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UNFPA Directors meet for a strategic review of programs in West and Central Africa



A group photo of directors



By Jariatu S. Bangura

Hon. KKY is of the view that MDAs should be tamed by parliament

Leader of the National Grand Coalition (NGC), Hon. Kande Kolley Yunkolla, has urged his colleagues to critically look at Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) budget allocations and cut down their excessive expenditure spending.

He noted that his colleagues now have the powers to change or cut down proposed allocations by MDAs before the final approval of the 2023 budget, so as to control their huge spending and save enough money for other purposes.

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President Julius Maada Bio congratulates the UAE on its 51st National Day

11.8% of Sierra Leone sex workers are HIV positive
-Chief Justice



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Commentary

The National Anti-Corruption Strategy in perspective: 2019 – 2023 strategy implementation

By: Bernard Abass Kargbo – Public Education Officer, ACC.

INTRODUCTION:

Section (5) subsection (1) (c) of the Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Act 2019, states that the National Anti-Corruption Strategy Coordinating Secretariat is responsible for directing the National Anti-Corruption Strategy's (NACS) implementation through the Office of the Commissioner.

The Coordinating Secretariat uses a multi-faceted strategy of: **enforcement, prevention, public engagement, sustainable partnership, and ethical reorientation** in the public, religious, civil society, and private sectors, all of which are carried out by established Integrity Management Committees (IMCs) in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). This Strategy outlines specific objectives to addressing the problem of corruption in Sierra Leone.

By the end of 2018, many MDAs had already established IMCs, which was crucial to the Strategy's successful implementation.

BRIEF BACKGROUND OF THE STRATEGY:

A National Anti-Corruption Strategy was proposed in 2003 as a result of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), and it was approved by the Sierra Leone Parliament in 2004. The UNCAC provisions in Chapter 11, Article 5 demand Governments create a national anti-corruption strategy, and MDAs are being put in charge of ensuring compliance through the establishment of Integrity Management Committees (IMCs).

This method can create a set of cross-sectoral shared obligations, encourage cross-sectoral cooperation, and rekindle interest in reducing corruption and creating a more moral society. Legal, policy, technological, and institutional interventions in the public, religious, and commercial sectors are part of the approach, and the institutional policies of the ACC are assisting MDAs in using their internal reflection as a compass.

Three National Anti-Corruption Implementation Action Plans have been released by the nation since the Anti-Corruption Commission was established in 2000: Two strategies; Prevention and Enforcement, were established under the first National Anti-Corruption Implementation Action Plan (2005). The second National Anti-Corruption Implementation Action Plan (2008–2013) took an incremental approach, building on the first strategy, broadening the prevention concept, incorporating the National Integrity System, focusing on constructive engagement, and emphasizing institutional-strengthening measures throughout the public sector. The third National Anti-Corruption Implementation Action Plan (2014–2018) placed equal emphasis on political (representing national interests) and technical (based on numerous research, public discussions, surveys, and comparisons with anti-corruption programs in other nations) issues.

The fourth-generation National Anti-Corruption Implementation Action Plan is created to outline the processes and procedures for putting the actions decided upon by stakeholders during a nation-wide stakeholders' consultation by the framework, priorities, and goals of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2019-2023. These steps include specific benchmarks and anti-corruption measures (**Functionality of the IMCs, Internal Audit System, Procurement System, and Human Resources and Administration**), and they are to be implemented by the relevant MDAs, Councils, Religious entities, and the private sector.

FOUR YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

With only one year left before the present implementation plan expires, the

Coordinating Secretariat has made significant progress in coordinating the implementation of the agreed action points across MDAs, with supervision and supervisory support from the Steering Committee, which sits in the Office of the Vice President. The NACS Secretariat has been given the 2019–2023 mission to monitor all MDAs and Councils quarterly, examine the status of the actions assigned to them, and analyze the MDAs' activities carried out in the NACS implementation plan.

The NACS Secretariat uses the Compliance Barometer Matrix (CBM) which comprises the **functionality of IMCs, internal audit, procurement system, human resources, and administration** to monitor MDAs and Local Councils, which has four (4) levels of compliance, namely; **no compliance (0% - 49%)** and any entity scoring within this range will be served an indictment, **moderate compliance (50% - 79%)** will be issued with a warning letter, **significant compliance (80% - 90%)** the NACS Secretariat will do further engagement and the last level is **full compliance (90% - 100%)** where the MDA of Local Council will be celebrated.

The NACS Secretariat in the area of the functionality of IMCs has achieved a 100% compliance rate as all MDAs and councils have an existing IMC within their structures. As the strategy is now in its fourth year of implementation, the NACS allocated 832 action points to all MDAs and Local Councils, and 544 of those have already been fully completed. Suffice it to state that, **84% of the total** action points have already been implemented. The remaining 135 action points, which still have an entire year to be completed, represent 16% of the total.

