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70% Sierra Leoneans against men using force to discipline wives
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Director of Policy Research at IGR making her presentation



By PEL Koroma, Washington, DC

President Bio is being recognised

UN Chief urges governments to preserve nature



Photo of a chimp in the forest of Sierra Leone

President Julius Maada Bio has been selected by the Joseph R. Biden administration to be among the 20 African Head of States slated to speak at the three days U.S-Africa Leaders' Summit slated for the 13th to the 15th of December 2022. Fifty African Heads of States will converge on the United States for the Summit.

Summit slated for the 13th to the 15th of December 2022. Fifty African Heads of States will converge on the United States for the Summit.

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LOCAL NEWS

From Cover

The White House announced on November 19th, 2022, that President Joseph R. Biden will host the second U.S. – Africa Leaders' Summit in 2022, as part of his administration's commitment to revitalizing global partnerships and alliances to include Africa, based on the principles of mutual respect, shared interest and values.

The renewal of the United States engagement towards Africa was particularly manifested in President Biden's virtual remarks on the occasion of the 34th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly held in Addis Ababa, on February 5, 2021. The U.S. President underscored the United States "readiness to be Africa's partner, in solidarity, support, and mutual respect and to re-engage with the Africa Union".

The Africa Diplomatic corps (ADC) accredited to the United States has been actively advocating for an effective action and result oriented Summit that considers Africa's development priorities as enshrined in the AU Agenda 2063 – 'The Africa We Want' and other various continental policy framework and strategies which captures the aspirations of the African people for a continent that is integrated, peaceful and prosperous that takes its rightful place in the international arena.

The Summit will discuss thematic issues, including Africa and Diaspora Young Leaders, Civil Society, The

Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), Peace, Security and Governance, Conservation, Climate Adaptation and a Just Energy Transition, The Future of African Trade and Investment Relations with the United States, U.S. – Africa Partnership for Sustainable Energy Future, Public-Private Collaboration-Building a More Resilient and Secure African Health System, Digital Connectivity- Empowering the Next Generation of Inclusive Growth, Bridging the Gap- Expanding Access to Finance and Investing in Infrastructure to Bolster Africa's Growth, and a Fireside Chat – Cultivating Partnership in Agribusiness.

The Sierra Leone delegation will have the opportunity to meet with 250 businesses from the United States and Africa.

The Spousal Program for the U.S. Africa Leaders' Summit will be held on December 14 to 15, 2022 in Washington, DC. The First Lady of Sierra Leone Dr. Fatima Maada Bio will be hosted by First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, and the Spouses program will focus on supporting youth, particularly girls, to reach their full potential. The program will cover Why Investing in Young People Matters, Removing Barriers to Healthcare Access, Empowering Youth and Promoting Equitable Food Access through Urban Garden, Using First Ladies Platforms in creating and advancing initiatives and bringing awareness to priority issues.

70% Sierra Leoneans against men using force to discipline wives

By Yusufu S. Bangura

-Afro Barometer report

say it is never justified for men to use physical force to discipline their wives and about three in 10 think it is sometimes with 27% or always with 3% justified," the report says.

Giving brief introduction of Afrobarometer, Project Manager for Anglophone West Africa, Daniel Armah-Attoh said Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life.

He said eight rounds of surveys have been completed in 39 countries since 1999, and that around 9 surveys are currently underway, adding that Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

He further said the Afrobarometer team in Sierra Leone, led by the Institute for Governance Reform (IGR), interviewed 1,200 adults between the 13 June and 9 July 2022, adding that a sample of that size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points of a 95% confidence level.

He said their goal is to give the public a voice in policy making by providing high-quality public opinion data to policy makers, policy advocates, civil

society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.

While doing a power point presentation of Afrobarometer findings, Director of Policy Research at IGR, Dr. Fredline A.O.M Cormack-Hale said during the survey Sierra Leoneans saw gender-based violence as the most important women's rights issue that the government and society should address.

She maintained that 76% of Sierra Leoneans alluded to the fact that government was doing 'fairly well' in terms of promoting equal rights and opportunities for women, whereas 64% say government was doing 'very well' in that same direction.

She said 67% say violence against women was not very common in their communities while 36% of women disagreed.

She continued that 27% of women believe that they would likely be criticized, harassed, or shamed if they report gender based violence to the authorities and 93% believe that the police are likely to take cases of gender-based violence seriously.

She added that 57% of Sierra Leoneans say domestic violence should be treated as a private matter to be resolved within the family rather than as a criminal matter requiring law enforcement to get involved.

