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UBA Sierra Leone wins 2022 'The Banker's Bank of the Year Awards' as the Best Bank in Sierra Leone



President of Namibia, Dr. Hage Geingob and President Julius Maada Bio

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

In a bid to strengthen bilateral ties between Namibia and Sierra Leone, President Julius Maada Bio has over the weekend romanced with the President of Namibia, Dr. Hage Geingob and his wife at the Presidential Lodge, Hill Station

in Freetown. In his welcome address, President Bio said Namibia being one of the smallest countries in the African continent, with a population of about 2.5 million, deserves commendation for the significant strides made to consolidate the gains made since attaining independence in 1990. *Cont. Page 2*

Human Rights Commission commemorates International Human Rights Day



Sixteen days of activism: Gender Ministry poised to end violence against women & girls

Native Consortium denounces proposed mobile tariff increase

Biden to reboot ties with Africa during the U.S. - Africa Leaders summit

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LOCAL NEWS

UBA Sierra Leone wins 2022 'The Banker's Bank of the Year Awards' as the Best Bank in Sierra Leone

UBA Sierra Leone has once again been awarded The Banker's "Bank of the Year" award for 2022 as the Best Bank in Sierra Leone. This award has further demonstrated our strong presence in the financial services space in the country and this is the fourth time in the last four years that UBA SL have won this prestigious award; 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 consecutively.

We have been able to achieve this significant milestone with the continued patronage, loyalty and unwavering support of our esteemed customers. We also owe this to the hard work, commitment and dedication of the Board, Management and Staff of UBA Sierra Leone.

The Banker's Bank of the Year Awards

have been running since 2000 and it is the most prestigious in global banking award. The scope of the awards cover more than 120 countries globally.

The recipients for the Banker's Awards are determined by a panel of editors including regional and sector specialists. The decisions are made according to a key criteria of improvements made over the past 12 months and both small and large banks compete on a level playing field.

According to a briefing from The Banker "The winners were announced on the night of 1 December at the InterContinental London Park Lane Hotel.



Namibia strengthens bilateral ties with Sierra Leone



President of Namibia, Dr. Hage Geingob and President Julius Maada Bio

From Cover

He recalls that, Namibia's independence was born out of sweat and blood within the struggle for emancipation led by the South-West Africa People's Organization in 1966. President Bio further recalls that in March 1990 when Namibia was celebrating its independence, Sierra Leone sent a high-powered delegation led by Hon. Egerton T. Kamara, who held fruitful bilateral meeting with President Sam Nujoma.

President Bio also intimated that Sierra Leone became a source of succor to many Namibians during those days of Namibia's colonial struggle.

"I am pleased that this morning my brother together with his dear wife, the first lady of Namibia, are solidarily with Sierra Leone on many fronts including the historic work that myself and First Lady Fatima are doing for women and girls in Sierra Leone and globally. I am pleased that this morning my brother and I have discussed how our two countries can deepen cooperation on the bilateral and multilateral level," he said.

He commended Namibia for its peace and democratic credentials, as Namibia happens to be one of the top-ten most peaceful countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

He assured that the two countries will inspire each other as two of the most peaceful nations in the world and reiterated that his government remains committed to fighting poverty, corruption and eradicating Gender Based Violence and help make

host to many Namibians to enable them pursue secondary school and university education in Sierra Leone.

On his part, Namibia President, Dr. Hage Geingob, expressed profound thanks and appreciation to President Bio and his wife, Fatima Bio and the people of Sierra Leone for such a kind invitation to visit Sierra Leone.

He commended the warm reception accorded him and his wife, which made them to be very elated as if they were home away from home, and also commended President Bio for the brave step in re-uniting the two counties in terms of bilateral relations.

President Geingob also intimated that Namibians were coming to Sierra Leone in search of education and that most of them have served as now ministers and prime ministers, noting that the call made by President Bio to come together was not only to reconnect and address the multiple issues that affect the two countries, but Africa the continent as a whole.

Both Presidents have agreed not just to rekindle ties but also expand the current narrow framework of cooperation to include collaboration in mining and minerals, fisheries, agriculture.

Namibia and Sierra Leone are members of the Committee of Ten African Heads of State seeking reform of the United Nations, and coordinating Africa's bid for a seat in the non-permanent category of the UN Security Council. President Julius Maada Bio is the current Coordinator of C-10.

UBA's solid financial performance, its excellent service delivery to customers and its continuous role of facilitating rapid economic growth across the African continent were some of the reasons that led to the bank being named best bank in 6 of its African subsidiaries in 2022. UBA Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Zambia all came out top as the best banks in their respective countries.

UBA Sierra Leone Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Usman Isiaka expressed delight over the recognition from The Banker noting that "UBA Sierra Leone has won the Banker's Award back-back in Sierra Leone among the 14 commercial banks, this is a remarkable achievement."

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LOCAL NEWS

Biden to reboot ties with Africa during the U.S. - Africa Leaders summit

African leaders are meeting this week in the United States of America for the annual US-Africa summit.

The summit brings together several African leaders, organizations and top US government officials.

The Biden's three-day summit (13-15 Dec.) will feature announcements of new US investment and highlight food security -- worsened by the invasion of Ukraine.

The summit will also focus on values such as democracy and good governance, as well as fighting climate change.