Within the past four years, 23 MDAs have reached full compliance. Out of the 250 action points allocated to them, they were able to complete a whopping **243 or 97%**. 13 MDAs scored significant compliance at **75%**, and also 13 with moderate compliance at **65%**. The Local Councils were also not left out in this great performance, where 16 Councils scored full compliance status, and the remaining with significant compliance.

The NACS has also helped institutions to develop and institutionalize scorecard systems (staff appraisal), develop and or update Customers Service Charter, and also develop Anti-Corruption Policy for the institutions.

The NACS promotes a shift in how we do national business to curb corruption and lay the groundwork for good administration. NACS is owned by everyone in Sierra Leone. It is a plan that all MDAs use as a working document.

It is made quite clear how monitoring is carried out: quarterly, while the Secretariat may alternatively carry out monthly monitoring in response to requests for explanation from the MDAs. The MDAs will be compelled to accept the recommendations and work toward success in the fight against corruption in Sierra Leone by regularly monitoring the procedure. Due to this effort, MDAs now have operational IMCs that support the upkeep of a functioning environment free from corruption.

These are a few of the initiatives the ACC has implemented and would continue to implement to stem the tide of corruption and corrupt practices in Sierra Leone, which the public is typically unaware of but which are very powerful strides made in the fight against this scourge.

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LOCAL NEWS UNFPA Directors meet for a strategic review of programs in West and Central Africa

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Sierra Leone last week hosted a high-level delegation from its Regional Office in Dakar and Headquarters in New York led by the Regional Director for West and Central Africa Ms. Argentina Matalvel Piccin, the Director of the Technical Division Dr. Julitta Onabanjo and the Director of the Policy and Strategy Division Mr. Arthur Erken.

The delegation conducted a strategic review of the agency's programs in West and Central Africa and examined the status of its transformative results in the region, including opportunities for advancing maternal health and family planning and empowering women and young people.

The review took place from 28-30 November and brought together experts from across UNFPA offices, including global and regional advisers and six Country Representatives from



A group photo of directors

West and Central Africa, East and Southern Africa and the Arab States, as well as participants from partner organizations. The mission took a deep-dive focus on Sierra Leone and Niger and held discussions with officials from the Ministry of Health and Sanitation as well as development partners in Sierra

Leone.

Reflecting on the meeting, UNFPA Regional Director for West and Central Africa, Ms. Argentina Matalvel Piccin said that "the deep-dive was long overdue. Similar to other partners, UNFPA is soul searching on what else we can do to accelerate achievement of our goals. We are encouraged by the very ambitious targets set by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in Sierra Leone to reduce maternal mortality to less than half of its current number in only 3 years. UNFPA reiterates its commitment to work alongside the government and partners to meet this challenging but achievable target. Because no woman should die giving life."

On Tuesday 29 November, the team visited the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital, the King Harman Maternity and Children Hospital, and the Regent Community Health Centre to observe the functioning of the health care delivery system and engage with health workers and beneficiaries. UNFPA partnered with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the Government of the United Kingdom to support the construction of King Harman Hospital in 2019, and supports all three facilities to improve the quality of sexual and reproductive health services.

Following the visits, the Director of UNFPA's Technical Division, Dr. Julitta Onabanjo, stated: "I am optimistic for what lies ahead. The visit to the facilities was critical and validated a lot of the issues that emerged as challenges to progress. The visit was also an opportunity to chart a renewed vision and direction for the work of the Sierra Leone Country office and its partners. Although there are weaknesses, by and large we are on the right track, and I want to congratulate the Ministry of Health and Sanitation on the progress it has made and the priority it is giving to women's and adolescent girls' sexual and reproductive health."

Sierra Leone and Niger were selected for the deep-dive exercise given that the two countries face some of the highest rates of maternal mortality,

child marriage and adolescent pregnancy globally. Sierra Leone is accelerating efforts to reduce its maternal mortality rate of 717 per 100,000 live births to progress towards the SDG target of 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030.

"We as UNFPA have done many good things to accelerate progress on maternal health and family planning. One lesson is that we need to invest more in demand generation and in addressing social norms that put women's lives at risk and hinder them from achieving their full potential," remarked Arthur Erken, UNFPA's Director of Policy and Strategy. He reflected that the visit provided an opportunity to deep dive into progress and challenges in the country and understand why some indicators have shown slow improvement. Sierra Leone, he said, has made enormous progress but there is an opportunity for further improvement in critical areas, including digitalization of data.

