strategise to achieve commitments to eliminate violence against women by 2030'.

The WHO noted: 'In every country and culture, more action is needed to ensure women in all their diversity live a life free of violence and coercion.'

Global estimates show that 30 per cent of women experienced physical and/or sexual violence, mostly at the hands of an intimate partner.

The WHO said it was possible to end violence against women, 'but only if we act together'.

The campaign, led by the UN Secretary-General and UN Women since 2008, aims to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls around the world, calling for global action to increase awareness, promote advocacy and create opportunities for discussion on challenges and solutions.

On Friday, the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone in Geneva joined the like-minded Core Group of Friends, including the Permanent Missions of Costa Rica and the Democratic Republic of Congo, to lead efforts to open negotiations for a new normative framework to end violence against women and girls.

Dr Lansana Gberie, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, met with the Core Group members, Shara Duncan Villalobos, Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, and Empole Efambe, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo, to discuss the urgency of a new global treaty on the matter.

Sierra Leone is to play the leadership role on this issue. 'A close examination of the existing global frameworks reveals gaps,' Gberie said.

'This initiative will explore how these gaps are best addressed, potentially by establishing a new binding norm and path forward in securing such an instrument.'

He said 'Sierra Leone has been building strong institutions with expressed mandates and inherent powers to combat violence against women and girls'.

These included the 'Hands-off our girls' campaign launched in December 2018 by Fatima Bio, the wife of President Julius Bio, and the amended Sexual Offences Act.

'The 2020 Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Policy, the National Gender Strategic Plan, the National Electoral Commission Strategic Plan 2020-2024, are further illustrations that the government of Sierra Leone is unequivocally committed to addressing gender discrimination, advancing gender parity and promoting gender empowerment,' Gberie added.

He said the establishment of the Family Support Unit and the One Stop Centres had had 'an immense impact in preventing Gender-Based Violence and responding to victims of GBV'.

The like-minded countries will

spearhead the new initiative, laying the foundation for collective policy solutions, including a possible new binding instrument.

'The Core Group plans to host a robust and open conversation with UN member states in Geneva and New York, subject matter experts and high-level officials,' Gberie said.

'The intent is to raise awareness and spark an active conversation and engagement between countries on the need for such a new instrument and how to secure it.'

'Violence against women and girls is the most widespread human rights violation on Earth,' Gberie noted.

'This violence creates a multitude of structural problems, affecting all human rights.'

'It is also rising with the advent of Covid-19, emerging conflicts, climate change and cyber violence.'

'An innovative approach is needed to address the escalating violence crisis against women and girls,' Gberie added.

**T**he Government of Sierra Leone, through the Wan Fambul National Framework Interim Secretariat (WFNF) in partnership with Fambul Tok International-Sierra Leone have on Tuesday 29th of November 2022, rolled-out the People's Planning Process (PPP) commonly known as the Wan Fambul Framework (WFF) in Sanda Taindaren Chiefdom in Karene District.

The framework is an inclusive governance model aimed at putting the people at the centre of development and socio-economic transformation by ensuring improved service delivery, sustained poverty reduction and strengthening peace and cohesion.

It also includes elements of reconciliation and peace building in the development planning processes led by the people and local communities.

Welcoming participants, the Paramount Chief, Sanda Taindaren Chiefdom, Abdulraman Tejan Bangura I he is very happy that his chiefdom, out of the 13 chiefdoms in Karene will benefit from Government, through Fambul Tok for the implementation of the People's Planning Process model. He said they have waited for too long for such initiative, noting that it would be the right way to bring development to Sanda Taindaren assuring that he would provide all the necessary support in order for the initiative to succeed. He lamented over situations in his chiefdom, adding that the chiefdom is one of the most deprived one in the country. He called on his people to work closely with Fambul Tok during the implementation period as they stand to gain from several things including various training opportunities.