She further said the survey indicates that in Sierra Leone, women are less likely than men to have post-secondary education with 7% and more likely to have no formal schooling at all with 46%.

It also stated that large majorities of Sierra Leoneans say women should have the same rights as men to own and inherit land representing 78% and to be elected in public offices with 71%.

During a panel discussion, Director of Academic and Career Affairs at University of Sierra Leone, Dr. Fatou Taqi lauded government's efforts in addressing gender inequalities and also called for more in terms of eradicating inequalities.

She affirmed that majority of Sierra Leoneans believe that government is doing a good job in terms of promoting equal rights and opportunities for women.

Dr. Taqi continued that believers in equal rights for women are in their boisterous mood celebrating Sierra Leone's achievement in passing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Act into law, which mandates equal pay for equal work, maternity leave, financial inclusion and 30% quota of women in government appointments and private institutions with more than 25% employees.



President Bio is being recognised



According to the AfroBarometer report that was launched on Thursday 8th December, 70% of Sierra Leoneans say they are against men using force to discipline their wives.

The official launching of the 9th edition of the Afrobarometer report took place at Radisson Blu Hotel, Aberdeen in Freetown.

"A majority of 70% Sierra Leoneans



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LOCAL NEWS UN Chief urges governments to preserve nature

By Alfred Koroma

UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres has called on governments to develop ambitious national action plans that protect and preserve natural gifts, and put the planet on a path to healing.

"Humanity's war on nature is ultimately a war on ourselves. It's time for the world to adopt a far-reaching biodiversity framework — a true peace pact with nature — and deliver a green, healthy future for all," he Tweeted.

He tweeted just after delivering a speech on Wednesday at the beginning of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal, Canada. UN news report the conference is expected to set new goals for nature over the next decade. In his speech, the UN Chief called on developed countries to give developing countries more direct, simpler, and faster access to much-needed financing.

"We need developed countries to provide meaningful financial support for the countries of the

Global South as custodians of the world's natural wealth following centuries of exploitation and loss," he said.

According to the Secretary General, about a million species are at risk of extinction. He noted that climate action and protection of biodiversity are two sides of the same coin.

"We need governments to develop ambitious national action plans that protect and preserve our natural gifts, and put our planet on a path to healing," Guterres is quoted by UN news further saying: "We need businesses and investors to put protection first in their business plans, and invest in sustainable production and extraction methods across every link of their supply chains."

He called for regulatory frameworks and disclosure measures that end "greenwashing" and hold the private sector accountable. He recognized the need to work side-by-side with indigenous peoples, local communities and youth, referring to them as "the most effective guardians of biodiversity".



Photo of a chimp in the forest of Sierra Leone

Malaria deaths on the rise according to the UN



A health worker prepares a malaria vaccination for a child in Kenya - Copyright © africanews BRIAN ONGORO/AFP or licensors

A new report from the World Health Organization (WHO) claims that the coronavirus pandemic interrupted efforts to control malaria resulting in 63,000 additional deaths and 13 million more infections globally over two years.

The report, published this Thursday, adds that cases of the disease went up in 2020 and continued to climb in 2021 although at a slower pace.

"Through disruptions of essential malaria services and through pressure on national economies and several other disruptions, the pandemic has had an impact, even though countries have managed to prevent the worst case scenario. Over the two years of the pandemic, we estimate that about 63,000 additional deaths and about 13 million additional cases were due to disruptions during the COVID 19 pandemic.

The disruptions due to the pandemic continue to pose risks to malaria control... But it's important to highlight that even before the pandemic, global

progress against malaria had stalled", explained Dr Abdisalan Noor, Head of GMP's Strategic Information for Response Unit, WHO.

Among the new challenges is a new invasive mosquito species resistant to many pesticides but the greatest hurdle remains funding.

"We do highlight the challenges of antimalarial resistance and particularly concerning is its emergence in the African region and the expansion of a new vector in the African region, Anopheles stephensi, as well as challenges in our diagnostic tools. So these are the areas where we need further investments, both in research and development, but also further investment in putting in more expensive interventions", concluded Dr Abdisalan Noor.

Africa remains the continent most affected by malaria.

According to the UN, last year there were 619,000 deaths from malaria and an estimated 247 million infections. Ninety-five percent of these occurred in Africa.

Freetown Terminal observes Anti-Corruption Day

By Abu Bakarr Kargbo

The Freetown Terminal Limited (FTL), a subsidiary of Bollore Group, has observed this year's Anti-Corruption Day on Friday 9th December 2022 at its Queen Elizabeth Port, Cline Town in Freetown.