One key topic will be the fate of the

African Growth and Opportunity Act, the 2000 deal that granted duty-free access to the US market for most products from sub-Saharan nations that meet standards on rights and democracy.

The pact expires in 2025, leading African leaders to seek clarity at a time that the United States has soured on trade deals.

The United States had invited all African Union members in good standing and with which Washington has full relations.

Leaders from South Africa, Egypt, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Tunisia and other African countries are expected to attend the summit.



The delegation from Ethiopia arrives at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland on December 11, 2022, to attend the US-Africa Leaders Summit. - Copyright © africanews OLIVER CONTRERAS/AFP

Sixteen days of activism: Gender Ministry poised to end violence against women & girls

By Yusufu S. Bangura



Assistant Director at the Ministry of Gender and Children Affairs, Anita Esther Momoh has told journalists and tricycle riders that they wanted to end violence against women and girls.

She made the above statement on Saturday 10th December during the end of the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV).

To mark the end the 16 days of activism, the ministry organised a float parade which started at Cotton Tree and ended at the Siaka Steven Stadium in Freetown where 80 tricycle riders were targeted to preach against GBV.

The theme for this year's celebration was 'Unite! Activism to end violence against women and girls.'

"We are sending messages out there for people to end violence against women and girls, to end rape against women, to end the traditional norms we have over the years when it comes to women and girls. We also want to see our Keke riders as male champions campaigning against gender issues," she said.

She said with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) they engaged the tricycle riders to commemorate the 16 days of activism which started on 25th November and ended 10th December, for the elimination of violence against women and girls over the year.

Madam Momoh said the 16 Days of Activism campaign provides an important platform each year to focus the world's attention on their common goal of ending violence against women and girls.

"With funding from UNFPA, we thought it fit to engage our men when it comes to Gender Based Violence because most of the times they are saying that gender issues are only for women. And it is against that backdrop we engaged

them to change the narrative," she said. She continued that tricycle riders are some of the people that have been left behind when it comes to campaign issues, so as a ministry they don't want to leave anyone behind, thus they have urged the riders to take the non-violence messages to their various communities.

She further said they conducted three-day training for riders across the country on gender and sexual based violation because there was need for them to engage the riders when it comes to violation as most of them didn't know the law.

She added that the ministry found out that people are mostly not aware that they violate the law because they don't have knowledge about GBV issues; therefore they trained them to build their capacity on gender issues for them



Assistant Director at the Ministry of Gender speaking to keke riders & journalists.

Nigeria's Abuja begins christmas celebrations

People in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, have been getting into the festive spirit this weekend, with the opening of an annual Christmas Village in the centre of the city.

On Saturday evening, illuminations at a downtown five-star hotel park were lit up for the holiday season and residents from all walks of life came to enjoy them.

The Christmas lights combined with a gala evening of music and entertainment as hundreds toured the park with thousands of twinkling stars.

Nigerians have been faced with rising costs of living and fuel shortages this year, so the bright lights which don't rely on the national electricity grid

with its regular power cuts were a welcome sight.

34-year-old nurse, Alex Ijeoma, said she wanted to put the challenges of the past year behind her and have fun.

"This Christmas I'm really grateful to God that we finally saw the end of the year, despite the challenges, the ups and downs that we've experienced as a country, as a people. So I'm actually here to unwind, and you know, to put all the issues and challenges behind me and just have fun," Ijeoma said.

Entry for the festival of lights costs 3500 naira (US dollars) for adults, while children get in free.

The illuminations will continue until December 31st where an event is planned to welcome in the New Year.

to carry the correct messages.

Speaking on behalf of tricycle riders, Central District Chairman for the riders, Alhaji S. Kamara, thanked his colleagues for being part of the float parade which was an important event for them because they too wanted to preach about gender based violence.

He further advised them not to use violence against women and girls and asked them to implement what they have learnt from the three days training

so that they will not come into conflict with the law.

"I want all men to know that women are our mothers, sisters and wives, so we should not use violence against them. But rather we should always respect them no matter the condition they found themselves. I am also calling on everyone to play their role in ending violence against women and girls, show support and solidarity to women's rights activists and to resist the rollback on women's rights," he said.



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LOCAL NEWS

By Mohamed J Kargbo

On December 10, 2022, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone commemorated the International Human Rights Day with a peace rally on the theme, "Human rights and election: stand up for human rights." Staff of the commission marched from Up-Gun in the eastern part of Freetown to the Taylor Cummings Garden at cotton in Freetown.

At Taylor Cummings Garden, statements were delivered by various high personalities in the likes of commissioners, representatives of Irish Aid, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the British High Commission.

Representative from the European Union, Sergio Raphael, thanked the commission for inviting the EU delegation to participate at the human right walk, stating that every year on December 10, they celebrate human rights day around the world.

He said this year, the European Union joined forces with the United Nations to commemorate the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), to reaffirm their commitment to ensure that human rights be upheld and respected everywhere in Sierra Leone and across the world.

He said that this year's human rights day was very important because it marked the beginning of the 75 years of the declaration and that human rights have been advanced since the declaration.

Chairperson of the Human Rights

Commission of Sierra Leone, Madam Patricia Narsu Ndanema, expressed her appreciation to the international partners and also to all other civil society organizations and staff of the commission for coming out strongly to mark the important day.

