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# Information Ministry commences implementation of digital transformation project

## Sky Vision College of Digital Technology opens in Freetown

By Ishmael Dumbuya

World Bank has through the Ministry of Information and Communications disbursed a grant of \$50Million for the implementation of the Digital Transformation Project, with three objectives that should be met, including access to broadband internet connectivity; enhance digital skills, and government to deliver on their digital services.

Speaking to Radio Democracy' Gud Morning Salone program, Minister of Information and Communications, Mohamed Rahman Swaray, explained that the project will last for 5 years.



Minister of Information and Communications, Mohamed Rahman Swaray

Cont. Page 2



Members of the high table during the event

## Lawmakers demand more funding for Labour Ministry



## Government signs Peper Port & Railway Expansion, development & management agreement with ARISE Integrated Industrial Platform LTD

## Nigeria's first-time voters flock to get voting cards ahead of election

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## PERSONAL GLIMPSES CHECKMATING POLITICAL GABS AND RHETORICS

By: Winstanley,  
R. Bankole, Johnson

**M**y loyalty to the All Peoples' Congress (APC) Party aside, I still considered it obligatory to have congratulated Mr. Alpha Bakarr Sahid Kanu (a.k.a Alpha Khan) on his appointment by President Bio, first as Resident Minister North-East with Cabinet rank and later as Presidential Spokesperson (Extra-ordinary and Plenipotentiary?). And I was delighted Alpha Khan openly acknowledged my kind sentiments expressed about him. I did that on purpose because among other reasons, call ups to national service irrespective of one's perceived political party allegiance should transcend narrow political party interests. Should I insist!!

### "Yeliba-ism"

That aside, my hope also was that by his appointment into the SLPP governance architecture, Alpha Khan would ultimately leverage from his donkey years of apprenticeship as a regular player and for a long-time a first choice in the line-up in the team of the man he himself dubbed "King Messi and World Best" (Former President Ernest Bai Koroma), to guide President Bio towards a more cohesive national agenda, as opposed to the traditional SLPP agenda of hatred and divisiveness. My obligation therefore should not end with my congratulatory message to Alpha Khan on his appointments, but remains open-ended as I commit myself to be monitoring his inputs into mainstream SLPP decisions to ensure they regularly reflect the honour of his choice and far less gabs and rhetoric. And that as one would expect includes guiding and keeping him in check in the event any of his gabs begin to reflect over-raps, or that they become inadvertently tainted with the kind sycophancy and untruths as would pale even the Kambia type of "Yeliba-ism" into second place.

### "Political Fodder"

Now in these challenging times leading up to our next multi-tiered elections, that is important because even though the

Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) hasn't yet declared electioneering campaigns open, the ruling SLPP Party – definitely abusing the benefits of incumbency - would seem to be miles ahead already with their campaign billboards, posters, adverts and other propaganda materials all over the country, buoyed up by public utterances showcasing government achievements in the last four years (even where they do not exist), and all of which are intended to captivate the gullible.

Such sustained propaganda are hinged (as usual) on the typical SLPP disdain for the intellect of the electorate whom they either believe are blind and deaf at the same time to the realities on the ground, or have been intimidated thus far to vote into a second term them out of sheer cowardice. And the best "political fodder" the SLPP are using for that are "Prominent Northerners", none of whom is making any attempt to bridge the ever widening schisms that has permeated our national political fabric since April 2018. But I assume we can let all of that pass, in the sure and certain assurance that based on tracking of their failed Manifesto promises, the SLPP Party needs more time to explain to the electorate why they should not be kicked out of government via the ballot box using the same Constituency-based electoral system that brought them to power, than us as the opposition APC party would ever require to justify our re-election come 24th June.

Suffice it to say however that with the benefits of the social media, the public is now more enlightened and better informed on whether to applaud or checkmate excess gabs and actions of government agents, depending on prevailing situations and in real time too. That is to say to applaud them if they spoke the truth, but to also dutifully also critique or call them to

account if they attempted to be economical with it in the hope of misleading society. And interestingly both situations presented themselves from a recent 6:05 seconds Video clip depicting Mr. Alpha Bakarr Sahid Kanu in his usual element ululating President Bio for imaginary political gains only he could identify.

### Hindsight

Mr. Kanu spoke nothing but the truth when he said and quoting him: ".....in 2018 power was handed over to President Bio". He neither mentioned who "...handed over power to Bio...." nor did he bother to even clarify why he was the only one in the entire APC hierarchy to have called to congratulate President on his electoral victory in 2018. But the inference there to me was that President Bio never won the 2018 election because in my estimation and using the benefits of hindsight if he did: The then NEC Chairperson N'fa Allie Conteh would not have refused to publish the actual disaggregated and consolidated results of the 2018 Presidential elections up to this day and The Chief Justice would not have assigned the joint petitions of Dr. Samura Kamara and Dr. Sylvia Blyden against the eligibility of Bio as the duly elected President for hearings, without his first consenting to the fact that there was prima-facie evidence justifying same that merited those hearings. It is on record that those petitions in the Supreme Court have up to this day neither been ruled upon nor dismissed, but shelved.

Accordingly both the above have left me with no alternative but to conclude that indeed rather than "winning" the last Presidential elections outright, Bio as Alpha Kanu said, had "power handed over to him".

### Economical

In that same video clip Mr. Alpha Kanu also appeared to have been economical with the truth on two fronts when he asserted that:

The Corona virus which claimed 121 victims (within a year) was by far "...deadlier and more bravely fought and eradicated by President Bio in a typical military General fashion ...." than Ebola virus which claimed over 3,800 lives under Ernest Bai Koroma and which lasted much for a shorter period in this country. (We all know that globally the Ebola has always been rated as by far deadlier).

President Bio had recorded a hundred per centum successes in the American Millenium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Scorecard thus implying Sierra Leone's eligibility for the Compact Grants.

Mr. Alpha Kanu knows full well that he was being insincere on both above counts, but was understandably obliged to be misinforming the people given his present circumstances, for which one can be forgiven for concluding that such seeming ambivalence is informed by the sheer weight of shared values and loyalties to "two masters – both the APC and The SLPP Parties at the same time. The records have it that he hasn't officially resigned his membership from the former Party yet. Nevertheless, like others in his category such as the Hon. Victor Bockari Foh, Moijueh Kaikai, Musa Tarawallie and Robin Fallay, I think he (all of them in fact) should be congratulated for their proclivity to switch political loyalty so impulsively.

It is on that note that no one in the SLPP (I mean no one including President Bio) should be surprised when (not if) they would all be "returning home to their APC roots" and with much fanfare after 24th June, claiming that they all went away as "Spies" for the APC and are returning well-armed with massive intelligence on the SLPP.

The only casualty in such ambivalent and bizarre reunions as ever will always be our Nation State: Sierra Leone.

## Information Ministry commences implementation of digital transformation project

From Cover

He said when President Bio was elected in 2018, he had a broad vision wherein Sierra Leoneans will be digitally connected and that when he was appointed to run the ministry, he met a lot of challenges which the previous ministry had with the World Bank.

He went on to state that in 2014, when Sierra Leone tried to implement the Digital Transformation Project, the World Bank was not happy because of the manner in which resources were used, to an extent that the ministry was blacklisted by the bank.

He further stated that the project will help people to effectively participate in the digital economy and added that the ministry also works with Smart Africa, a digital company geared

towards digitalizing the African economy.

"Unlike the previous government, the World Bank took this government more seriously when it comes to project implementation," he boasted.

He highlighted that digital transformation enhances digital platforms and services to make dealings with the government easier and more accessible than ever before. According to the minister, digital transformation is not just about the private sector that can benefit from technological advancements and the new ways of working, indicating that in



Minister of Information and Communications,  
Mohamed Rahman Saway

order to keep up with public expectations for streamlined,

efficient, and hassle-free services, public sector organizations must look to digital solutions to get the best value from public funds and deliver a better citizen experience.