The 2022 International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) seeks to highlight the crucial link between anti-corruption and peace, security, and development.

At its core is the notion that tackling this crime is the right and responsibility of everyone, and that only through cooperation and the involvement of each and every person and institution can we overcome the negative impact of this crime.

Since 2003, the Bollore Group has been actively participating in the United Nations Global Compact, and it has committed itself to supporting its core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, environmental practices, and the fight against corruption and integrating all its principles in the strategy, culture and day to day operations of the company.

The local theme for this year's celebration is "Deepening inclusivity in the fight against corruption".

FTL's Compliance Officer, Mrs. Olusola Sesay said the Bollore Group condemns all forms of corruption and influence peddling.

"We do not offer anything of value directly or indirectly to anyone with the aim of illegitimately influencing decision making. Paying a public official for carrying our routine administrative formalities constitutes an act of corruption," she said and added that offering or accepting gifts remain a reasonable and selfless gesture. She commended all staff members of FTL for their vigilance and dedication to the fight against corruption. "I call on all staff members to renew our focus on governance as a driver of change and sustainable development," Mrs. Sesay said.

Bollore Group's Country Manager, Bertrand Kergeulen said everybody must come on board the fight against corruption because it affects every part of society. He revealed that the estimated global cost of corruption stands at about \$2.7 trillion. "The fight against corruption must be done every day, for hour or minutes," he advised



his team. Sylvanus Blake, Assistant Public Relations Officer of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), in his keynote address extended his commission's appreciation to FTL for taking the lead amongst private sector companies in fighting against corruption, noting that this is what many other service providers cannot do. Corruption, he said is one of the root causes of conflict, undermines the rule of law, worsens poverty, and creates insecurity.

"Corruption is making businesses not possible and it is only a good private entity and a good governance system that can stop it," he said and further stated that the valid role played by FTL in ending corruption is a step in the right direction. "Bollore Group is a worthy leader in the fight against corruption," Mr. Blake remarked and continued by stating that corruption is a contagious pandemic that can affect all.

"Corruption is a vicious circle. It makes you spend more than what you earn," he said and called on FTL workers to give corruption a social distance that will enable them to negotiate well to put an end to it. "Corruption affects all of us but it has a devastating challenge on the physically challenged persons. I am calling on the informal sector to take the lead in ending corruption," Blake remarked and revealed that corruption is Sierra Leone's number one enemy for which all are responsible for its spread. "Let us stop looking at corruption from the size and quantum involved. Corruption is dishonest, regardless of where it happens, how it happened, and why it happened.

Some of the basic tools needed to manage corruption, he said include, education, sensitization, the environment, regulations, reporting, and punishment.



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LOCAL NEWS At Torma Bum: Farmers embrace rice harvesting

By Tamba Tengbeh

In bid to increase on rice production in the country, farmers in Torma have joined the Regional Rice Value Chain Project in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to continue with on-going harvest of various rice fields cultivated in Torma Bum, Bum Chiefdom, Bonthe district through two agribusiness companies the project is partnering with Commercial Agro and Global Hub.

The Project Coordinator of Regional Rice Value Chain Project in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Abdulai Bun Wai, reiterated that the essence of the meeting and symbolic harvesting was to bring journalists from both the electronic and print media to Torma Bum to showcase what the project has done so far, and to dispel rumours about the project on social media.

The Project Coordinator of Regional Rice Value Chain Project, Abdulai Bun Wai informed his gathering that the rice value chain implementation model has been divided into five segments the seed, fertilizers, agro chemicals, paddy production, rice mill, marketing and access to finance since each segment depends on the other for the successful implementation of the rice value chain including participation of the active players and the farmers. He added that the project would irrigate 4000 hectares of farmland in Torma Bum to increase the cropping period and eventually enable vegetable production.

Mr. Bun Wai disclosed that, 3000 hectares of rice fields have been cultivated in Torma Bum for this year's cropping season, and the reason for the symbolic harvesting was for people to understand that the project management unit is working tirelessly to produce rice, albeit the challenges, noting that the project has registered over 4000 farmers both in Torma Bum and Kambia district in order to enhance a successful implementation of the project.



"We are bringing four integrated mill machines that would help to polish the harvested rice on to bagging. This will create jobs for the young people and training would be given to them through the agribusiness companies," he explained.