She said as a commission they have the statutory mandate to protect and promote human rights and it is also worthy to note that the enjoyment of human right is also the collective responsibility of everyone and not the sole responsibility of the commission.

She said that this year like other years, there were different themes to mark the day but that they decided to narrow it down to localize it with the theme "election to human rights: stand up for human rights."

She said they chose the theme having looked at the point of view that next year Sierra Leone would be conducting elections.

"We know how elections are and we have the good and the bad. So, as a commission we have taken it upon ourselves to monitor the process and also ensure that human rights standards are also maintained in all electoral processes," she said.

She called on the Government of Sierra Leone and the electoral bodies and management, all civil society organizations and the media to monitor the processes and ensure that the election comes out free and fair.



Former President Koroma's oral submission commences at Appeals Court

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

Lawyer representing former President Ernest Bai Koroma at the Appeals Court looking into adverse findings and recommendation of the Commissions of Inquiry, has commenced his oral submission.

The Court of Appeal is being presided over by Justice Ivan Sesay, Justice Momoh Jah Stevens, and Justice Adrian Fisher at the main Law Court Building in Freetown.

Former President Ernest Bai Koroma was at the Appeals Court against the findings and recommendations of the Commissions of Inquiry.

Meanwhile, the Court of Appeals had earlier ruled that a former President is not immune from prosecution, stating that Section 48 (4) is very clear on the issue of immunity for only serving president.

The counsel representing the former president, Joseph F. Kamara, was ruled against after he sought for Supreme Court interpretation on the grounds of immunity on ex-president.

resistance against NATCOM.

"Our position based on the open letter written to the President remains the same. Any proposed marginal increment should be tied to quality of service as a precondition. The Consortium wants to strongly remind the Minister and NATCOM that the MNOs woefully fail to meet their own part of the contract in March 23, 2017," Abu stated.

The Consortium urged that NATCOM should immediately discontinue the floor tariff, allow new mobile companies to enter into the market and stop giving anti-competitive advantage to existing MNOs.

Lawyer Kamara commenced his oral argument and told the trio judges that the notice of intention for the Appellant was to seek redress in the Supreme Court and that the grounds of appeal was that the matter is a constitutional matter, hence called for interpretation.

In 2019, three commissions of inquiry investigated the assets of vice presidents, ministers and heads of government agencies, who served along with Koroma in the administration from 2007 to 2018.

The commission found Koroma wanting on several corruption allegations relating to his salaries, pension and income on investments which they claimed "far exceeded his total emoluments and legitimate earnings".

The commission made several recommendations, among which were the forfeiture of properties to the state, the refund of monies allegedly misappropriated, while some issues were to be sent to the Anti-Corruption Commission for further investigation.

"While President Bio is crying for job creation and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the floor tariff only gives advantage to existing players, and it is a major barrier for any player. This makes some of us wonder if NATCOM actually understands the path of the President new Direction's human capital Development drive".

Native Consortium threw a staunch warning that NATCOM will be in contempt if they adjust any tariff without recourse and respect for the court case brought against NATCOM, ORANGE and AFRICELL by the NCRC and the 299 Consumers.

Native Consortium denounces proposed mobile tariff increase

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

Contrary to circulated news that Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) agreed on a proposed minimum tariff increase, the Executive Director of the Native Consortium and Research Center (NCRC), Edmond Abu Junior, has unequivocally reaffirmed that CSOs never agreed to any proposed mobile tariff increase.

The Native Consortium boss outlined his positions following what he called a 'stage-managed' public dialogue forum.

He said only two or maybe three trifling CSOs were handpicked to sign that prewritten communiqué which he claimed didn't in any way represent or reflect the seven Million Sierra Leonean population.

"These barefaced CSOs never did any pre-consultation with the wider national CSO community before penning their signatures. Therefore, we find those newspaper headlines as not only blackmailing, but misleading and deceptive," he charged.

The NCRC boss also claimed that for the past weeks some media houses have been supporting tariff increment for obvious reasons, some of which are getting adverts and promotions.

"The Native Consortium wishes to categorically tell the public that the only two institutions doing consumer protection for over two decades now have been the NCRC, led by Edmond Abu (Jr), and Consumer Protection Agency, led by Mr. Kabia," the



Edmond Abu Jr.

Consortium charged.

The NCRC went on to state that what was organized at Country Lodge last Friday was not a Public Private Dialogue but a stage-managed game. The NCRC claimed that the CSOs who went there to distract Edmond Abu were making a mere joker because their voices are only limited to that room.

The Consortium therefore, urged the MNOs, NATCOM and all media houses supporting the authorities to do a nationwide public consultation and listen to the public voice instead of hand-picking just three CSOs and some section of the media to sign a 'manipulated' communiqué that they are totally clueless about.