"Digital transformation in government involves the utilization of innovative technologies in order to deliver more transparent, cost-effective and customer-focused services to citizens at both national and local level," he said.

He ended by underlining that innovative digital technologies with human understanding can enable public sector organizations to transform and streamline their services, driving better value from public funds and providing improved public services.



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## LOCAL NEWS Sky Vision College of Digital Technology opens in Freetown

As a way of enhancing digital transformation in Sierra Leone, a group of Indian business people have come together and officially opened Sky Vision College of Digital Technology at Wilberforce in Freetown, an information technology institution that would impart quality ICT knowledge to Sierra Leoneans. Over 30 students have been admitted into the college, according to management.

The college will offer the best IT solutions in the country and for organisations, with services including CCTV installation and configuration, pops solution for hotel and supermarkets, accounting system, website building, among several other services.

Courses the college will offer include diploma in software engineering, diploma in infrastructure management services, big data developer-Hadoop, diploma in digital marketing, diploma in financial accounting, cloud computing professional, ethical hacking, android app developer, java application developer and Microsoft office.

Speaking at the opening of the College, Director of Communication and Corporate Affairs, Abass Abdulai Bangura said as an institution, they are ready for healthy competition and that they were on the verge of signing Memorandum of Understanding with other institutions as a way of networking.

He said Sky Vision is not only going to be a college but one that would be providing solutions in the IT world and that they would be opened to international partners.

"We have lecturers that can do the job and impart the right knowledge. We are about to take ICT to the general level of



Co-Founder and Rector, Munish Sharma



Oliver B.M Somasa, delivering the keynote address

life," he said.

Co-Founder and Rector of the college, Munish Sharma, said the college is accredited by the National Council for Technical, Vocational and other Academic Awards (NCTVA) and that they would offer updated courses in sisco, Microsoft and many other applications.

"Our courses are internationally certified. We are not only providing the knowledge for our students but we are also going to be providing training for our graduates in job interview skills and many others," he said.



Members of the high table during the event

Nadia Parkinson from the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) said, unlike other institutions, Sky Vision went through the process of accreditation and certified before they started operations, thus calling on them to continue in that spirit.

Ing. Momahed Jalloh from NCTVA, said they were excited with Sky Vision and that they knew it is an excellent institution and called on the management and staff to be professional, while calling on the students to stay focused and always behave well.

Simeon T. Sandy from the Technical Education and Vocational Training (TVET) Secretariat, in the Ministry of Higher Education, said the training that would be provided by the institution is line with the vision of the government to ensure the middle manpower level is developed with lots of graduates that would contribute to national development.

Delivering the keynote address, Oliver B.M Somasa, Retired Deputy

Inspector General of the Sierra Leone Police, said the continued support of those present at the occasion and their contribution to the development of the college were paramount to the achievement of the Sierra Leone national development strategies.

"This should be the task of us all, the government, the private sector, NGOs and our development partners. The establishment of this institution is no doubt in line with the Ministry of Education's Technical Education and Vocational Training (TVET) policy to develop a framework for public-private partnership, with a view to increasing private sector participation in TVET, expand access, improve quality particularly in areas with high job creation," he said.

He hammered home the need for young Sierra Leoneans to recognize computer skills as a rewarding profession, adding that the qualification and competence in that skill and related professionals must be encouraged to join and manage training in that field.

## WHO to establish TB Vaccine Council

By Alfred Koroma

Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has announced plans to establish a new TB Vaccine Accelerator Council.

The Council will facilitate the licensing and use of effective novel vaccines against tuberculosis (TB), catalysing high-level alignment between funders, global agencies, governments and end users in identifying and overcoming barriers to TB vaccine development. It will convene funders, global agencies, governments and those with TB, in identifying and overcoming barriers to vaccine development.

Speaking at a high-level panel at the World Economic Forum on Tuesday, the WHO Boss said one of the most important lessons from the response

to the COVID-19 pandemic is that innovative health interventions can be delivered fast if they are prioritized politically and financed adequately.

"The challenges presented by TB and COVID-19 are different, but the ingredients that accelerate science, research and innovation are the same: urgent, up-front public investment; support from philanthropy; and engagement of the private sector and communities. We believe the TB field will benefit from similar high-level coordination," he said.

According to UN, TB which is also known as consumption is caused by bacteria that mostly affect the lungs. It is spread through the air when someone who has TB coughs, sneezes or spits.

The disease is the second leading

infectious killer after COVID-19 and the 13th leading cause of death worldwide. In 2021, TB affected approximately 10.6 million people and killed 1.6 million.

A vaccine developed over a century ago, Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) is currently the only licensed TB vaccine. It provides moderate efficacy in preventing severe forms of TB in infants and young children, but it does not adequately protect adolescents and adults, who account for close to 90% of TB transmissions globally.

Drug-resistance continues to be a major problem with close to half a million people developing drug-resistant TB every year, WHO says. And despite nations' commitments to end TB by 2030, in the Sustainable

Development Goals, the epidemic shows no sign of slowing down.

UN report that recent WHO commissioned study, an investment case for new tuberculosis (TB) vaccines estimates that, over 25 years, a vaccine that is 50% effective in preventing disease among adolescents and adults could avert up to 76 million new TB cases, 8.5 million deaths, 42 million courses of antibiotic treatment and US\$ 6.5 billion in costs faced by TB affected households, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable.

A vaccine that is 75% effective could avert up to 110 million new TB cases and 12.3 million deaths, the study suggest, furthering that every US\$ 1 invested in a 50% effective vaccine could generate an economic return of US\$ 7 in terms of averted health costs and increased productivity.



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## LOCAL NEWS

# Government signs Pepel Port & Railway Expansion, development & management agreement with ARISE Integrated Industrial Platform LTD

The Government of Sierra Leone has on Tuesday 17th January 2023, signed the Pepel Port and Pepel – Tonkolili Railway development, expansion and management lease agreement with ARISE Integrated Industrial Platforms Ltd.

According to the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Timothy Kabba, this agreement is part of the bigger reforms in the mining sector, where the government intends to open the space for more players to participate.

He furthered that ARISE IIP is a credible company with a reputation for developing and managing infrastructure in Africa. "This agreement is taking a government asset from monopoly to be more accessible" he added.

Minister Kabba furthered that the revival of the mining operation requires significant investment in infrastructure for the country to fully benefit from the growth of its mining output.

This lease agreement will give a 10% free Carry to the Government of Sierra Leone and provide access to rail and port facilities to other bulk mineral producers in the northern corridor.

This project will expand economic activities by providing jobs for Sierra Leoneans and enable passengers' locomotion from Tonkolili through Bombali to the Port Loko district.

Through this agreement, the company will also introduce passenger rail services allowing communities for better mobility



and trade, increase mineral export with an additional 20 million MT, 10% dividend to Government, surface rent to landowners, annual royalties PAYE and other taxes.

In his statement, the Minister of Finance Sheku Ahmed Fantamadi Bangura stated that ARISE IIP is a sector specialist firm with a proven record across Africa in managing infrastructure. Stating that they are signing this agreement after several consultations, due diligence and approval from the cabinet with concurrence from the Ministry of Finance.

He furthered that this agreement is in the best interest of the government and people of Sierra Leone and that after the signing, the agreement will be taken to parliament for ratification.

The business plan, financial model and pre-feasibility studies are estimating a total investment of 476 million dollars covering the refurbishment of the Pepel Tonkolili Railway work, Pepel Port, Railway connectivity to Marampa mines, the introduction of passenger rail services and the rail connection to Guinea.