The Paramount Chief of Bum Chiefdom, Bonthe District, PC Kaipumu expressed satisfaction for the tireless efforts the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security is making through the Regional Rice Value Chain Project to boost agriculture in the chiefdom again, a place that used to feed the nation in the 60s, noting that it would take time for the place to realize its full potentials.

"The Project management unit is already

working hard to meet the project objectives, it would be wise for the government to engage BADEA for their own part of the funding to release to the project in order to increase rice production in the chiefdom," PC Kaipumu noted.

Mariatu Tucker one of the farmers of the project expressed hope for the kind of support they are getting from the project, and called on the government to give more support to the ministry of agriculture, as a way to increase on rice production and better the lives of more farmers.

The two agri-business companies reiterated their full commitment to the successful implementation of the project, and called on the farmers to embrace the project since all what the project is doing is

to improve on the livelihoods of the smallholder farmers.

The Paramount Chief of Bum Chiefdom, Bonthe District, PC Kaipumu and the Project Coordinator of RRVCP, Abdulai Bun Wai and Technical staff of RRVCP including other stakeholders graced the symbolic launching of the harvesting at Makita one of the rice fields in Torma Bum.

Africa produced around 24 million metric tons of rice in the trade year 2020/2021. The production might slightly decrease to some 23 million metric tons in 2021/2022, according to the source's forecasts. Most of the rice production in the continent were done in countries below the Sahara.

ACC takes the fight to Konakry Dee



The North-West Regional Office of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has held sensitization meetings at Konakry Dee Town in Kaffu Bullom Chiefdom in Port Loko District.

The community meeting held on Monday 5th December 2022 was part of ACC's public education drive aimed at educating

and raising awareness in rural communities on corruption and its effects on the country's growth.

Addressing local authorities and residents of the town, the Regional Manager Al-Hassan Sesay said the community meetings were undertaken to bring to light corruption prevalence in rural settings

and to also solicit community support to the fight against corruption. He stated that Corruption has negative impacts on every aspect of society and has jeopardized social and economic aspirations of the state. As rural communities suffer the greatest effects of corruption, he urged the locals to shore up support and demonstrate the needed commitment to combatting graft and bribery. He accentuated the link between the illicit use of public resources and the increasing poverty gap as he underscored the significance of citizens taking responsibility and cooperation to winning the fight against corruption.

Commenting on the effects of corruption on nation building, the Regional Manager noted that funds diverted and embezzled by public officials and or individuals are public or donor funds intended to improve the livelihoods of citizens.

He highlighted several corrupt practices across various sectors including the local court administration, the school system, the health sector, security including the Sierra Leone Police and other areas of concerns of corruption loopholes in communities. He went on to state that the Commission as a first point of action sensitize, engage, advise and warn all those involved to refrain from these acts.

Earlier in his welcome address to the ACC Team, Town Chief, Pa Adikalie Sorie Suma expressed delight for hosting the ACC team in Konakry and pledged his support to the fight against graft.

Public Education Officer Mohamed Thullah who appraised the people on the purpose of the engagements said the community meetings were conducted to educate the people on corruption matters and to also enlist them in the fight against corruption. He stated that corruption has permeated every aspect of society and its devastating consequences have had an untold effects on the state of affairs of the nation.

The Senior Public Education Officer Samuel Junisa Sankoh who spoke on the role of the community in the fight against corruption noted the importance of sustained public education engagement. He highlighted the various reporting mechanism available and emphasized of confidentiality in safeguarding witness and informants protection.

Question and answer session and the presentation of ACC's Information Education and Communication materials formed part of the engagement.



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LOCAL NEWS

By Jeneba A. Cobteh

Craving 4 Development, in collaboration with partners in Sierra Leone, hosted the 3rd edition of the Pan African symposium on agriculture, which started on the 5th December and ended on the 7th December 2022 at the Bintumani conference center in Freetown.

Pan African symposium on agriculture aims to set in motion an initiative that allows practical knowledge sharing, export readiness and exposure to systems, businesses, enablers and innovations, in order to build robust frameworks and agro- industrial companies with enhanced human capital interconnected networks of experts, well-structured and accessible markets and opportunities for sustained collaborations.

The pan African symposium brought 23 countries together including Sierra Leone with a focus on strengthening agri-food supply food chains in Africa with the vision to create a regional knowledge and partnership based platform for youth involving in agriculture sovereignty, as well as investments and connected supply chains in Africa.

Speaking with different vendors during the event, Hannah Elizabeth Tarwallie, Founder of Coffee Couriers Sierra Leone, stated that she started her coffee business in 2014 and that she was doing business both locally and internationally.