The NCRC also put it to NATCOM that in as much it has the power to regulate tariffs it must not misuse such powers to hurt consumers, otherwise the Consortium will put up a stiff



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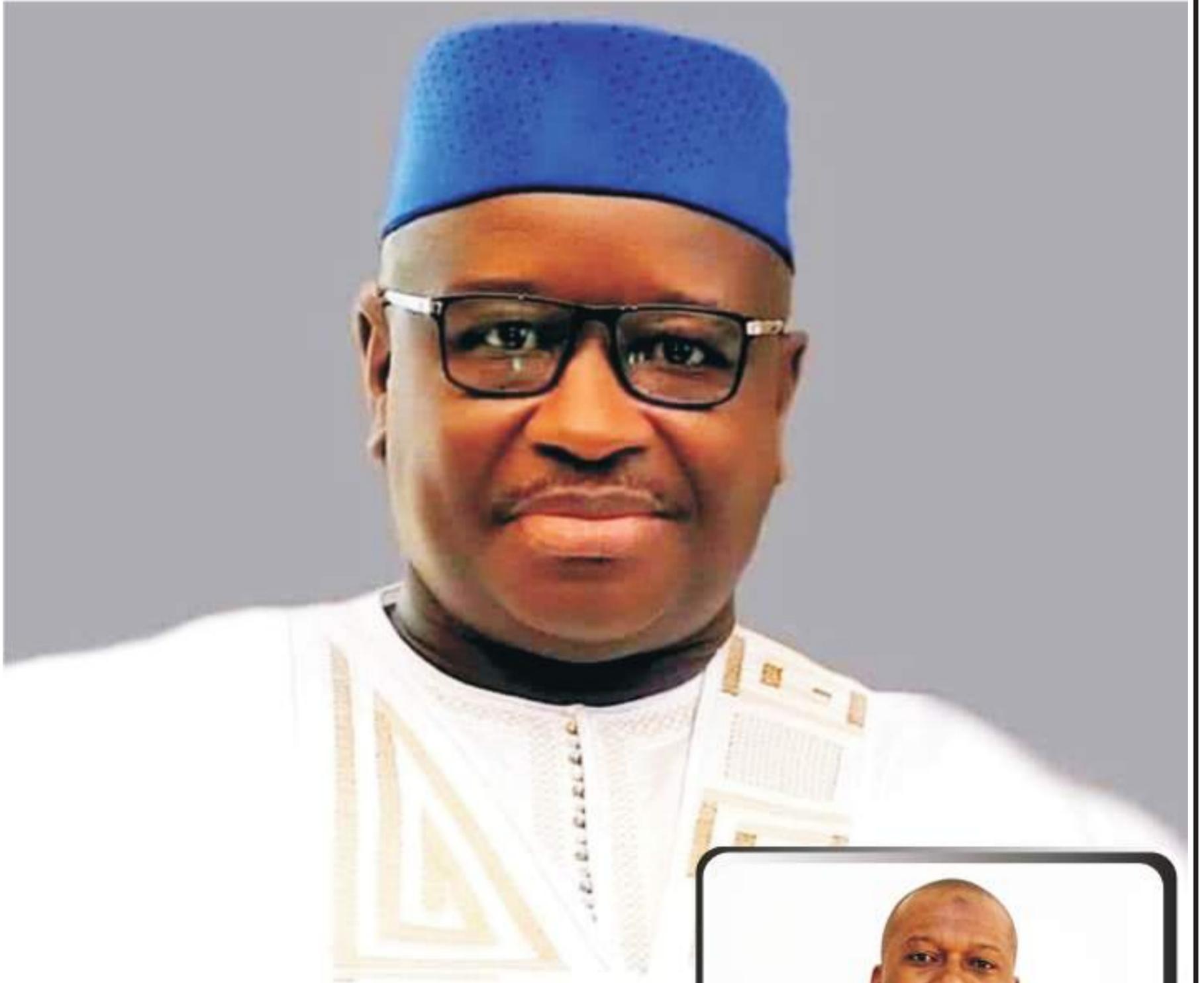
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President (Dr.) Julius
Maada Bio, the
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and the people of Sierra Leone,
a merry Christmas and
prosperous New Year in advance.**



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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Lockerbie bombing suspect is now in US custody



A police officer walks by the nose of Pan Am Flight 103 in a field near the town of... - Copyright © africanews Martin Cleaver/AP

A Libyan man suspected of assembling and programming the bomb for the Lockerbie bombing in Scotland that killed 270 people in December 1988 is in U.S. custody, U.S. authorities said Sunday.

A Justice Department spokesman confirmed in an email to AFP the arrest and detention of Abu Agila Mohammad Massoud, revealed earlier by the Scottish prosecution.

"He must appear before a court in the District of Columbia", that is to say, the capital Washington, said the spokesman, without indicating a date.

No details were given on the circumstances surrounding Mr Massoud's arrest.

According to the New York Times, he was arrested by the federal police (FBI) and is being extradited to the United States.

"The families of the victims of the Lockerbie bombing have learned that suspect Abu Agila Mohammad Massoud is in the custody of U.S. authorities," the Scottish prosecution service said earlier in a statement.

"The Scottish prosecution service and the police, in coordination with the U.S. government and U.S. colleagues, will continue to pursue this investigation with the sole aim of bringing to justice those who acted alongside al-Megrahi," the only person convicted in this case, it added.

In their own statement on Sunday, the families of the victims welcomed the arrest, calling it an "important step" in their quest for justice and saying they "look forward to the trial."

The attack had targeted a transatlantic flight from London to New York. The plane, a Pan Am Boeing 747, exploded on December 21, 1988, over the Scottish village of Lockerbie, killing all 259 passengers and crew and 11 people on the ground.