Signing for ARISE IIP, Managing Director, Jesper Harring Boll stated

that ARISE is a conceiver, developer and operator of high-added-value infrastructure committed to making Africa thrive with an investment of several billion dollars and a good track record across many countries in Africa like Benin, Togo, Gabon, Cote d'Ivoire, Tchad, RoC, DRC or Rwanda.

He continued that ARISE IIP identifies gaps in African countries that unlock value and create new industries to create local transformation and maximize production, efficiency and cost to generate growth and local value addition.

## Lawmakers demand more funding for Labour Ministry

By Jariatu S. Bangura

As lawmakers debate the proposed Employment Bill, 2023, a number of them have called on the government, through the Ministry of Finance, to provide more funding to the Ministry of Labour for an effective enforcement of the new law.

The proposed bill seeks to consolidate and improve the law relating to labour and employment, to provide for the promotion of equal opportunity and elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation and to provide for other related matters.

The bill, when passed into law, will repeal and consolidate labour employment laws like Section 116 (1), Chapter 212 which deals with the Employer and the Employee's Act 1962, Chapter 213 -the Registration of the Employee's Act, 1947, Cap 214 -the African Laborer's Employment Act 1937, Cap 215- the Provision of Force Labour, Cap 216- the Recruitment of Workers Act 1941.

Also, Cap 217 -the Job Regulations, Cap 218- the Machinery (Safe Work and Inspections) Rules, Cap 219 -the Work's man Compensation, Cap 220-the Wages Board and Cap 221-the Trade Union, Cap 222 and deals with trade disputes and 223-the arbitration and inquiry all of the Industrial Relation (Amended ) Act

1974, will be repealed.

In his submission, Minister of Labour and Social Security, Alpha Timbo said the most valuable asset of any nation is its workforce and that they should be served well.

He said the country's employment laws over the years were not only obsolete and weak, but that their implementation processes have been seriously undermined.

He said old labour standards comprising rules and principles regarding the minimum standards recognized internationally for treating workers and employers have been violated.

He stated that labour standards are fundamental principles that protect basic human rights at the work place and as a result, the government thought it wise to note their importance and subsequently review them in order to be able to have legislations that will represent the current legalities.

He said the new law would get a database of workers, address the issue of contract workers, and leave entitlement including paternity and maternity (From 12 weeks to 14 weeks).

He also informed MPs that issues relating to terminal benefits or end-of-service benefits and labour

clearance certificates and apprenticeships, volunteerism as well as workers with a disability, would be amicably addressed.

According to the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Segepor S. Thomas, when cases of such go to the court for remedy, they were sometimes referred to the ministry for redress, but Labour Officers support the employers against the employees, therefore the Minister should find ways to avoid such situations.

He said all of the labour issues going to court should be handled by the ministry amicably as a lot of Sierra Leoneans suffered in the hands of foreign employers.

He said the implementation of laws was poorly done even with the effort MPs make in passing laws that will help citizens.

Hon. Rolan F. Kargbo said the document speaks volume as compared to what it used to be, adding that workers have suffered for far too long in the hands of employers.

He said the employment world within Sierra Leone is that the employers have done more harm than good to workers, and that human rights, conditions of service, condition at the work place, end of service payment, among others, have been left at the hands of the employers to handle.

He said such has to be properly managed with the enactment of the new bill.

He said if the ministry must do it work effectively, they need more funding to enhance enforcement on defaulting employers.

Hon. Ishmael Sama Sandy said a lot of issues relating to the labour landscape were addressed in the new bill in tandem with the International labour laws.

He said it was worrisome to note that gatekeepers, medical doctors, painters, cleaners, among other work related, are now being handled by expatriates especially with institutions that are owned by foreigners in the country.

Hon. Bash Kamara said some of the laws really need to be repealed considering their importance. He said the new law if enacted, will benefit both the employees and the employers and also a standard will be set.

Hon. Joseph William Lamin said some children below the age of 18 years are being hired to work by certain institutions and at the end given pittance, therefore the ministry should be able to address those situations once the law is enacted.



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## LOCAL NEWS **FBC lecturer in court for domestic violence**

By Jeneba A. Conteh

**5**7-year-old Augustine Ansumana Garmoh, lecturer at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, has made several appearances before Magistrate Mark Ngegba on the Pademba Road Court No.1 in Freetown on allegation of domestic violence.

The accused was in court for domestic violence contrary to Section 2(1) of the Domestic Violence Act No.20 of 2007. It was alleged that the accused on a date between 1st Jan 2016 and

Wednesday 19th January 2022, at Upper Allen Town in Freetown, psychologically abused Hassantu Garmoh, with whom he had a domestic relationship.

The abstract report indicates that the complainant was psychologically and emotionally abused by the accused.

Prosecution witness, a police officer, Detective Sergeant 10284 Unisa Sesay, attached to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) headquarters, said he knows

the complainant and recognised the accused.

He recalled on 1st January 2016 and the 19th January 2022.

He said on the 1st April 2022 a case of an inquiry file of domestic violence was handed over to him for investigation.

He said was given an instruction to invite the accused person and on the said date the accused honored the invitation, and that he obtained voluntary caution statement from him, witnessed by DPC John Momoh

Conteh.

The caution statement was tendered in court to form part of the court records.

The witness stated that he charged the accused with the offense of domestic violence and causing physiological abuse.

After his testimony, the witness informed the Bench that his lawyer was not present in court to cross examine the witness, therefore Magistrate Ngegba adjourned the matter to the 9th February 2023.

## **Accused remanded for allegedly assaulting female military personnel**

By Mohamed J Kargbo

**A**t the Magistrates' Court No.2 in Freetown, Magistrate Isata Tucker had on Monday, January 16, 2023, remanded one Erick Macarthy to the Male Correctional Centre in Freetown for alleged assault.

Police had allege that on January 6, 2023, the accused assaulted and wounded one Isata Mansaray and caused her grievous bodily harm.

The accused is standing trial on three count charges of wounding with intent, wounding and assault, contrary to the laws of Sierra Leone.

Police officer, Umu Bah, prosecuting the case, brought in prosecution witness No

1(PW1) to testify in court in respect of the case.

The witness, Isata Mansaray, a military personnel attached to the Infantry Brigade, Murray Town Barrack in Freetown, said she knew the accused and recalls what happened on the above said date.

She said when she was walking along Liverpool Street in front of Sierra Leone Commercial Bank, she saw the accused wearing a military cap and that she stopped and asked him as to whether he is a military officer.

She said the accused replied in the affirmative and that she further asked him as to which unit he belongs, but the accused replied that "I

don't ask me."

She added that she took the cap from the accused and that she was going to hand it over to the police because the accused has no right to put it on.

She said the accused forcefully bent her hand and wanted to take the cap from her, but that she fought and released her hand and put the cap into her chest.

She said the accused forced his hand into her chest and took the cap and that some people came around and told the accused to stop, but he refused and stated that he was going to show her street life.

He testified that the accused dragged her by the hair and knocked her three times and slapped her, adding that blood

started running down her face and that she felt pain because her eye was injured.

She said she tried to hold the clothes of the accused, but he bit her on her arm and further explained that she went to the Central Police Division and made a report.

She said the police issued her a medical report and she went to the hospital and was given three inches stitches on her face and that they took photograph of her face.

The photograph was tendered in court as evidence and to be part of the court records.

The matter was adjourned to the 24 of January 2023 for further hearings, while the accused still remains in custody.

## **Bench warrant for village chief**

By Mohamed J Kargbo

**O**n January 18, 2022, at the Magistrate Court No.1, Pademba Road in Freetown, Sergeant 9939 Lahai M applied for bench warrant to arrest the chief of Beledu Village, Kenema District, Alhaji Ansumana Kallon, for failing to appear in court and answer to the offence of alleged fraudulent conversion.