Rachel Mariama Bangura, Founder of J' S Gara and Fabric Collection said she

Pan African symposium on Agriculture ends in Sierra Leone



started in 2017 after she found out that people were going in for European way of dressing, adding even though people were not interested in Gara collections, but that she ensured to give the best of quality to Sierra Leone and the world. Famata Buh, chairlady No:1 Green

Famer, Kenema District Fresh Garri, said she was proud to be an African woman who is interested in agriculture all her life, adding that she has employed 42 women.

One of the participants, Junisa Kallon, said he found the symposium

session very interesting and stated that such opportunities are limited in Sierra Leone- to have young people together to learn about farming and agriculture and ways to add value to sustainable farming mechanism.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICES FOR UN AGENCIES IN SIERRA LEONE

UNICEF Sierra Leone wishes to invite proposals for the provision of high-speed internet services for UN Agencies in Sierra Leone through a Long-Term Agreement (LTA) for an initial period of 24 months with a possible extension for another 12 months. **The deadline for bid submission which is through the online method only is Friday 23rd December at 10 am.**

Interested companies are requested to visit the United Nations Website at

[REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PROVISION OF HIGH-SPEED INTERNET CONNECTIVITY SERVICES FOR UN AGENCIES IN SIERRA LEONE ON LONG TERM AGREEMENT BASIS \(ungm.org\)](https://ungm.org)

to download all the tender documents.

A bid conference will be held/was held on Friday 9th December 2022 at 10 am at the UNICEF Country Office, New England, Freetown.



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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Travellers welcome reopening of roads in DR Congo

The people of Kibati, in the North Kivu region of the Democratic Republic of Congo, have been celebrating after roads reopened, following weeks of harsh controls from a rebel group. Kibati, near the town of Rutshuru, was one of the many areas that fell under the control of the M23 armed group. Fighting has continued between the rebels and a coalition of armed civilian protection militia, which have been battling each other in eastern Congo for more than a year, since M23 rebels resurfaced after being dormant for nearly a decade. On Wednesday connections between Rutshuru and Goma were reopened, allowing trucks packed with products and people stuck in the region to return home. "I feel very happy, I have just left Kiwanja. I spent two months there. I had left my children and my husband. It is a great joy to find them again at my home in Goma," said Safi Akunatiya as she

travelled with others on the back of a truck. The occupied towns were subjected not only to violence but also widespread hunger, according to many who had left the area. "We were living in pain, my brother. There is famine and also we were very badly treated," truck driver Amani Safari said. "Children don't study anymore, and people are at risk of dying because of the famine. Because the beans, the corn are in the fields but no one is there to harvest it and no one can come and buy them," he added. The UN reported on Thursday that rebels in eastern Congo had killed at least 131 people and inflicted "unspeakable violence" against civilians. The M23 rebel group killed men, women and children in two villages in Rutshuru territory last month, according to a preliminary investigation by the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in Congo and MONUSCO, the UN peacekeeping mission in the country.

France and Senegal sign agreements to strengthen cooperation



French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne (3rd R) and her Senegalese counterpart Amadou Ba (2nd L) meet as part of a French-Senegalese inter-governmental seminary in France - Copyright © africanews ALAIN JOCARD/AFP or licensors

French and Senegalese ministers sign agreements on Thursday focused on youth development in an effort to strengthen cooperation between the two countries. This happened as the two countries held an intergovernmental seminar in Champs-sur-Marne, just outside of Paris on Thursday to discuss several issues at hand. Dozens of other agreements were met as the two countries outlined major steps on their implementation. The road-map will address issues of education, sport and culture, economic development,

sustainable agriculture, and also defence and security, as Senegal borders a Sahelian zone affected by terrorism, and migration, when France plans to reform its policy in this area. The last Franco-Senegalese seminar was held in 2019 in Dakar, before the cycle was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. France is the leading investor in Senegal and its largest trading partner. In terms of development aid, the French Development Agency (AFD) has committed nearly 2.2 billion dollars in Senegal since 2007, all financial products and sectors combined.