Only one person was convicted for this attack: the Libyan Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed al-Megrahi, who died in 2012. He had always claimed his innocence.

Released on August 20, 2009, by the Scottish justice, because of terminal cancer, he had

received a triumphal welcome on his return to Tripoli, causing controversy in Britain, accused of having acted to preserve an oil contract with Libya.

- Gaddafi's regime -

In December 2020, 32 years after the tragedy, the U.S. justice announced to prosecute Abu Agila Mohammad Massoud, a former member of the intelligence services of Muammar Gaddafi and at the time detained in Libya, accusing him of having made the bomb.

The Lockerbie bombing was the deadliest attack ever committed on the territory of the United Kingdom, but also the second deadliest against Americans (190 dead) after the attacks of September 11, 2001.

The regime of Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi officially acknowledged its responsibility for the Lockerbie bombing in 2003 and paid 2.7 billion dollars in compensation to the families of the victims.

The investigation was re-launched in 2016 when the U.S. justice system learned that Mr. Massoud had been arrested after the fall of the dictator and had allegedly made a confession to the intelligence services of the new Libyan regime in 2012.

Last year, the Scottish court rejected an appeal by al-Megrahi's family, ruling that there was "no miscarriage of justice."

The court also rejected the defence of the convicted man's family, which argued that documents related to the case, which the British authorities refuse to declassify, could have led to a different verdict.

These documents would have implicated Iran, in retaliation for an Iranian civilian plane shot down by a U.S. missile in July 1988 killing 290 people.

The lawyer for the al-Megrahi family, Aamer Anwar, for his part, denounced once again, in a statement, a "miscarriage of justice" aimed at his client and said he was "examining what these developments mean in terms of a potential new appeal."

Sexual and gender based violence in Rwanda's mining sector

It has been proven that SGBV does not just threaten the lives and the future of the victims, it also hinders the development of the country as a whole.

In the mining sector of Rwanda, a male-dominated sector, there have been numerous cases of discrimination and sexual harassment subjected women especially widows and single mothers.

Undergraduates in desperate need of jobs have been put in positions where they have had to give sexual favours to mining managers with hopes of getting jobs in return.

In the past, I have experienced sexual harassment in the mines but I was afraid to report it to anyone, I wanted to keep my job, it is difficult to get another job, I know many other women going through the same struggle, Winnie Kayitesi, an employee in the Mines said.

Globally, mines have created a hyper-masculinity sub-culture which has made the mining work environment unfavourable for women. SGBV are often carried out by fellow employees but are

effectively allowed to continue unchecked due to inadequate workplace protections or outright refusal to recognise SGBV as a workplace issue. Aline Providence a SGBV activist says more channels for reporting sgbv cases should be put in place.

Before getting jobs, women have to give something, not only sex but sometimes they have to pay a given percentage of money to be part of the group because it is said that women are weak and they cannot contribute as much as men, Aline Providence, SGBV Activist said.

For every company, there has to be a suggestion box that women can use to report, having the suggestion boxes will help them to report what is happening underground in the mines.

Over 1035 people work in these mining fields, and 185 of them are women. The government of Rwanda has set up policies of zero tolerance for gender-based violence, sexual harassment, and sexual exploitation.

Body of Zambian student killed in Ukraine fighting for Russia repatriated



Relatives look at a hearse carrying the remains of Zambian student Lemekhani Nyirenda at the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in Lusaka on December 11, 2022

The body of a Zambian student who died while fighting in Ukraine after he was recruited in a Russian jail arrived home in a makeshift coffin Sunday.

AFP journalists saw a white, glass-panelled hearse adorned with small curtains affording a partial view of the container holding the body arrive on the tarmac at Lusaka airport, where grieving relatives gathered.

On the coffin was a code written in black marker pen along with letters in the Cyrillic alphabet, betraying its provenance.

Zambia demanded an urgent explanation from Moscow last month over the death of Lemekhani Nathan Nyirenda in September while fighting on the Russian side in Ukraine, where he ended up after his spell in prison.

The 23-year-old had been studying nuclear engineering at Moscow Engineering Physics Institute but was handed

a nine-and-a-half year jail term in April 2020 over a drugs offence.

Two weeks after Zambia's demand for information, Russia's Wagner paramilitary group admitted it had recruited him for Moscow's "special operation" in Ukraine, adding he had voluntarily joined up before dying "a hero". Russian law allows for a prisoner to be pardoned specifically for a "special military operation", Zambian Foreign Minister Stanley Kakubo said earlier this month.

Tearful relatives, including the student's parents and brother, were on hand at the airport, clasping each other as a choir led those present in religious chants.

The family declined to comment to media. A family spokesman said the body was to be transferred to a morgue for an autopsy with a burial date to follow.

Kakubo said Friday the issue of compensation to the family over the death would be discussed "in due course".

DR Congo Tutsis face threats, prejudice amid rebel crisis



The M23 advance has also driven a wave of virulent anti-Tutsi hate speech on social media, with calls for them to depart for Rwanda and worse - Copyright © africanews Jerome Delay/ Copyright 2021 The AP. All rights reserved.

Sitting in a small courtyard in Goma, eastern DR Congo, a 55-year-old Tutsi woman joked darkly that she would be killed if she spoke under her real name.