UNFPA's Representative in Sierra Leone, Ms. Nadia Rasheed welcomed the strategic review, stating that "this was an important opportunity to analyse the organization's work and contributions in Sierra Leone, and to set a corporate vision for accelerating the pace of progress to transform the lives of women and young people." She noted that UNFPA has been a partner in Sierra Leone since 1971 and has made strong contributions to advancing national development priorities and improving sexual and reproductive health, with a focus on ending maternal deaths, unmet need for family planning and gender-based violence and other harmful practices. UNFPA provides up to 90 percent of family planning commodities in Sierra Leone. In 2022, this support contributed to enabling nearly 540,000 women to meet their family planning needs, helping to avert more than 200,000 unintended pregnancies, 74,000 unsafe abortions and 1,600 maternal deaths. UNFPA has also helped to train more than 1,400 midwives in the past 12 years to contribute to ending maternal deaths, together with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the Government of the United Kingdom.

KKY demands cut on MDAs' excess spending

From Cover

He said should the economy continues to be bad, all MPs would have to pay one way or the other and that the timing of the 2023 budget meant a time of serious reflection.

He said he was fortunate to facilitate programs in the last four months, a global discussion on the food fairer and financial crisis in New York and in Europe and he had listened to the debate about the challenges faced and their implications for low income country like Sierra Leone.

He noted that the debt rate of the country is high and that there was need to cut it down by at least cutting down on overseas traveling for a minimum of six months from all MDAs, looking at the huge cost fixed to it, in order to save and sponsor other sectors.

Hon. Yumkella said most times certain sectors receive only 5% of their budget approved by Parliament for a whole year whilst others received everything and on time.

He said Parliament should be in a position to stop agencies that are doing extra budgetary activities as there are many parastatals that spent more than what was allocated to them

He said the crisis is serious and that they were not sure when it will end, adding that it is likely to continue up to 2025 hence MPs and the government must be very prudent, realistic and deliberate on how the economy should be managed.

He stated that the inflation rate in neighboring countries (Ghana is 40%, Nigeria is 20%, Guinea is 12.4%, Liberia is 8% and Sierra Leone is 29%).

He said inflation is high, but doesn't affect everyone the same way as the country's food price inflation is 35% and rising.

He recognized that the situation in the country is tough and that they should take a different approach to look at the budget before Parliament appropriately.

He said the reality of not having enough cash as a nation has been faced, adding that there was need to go back to the



Hon. KKY is of the view that MDAs should be tamed by parliament

drawing board as to why Liberia and Guinea didn't go down during the Ebola. He admonished that if certain sectors like agriculture, education, environment, mining, to name but a few, are being prioritized, the issue of importing more will be a thing of the past and the government will benefit greatly.

He said the country needs to produce more and do exporting in order to manage the crisis and help the poorest of the poor.

He said the investment on agriculture for the past years has been declining continuously at (2.7%), noting that after education, the government should be able to invest more on agriculture to lessen the importation of rice.

Also, Hon. Roland F. Kargbo of the All People's Congress said people have followed carefully what has been said in Parliament by government ministers and his colleagues, and sometimes they opt to confuse them the more.

He said the realities of all the explanations given so far in the budget was trying to justify the status quo of the country, which has no impact on the lives of the people.

He said there was no hope for the people as over the years, government after government, has told the people about diversifying the economy but each time it is done, it has always been on levying huge taxes on the people.

He said sectors that need diversification are agriculture, tourism, mining and fisheries, but over the years budget allocations to those sectors have been unrealistic.



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LOCAL NEWS

By Mohamed Lamin Massaquoi,
Information Attaché, Sierra Leone
Embassy, United Arab Emirates

Sierra Leone's President, Dr. Julius Maada Bio has sent a congratulatory message to the Government and People of the United Arab Emirates, UAE on the occasion of its 51st National Day celebration.

"Hearty congratulations to my brother & friend, HH Sheikh @MohamedBinZayed, the government & people of the #UAE on your 51st National Day. I commend your strides and leadership and restate #SierraLeone's readiness to sustain the bonds of cooperation between our two countries," President Bio said in an official tweet.

He also used the occasion to reaffirm his determination to work closely to further advance and deepen the shared values and ambitions of the two countries.

The United Arab Emirates is a federation of seven Emirates formed on 2nd December, 1971. The late His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was the country's first President also known as Father of the Nation for his role in the formation of the UAE. The current President is His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The Government has declared a two-day holiday to allow citizens and residents celebrate the tremendous successes and achievements of the gulf-state, as part of the 51st Anniversary.

Sierra Leone's Ambassador to the UAE, Rashid Sesay noted: "I join my President Dr. Julius Maada Bio to

express appreciation to the UAE for the great relations and to wish the leadership and people of this great nation continued peace and prosperity".

The UAE is home to thousands of Sierra Leoneans. It is also a popular trading and tourist destination for Sierra Leoneans. At Governmental level, Sierra Leone and the UAE enjoy

strong bonds of friendship and continue to collaborate in various areas of shared interest, including health, security, education and agriculture.