Chairman of Karene District Council was charged with the responsibility to chair the launching was very happy to see his district recognized in such a large gathering. John Ditto Kamara said

## Local Govt. Minister launches PPP Model in Sanda Taindaren chiefdom

Karene is new but had gain some important projects for the past two years

He gave a brief background of the new district adding that few chiefdoms were drawn from Port Loko and Bombali districts and today it is the fastest growing district. He lauded the efforts of Government of Sierra Leone and Fambul Tok International for launching the People's Planning Process model in his district. He called on Government to extend the PPP to the remaining 12 chiefdoms in Karene. Chairman Kamara extended gratitude to the Minister of Local Government and Community Affairs his steadfastness to promote councils as he was the first man to ensure that chairmen, mayors and deputies were on pay roll

In his statement, John Caulker, Executive Director of Fambul Tok International-Sierra Leone said the initiative was a laudable one developed by government to bring the people closer to the development of the country. He said it was important for people to begin discussing their own issues within their respective communities and districts.

John Caulker said the framework which would be anchored in the district councils would be a platform for the people, local authorities and Councils to come together and discuss their issues and development priorities for the improvement of their localities, adding that the PPP was a one-stop-shop that would help to bring people at the centre of development in the country.

He said the decision to come to Sanda Taindaren chiefdom was taken by the



Steering Commitment adding that partnership with the people starts immediately after the launch of the pilot phase. He explained selection process of the ten sections adding that Fambul Tok staff will work based on the sequence from one to ten. The Executive Director mentioned the establishment of the Village Development Committees in every village during the implementation phase. Dr. Sheka Bangura of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in his statement said in order for government to back its commitment with action, they have provided financial support in the national budget for fiscal year 2022 to implement the integration of the Wan Fambul Framework in the implementation of the Sierra Leone's Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) pilot project in selected chiefdoms.

He said Government wants to expand the

PPP Model to all 1,343 sections in the country as it is one of the best which brings people together for development aspirations. He appealed to the people to grab such opportunity.

District Officer, Karene, Alex Kargbo said with such project, the people stand to benefit a lot

He noted Government has relentlessly worked with development partners, especially Fambul Tok to develop the initiative and ensure the people are at the centre of development in Sierra Leone.

Launching the PPP Model in Mateboi town, Minister Tamba Lamina said when you come closer to communities you will always know what is going on. He said his Ministry ensures that people sit and make decisions on their own than dictating to them what should happen. He mentioned review of Decentralization Policy adding that one of the key things in the policy has to do with decision making. He said the 'wan fambul' framework is closer to the hearts of the people

He disclosed government effort in Sanda Taindaren including the construction of a six class room Junior Secondary school building. Minister Lamina explained the enactment of the Gender empowerment bill in Parliament very recently which ensures women grab important positions country wide

The WFF has been piloted in four districts namely: Kailahun, Moyamba, Kono, Koinadugu and now Karene. Government has decided to adopt and roll out the framework in the 190 chiefdoms and 16 districts of Sierra Leone.

NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

## All regions experienced water extremes in 2021: UN



This photograph taken on October 11, 2022, shows an aerial view of the Malibatso basin in Lejone, northern Lesotho - Copyright © africanews MARCO LONGARI/AFP or licensors

All regions of the world saw water extremes last year -- both floods and droughts -- and billions of people had insufficient freshwater, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

Large areas of the planet recorded drier than normal conditions in 2021, the UN's World Meteorological Organization said in its first annual State of Global Water Resources report.

The report assesses the effects of changes in the climate, environment, and society on the Earth's freshwater resources -- limited supplies that are under growing demand -- so they can be managed better.

"The impacts of climate change are often felt through water -- more intense and frequent droughts, more extreme flooding, more erratic seasonal rainfall and accelerated melting of glaciers -- with cascading effects on economies, ecosystems and all aspects of our daily lives," said WMO head Petteri Taalas.

"And yet there is insufficient understanding of changes in the distribution, quantity, and quality of freshwater resources."

Some 3.6 billion people face inadequate access to fresh water for at least one month per year. That is forecast to rise to more than five billion by 2050, the report said.

Between 2001 and 2018, 74 percent of all-natural disasters were water-related, according to UN studies.

In 2021, all regions saw devastating water extremes, the report said.

There were record-breaking floods in western Europe and the Amazon, while water levels in rivers in Paraguay and

southern Brazil dropped to an all-time low. The report assessed streamflow -- the volume of water flowing through a river -- over a 30-year period. Drops in water volumes were twice as widespread as rises.