She fled to the city last week after a militia leader known as General Janvier, an opponent of the Tutsi-led M23 rebel group, arrived in her town of Kitchanga.

"We saw children with machetes and guns saying they'd come to kill the Tutsis," said the woman, in a poor Goma neighbourhood of clapboard houses on the Rwandan border.

The M23 has advanced across North Kivu province in recent weeks, winning victories over the army as well as other militias and forcing hundreds of thousands to flee in its wake.

The Democratic Republic of Congo accuses its smaller neighbour Rwanda of backing the M23, something UN experts and US officials agree with - although Kigali denies it.

Knife-edge tensions have escalated pressure on Congolese Tutsis, whose history is contested in the central African nation.

Many assume that Tutsis support the M23, for example, or perceive them as Rwandan implants rather than native Congolese.

The government in Kinshasa has repeatedly argued against tribalism and stressed that the Rwandan government alone is to blame for the M23 crisis.

But the reality in the east of the country, about a thousand miles (1,600 kilometres) from the capital, is often different.

AFP interviewed six Congolese Tutsis who had recently arrived in Goma, mostly from Kitchanga in North Kivu's Masisi territory.

Five said they had fled death threats from militias. "It hurts me," said the 55-year-old Tutsi woman, who explained that all her relatives were Congolese but her children were accused of being Rwandans at school.

"Our children ask us: What's Rwanda?"

Cut off your nose
The sense of injustice is widely shared. A 36-year-old Tutsi mother of two, who'd also recently fled to Goma, told AFP she wanted the same rights as everyone else.

She fiddled nervously with her wedding ring as she described why she left Kitchanga. "Militiamen notice your nose and threaten to cut it off with a knife," she said. Tutsis are often stereotyped as having straight noses. The woman - speaking in the Kinyarwanda language

native to Rwandans as well as many Congolese Tutsis and Hutus - said militiamen also looted her home after she fled.

"They say every Tutsi is an M23," she said. "It's terrible." The M23 first leapt to international prominence in 2012 when it captured Goma, before being driven out and going to ground.

But the rebels took up arms again late last year, claiming the DRC had failed to honour a pledge to integrate them into the army.

They've since seized swathes of territory and come within about 20 miles (32 kilometres) of Goma, a key hub of over a million people.

The M23 advance has also driven a wave of virulent anti-Tutsi hate speech on social media, with calls for them to depart for Rwanda and worse.

Emmanuel Runigi Kamanzi, the president of a North Kivu livestock farmers' association, said his Tutsi ancestors arrived in the region in the middle ages.

"This is our home," he added, decrying extremist attitudes fanned by Mai-Mai militias and so-called Nyatura armed groups that claim to represent Congolese Hutus.

Nyatura means "those who strike mercilessly" in Kinyarwanda. "Uproot us"

In public statements, the M23 has frequently accused other armed groups as well as government forces of targeting Tutsis.

But Lieutenant-Colonel Guillaume Ndjike, the Congolese army spokesman in North Kivu, said soldiers have not attacked Tutsis and that the allegations are "excuses put forward by the Rwandan army".

M23 fighters have themselves committed alleged atrocities.

The rebels killed 131 civilians and raped 27 women and girls in two neighbouring villages in late November, according to a preliminary UN probe.

Congolese Tutsi leaders have also condemned the M23. David Karambi, the president of a North Kivu Tutsi association, told reporters in December that recent massacres could not even be "committed by animals," for example.

Many Congolese Tutsis interviewed by AFP said they felt unfairly blamed, and in danger.

In a Goma district where many Tutsis recently fled, a 27-year-old woman said Mai-Mai and Nyatura members had threatened "to kill us as they did to Tutsis in Rwanda".

"This war, it's to uproot us," she said, eyes downcast. Africanews with AFP

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INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATION 2022

MESSAGE BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF SIERRA LEONE



Freetown, 10th December 2022

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone and its partners joined the United Nations and the rest of the world on Saturday 10th December to commemorate the 74th International Human Rights Day since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948 by the UN General Assembly.

Ahead of the 75th Anniversary in 2023, the Commission joins the international community to launch the year-long campaign to showcase the UDHR's **legacy, relevance and activism**.

Distinguished partners, since the UDHR came into existence in 1948, human rights have, in real terms, become more recognized and more guaranteed across the world, through the ratification of various human rights instruments and also promotional activities aimed at building the culture of human rights for all. To this, the Commission can attest in relation to strides taken by the government for human rights protection and promotion.

This year's International Human Rights Day theme is: "Dignity, Freedom and Justice for All" with the call to action for us all to '#StandUp4 Human Rights'. Although HRCSL has the statutory mandate to protect and promote human rights, we recognize that this mandate cannot be done by the Commission alone - it is the collective responsibility of all of us in 'Making Rights Real'.

To this year's theme, the Commission and its partners have added "Human Rights and Elections-#StandUp4HumanRights". This localized theme was adopted against the backdrop of the country's upcoming general elections, and have seized this occasion to focus on the critical human rights issues in the electoral processes.

As an independent national human rights institution mandated to protect and promote human rights, the Commission commemorates this event by strongly calling on everyone to observe, respect and defend human rights not only on December 10, but throughout the conduct of the 2023 electoral processes.