AHF commemorates World AIDS Day

By Edrie Caleb John

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) has commemorated the World AIDS Day 2022, with the theme "Equalised - Achieving To End HIV."

AHF is of the conviction that AIDS is "not over yet."

The Media Coordinator of AHF, Esther Teh said, "Today, we are calling on the world's attention to the painful reality which is affecting HIV program as millions of lives have been lost by not taking stock of their AIDS response. Our aim is to end AIDS by 2030. There are many challenges including inequality but the good news is that by equalizing we can end AIDS.

She said young people are the targeted individuals needed to eradicate the disease as they have sexuality education and access to all other health education so that people can be informed.

"The equality that breaks our hearts is death against children living with HIV. With the science we have today no baby should be born with HIV and no child with

HIV should go without treatment. We wouldn't allowed that to happen, that why partners are gathered here today to add our voice to say let end inequality and push to equalize, now is the time to step up. It is through international solidarity that inequality can be ease in our society," she said.

She said HIV was growing in communities and "we have to fight because we do not want to be neighbors. AHF joins so many voices and the people living with AIDS to share our action and say let equalize access to right, to services, to resources and to best science with medicines, so this is way to ends AIDS. Let remember. AIDS is not over.

Ministry of Health representative, Victoria Kamara, said adolescent are key in every decision making and should be given the platform instead of talking on their behalf.

She said the theme reminded them that one should be at the table of discussion as inequalities had held them back because they are barriers for not achieving their goals for 2030.

"We have to tackle these inequalities together, as the right treatment should be given, access to testing and low viral load testing. We are going to work with you and fight to end AIDS and for Sierra Leone to achieve epidemic control. We have done lip service but this time around it will be different as new infections being reduced and we will work collectively to have fruitful deliberation," she said.

Happy Kids representative, Mrs. Content, said "we need equality in terms of the HIV provision and services special for children and adolescents presently living with HIV and that is why I am here. Twelve thousand children are living with the virus and 20% are not on treatment across the country and there are a lot more which have not been identified.

UNAIDS Country Director, Isaac Ahomesah, in his keynote address, said Human Immune Virus (HIV) is 1.7% in Sierra Leone and gender inequality is one of the major reasons why women and girls are vulnerable to infections in Sierra

Leone.

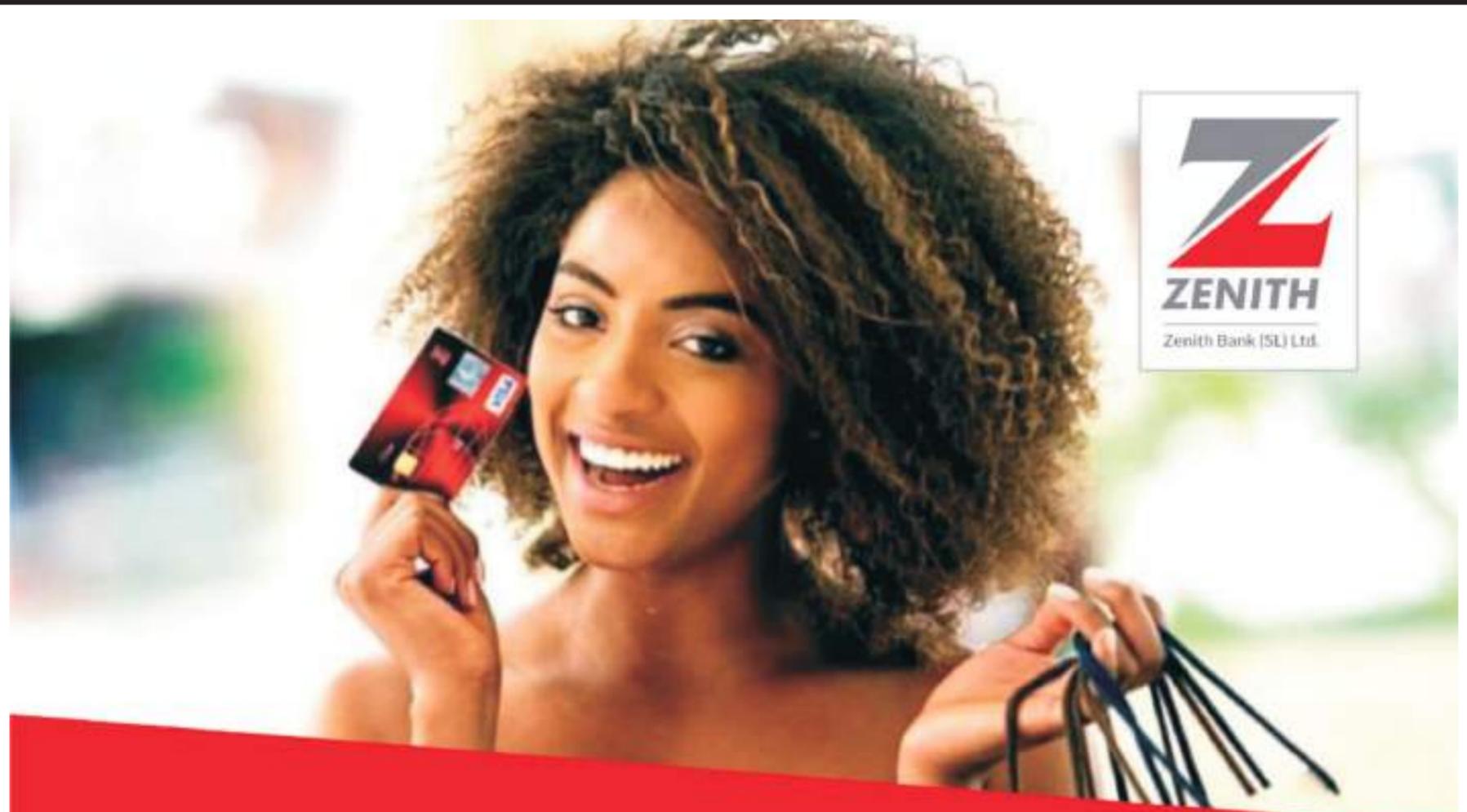
He said there are more women with HIV than men as a result of multiple partners.