Major river basins in the Americas and central Africa saw water volumes shrink. Rivers in northern India and southern Africa saw above-average increases.

Frozen resources  
Terrestrial water storage -- all water on the land surface and in the subsurface -- shrank more than it grew, the report said.

Negative hotspots included Patagonia, the Ganges and Indus headwaters, and the southwestern United States.

"Some of the hotspots are exacerbated by (over-extraction) of groundwater for irrigation. The melting of snow and ice also has a significant impact in several areas, including Alaska, Patagonia, and the Himalayas," the WMO said.

The world's biggest natural reservoir of fresh water is the cryosphere -- glaciers, snow cover, ice caps, and permafrost -- and changes to this reservoir affect food production, health, and the natural world, the report said.

Around 1.9 billion people live in areas where drinking water is supplied by glaciers and snow melt but these glaciers are melting increasingly fast, it stressed.

It urged authorities to speed up the introduction of drought and flood early warning systems to help reduce the impact of water extremes.

## First shipment of Russian fertilizer leaves Netherlands for Africa - UN



View of the petrochemical industries in the port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on May 15, 2021 - Copyright © africanews Peter Dejong/Copyright 2021 The AP. All rights reserved

After sanctions-related obstacles hit Moscow, the first shipment of Russian fertilizer left the Netherlands on Tuesday for Malawi, Dutch customs and the UN said.

Some 20,000 tons of NPK chemical fertilizers -- made from nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium -- left Tuesday afternoon on board the MV Greenwich from the port of Terneuzen in the southwest of the Netherlands, according to officials.

Russian fertilizer exports, crucial for combating the food crisis, have long been paralyzed.

Agricultural products and fertilizers do not fall under the sanctions against Russia, but because of the risks linked to the conflict incurred in the Black Sea, shipowners no longer wanted to hire their boats for lack of insurers.

The United Nations has undertaken "intense diplomatic efforts with all parties to ensure unimpeded exports of essential food and fertilizers (from) Ukraine and the Russian Federation, free of sanctions regimes, to world markets," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General.

Some 260,000 tons of Russian fertilizer stored in ports in Europe must be exported in order to prevent "a catastrophic crop loss in Africa" where the planting season is underway, according to the UN.

The ship, chartered by the UN food security agency, the World Food Program (WFP), left the Netherlands shortly before 2 p.m. GMT. According to Dutch Foreign Affairs, the shipment had been frozen because a sanctioned individual is involved with the Russian company that owns it.

The decision to release the shipment was taken after the UN guaranteed to ensure that it would be delivered to the agreed location (Malawi) and that the Russian company and the sanctioned individual would gain nothing from the transaction, as they specified.

As part of the implementation of the two agreements signed on July 22 in Istanbul to guarantee unimpeded access to food and fertilizers from Ukraine and Russia, the WFP announced in mid-November that it would facilitate the donation of 260,000 tons of fertilizer by the Russian company Uralchem-Uralkali to the most needy countries in Africa.

The first cargo is expected to be unloaded at the central Mozambican port of Beira, before being transported overland to Malawi, a landlocked country in southern Africa.

The second shipment of Russian fertilizers will be destined for West Africa, the UN said on November 18

## Mozambique: verdict begins in massive "hidden debt" scandal



Ndambi Guebuza, son of former Mozambican president Armando Guebuza, looks on during court proceedings at Maputo Central Prison, November 30, 2022 - Copyright © africanews ALFREDO ZUNIGA/AFP or licensors

The verdict in Mozambique's massive "hidden debt" corruption scandal has begun (on Wednesday) in Maputo, with phantom fishing vessels, exorbitant foreign loans, and people close to the government.

In orange jumpsuits, some of the 19 defendants in the case reappeared in the morning at the special court where the trial began last year. None of the country's courts were large enough to try one of the biggest corruption scandals in its history: a tent was set up in a high-security prison in the capital Maputo.

The reading of the decision is scheduled to last five days.

In the dock are intelligence agents, people close to the government, and the son of a former president, Ndambi Guebuza, the eldest son of Armando Guebuza, who has been called to testify in court. They are all on trial for blackmail, forgery, embezzlement, and money laundering.