As Sierra Leone prepares for the multi-tier elections, we must have in mind that electoral processes are expressions of people's political will. This simply means that the right to express diverse ideas must be firmly guarded during election periods as guaranteed in Article 19(2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Sierra Leone is a state party. It is however worthy to add that while we enjoy this right, it must be done within the confines of the law.

HRCSL recognizes Government's commitment to promoting free speech by the repeal of Part 5 of the Public Order Act of 1965 which hitherto criminalized free speech and by enacting a new Independent Media Commission Act of 2021 which among other things empowers the Independent Media Commission to regulate the media towards professionalism. While HRCSL also welcomes the Cyber Security and Crimes Act of 2021, it calls on Government and its partners to conduct successive trainings for the police, state counsels and the benchers on the content and implementation of this Law and to also engage in strategic nationwide public awareness raising programs especially so as we fast approach the heats of the elections.

On behalf of the Commission, let me use this opportunity to call on all state and non-state apparatus more especially the Election Management Bodies (EMBs), Security Forces, the Judiciary, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the media to focus on conflict prevention and mitigation messages before,

during and after the electoral processes.

We must all be wholeheartedly committed to collectively harness efforts towards ensuring that the fundamental human rights of every individual are respected throughout the electoral processes, and that everyone exercises his or her civic responsibilities without hindrance and in a manner that is consistent with national, regional and international human rights standards.

In light of the above, HRCSL uses this opportunity to call on stakeholders including:

The Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone to conduct free, fair and credible elections;

The Security Sector to adequately train their personnel on elections and security and provide a professional security cover for the 2023 elections;

The Political Parties Regulation Commission to properly regulate the conduct of political parties for an inclusive election;

Political Parties to put out policies and intended programs designed to win the hearts and minds of the people and not to sponsor violence or embark on preaching hate messages;

HRCSL calls on the Judiciary to expeditiously adjudicate potential petition matters as and when they are filed in court in order to prevent tension

Civil Society Organizations to put the interest of the nation at the center of all their advocacies and not their individual interests at the detriment of the State;

The Media to bless the nation with credible media coverage giving opportunity to all sides of the story and not creating tensions;

Religious and Traditional Leaders to provide a more vibrant the traditional role of helping to maintain the peace and swiftly intervening between and amongst political parties/actors to deescalate political tensions;

The International Community to be dependable and independent moral guarantors for a peaceful outcome of the elections;

Citizens to exercise their rights to vote and be voted for and avoid violence and hate speeches especially on social media;

In general, *the Government* to provide the enabling environment for citizens to enjoy their rights to vote and be voted for and all the antecedent rights and privileges that come with such rights.

HRCSL will continue to robustly monitor the electoral process with the help of its partners and a Special Elections Report to be produced thereafter.

In conclusion, HRCSL commits itself to remain committed to its mandate of protecting and promoting human rights during the electoral processes and beyond.

Before I take my seat, I am pleased to inform you all that the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone was in October 2022 reaccredited as a "Grade A" National Human Rights Institution by the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions being the accredited body of the United National Human Rights Council for the assessment of the operations of National Human Rights Institutions.

The HRCSL acknowledges the contributions of its partners in making this happen. I am excited to particularly recognize the Government of Sierra Leone, the Embassy of Ireland, the UNDP, our Human Rights Working Group, our District Human Rights Committees among others for making this happen through their endless financial and moral support to the Commission's operations.

I thank you all for listening and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Patricia Narsu Ndanema
Chairperson



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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



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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Temporal Job vacancy

Abt. Associates Inc., a US-based company, is implementing the USAID-funded President's Malaria Initiative VectorLink project. The project is supporting the implementation of malaria control strategies such as indoor residual spraying (IRS) as well as entomological monitoring.

Abt Associate is currently seeking qualified individuals to fill the **temporary** position of **Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant** (23 positions) and **Data Entry Clerks** (58 positions) in Bo and Bombali districts. Successful candidates for M&E assistants and data entry clerks will be contracted for one and two months respectively.

Operation Sites

Bo District: Dambala, Ngalu, Jembe, Serabu, Gondama, Sumbuya, Jimmi, Gbalima Songa, Mongere, Koribondo, Gerihun, Fengehun, Tikonko, Bumpo

Bombali District: Rokontha, Mara, Pate Bana, Binkolo, Kamabai, Kagbere, Makarie, Kalangba, Yeli Sanda

AVAILABLE POSITIONS:

- M&E Assistants** – The position will be responsible for all data reporting-related activities during the IRS campaign. He/she will also assist the M&E Manager in conducting monitoring checks, and data reviews to identify errors and supervise data collection by spray operators in line with reporting requirements.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Responsible for monitoring data collection activities during the campaign
- Support data entry and ensure timely reports to data centers
- Ensure correct use of M&E tools at the site
- Ensure data are reported according to the approved dataflow and timelines and attend to any other duties assigned
- Ensure all data are reviewed and verified by Team leaders/Brigade supervisors for their respective operation sites
- Daily data collection on errors identified and reported to the M&E manager via the data collection tool provided
- Ensure and precisely reported to be used for quality improvement at the site level
- Supervise site-level data reporting cycle to ensure data completeness on a periodic basis, or when required
- Performs other duties as assigned
- Train IRS seasonal workers on data collection using M&E tools and procedures**
- Perform data collection verification in project-supported communities**
- Coach personnel on data entry and verification**
- Ensure timely delivery of data (on phones or paper forms) from the field to the data center**
- Supervise Data Entry Clerks and ensure data entry is complete and thorough**
- Provide feedback to supervisors on common data collection errors**
- Produce weekly spray data progress reports for the assigned district**
- Perform other duties as assigned by the M&E Manager**