"Transactional sex has ignited many girls and women to have HIV because they lack economic empowerment. I am advising you now to stay away from sex but if can't then protect yourself don't have sex without a condom. In Sierra Leone today 30% of girls have given birth before they are 19 years old, despite the contraceptive measures," he said.

He added that many pregnant women having the virus will transmit it to their babies because they have not been properly treated wherein the virus is preventable.

He said in 2021 many babies were demised as a result of treatment and the virus is 12% among sex workers.

He cited stigmatization as another area affecting people to live long, but that the virus can be treated if effective medication and prevention are taken among the positive people.



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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Mama Africa's Casa Museu: a home for Angolan art, music and youth

The uniqueness of Aminata Goubel, better known as "Mama África," a former actress, respected journalist and diligent international cultural activist, welcomes us into her home – the Casa Museu. Located along the seaside of Luanda, her abode displays celebrate Angolan culture, and beyond. It is a living and breathing Angolan, and African culture.

Casa Museu is colourful and playful on the eye – curated by Mama Africa with masks, art, and instruments.

"People are here to look. Is it a hotel? Is it a restaurant, is it a house? This lady is crazy, come on," Goubel says. "You can come visit. It's Mama Africa. I drink and pass on culture every day of my life. I don't know how to live without it."

She continues: "I have a cause. The cause is Africa and Africanity. A better Africa, a happy Africa, an Africa where there's no war, no hunger, an Africa where you can see the beauty of the child's eyes, the happy smile, the woman's eyes, with her

traditional clothes, her natural hair."

Aspiring generations Her mother and daughter also spread the message of "Angolanness" – through mother Mama Kuiba's cooking, and through her traditionally dressed corporate daughter, Fatima Marlene Goubel. Her daughter says her mother's legacy has inspired her.

"What I can do is to show the young people, my generation, or the younger generation that comes after me, that it's possible to be African, to look African, to have African hair and to wear African clothes and still be young and still be a singer, still be a doctor. You can be anything and still look African."

Casa Museu has become a place where Young people come to consult, talk to Goubel and drink in a little bit of the culture. Visitors are also treated to a game of batuque – a popular game embraced by Angolans.

Giving Angola a voice



frame Euronews

After four decades as a journalist, Mama Africa still plies her trade for the national radio – the Radio Nacional de Angola.

"For me, she embodies the concept that the journalist is a journalist every day. I would define her as someone who lives her daily life a way of defending and showing what the African continent

is to the world," says Luisa Rogerio, Journalist and President of the Journalist Accreditation.

Thus the importance of Casa Museu as a place of solace for all generations has been key to rejoicing in Angola's rich history. The iconic Mama Africa is determined to pass on her rich cultural knowledge to all current and future generations.



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Kenyan electric vehicle startup eyes Prince William's Earthshot Prize

In Kenya's capital, motorcycle taxis or boda bodas are the easiest and cheapest means to navigate Nairobi's dense traffic.

One startup, Roam Motors, is working to tackle climate change and mobility by curbing air pollution.

The company came up with an effective and cost-friendly way to curb air pollution in Kenya.

The company produces electric motorcycles that run on two rechargeable batteries.

The batteries can be charged at any charging point, each battery can drive for around 90 kilometers, meaning both batteries, when fully charged, can travel for about 180 kilometers.