Burkina Faso grants permit for new gold mine



Clandestine gold mining in Burkina Faso - Copyright © africanews AHMED OUOBA/AFP

The government in Burkina Faso has granted a licence to a Russian mining company, Norgold, to operate a new gold mine. The operating permit is for a period of four years in an area situated in the northern central region. The Russian company already operates three gold mines in the north of the country. Both sites have been plagued by jihadist violence since 2015, perpetrated by movements affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group. Burkina Faso's 17 industrial mines produce around

70 tonnes of gold per year. Gold production has replaced cotton as the leading export product. Moscow enjoys growing popular support in Burkina Faso while France, the former colonial power, is vilified. Since the September 30th coup that brought Captain Ibrahim Traoré to power, Burkinabes have repeatedly demonstrated waving flags of Russia, a country with which they want their new leaders to intensify relations.

18-year-old Jaylen Smith elected mayor in U.S.A



Jaylen Smith has been elected the mayor of Earle - Copyright © africanews @Phil_Lewis_

An 18-year-old university student is the incoming mayor of a small town in the northeast of the U.S. state of Arkansas. U.S. media outlets including Little Rock, Arkansas, TV station KATV reported Jaylen Smith won a runoff election on Tuesday to become the mayor of Earle. Jaylen Smith, was elected mayor, winning 235 votes to Nemi Matthews' 183, according to complete but unofficial results. The university student graduated from Earle High

School in May. He told KATV that his involvement with the school's student government inspired him to run for office. "People are crying out for change, and I want to be the change to move Earle forward," he said. Smith also admitted that his age made it difficult for some voters to take him seriously. "But I've always told people you have to start somewhere in life," he said. Smith campaigned on improving public safety and bringing new businesses, including a grocery store, to the city of about 1,800 people 25 miles (40 kilometers) northwest of Memphis, Tennessee. Cymone Poole says she voted for Smith. She told KATV that Smith impressed her, despite his youth. "It's just in him. You know, the way he walks, he talks, he dressed. You know, it's just in him to lead." He's among the youngest mayors elected in the United States and would be the youngest member of the African American Mayors Association. Phyllis Dickerson, chief executive officer of the association, told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette that the association's current youngest member is Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb, who is 35. Smith is among a handful of people elected mayor before turning 20, including Michael Sessions, who was elected mayor of Hillsdale, Michigan, in 2005 when he was 18; and John Tyler Hammons, who was elected mayor of Muskogee, Oklahoma, in 2008 when he was 19. According to KATV, Smith is set to be sworn in on New Year's Day, and serve a four-year term.

South Africa to decriminalize prostitution

The South African government has introduced a plan to decriminalize prostitution, hoping to combat the growing violence against women. The offer and use of sexual services will no longer be treated as a crime, according to the legislation presented by the Justice Department. According to associations, the country has about 150,000 prostitutes. "It is hoped that decriminalization will reduce human rights violations against sex workers," Justice Minister Ronald Lamola said at a press briefing on Friday (December 9). "It would also allow for better access to care and protection for sex workers, better working conditions and less discrimination and stigma," he continued. South Africa, one of the countries with the world's largest HIV epidemic, has been hit by a wave of violence against women. According to police figures released in November, the number of rapes and sexual assaults increased by 13% between 2017-2018 and 2021-2022. A rape is reported to the police every 12 minutes, not counting all those that are never reported. Murders of women jumped 52% in the first three months of the year compared to the same period last year, according to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. "If sex workers are no longer labelled as criminals, they will be able to work much better with the police to combat violence," wrote the prostitutes' rights group SWEAT on Facebook, hailing the bill as "incredible news." Some recent incidents have shocked the nation, including a crime spree that included the gang rape of eight women in July and the discovery of half a dozen bodies, some believed to be missing prostitutes, in a Johannesburg building in October. South Africa's post-apartheid constitution is one of the



Prostitutes stand walk on the street in Benin City, capital of Edo State, southern Nigeria, on ... - Copyright © africanews PIUS UTOMI EKPE/AFP or licensors

most liberal in the world, allowing progressive laws on abortion and gay marriage, but sex workers have long suffered from stigma. President Cyril Ramaphosa recently ruled that gender-based violence should be considered the main "pandemic" affecting the country, as not a day goes by without new "horrific" crimes being reported in the media. The bill, which has been released for public consultation, deals only with decriminalization and does not regulate the sex industry, which the justice minister said would be addressed at a later date. Parliament must then approve the bill, a process that will take several months.