The current head of state, Filipe Nyusi, was implicated in several testimonies.

The case dates back to 2013-2014. Nyusi was then minister of defense. Three Mozambican state-owned companies secretly borrowed two billion dollars from international banks to finance purchases of fishing

vessels and military patrol boats.

In 2016, the scandal broke: these state-guaranteed loans were contracted without parliamentary approval and behind the backs of the creditors of a country that is among the ten poorest in the world and dependent on international aid.

International donors, including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, are withdrawing. The former Portuguese colony plunged into an unprecedented financial crisis and defaulted.

Several independent audits could not determine exactly what was purchased. Some of the boats ordered were delivered and have been rusting in port for years. However, some of the money has not been found. According to an independent audit, \$500 million has been misappropriated.

"The conviction must be strong enough not to be overturned or reduced in the second instance," hopes Borges Nhamirre, a researcher at the Public Integrity Center (CIP), which fights corruption.

Other proceedings are underway in Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and South Africa.

## Cape Verde: Researchers find coral reef in Santiago, call for its preservation

A coral field has been discovered in Moia-Moia beach, in the eastern part of Cape Verdean island of Santiago. The scientific name of the hard coral found is "Sidastrea radians".

It's an area of about 1,000 square meters, with a very rich biodiversity due to the strong sea currents. They constantly renew the water, bringing fish and eliminating potential pollution.

The discoverer is Wlodzimierz Szymaniak, a Pole who

has lived in Cape Verde for many years. He's a professor at the Jean Piaget University of Cape Verde and an avid diver.

For this project, he worked in partnership with the Cape-Verdean Ecotourism Association (ECOCV), which considers the discovery one of the "most remarkable" this year.

The researcher found Moia-Moia bay through old books. They talked about the bay because it was once very

## March against Uganda oil pipeline in Paris



The protesters were opposing the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and Tilenga oil field project in Uganda and Tanzania, initiated by TotalEnergies - Copyright © africanews cleared

Environmental activists, religious figures, and believers protested Tuesday in Paris against the mega oil projects of the French group TotalEnergies in Uganda and Tanzania, a first action led by the movements Extinction Rebellion Spiritualities and GreenFaith.

"Deliver us from Total", "Warm hearts, not pipelines": they were about thirty gathered in front of a TotalEnergies gas station in the south of Paris, according to a journalist of the AFP.

Extinction Rebellion Spiritualities is a branch of the Extinction Rebellion movement, well known for its civil disobedience actions. GreenFaith is an inter-religious NGO born in the United States which fights "for climate justice", supported by religious volunteers.

The protesters were opposing the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and Tilenga oil field project in Uganda and Tanzania, initiated by TotalEnergies. The NGOs accuse the multinationals of taking over land through expropriation and are concerned about the environmental impact of these projects.

"Our traditions and our religions urge us not to remain silent," said Rabbi Yeshaya Dalsace, one of the religious figures present, along with Pastor Caroline Ingrand-Hoffet, President of the Rassemblement des musulmans de France Anouar Khibech, Buddhist Master Olivier Reigen Wang-Genh and Bishop Marc Stenger.

These religious figures arrived carrying an empty coffin with African landscapes painted on it.

dangerous for ships. There's actually still a ship hull in Moia-Moia. The Pentalina B ship ran aground in the bay in June 2014 and its hull is still in place.

"Nowadays this area is almost completely forgotten and degraded by illegal sand mining", stated Szymaniak.

Edita Maglieviciu, vice-president of ECOCV and also a marine biologist, listed the next steps to be taken: "investigate more, identify the severity of the impacts, such as pollution and sand extraction in the coastal area, the impact of these algae\*\* and make a specific mapping

of these corals and other associated species".

The biologist warned about the sensitivity of this habitat and stressed: "we have to educate the peoples, raise awareness, increase conservation activities. Otherwise we will lose [the coral] without discovering."

"All the species in the sea, as on land, are connected. And even the human beings. If we lose coral, we lose breeding grounds for commercially important fish, endemic fish, and all that. So, by protecting a coral species, we protect the ecosystem", she said.



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## AHF

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# “It’s Not Over.” Says AHF on World AIDS day 2022!