The batteries take about four hours to fully charge. The bike ranges from \$1,550 upwards depending on the client's demands.

Joan Igamba, communications specialist at Roam, says the company noticed the air pollution problem in Nairobi and decided to make electric motorcycles to curb the problem.

She says around 20,000 motorbikes are imported into the country every month, continuing to add to the problem:

"Even though these motorcycles help us navigate the fragmented transportation system here in Kenya, they really do increase the air pollution levels in the city," she says.

"So, with our solution, the Roam Air electric motorcycle, it is a fully electric motorcycle with a removable battery, which can be charged any outlet where you charge your phone."

Manufacturing electric vehicles can be costly, but the

company is able to produce the bikes cheaply because it owns the frame.

This gives them the right to use their frame without paying royalties. They do however import other necessary parts and assemble them in Kenya.

Another reason why they're able to produce cheaply is because of tax relief from the Kenyan government to companies that produce locally.

Igamba says their main goal is to ensure thousands of fossil fuel vehicles are taken from the roads, paving the way for electric vehicles:

"How we see the future here at Roam is thousands of electric motorcycles on our roads eliminating fossil fuel driven motorcycles and moving into this new future for the continent and the country," she says.

The first Earthshot Prizes were awarded last year in London just before the UK hosted the COP26 climate conference.

Earthshot offers 1 million pounds (\$1.2 million) in prize money to the winners of five separate categories: nature protection, clean air, ocean revival, waste elimination and climate change.

The winners and all 15 finalists also receive help in expanding their projects to meet global demand.

Igamba says winning the prize would be an honor, it would also help the startup expand.

"Winning the Earthshot Prize would really be such a dream come true because we will be able to ramp up production, expand to other markets other than Kenya, and be able to really build on this electric revolution happening in Africa today," she says.

Massive brawl in Senegal's parliament over 'insult' to religious leader

Lawmakers exchanged blows and hurled a chair in Senegal's parliament on Thursday over a perceived insult towards an influential pro-opposition religious leader.

An opposition MP slapped legislator Amy Ndiaye over her remarks, according to images on television and social media that were authenticated by AFP.

She responded by throwing a chair at him and then fell to the ground, where she was helped by fellow members of her group.

A fistfight then erupted among MPs before the speaker suspended the session.

The bust-up erupted during a vote on the justice ministry's budget for 2023.

It was sparked by remarks Ndiaye made about Serigne Moustapha Sy, a Muslim leader who supports the opposition but is not a lawmaker.

On November 27, she accused him of betraying his word and disrespecting President Macky Sall,

according to media reports.

MP Abba Mbaye told an opposition TV channel that opposition lawmakers would oppose any resumption of parliamentary work "until this lady has apologised".

Some members of the governing coalition, as well as feminist activists, lashed the physical attack on Ndiaye, which coincided with an awareness campaign about violence against women and girls.

Senegal is widely viewed as a beacon of stability and democracy in West Africa -- a region notorious for coups and dictatorships.

Legislative elections in July led to a virtual tie, requiring Sall's party to forge a coalition to stay in power.

Sall was elected to a seven-year term in 2012 and re-elected for a five-year tenure in 2019. He has not divulged his plans for the next presidential vote, due in 2024.

Africanews with AFP

Sao Tome to probe 'inhumane acts' in aftermath of attempted coup



A soldier walks in the streets of Sao Tome, July 23, 2003 - Copyright © africanews DESIREY MINKOH/2003 AFP

The government of Sao Tome and Principe on Thursday ordered an investigation into "cruel and inhumane acts" allegedly committed by military personnel against men accused by the Prime Minister of attempting a "coup d'état" on November 25, the state news agency reported.

The head of the government Patrice Trovoada had said on Friday 25 November that four assailants had been captured after six hours of gunfire at the army headquarters in the capital Sao Tome, as well as two "commanders" arrested later at their homes, including the former president of the outgoing National Assembly and opponent Delfim Nevès.

On the same day, numerous photos and videos, not authenticated by AFP, circulated widely on social networks.

They claimed to show acts of torture and harsh interrogations of three of the attackers and one of the alleged "sponsors", Arlécio Costa, an opponent, and former mercenary, by men in military fatigues. Then other images claimed to show the same four men dead.

Two days later, Chief of Staff Olinto Paquete announced that three of the four assailants had been killed in an "explosion", without further details, that Arlécio Costa had died "jumping from a vehicle", and that 12 soldiers who had "participated" in the attempted putsch had been arrested.

Mr. Paquete announced his resignation at a press briefing on Thursday, reported STP-Press. He mentioned, in particular, the diffusion of shocking images, and assured that he could not "accept such atrocities and acts of treason that harm the country". And the government has asked the judicial authorities "to investigate cruel, degrading and inhumane acts perpetrated against individuals at the army

headquarters and whose images have shocked and outraged society," the Santomean agency wrote, citing a government memo.