Ghana's Finance Minister escapes vote of no confidence



Ghana's Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta speaks during the G-24 news conference at ... - Copyright © africanews Jose Luis Magana/AP

Ghana's Finance Minister Kenneth Ofori-Atta escaped a vote of no confidence in parliament Thursday (November 8) after ruling party lawmakers pulled out of a vote on his handling of the country's economic crisis. President Nana Akufo-Addo's government is currently under pressure as it negotiates up to \$3 billion in bailout loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Opposition lawmakers in parliament - divided between the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) and

the National Democratic Congress (NDC) - were seeking to oust the finance minister over a series of allegations. According to House Speaker Alban Bagbin, the opposition minority voted 136 votes in favour of censure on Thursday, meaning it did not reach the two-thirds majority required to oust the minister. Majority NPP lawmakers had walked out before the vote. President Akufo-Addo has called on Ghanaians to support his efforts to manage the crisis as inflation has reached 40% and the national currency, the cedi, has devalued by more than 50% against the dollar. Ghana is a major producer of cocoa and gold and has oil and gas reserves, but its debt service payments have soared. And like the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, it has been hit hard by the consequences of the global pandemic and the war in Ukraine. An IMF team is currently in Ghana negotiating the terms of a loan agreement. Opposition lawmakers had questioned the finance minister over allegations of misappropriation of public funds and "alarming incompetence and ineptitude that led to the collapse of the Ghanaian economy. Last month the minister denied any wrongdoing in parliament, but he also apologized to Ghanaians for the hardships they were facing. The president has the final say in removing a minister from office. Last month, Akufo-Addo fired Finance Secretary Charles Adu Boahen after allegations of corruption.

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**SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (SPN) DESIGN AND REPAIR OF
KONGO DAM, KONGO WEIR, TACUYAMA WEIR, SUGAR LOAF WEIR, AND
ASSOCIATED RAW WATER TRANSMISSION PIPELINES. IN FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE**

Invitation for Bids

IFB Number: WASHAERP/ADF/GoSL/GVWC/003-WKS
Sector: Water and Sanitation
Project ID No: P-SL-E00-004
Employer: Guma Valley Water Company
Project: Freetown Water & Aquatic Environment
Revamping
Project Contract title: Design and Repair of Kongo Dam, Kongo Weir, Tacuyama Weir, Sugar Loaf Weir, and associated raw water transmission pipelines in Freetown, Sierra Leone
Country: Sierra Leone
Loan No. 2100150040547

Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding (International) (OCBI)
OCBI No: WASHAERP/ADF/GoSL/GVWC/003-WKS

Issued on: 18 NOVEMBER 2022

- The Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and Ministry of Finance (MoF) has received financing from the African Development Fund (ADF) hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the Freetown Water & Aquatic Environment Revamping Project (WASHAERP). It is intended to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Design and Repair of Kongo Dam, Kongo Weir, Tacuyama Weir, Sugar Loaf Weir, and associated raw water transmission pipelines in Freetown, Republic of Sierra Leone.
"For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank's Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing, except for those payments, which the contract provides to be made through letter of credit."
- The Guma Valley Water Company in Freetown, republic of Sierra Leone now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Design and Repair of Kongo Dam, Kongo Weir, Tacuyama Weir, Sugar Loaf Weir, and associated raw water transmission pipelines Freetown, Sierra Leone.
- Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding (International), OCBI procedures as specified in the Bank's Procurement Framework Standard Bidding Document for procurement of small works December 2021 version, and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding document at the office of:

The Procurement Manager, Freetown WASH and Aquatic Environment Revamping Project,
Guma Valley Water Company,
7th Floor, Guma Building, 12/14 Lamina Sankoh Street
Freetown
The Republic of Sierra Leone
Electronic mail address: gumaprourement@yahoo.com
and washaerpprocurement@yahoo.com
- The bidding document in English Language may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Fifty (50) United

State Dollars or Le 850,000 (Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Leones) from Guma Valley Water Company Procurement office 7th Floor.

The method of payment will be cash or direct deposit to the Guma Valley Water Company designated account number to be provided upon request.

The document will be sent by email or International express courier at the expenses of the contractor.

- Bids must be delivered to the address below (10a) on or before Thursday 12 January 2023 at 15:00 hours Freetown Local Time. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below (10b) on Thursday 12 January 2023 at 15:15 hours Freetown Local Time.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Security of USD 65,000.00 (Sixty-five Thousand) United States Dollars or SLE 1,137,500 only from a reputable Bank in the form of a Bank Guarantee.

8. Some of the evaluation criteria include:

(i) Minimum average annual construction turnover of US\$ 3,000,000 calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress and/or completed within the last three years, divided by years

(ii) A minimum number of three similar contracts specified below that have been satisfactorily and substantially completed as a prime contractor, joint venture member, management contractor or sub-contractor between 2nd January 2018 and bid submission deadline: (three contracts, each of minimum value USD 500,000)
The similarity of the contracts shall be based on the following: Based on Section VII, Scope of Works, construction/repair of concrete dams and weirs.

9. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.

10. The address(es) referred to above is:

(a) Address for submission

Guma Valley Water Company
Freetown Wash and Aquatic Environment Revamping Project
Guma Building
7th Floor, Procurement office
12/14 Lamina Sankoh Street,
Freetown, Sierra Leone.

(B) address for bid opening

Guma Valley Water Company
Freetown Wash and Aquatic Environment Revamping Project
Guma Building
4th Floor, Conference Room
12/14 Lamina Sankoh Street,
Freetown, Sierra Leone.

THE END



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PMB 1237, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Mobile: 077 713533, 077630832, 088 635750

Invitation for Bid
(National Competitive Bidding - NCB)

RE-BID REQUIREMENT

Sierra Leone Agribusiness & Rice Value Chain Support Project (SLARiS) Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF).

1. Requirement: Supply & Delivery of Fertilizers and Related Items for SLARI

2. Bid & Contract No: MAF/SLARiS/FER/NCB/004/2022

3. Date of Issue: 6th DECEMBER 2022

4. The Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice value Chain Support Project of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has received a Grant from the African Development Fund (AfDB) towards the Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Development Project (SLARiS) and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this grant will be utilized for the procurement of Fertilizer and related items as summarized below:

5. Description of Goods:

No.	Description	Qty	Bid Security from a reputable Commercial Bank Amount (NSLL)	Estimated Delivery Period After Award
1	NPK 15:15:15 & Urea (46%) - 50kg bags	Lot	92,000.00	within One (1) Month
2	Selective & Non – Selective Herbicide (liters)			
3	Rice bag sowing rope - bundles			
4	Seed treatment chemical - (phostoxin) - cartoon			
5	Pesticide (sharpshooter) - liters			
6	Apron XL seed treatment - liters			
7	Jute Bags -pieces			
8	Napsack sprayers with full dressing kits			
9	Rain coats & Rain boots (for swamp use)			

6. Bidding is open to all competent National Contractors with all valid business registration documents issued by the Government of Sierra Leone.

7. Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the office of the Project Manager, Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice value Chain Support Project (SLARiS), MoA Building, Moyamba, between 9.00AM and 3PM on week days (**Monday to Friday only – excluding public holidays**).

Email: kakuaboy@gmail.com and chriskebbie84@gmail.com

Tel: +232 76 364800, +232 79 453004.

8. Bidding documents shall be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **NSLL 800.00** (eight hundred new Leones). All payments for the purchase of the Bidding document should be made to the following bank account with details below:

Bank Name:	Rokel Commercial Bank
Account Name:	Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Value Chain Support Project (SLARiS)
Account No:	02-01-1011970
BBan No:	002001002101197079
Address:	25/27 Siaka Stevens Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Ref:	Fertilizer & Related Items for SLARI

9. SLARiS upon receipt of proof of payment, shall provide both printed and electronics copies to the purchaser as may be required.

10. Every Bidders is required to quote for all items or none.

11. Bids **MUST** be clearly marked and delivered to the address below on or before **12 Noon of Tuesday, 17th January 2023 – Sierra Leone Time.**

The Project Manager

Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Value Chain Support Project (SLARiS)
Ministry of Agriculture Building, Moyamba, Sierra Leone.

Ref: **Supply & Delivery of Fertilizer and Related Items for SLARI**

Tel: +232 76364800/+232 79 453004

12. The Bidder shall submit with its bid the following additional documents:

- Bid Security amount of **SLL 92, 000.00** from a reputable Commercial Bank
- Completed Bid Form;
- Each offer to include **brand name/make/country of origin** (where applicable) for each item offered
- Compliance with the SLARiS delivery Schedule.
- Evidence of at least two (2) same/similar contracts successfully completed in the last five (5) years in a form of copy of signed Contracts/certification letter from the Contracting institutions or related.
- Audited Financial Statement for the past three (3) previous years
- Business Registration Certificate;
- A Certified True Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate from the National Revenue Authority (NRA)
- A Certified True Copy of National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT) Clearance Certificate

13. Bids will be publicly opened on **Tuesday, 17th January 2023 at 12:15 PM**, in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below. Please note, Late bid (s) will be rejected and returned unopened by SLARiS.

14. Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Value Chain Support Project (SLARiS)
Ministry of Agriculture Building, Moyamba, Sierra Leone. Tel: +232 76364800/+232 79 453004

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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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