Freetown, Sierra Leone 30<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022. This year, AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) will commemorate World AIDS Day 2022 under the theme “It’s Not Over” to remind world leaders, global public health institutions and civil society that much work remains if we are to one day end the AIDS epidemic. Reports indicate that the world is worryingly off-track in reducing new infection and mortality rates – which means we all must redouble our efforts because millions of lives hang in the balance.

“We were glad to see the resiliency of HIV programs worldwide during and after the pandemic. However, the latest UNAIDS data shows that the global HIV/AIDS response needs reinvigorating, making our “it’s Not Over” theme even more relevant for this year’s World AIDS Day.” Said Terri Ford AHF Chief of Global Advocacy and Policy. “We’re calling on stakeholders to slow the rapidly rising new HIV infection rates and protect the precious gains we’ve made. We’ve come too far in fighting HIV/AIDS to let decades of progress slip away now.”

UNAIDS reported 1.5 million new HIV infections last year – 1 million more than the global target of 500,000—and an estimated 650,000 deaths from AIDS related illnesses, which is why AHF is urging the world to re-light the fire in the HIV/AIDS fight by putting an increased focus on Test & Treat and addressing late HIV presentation, aspects noticeably absent from the report.

AHF has planned diverse live and virtual commemorative events throughout its 45 country teams to pay tribute to all who have lost their lives to AIDS related illnesses and honour those who continue the fight. Advocates will also seek to refocus the world’s attention on HIV/AIDS and the people globally living with or affected by HIV.

In Sierra Leone, AHF Sierra Leone will host a Dialogue with stakeholders and young people on improved Access to HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment for People Living with HIV followed by a funfair for children and media engagement. This event will be hosted in Freetown from the 30<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2022.

<b>WHAT</b>	AHF SIERRA LEONE COMMEMORATES WORLD DAY
<b>WHEN</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> November – 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9am – 4pm Dialogue, HIV testing Condom distribution, media engagement, Quiz and debate etc.</li> </ul>
<b>WHERE</b>	261 Regent Road, Grafton – Freetown, Sierra Leone
<b>WHO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adolescent and young people in and out of school</li> <li>• Stakeholders in the HIV response</li> <li>• Media</li> <li>• And 200 attendees</li> </ul>
<b>VISUALS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be out door event for young people (Canopies, Games and sport)</li> </ul>

“Now is the time to walk together as Sierra Leoneans and fight a common (HIV), Let’s remember the lives we have lost and the lives we will lose if access to HIV Prevention, treatment and care is not improved. Ending HIV will require resilient supply chains to ensure uninterrupted access to diagnostics and antiretroviral treatment (ART) said Esther Teh, AHFSL Prevention Program Coordinator”.

According to the most recent UNAIDS statistics, over 38 million people are living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, and more than 40 million people have died from AIDS related illnesses since the start of the HIV epidemic. While millions of people today are accessing lifesaving antiretroviral therapy – millions more still desperately need it.

“While the HIV response in parts of Africa has held strong through the adversity brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, new HIV infections are rising in others, and young women and girls remain disproportionately affected particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,” said AHF Africa Bureau Chief Dr. Penninah Lutung. “Through initiatives like our ‘Protect the Child’ campaign, we’re making HIV prevention a priority by educating youth on age appropriate Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) across all our country programs. This, coupled with the successful Girls Act program and our Test & Treat efforts Bureau-wide, is keeping HIV/AIDS at the forefront of public health in Africa. We call on African leaders to do the same.”

View more information on AHF’s World AIDS Day events in the U.S and globally at [AHFwad.org](http://AHFwad.org)

### About AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF)

AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the largest global AIDS organization, currently provides medical care and/ or services to over 1.6million people in 45 countries worldwide in the US, Africa, Latin America/Caribbean, the Asia/Pacific Region and Europe. To learn more about AHF, please visit our website: [www.aidshhealth.org](http://www.aidshhealth.org), find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/aidshhealth](https://www.facebook.com/aidshhealth) and follow us on Twitter: [@aidshhealthcare](https://twitter.com/aidshhealthcare) and Instagram: [@aidshhealthcare](https://www.instagram.com/aidshhealthcare).



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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	FERAPISALO	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

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