Education, Experience, and other requirements:

- Graduate in Social sciences, statistics, or Public Health (students are encouraged to apply)
- Significant experience in data entry and data management
- Demonstrate competence in assessing priorities and in managing a variety of activities in a time-sensitive environment, and meeting deadlines with attention to detail and quality
- Strong writing, editing, and formatting skills
- Demonstrate computer skills in Microsoft Office Suite applications including Word, Excel, etc. will be of advantage
- Residents in Bombali or Bo are our preferred

- Female candidates **MUST** not be pregnant or lactating mothers during the spray campaign
- Must be both physically and medically fit with no history of chronic respiratory infection and non-allergic to insecticides
- Experience in the use of Microsoft Excel, DHIS2, CommCare, and ODK**
- Experience training large groups of people preferred**

- Data Entry Clerk** – This position will be responsible for handling clerical tasks relating to entering or updating data into the VectorLink DHIS2 database. And ensuring the database is accurate and updated.

Duties and Responsibilities of Data Entry Clerk

- Reviewing data for accuracy and **Enter data collected during the project activities into a project database**
- Sorting and organizing paper records or notes following data entry according to **project data filing protocols**
- Updating the database **daily**
- Perform regular and extensive data cleaning**
- Provide feedback to spray team supervisors on data collection errors**
- Generate and print various data reports as requested**
- Perform other duties as assigned by the program M&E Manager**

Education, Duties, and Other Requirements

- Must be able to focus for long periods and perform quickly and adequately**
- Must have excellent touch typing skills**
- Knowledgeable and experienced in data entry and management**
- Good organizational and communication skills**
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work as part of a team**
- Experience in the use of Microsoft Excel and/or DHIS2 preferred**
- Ability to work under pressure**
- Previous experience in IRS activities is preferred**

How to apply

- ∅ Select a preferred Operational Site from the list provided above and state it in your application letter. **Application letters that do not have a specific Operational Site indicated will not be considered.**
- ∅ **Attach a copy of the education certificate.**
- ∅ **Original certificate (s) will be required during the selection process.**

Submit an application letter and CV by the methods stated below.

- Email the application to the following address: abtassociates.sl.recruit@gmail.com

Please indicate the position and preferred operational site in the subject line of the email. Emails without an operational site and Job title will not be considered.

- Or you can deliver a hard copy to the IRS Malaria Focal Person- DHMT Office for the preferred district.

The deadline for submission of applications is 5:00 PM Saturday, December 23rd, 2022. Applications submitted after this date will not be considered.

Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.

Additional Information

SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT: A selection committee will evaluate ALL applications. The evaluation process would include the qualifications of each applicant (recentness and appropriateness of the applicant's education and experience), answers to the supplemental questions, results of employment references investigated, and any other appropriate information available.

The selection committee will admit to the interview only those persons who possess the most job-related qualifications and may establish admittance criteria beyond the minimum qualifications stated above. The interview will comprise 100% of the applicant's earned grade. A candidate must earn a qualifying grade of 70 or more to be eligible for an appointment.

All applicants conditionally offered a merit position will be required to submit original copies of Education certificates, and valid identification and undertake a -post-training evaluation test.



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Fix No.	Sales Close	Competition	Home Team	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



**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



BLOOM BANK REBRANDING PRESS RELEASE

FREETOWN, DECEMBER 8, 2022

KEYSTONE BANK SIERRA LEONE REBRANDS TO BLOOM BANK AFRICA

Keystone Bank Sierra Leone has from today December 8, 2022 rebranded to Bloom Bank Africa (BBA), with a firm promise of bringing prosperity to Sierra Leoneans through its new and exciting brand of customized banking solutions.

The transition to the new brand identity comes after the bank underwent a transformation upon its acquisition by Oakwood Green Africa, and is in line with the bank's new direction of building a resilient, technology savvy and Pan-African bank well positioned to meet the financial needs of its customers.

Represented by the lotus flower - a resilient species that thrives and blooms all year round despite the weather, the bank's logo also features three vibrant yet symbolic colours; blue, green and orange, all representing strong pillars of excellence, warmth, passion and dexterity.

MD/CEO of the bank, Mr. Ndubuisi Ejiofor reiterated the bank's new identity in line with its vision during the official unveiling of the new brand: "We are driven by a passion to help our people thrive, and to make great things happen for them. We aim to be the conduit for capital into and through Africa for development, creating value for business, big or small, and empowering Sierra Leoneans and Sierra Leonean businesses to achieve more, and thrive. We are dedicated to providing sound financial advice and support to SME's and to keep these indigenous businesses, which are the oil that moves the nation running always."

The unveiling of the new brand identity, according to Mr. Ejiofor, is the first phase of the rebranding process, promising more exciting events and activities for the next phases.

---END---



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