The accused was taken to court by Augustine Garmoh, lecturer at Fourah Bay College, for allegedly obtaining his vehicle.

The bench warrant was endorsed by Magistrate Mark Ngegba.

The accused, Alhaji Ansumana Kallon, is before Magistrate Mark Ngegba on a count of obtaining goods by

false pretenses contrary to Section 32 (1) of the Larceny Act 1916.

According to the charge sheet, the accused on 22nd September, 2020, on Fourah Bay College campus in Freetown, with intent to defraud, obtained certain property -white Toyota Hilux vehicle with registration number AAG 454, valued five

thousand United State Dollars, equivalent to seventy two million, five hundred thousand Leones, property of one Augustine Garmoh, by falsely pretending that he will buy the said vehicle, knowing to be false.

Due to his failure to attend court hearing, the matter was adjourned to the 19th February 2023 for further hearings.



## WEST AFRICA NEWS

# Nigeria's first-time voters flock to get voting cards ahead of election

**B**raving stressful waits, red tape and repeated visits, Nigerians are rushing to pick up their voting cards for next month's presidential election, where three main candidates are vying to replace President Muhammadu Buhari. Nearly 10 million new voters have been registered for the February 25 ballot, of whom 84 percent are young people aged under 34 -- a key block of ballots. The election in Africa's most populous country is shaping up to be an exceptional event.

For the first time since the end of military dictatorship in 1999, a third party candidate is presenting a real challenge to the dominance of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and main opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP).

With Nigeria struggling with growing insecurity, high living costs and increasing poverty, many young voters said they were more keen now to have a say about their future leader.

Crowds gathered at Lagos schools over the weekend where election officials called out names, checked off lists and handed out a coveted ID, the biometric Permanent Voting Cards or PVC.

Some would-be voters were successful but others were frustrated to be told to come back.

"They told me my PVC is not ready. They have to go back to Abuja," said Chuks David, a software developer in Lagos' Surulere area.

"We need to get things right, and that is why I am taking the time and the stress to get my PVC."

The Independent National Electoral Commission, known as INEC, last week extended the deadline for PVC collection by eight days.

In some states 100,000 cards were collected in just five days, it said.

Picking up her card in Lagos State's

Alimosho district, first-time voter Gbemisola Akindola said she hadn't seen the need for change in 2019. But this year she said she was determined to have her say.

"Right now something is very very clear, that it's time we transition to the younger generation ruling us and that's why, if I don't do it now, when would I do it?"

Nigeria's elections in the past have been marred by logistical delays, violence and claims of fraud and vote buying.

In 2019, INEC was forced to postpone the election by a week just hours before voting was scheduled to start because of difficulty getting material to polling stations.

Election officials say 2023's ballot will be more transparent after the introduction of electronic transfer of results and a biometric voter identification technology known as BVAS at the voting stations to stop fraud.

"This instilled confidence in our people," Adenike Tadese, INEC head of voter education in Lagos, told AFP.

"I want to believe that is why our people are trooping out en masse to ensure that they come out to collect this Permanent Voting Card."

- 'Great and proud' -

Whoever wins the presidency faces a host of challenges from tackling insecurity across the country to reviving an economy hit hard by financial fallout from Russia's war in Ukraine.

The security forces are fighting a 13-year-old war against jihadists in the country's northeast, bandit militias in the northwest and separatist tensions in the country's southeast.



A man shows his Permanent Voters Card (PVC) collected from Officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) at a ward in Lagos on January 12, 2023 - Copyright © africanews PIUS UTOMI EKPE/AFP or licensors

Gunmen have repeatedly targeted local INEC offices in the southeast, burning voting materials in attacks often blamed on the Indigenous People of Biafra or IPOB separatist movement.

INEC warned earlier this month that the election risked postponement or disruption if security was not tackled. The government says measures are in place to guarantee the vote.

Buhari's APC has fielded Bola Tinubu, 70, a former governor known as the "Godfather of Lagos" for his political clout who will benefit from the ruling party's national network.

PDP's Atiku Abubakar, 76, is a former vice president and wealthy businessman who is on his sixth bid for the presidency.

Former state governor Labour Party's Peter Obi, 61, has appealed to younger voters with a message that he is different from his old guard rivals and wants to

bring real change to Nigeria.

Voter turnout is often low in Nigeria -- it was just 33 percent in the 2019 -- and many younger people often say they feel little enthusiasm for candidates.

But two years ago, mass protests over police brutality spiralled into rallies demanding better governance known as the #EndSARS movement, a reference to the SARS police unit that was later disbanded.

Those protests were violently dispersed by security forces, but some of those involved in #EndSARS said the younger generation would be looking to the 2023 ballot box to make their demands.

"It's important that I play my part, and pick up my PVC," said Opeoluwa Adekoya, 27, in Surulere district.

"If things don't work out in Nigeria, yes, the government is to blame, but I have my responsibility."

## OBITUARY

**T**he Sesay Family, at home and abroad, regrets to announce the passing of Ali Sesay alias Kapethe, on January 10, 2023, at his home, 56 Old Adonkia Road, Goderich, Freetown. He was 68 years.

Ali Sesay, a retired Staff Sergeant in the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, is survived by his wife, Memuna Sesay, four (4) children- Baimba Sesay, Mrs. Alima Williams, Esther Sesay and Samuel Sesay, grandchildren, several brothers and sisters, cousins, nephews and nieces.

He was head of the Pa Baimba Sesay Family of Kapethe village, Safroko Limba Chiefdom.

There will be a laying out ceremony at the Limba Pentecostal Church, Congo Cross, on Friday, 27 January at 2 p.m.

His remains will depart Freetown

for Kapethe on Saturday 28 January and he will be buried the following day, on Sunday at the village cemetery.

Meanwhile, those intending to commiserate with the family can do so at his residence at Goderich or Kapethe village.

May his soul rest in peace.



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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

## Malawi: Cholera prevention guidelines for schools



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Normal school calendar in the major cities of Malawi, Lilongwe and Blantyre were delayed for two weeks now, citing that the two cities were hot spot areas that could probably put many students at risk. Government through the responsible ministries had put in place a taskforce to monitor the spread of the vice. The Ministry of Education announced the resumption of classes in some areas on Tuesday and has set up a task force through the relevant ministries to monitor the spread of the virus. The U.N.'s children's agency, UNICEF, has handed over

lifesaving supplies worth about \$300,000 to support Malawi's fight against a cholera outbreak which has killed more than 700 people - including 104 children - since the outbreak began in March of last year. Statistics from the Public Health Institute of Malawi show that as of Thursday, the disease had killed 773 people, including 104 children, and resulted in 23,217 cholera cases since the outbreak started in March last year. The Malawi ministry of health says the fatality rate of the outbreak is now at 3.33%, much higher than the recommended 1% global threshold.

## Libya donates basic commodities to Tunisia

At a time when Tunisia is experiencing repeated shortages of basic commodities, Libya has donated foodstuffs to its neighbor. A convoy of 96 trucks carrying sugar, oil, flour and rice passed the Ras Jedir bridge on Tuesday. A donation that comes less than two months after the visit to Tunis of the interim Libyan Prime Minister Abdelhamid Dbeibah based in Tripoli, aimed at warming ties with the government of Tunisian President Kais Saied. The border region between Tunisia and Libya is the hub of a flourishing trade. Tunisia has been in the grip of a recession that has

deepened since its 2011 revolution, which was itself triggered by economic difficulties. This has been compounded by a political crisis triggered by the coup de force of Tunisian President Kais Saied in July 2021. Libya is also destabilized by two rival governments vying for power. But revenues from its large oil reserves make it relatively wealthy compared to its resource-poor neighbor. The donation of food comes less than two months after Tripoli-based interim prime minister Abdelhamid Dbeibah visited Tunis in a move aimed at warming cool ties with Saied's government.