The government note said the alleged acts were perpetrated "on individuals involved in the attempted coup and the assault on the headquarters" of Friday, November 25.

Mr. Trovoada had claimed in front of the cameras that the army had foiled an "attempted coup" and that four captured assailants had "denounced" Mr. Nevès and Mr. Costa as the "commanders".

But Santomeans and local NGOs have since multiplied the posts on social networks raising "grey areas" in the facts and their chronology, and the acerbic or horrified comments on the photos and videos disseminated.

Mr. Nevès, released under judicial supervision on Tuesday, denounced the next day before the press a "sham" intended to "eliminate" physically "political embarrassments" of which he "is part. And accused its authors of having killed those who could confuse them, Mr. Costa and the three assailants.

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister dismissed accusations that the coup attempt was a maneuver by the government: "What would be the purpose of the government to organize a coup against itself when we took office 15 days ago?"

Sao Tome and Principe, a small archipelago in the Gulf of Guinea, independent from Portugal since 1975, is considered a model of parliamentary democracy in Africa, where alternations in power have been smooth since the end of the one-party regime in 1991. And despite two attempted coups, in 2003 and 2009, in which Arlécio Costa had already been implicated, arrested, and convicted, then pardoned.

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Invitation for Bids

Mott MacDonald SL Limited

Procurement Number: MMSL/SSEIP/1088.24

Mott MacDonald Sierra Leone Limited, has allocated funds from FCDO for the procurement of **62,320 (or more) printed SSS syllabuses for the new SSS curriculum being introduced in academic year 2023/24** and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders.

Mott MacDonald Limited (MM) has been appointed by the **Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO)** to deliver the Sierra Leone Secondary Education Improvement Programme (SSEIP - also known as Leh Wi Lan). This programme supports the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education to improve learning outcomes for boys and girls at secondary level and to increase the enrolment, retention and well-being of girls and children with disabilities.

The programme requires at least **62,320 SSS Syllabuses to be printed**, with the following print specifications:

- Printing and binding
- Printing of text (black and white, A4 80 gsm paper, minimum 85% brightness and opacity)
- Printing of covers (black and white, 300 gsm card with matt finish)
- 20 pages per copy
- 76 different books of 820 copies each
- Double sided, saddle stitch

Bids should be submitted for printing 76 syllabus document of average estimated length 20 pages each for 820 SSS.

Bidding is open to all suppliers who can demonstrate the capacity and experience to deliver **62,320 printed SSS syllabuses**.

Interested bidders may obtain further information, view samples of the documents to be printed and inspect the bidding document at the address below between **9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday from 5th to 15th December 2022**. Bidding documents can be collected for **free** at the address below.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **Friday 16th December 2022 at 9.30am**. All bids must be accompanied by:

- Valid business registration certificate
- Valid NASSIT clearance certificate
- Valid tax clearance certificate
- References, indicating the supplier's experience to deliver similar products to reputable organizations - corporations, INGOs and Government

Bids will be opened on **Friday 16th December 2022 at 09.45 am.**, in the presence of bidders and/or representatives at the address below. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders.

Mott MacDonald Sierra Leone Limited

24 Regent Road, Opposite Orange Office, Hill Station, Freetown

11.8% of Sierra Leone sex workers are HIV positive



The Chief Justice of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Desmond Babatunde Edwards, has disclosed that HIV prevalence is highest among sex workers in the country, accounting for 11.8%.

He was delivering his Keynote address as the Guest of Honour in commemoration of World Aids Day on the theme: "Equalize: Achieving Equality to End AIDS."

Referencing the Integrated Bio-Behavioural Surveillance report released by the National AIDS Secretariat in 2021, Chief Justice Edwards revealed that HIV's prevalence among Transgender is 4.2%, people who use drugs is 4.2%, men who have sex with men (3.4%) and people in Correctional Facilities (3.2%).

According to the Chief Justice, "we must take action to protect the rights and dignity of all Sierra Leoneans infected or affected by HIV and AIDS."

"We must work together to address all structural, legal, and systemic barriers that drive inequalities and fuel HIV infections. We must commit ourselves to

end all forms of HIV related stigma and discrimination to enable the country End AIDS as public health threat by 2030 as envisaged in the sustainable development goal," he said.

The Chief Justice however said that uptake of HIV prevention and testing services remains low among that population groups due to high rate of stigma, discrimination, and arbitrary arrest that they face, which pushes them underground and contribute to the spread of HIV in the general populations.