## Senegalese soldier killed in clash with Casamance rebels - Army



Members of the Senegalese Armed Forces take up position outside a captured Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) rebel base in Blaze Forest in February 2021. - Copyright © africanews JOHN WESSELS/AFP or

A Senegalese soldier was killed and four were wounded during an operation against separatist rebels in the southern region of Casamance, an army official said Tuesday (Jan. 17). The soldier died Monday (Jan.16) in the locality of Bignona where the army has been conducting operations these past few weeks to block attempt by the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) to set up a new base near the border with The Gambia, press reports suggested. Casamance, Senegal's southernmost region, is almost separated from the rest of the country by the tiny state of The Gambia. At the time of the incident, the Senegalese forces

destroyed hemp fields, according to local media. The MFDC has waged its campaign to break away since 1982 but signed a peace deal with the government last August, hailed as a first step toward a permanent end to one of Africa's oldest active rebellions. Senegal's President Macky Sall has said that ending the rebellion is a priority, and in recent years the government has begun returning Casamance residents displaced by the conflict. Officials also accuse the rebels of illicit trafficking of cannabis and wood, and of seeking refuge in The Gambia or in Guinea-Bissau to the south.

## Ugandan-born British actress among nominees for BAFTA Rising Star award

The British Academy Film Awards announced Tuesday (Jan.17) the nominees for this year's prestigious EE BAFTA Rising Star Awards.

The panel included industry jurors as well as a host of casting directors, producers and experts shortlisted 4 actresses and an actor. The list was unveiled during a press conference at The Savoy Hotel in London.

Ugandan-born British actress Sheila Atim who starred in historical epic "The Woman King", is among the nominees.

"It's just wonderful because I love this award. I think this is a really special award. I think everyone feels that. I think it's the reason why it gets this lovely event, a press conference, you know, to celebrate people who are putting the graft in the sort of earlier days in their career and who are making waves, who have the potential to be change makers," she explained.

"I think it's great. I think it's a real motivator as well for other people who might be coming into the industry. I think it's also a wonderful reminder for people who are more experienced in the industry to just maybe reminisce about the time when they were first starting out. So I think this award does a lot for the industry."

Naomie Ackie whose credits including; "Star Wars: Episode IX - The Rise of Skywalker" and "Small Axe," is currently riding high on the U.K. box office charts with "Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance with Somebody". Even though she was "over the moon" about her nomination, she confessed walking the red carpet as a nominee in February will be no piece of cake.

"The red carpet makes me really nervous, but I am. You know, it's so funny because I take my best friend every year and usually, like, we sit on the higher bit, and then we do the red carpet, and then me and her go to the parties afterwards. And this time, it feels



Sheila Atim poses for photographers upon arrival at the Trophée Chopard event at the 75th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Thursday, May 19, 2022. - Copyright © africanews Vianney Le Caer/2022 Invision

slightly different, but I think the same thing is going to happen: sit down, you enjoy the show, then you go and party."

Sheila Atim played Dahome fighter Amenza in "The Woman King" that was co-produced by Golden Globe awards winning actress Viola Davis.

Naomie Ackie is global superstar Whitney Houston in the latest biopic dedicated to the American singer. The EE BAFTA Rising Star Award winner will be announced on the 19th of February. Now in its 18th year, the Rising Star award is the only BAFTA voted for by the British public. The voting window is now open.

## Head of Ethiopia's Supreme Court resigns



Meaza Ashenafi, President of the Federal Supreme Court - Copyright © africanews @ashenafi\_meaza - Twitter

Head of Ethiopia's Supreme court, Meaza Ashenafi, and her deputy, Solomon Areda Waktolla "have resigned" from their position.

A letter to the House of People's Representatives (HoPR) on Tuesday did not state the reason for

their resignation, local media house Addis Standard reported.

The Parliament has subsequently approved Assistant Professor Tewdros Mihret, from Addis Ababa university as Chief Justice, and Federal Supreme Court Judge, Abeba Embiale, as Deputy Chief Justice replacing Meaza and Solomon respectively.

Chief Justice Meaza and her deputy Solomon were nominated by PM Abiy Ahmed to the House of People's Representatives (HPR) on 01 Nov. 2018. during which both

have received a unanimous vote from the House. Solomon has recently been appointed as a half-time judge of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal for the term 2023-2030 by the United Nations General Assembly's 34th plenary meeting at the elections held on the 15th of November 2022 in New York.

## Burkina: Traoré worried about the fate of civilians targeted by jihadists

The president of the transition in Burkina Faso, Captain Ibrahim Traoré, estimated on Tuesday that a new "phase" had been "triggered by the terrorists", against civilians, a few days after the kidnapping of around fifty women in the north of the country.

"Today another phase has been triggered by the terrorists. On the military side, our men are determined to confront them, so they are starting to attack innocent civilian populations, humiliate them, kill them", declared the president. Traoré during a meeting at the University of Ouagadougou with students from all over the country.

Thursday and Friday, about fifty women were kidnapped by suspected jihadists in two localities north and west of the town of Arbinda (north), according to the authorities of the region. Ground and aerial searches are underway to find them. The UN demanded their "immediate" release.

Arbinda is located in the Sahel region, an area under blockade by jihadist groups, which is difficult to supply. According to a security source contacted by AFP, "the supply of Arbinda began Tuesday morning", by air.

"There were two helicopter rotations this morning for supplies. It was about time because we have had nothing to eat for months. Just leaves which are also becoming scarce. This morning a few dozen people had started a demonstration to demand this supply before seeing the helicopter," confirmed Souleymane, a resident contacted by AFP.

"We really needed this supply by air. The ideal would be to have a land convoy very quickly because the population is

large and relies only on these supplies to hold on and not starve," added Amadou, another resident.

On Tuesday evening, the Burkinabè general staff asked "all those of goodwill to make available to the army, free of charge or at a social price, trucks with drivers for the transport of food and basic necessities.", in order to "ensure the supply of populations living in areas with strong security challenges".

Captain Traoré came to power at the end of September during a coup d'état, the second in eight months, and promised to tackle the jihadist violence which has targeted soldiers but also civilians for several years.

"Since October, the number of attacks has multiplied," he admitted on Tuesday. According to him, the jihadist groups which are rampant in particular in the north and east of the country have "set to work" to "discourage from the start" the new authorities of the transition.

"We are determined to solve this terrorist issue. This war, we did not choose it. Burkina did not attack anyone. We were attacked and we have been defending ourselves since then", he insisted.

Burkina Faso, particularly in its northern half, has been confronted since 2015 with increasing attacks by jihadist groups linked to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State. They left thousands dead and at least two million displaced.

Nearly a million people currently live in these blocked areas, in the north or east of the country, according to the United Nations.

Credit: Africanews with AFP



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# INVITATION TO BID

## PROCUREMENT OF AND SUPPLY OF BICYCLES

REF#: PSI-SL/2023/01/001

**P**opulation Services International (PSI) is a global health network of more than 48 local organizations (including PSI Sierra Leone) dedicated to improving the health of people in the developing world by focusing on serious challenges like a lack of family planning, barriers to maternal health, HIV and AIDS and the greatest threats to children under five, including malaria, diarrhoea, pneumonia and malnutrition.

Working in partnership within the public and private sectors, and harnessing the power of the markets, PSI focuses on achieving measurable health impact and for over 40 years, PSI has provided life-saving products, clinical services and behaviour change communications that empower the world's most vulnerable populations to lead healthier lives.

In 2019, PSI began implementing the global US President's Malaria Initiative Impact Malaria project in Sierra Leone, with the goal of working with the government to scale up best practices and innovations in malaria case management, control of malaria in pregnancy, and the introduction of other malaria drug-based approaches.

Under the Impact Malaria Project, PSI Sierra Leone now intends to procure Bicycles for use by community health workers in various districts of Sierra Leone through a national competitive bidding process.

The bidding will be conducted in accordance to the PSI Sierra Leone "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods and Services".

The Bidding comprises the following Lots:

LOT No	DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS	QUANTITY
1	<b>Bicycles: Flying Pigeon PA-02</b> of good quality with all accessories such as pump, spare tire etc.	306
2	<b>Bicycles: Flying Pigeon PB-13</b> The PB-13 is the ladies' version of the classic Flying Pigeon of good quality with all accessories such as pump, spare tire etc.	10

Bidders must offer for all items in full quantity in a specified lot as partial for only a portion of a lot is not acceptable. Bidders may, however, bid for all lots or some lots.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from: The Procurement Unit, PSI Sierra Leone, 3 Fadika Drive, IMATT, Freetown or by sending a request to the email address below: [croseior@psi-sl.org](mailto:croseior@psi-sl.org) and the picking of the bidding documents may be done during working hours from 9:30am to 17:00pm from Monday to Friday at the same Physical address.

Should the bidders have any concerns related to fraud, waste, abuse or corruption under this Contract; either with their employees or anyone working for, or affiliated with PSI, they may report allegations and concerns through PSI's third-party whistle-blower hotline, Ethics Point. The website for reporting is: [www.psi.ethicspoint.com](http://www.psi.ethicspoint.com) or call +1-888-238-1438 tollfree.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained for free at PSI Sierra Leone Head Office, 3 Fadika Drive, IMATT, Freetown.

Bids in sealed envelopes and clearly marked as "Supply of Bicycles: "PSI-SL/2023/01/001" must be delivered to the address written below and be deposited in the tender box located at PSI Sierra Leone Head Office Reception:

The Chairman

Internal Procurement Committee

Population Services International/Sierra Leone

3 Fadika Drive

IMATT,

Freetown,

Sierra Leone.

Telephone : +232(0)34505433

The closing date and time for receiving the Bids is 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023 at 14:00 hours and late bids shall be rejected.

PSI SIERRA LEONE IS NOT BOUND TO ACCEPT THE LOWEST BID



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: INVESTMENTS MANAGER

### Introduction of the Corporation

WAICA Re is one of the fastest growing reinsurance companies in Africa. WAICA Re is head quartered in Freetown (Sierra Leone) and operates through four (4) Regional Offices across Africa namely Lagos (Nigeria), Accra (Ghana), Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) and Tunis (Tunisia). It also has four (4) Subsidiary Companies namely, WAICA Re Zimbabwe Limited in Harare (Zimbabwe), WAICA Re Kenya in Nairobi (Kenya), an investments company namely WAICA Re Capital, Accra (Ghana) and WAICA Re (United Kingdom).

WAICA Re announces the vacancy of the position of Investments Manager to be based in any one of our operating countries.

### Job purpose

The Investments Manager will be responsible for the overall development of investment strategies, managing investment portfolios, preparing and reporting on the analysis of investments and assist in the analysis of a variety of treasury activities including capital, liquidity and cash management, banking relationships, managing variety of internal and external risks such as foreign exchange risk, interest rate risk and investment operational risk. The successful candidate will work with Chief Finance officers from subsidiaries and report directly to the Group Chief Finance Officer.

### Job duties and responsibilities

- Prepare and implement an annual investments strategy to help achieve the agreed Return on Investment KPI.
- Manage sourcing activities for investment funds including professional networking, strategy evaluation and due diligence in line with the approved Investment Policy and guidelines.
- Develop and implement risk-based asset allocation model and performance analytics to prepare recommendations for Executive Management.
- Monitor and evaluate portfolios by communicating with external managers and performance appraisals of the investments quarterly.
- Investigate potential portfolio additions and reallocations that optimize the management of risk and long-term return of identified investment goals.
- Prepare and analyze investment reports for Executive Management and the Board committee for effective decision making.
- Supervise and coordinate activities of the investment team in sourcing, due diligence, monitoring and reporting on investments.
- Direct internal investment research activities: evaluate existing and prospective investment managers, capital markets and other activities related to investment from quantitative and qualitative perspectives.

### Candidate Profile

#### Qualifications

- Minimum of first degree or equivalent in business administration, finance, economics, investment, statistics or other relevant fields.
- A Masters in Business Administration or equivalent will be an added advantage.

#### Professional qualifications

- A professional qualification such as Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) or its equivalent.

#### Experience

- Must possess 10 years relevant working experience in investment/fund management with a minimum of 5 years in a managerial role.

#### Competencies

- Must have good knowledge of investment instruments particularly Fixed Income instruments.
- Possess global market knowledge including good understanding of sustainable and green investing.
- Ability to monitor and analyze investment portfolios and recommend changes when necessary.
- Strong analytical skills with a high level of accuracy and attention to detail.
- Ability to collaborate and communicate effectively to diverse stakeholders.

### Application Procedure

Interested Candidates for this role should send an Application letter and a CV to [vacancies@waicare.com](mailto:vacancies@waicare.com).

Closing date for application: 20 January 2023

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# JOB VACANCY

## Background

Agency for Integrated Development Sierra Leone (AID-SL) is a non-governmental organisation founded in 2001. The organisation is committed to empowering and promoting the welfare of the poor in communities through education, training, and the provision of essential services, as well as improving household income, women's empowerment, non-formal education, public health intervention, sustainable agriculture, vocational training, climate and environment, and human rights promotion.

Agency for Integrated Development Sierra Leone (AID-SL) is leading the implementation of a 30-month European Union grant titled "Promoting economic and social rights and empowering women and youths in the South and Eastern Regions of Sierra Leone". The project is implemented in consortium with the Kailahun District Council (in Kailahun District) and with the Movement for Peace and Development Agency Sierra Leone (MoPADA-SL) and Bonthe District Council (in Bonthe District).

## 1. EU Project Manager

**Location:** Daru, Kailahun District, with frequently travelling to Bonthe District, Sierra Leone

**Management responsibility:** Yes

**Budget Management:** Yes

**Report to:** Executive Director

## Key Duties & Responsibilities

The Programme Manager is responsible for the overall implementation of the EU contract. This includes planning, coordinating, implementing, and monitoring the action to deliver results according to plan and budget. The Project Manager will work with the consortium organisations to harmonise programs, activities, and reports to the EU per the contract agreement.

## Project Coordination and Management

Provide overall support to partners in project implementation and ensure timely and qualitative project implementation by partners in line with AID-SL and donor requirements and regulations.

Oversee the timely and effective delivery of the project work plan and ensure all agreed-upon activities are carried out to good effect.

Conduct frequent field visits to project sites in Bonthe and Kailahun to assess activities and ensure efficient use of resources.

Work closely with AID-SL Technical Advisors to ensure that programming approaches align with best practices, and are well-defined, documented and consistently applied.

Collation of partner reports and development of timely and quality consolidated donor reports;

Review the Project Budget versus Actual reports to avoid under/overspending and ensure accurate budget forecasting and expense planning;

Follow up with the implementing partners on any issues that emerge in the reporting and monitoring visits, and work with them to realign or revise project strategies and plans as necessary;

Work closely with AID-SL and partners' M&E personnel to develop a practical M&E plan for the project, ensure its application consistently and ensure that learning from M&E informs the project.

Maintain oversight of timely and reliable data collection for project indicators

Organise quarterly Project Implementation Committee meetings with implementing partners.

Liaise with and provide updates on progress to the Project Steering Committee

Lead annual coordination meetings with implementing partners and AID-SL staff to review progress and challenges.

Collaborating with relevant colleagues, ensuring project start-up and closeout meetings are organised.

## Communication and stakeholder engagement

Ensure visibility plan and requirements are respected and applied as appropriate.

Accompany project site visitors and perform promotional or media work as required.