He said that Section 15 of the 1991 Constitution ensures the fundamental human rights and freedom of every person in Sierra Leone, adding that the National AIDS Commission Act, No. 11 of 2011 guarantees the rights of all people in Sierra Leone to HIV prevention and treatment services and protections for people living with or affected by HIV.

He therefore made the following recommendations as actions for or by governments, civil society and international bodies to accelerate HIV and human rights:



EXTERNAL JOB VACANCY

Sierra Diamonds Limited is looking for a qualified candidate for the following position:

Position:	Security Supervisor	Location:	Tongo Field, Sierra Leone
Department:	Security	Reports to:	Security Manager
Hours:	44 per week	Contract Type:	Fixed Term

Key deliverables:

- Supervising a team of Security Personnel/contractors and providing first line management to the operational shift to ensure that all duties are carried out properly, Undertaking regular internal and external foot patrols of a site, Protecting client's property against loss, theft, damage and waste.

Key Duties Include:

- Conducting regular floor walks throughout a shift to ensure the smooth running of security operations;
- Making sure that Security Officers are performing their duties to the appropriate standard;
- Identify and conduct training courses to keep staff properly trained for their areas of responsibility;
- Develop knowledge and capability in others - share knowledge, skills and experience to raise competency;
- Detecting, resolving and reporting any security breaches; investigating security breaches and incidents;
- Supervise sites, OMS and FFP Plant access control;
- Supervise Sort rooms and other Sorting activities;
- Keeping Sort room registers and handling incidents and report writing;
- Assist with training programs and audit procedures.

Skills and Qualifications required:

- Excellent communication skills (Verbal and written);
- Effective people management skills & good team building skills;
- Being thorough and accurate in all record keeping and documentation;
- Dealing professionally with any incidents of verbal abuse & threatening behaviour;
- 4 years' experience in security or similar industry with effective leadership capability;
- 2 Years' experience of working in a mining environment will be desirable;
- 2 Years' experience as a security site supervisor, or trainer;
- Ability to interact cordially and communicate with other team members;
- Effective oral and written communication skills;

How to apply:

To apply for this role, please submit your updated CV and copies of certificates to any of the following addresses depending on your location. For the attention of:

The Human Resources Department
Sierra Diamonds Limited
Tongo Camp Site, Tongo Field

The Human Resources Department
3 Cole Street, Murray Town, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Or

sdl.recruitment@sierradiamondslimited.com

Please indicate job position in the subject line

Closing Date: Wednesday 7th December 2022

Applications will be treated as and when they are received.

opportunity statement:

All posts are advertised on an equal opportunity basis and qualified women and men are encouraged to apply. Only shortlisted candidate will be contacted for interview.



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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Abt Associates, a major American business and government research, technical assistance, and consulting company, manages the USAID-funded VectorLink Project. VectorLink will support the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and USAID to plan and implement an integrated vector control approach with the overall goal of reducing the burden of malaria. Abt has implemented indoor residual spraying (IRS) for PMI since 2011, delivering high-quality IRS programs and gathering the most comprehensive vector control entomological data in the world. Under this contract, Abt will expand entomological monitoring to guide programs focused on insecticide-treated mosquito nets and IRS and continue to assist PMI in reducing the burden of malaria through IRS and capacity building in 24 African countries where malaria is endemic. Abt also will continue to support PMI in IRS monitoring and evaluation as well as environmental compliance.

Abt associates Inc., received funds from USAID, to implement the Programme: “**Vectorlink Project**” in Five (5) different districts of Sierra Leone. Part of the funds has been allocated for the Procurement of various Services.

We hereby invite all legally constituted companies, or business or enterprises that can provide these goods and services, to Request for RFQ in their areas of Specialization.

Schedule of RFQ:

Lot Number	Description of items
Lot 1	Printing Services
Lot 2	Stationery Items
Lot 3	Transportation Services
Lot 4	Cleaning Items
Lot 5	Lodging Services
Lot 6	Miscellaneous Items
Lot 7	IRS Cards

Interested bidders must request the RFQ clearly stating their area of interest via email to SierraLeoneProcurement@pmivectorlink.com, between the hours of **8:00am** and **5:30pm** from **2nd, December 2022 to 4th December, 2022** and you may seek any clarification via email to SierraLeoneProcurement@pmivectorlink.com. Please note that all clarifications will be made to potential bidders latest **Thursday 5th December 2022**.

Bidders are required to submit their respective bids not later than **December 9th, 2022, at 13:00pm**. And bids can be dropped in the bid box in our office at 41W1 Derrick Drive, Off Spur Road, or via email to SierraLeoneProcurement@pmivectorlink.com. E-mail submissions must not be of file size above 2mbs in PDF format.

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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



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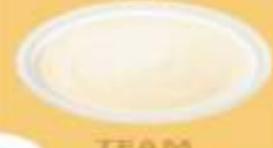



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