Provide regular project updates to the AID-SL management team

Support, facilitate or undertake communication and liaison activities, ensuring the active consultation and involvement of programme participants, local stakeholders, and partners in all stages of project implementation.

Development of case studies and project updates for project newsletter, social media, or website;

Development of case studies and project updates for project newsletter, social media, or website;

## Civil society capacity strengthening

Take the lead in ensuring quality and timely implementation activities to strengthen the managerial, organisational, technical, and financial capacities of partner CSOs and CBOs to effectively promote youth and women's inclusion and participation in governance and development processes and economic development.

Development of TORs for critical organisational development and capacity strengthening outputs, as well as planning of training, management of consultants and engagement to ensure quality and timely delivery of results.

Review, provide critical feedback, and support revising all manuals, guidelines, training materials, and other outputs produced because of the project.

Manage the successful delivery of the project's internship scheme.

Facilitate exchange visits and learning events at national and international levels.

Take the lead in managing a Community of Practice on Women's Empowerment Programming and a Working Group on Civil Society Strengthening.

Provide technical support to partners on the organisational strengthening of women's farmer organisations and networks.

**Other:** Undertake other agreed tasks related to the project and AID-SL overall work in Sierra Leone as agreed with the Executive Director.

**Requirements**

**Academic Qualification**

University degree in Development Studies, Sociology, Gender, and the related field of study.

A master's degree in the above field will be an added value.

**Experience**

At least eight years of demonstrable experience in the management of development projects, mainly using a partnership model.

Must have at least four years of management experience in an EU-funded project

Sound experience in budgetary and financial management.

In-depth understanding of programming in a partnership model, working in a partnership-based NGO.

Experience in organising and facilitating meetings, workshops, and training activities.

Experience in organisational development strengthening and capacity strengthening of CSOs and CBOs.

**Skills**

Excellent interpersonal and relationship management skills.

Highly organised, with excellent planning, prioritisation, and problem-solving skills.

Strong communication and facilitation skills.

Excellent report writing and documentation skills.

Monitoring and evaluation skills

Competent in Microsoft packages (Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc.)

Fluency (written and spoken) in English

**Qualities**

Flexibility and ability to multi-task under pressure

Ability to work independently with minimal supervision.

A strong commitment and empathy with the ethos and work of AID-SL.

**Other**

Ability and willingness to travel within the country and internationally

Commitment to principles of safeguarding programme participants

Commitment to gender equality principles

Financial integrity and stewardship of project funds

**Benefits**

AID-SL offers a competitive salary package and benefits for the candidate with the required experience and passion for the role.

**Starting Salary:** NLe 108,000 – 125,000

**2. EU Monitoring and Evaluation Manager**

**Location:** Daru, Kailahun District, with frequent travelling to Bonthe District, Sierra Leone

**Report to:** Project Manager

## Job Description

The Monitoring & Evaluation Manager will support planning, monitoring, and evaluating achievements against the implementation of the action. They will be responsible for overall M&E. He / she will play a key role in promoting critical lessons learnt for the improvement of the organisation and broader learning of the partners and stakeholders.

## Key Duties and Responsibilities

Review and enhance the project log frame, organisation M&E templates and reporting instruments

Supervise regular data collection through field officers as well as partner organisations and ensure the quality of the data by random verifications and validations

To record, manage and preserve monitoring and evaluation data in a safe and accessible way.

To analyse and discuss findings based on regular monitoring data in Kailahun and Bonthe districts.

Conduct field review visits for organisational programme activities.

Conduct training on M&E processes for the organisation's staff and partner organisations.

Provide technical support on M&E and evidence-based recommendations to Programme Manager

Ensure that the implementation of field activities adheres to Institution's monitoring and evaluation framework

Support the organisation in conducting baseline, end-line surveys and assessments

Participate actively in the programme planning process and fundraising of the organisation

## Specific Duties

### i. Planning

Provide technical support in the design and development of the organisation's strategy

Develop the M&E plan for the strategy

Support program staff in defining SMART objectives and indicator

Support program teams to develop concepts, proposals, and work plans

**ii. Monitoring**

Facilitate the development of the Logical and M&E Frameworks

Develop organisational M&E templates and reporting instruments.

Support the development of work plans and monitor the achievements.

Support proposal writing in the development of M&E plans and log frames.

Conduct field review visits for organisational programme activities.

Conduct training on M&E processes for the organisation's staff and Partners

Coordinate regular data collection through field officers and partner organisations against agreed indicators.

Monitor all focus area activities, expenditures, and progress towards achieving the expected outputs

Work with consultants in developing and implementing action-oriented research to inform program design and scale-up.

**iii. Evaluation**

Lead in the designing, coordinating and conducting program evaluations (quarterly, mid-term and end-line)

Design and conduct Post Implementation Monitoring Survey (PIMS)

Conduct programme data review and data quality assessments.

Provide performance feedback to senior management on organisational initiatives based on monitoring data findings for efficient programme design.

Suggest strategies to the Programme Manager for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the project by identifying bottlenecks in completing activities and developing plans to minimise or eliminate such bottlenecks.

**iv. Reporting and Documentation**

Compile monthly, quarterly, and annual project and donor reports for review by Senior Management.

Develop the monthly, quarterly, and annual M&E reports for review by Senior Management.

Review all project consultants' reports before approval by the Project Manager

Develop and share field visit reports with the relevant staff

Develop/improve the documentation and result dissemination plan by working together with the communication office

Document the lessons learnt and impact reports to input into institutional programme development.

**v. Learning and Sharing**

Share learning from the M&E process with the broader team and partners

Support program officers and partners in improving learning and sharing mechanisms in their projects

Support in developing publications from the program data harvested periodically

**vi. Contribution to Effectiveness of the Programme and Institution**

Work collaboratively with different projects to strengthen integration and cross-learning in project

Proactively volunteer for various team activities

Show an eagerness to take on any other tasks assigned by the line manager

Any other duties that the Supervisor may designate from time to time

**Qualifications**

**Academic**

University degree in the social sciences, preferably statistics, Development Studies, Sociology, and the related field of study.

A master's degree in the above field will be an added value.

**Professional**

Report writing and presentation skills

**Budgeting**

**Experience**

Minimum seven years of experience in:

Conducting monitoring and evaluation for social impact programming.

Planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on integrated development programming

Programme design and execution

Designing, planning, implementing, supervising and reporting on integrated programming required.

**Critical competencies**

Monitoring and Evaluation

Report Writing

Interpersonal Skills

Data mining and analysis

Microsoft Office Packages, especially Excel, SPSS and other M&E tools

Excellent communication skills

Team player

High integrity and ethical conduct

Confidential

Self-driven and reliable

Excellent interpersonal skills

Accountable for results

**Benefits**

AID-SL offers a competitive salary package and benefits for the candidate with the required experience and passion for the role.

**Starting Salary:** NLe 90,000 – 108,000

Interested and qualified candidates are encouraged to send their cover letters and detailed CVs to [recruitment.aidssierraleone@gmail.com](mailto:recruitment.aidssierraleone@gmail.com) quoting the title "Programme Manager" or "Monitoring and Evaluation Manager" as the subject line. A CV should accompany all applications with three referees' daytime telephone and contact details.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

**Women and persons with disability are strongly encouraged to apply.**

**Application Deadline: 20 January 2023 @ 21:00hrs**

# AGENCY FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT SIERRA LEONE

## JOB VACANCY



### Background

Agency for Integrated Development Sierra Leone (AID-SL) is a non-governmental organization founded in 2001. The organization is committed to empowering and promoting the welfare of the poor in communities through education, training, and the provision of essential services, as well as improving household income, women's empowerment, non-formal education, public health intervention, sustainable agriculture, vocational training, climate and environment, and human rights promotion.

Agency for Integrated Development Sierra Leone (AID-SL) is leading the implementation of a 30-month European Union grant titled "Promoting economic and social rights and empowering women and youths in the South and Eastern Regions of Sierra Leone". The project is implemented in consortium with the Kailahun District Council (in Kailahun District) and with the Movement for Peace and Development Agency Sierra Leone (MoPADA-SL), and Bonthe District Councils (in Bonthe District).

### 1. Admin and Finance Officer

**Location:** Daru, Kailahun District, Sierra Leone

**Report to:** Finance Manager

#### Job Description

The Admin and Finance Officer will be responsible for providing administrative, financial, and logistical support for the smooth and effective implementation of the project activities.

#### Specific Duties & Responsibilities

##### 1. Project administration

Maintaining project and donor documentation records, including project, staff, and consultants' contracts.

Ensure that all financial and administrative documents and files are properly organized, updated, and regularly backed up.

Maintaining a schedule of internal and external reporting deadlines, and ensuring that the donor reporting requirements of project-related contracts are fulfilled on time and that all necessary information required is received from partners on time.

Supporting the preparation of consultants/partners' contracts and liaising with consultants and partners on specific administrative requirements.

Supporting project staff in preparing and implementing project evaluations and audits, and assisting in reviewing partner audits.

In conjunction with Finance Manager, ensuring that project staff complies with the prescribed administrative systems and requirements.

Supporting the organization of programs' annual strategy meetings and quarterly project meetings.

##### 2. Project Finance

Take an active role in the preparation of programs and budgets, and lead in periodic expenditure reporting, project auditing, donor reporting, and other financial reports.

Analyse the financial performance of projects and ensure that sound financial control procedures are in line with the donor requirements.

Ensure that monthly bank reconciliations are completed on a timely basis and that the final reconciliation is reviewed and signed off by the Program Manager

Maintaining schedules and details of project financial transfers and other project-related payments required and their due dates

Developing and maintaining spreadsheets and reports for tracking expenditures and reporting to Donors.

Coding invoices and other program expenditures.

Reconciling program expenditure with Organisational accounts.

Supervise the Admin & Finance Assistant to prepare vouchers and process payments for all the financial transactions and process payment requests to the organization

Providing other support, as requested, to the Finance Manager, Program Manager, and program staff in the financial management of projects.

##### 3. Logistics and Procurement

Prepare various contractual documents related to the procurement of goods and services, ensuring adequate protection of the interest of the program and follow-up on the status of the contract

Work with the Finance Manager in the purchase of project equipment according to the donor procurement procedures

Maintaining a system for signing project equipment in and out and ensuring it is up to date.

Ensure that vehicle, and Motorbikes logbooks are systematically maintained by the driver/riders, vehicles and motorbikes are in proper condition, and office supplies are well stocked and properly accounted for

Provide logistic support to training, meetings, and workshops organized by the project.

Ensure availability, efficient deployment, and regular maintenance of program equipment, including vehicles, motorbikes, computers, and other equipment for operational purposes

Undertaking other duties from time to time as may be required by the Finance Manager and Program Manager.

### Qualifications

#### Academic

A Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Banking and Finance, Business Administration, or related disciplines.

#### Experience

A minimum of 4 years of professional experience in a similar role in an NGO sector

Experience with strengthening the financial management capacity of local partners (NGOs/CBOs)

Good computer skills and extensive knowledge of Excel, Word, email, and financial management and accounting software such as QuickBooks.

#### Critical competencies

Demonstrate a focus on delivering quality results and impact; Efficiently implement plans and use resources of the organization to accomplish goals

Ability to manage resources efficiently and effectively in line with principles of accountability and integrity.

Ability to identify and mitigate, and/or proactively manage risks.

Flexibility, problem-solving skills, accuracy, and ability to work under pressure

Effective communication, motivating leadership, and interpersonal skills

Demonstrate strong organizational skills, dealing with various stakeholders with different backgrounds and capacity to perform in complex situations.

Ability to build effective working relationships in a diverse, multicultural environment

Fluency in written and spoken English

#### Benefits

AID-SL offers a competitive package of salary and benefits for the candidate with the required experience and passion for the role.

### 2. Admin and Finance Assistance

**Location:** Daru, Kailahun District, Sierra Leone

**Report to:** Admin and Finance Officer

#### Job Description

The Admin and Finance Assistant will provide support to the Finance department in implementing, monitoring, and adhering to a standard of financial management procedures in the organization, as well as program, travel, human resources, and general administrative support.

#### Key Duties and Responsibilities

Coordinates and maintains calendars and attendance register

Assist the financial management team with budget planning, and expense analysis

Assist the Admin and Finance Officer in providing logistical, administrative, and financial support and follow-up for meetings and training organized by the project

Proper control of the supporting documents for payments and financial reports for the project budget, including preparation of all types of vouchers for overtime, pay cycle, and payment execution.

Maintenance of the internal expenditures control system ensures that vouchers are matched and completed, transactions are correctly recorded, payrolls are duly prepared and processed; travel claims, overtime, and other entitlements are duly processed.

Prepare balance sheets, track, and reconcile bank statements

Managing records and receipts

Reconciling daily, monthly, and yearly transactions

Coordination of assets managed under the project, timely preparation, and submission of periodic inventory reports.

Maintenance of administrative control records such as commitments and expenditures.

Being the key point of contact for other departments on financial and accounting matters

Supporting the Admin & Finance Officer and Finance Manager with projects and tasks when required

#### Qualifications

##### Academic

A Diploma in Accounting, Banking and Finance, Business Administration, or related disciplines.

##### Experience

A minimum of 2 years of professional experience in a similar role in an NGO sector

Experience with strengthening the financial management capacity of local partners (NGOs/CBOs)

##### Critical competencies

Good knowledge of accounting and bookkeeping procedures

Proven interpersonal skills and the ability to listen and work in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity

Good organizational and time-management skills

Flexibility, problem-solving skills, accuracy, and ability to work under pressure

Demonstrate a focus on delivering quality results and impact; Efficiently implement plans and use resources of the organization to accomplish goals

Effective communication and motivating leadership skills

Ability to build effective working relationships in a diverse multicultural environment

Advanced MS Excel skills (creating spreadsheets and using financial functions)

Familiarity with accounting software (e.g. QuickBooks)

Fluency in written and spoken English

##### Benefits

For the candidate with the required experience and passion for the role, AID-SL offers a competitive package of salary and benefits.

### 3. Gender Officer

**Location:** Daru, Kailahun District, Sierra Leone

**Report to:** Project Officer

#### Job Description

The Gender Officer will serve as the Gender focal person of the project. S/he will be responsible for gender mainstreaming and providing proactive technical support to the organization. S/he will work with the project team, partners, and beneficiaries to ensure that gender equity principles are incorporated into all policies and activities. S/he will plan, implement, and follow up on gender-related activities and provide support to Project staff, partners, and beneficiaries on mainstreaming gender in their programs and activities, including planning and implementation of activities on gender-related issues.

#### Key Duties and Responsibilities

Mainstream gender issues at all phases of the project implementation, monitoring, and evaluation

Provide support, training, and technical assistance to the project on gender and related topics.

Ensure gender integration in the day-to-day activities

Design and implement training for project staff on gender-related topics and mainstream, including but not limited to gender awareness and integration, human rights program management, and gender inclusiveness toward more efficient and effective organizational operation

Develop indicators to monitor gender-related issues and prepare monthly, quarterly and annual reports on these issues.

Participate in gender-related events (meetings, workshops, conferences) and network at Chiefdom, district, and national level to stay updated about gender-related development

Perform other duties as assigned by the supervisor

### Qualifications

#### Academic

A Bachelor's degree in Gender Studies, Development Studies, Social Work, or related disciplines.

#### Experience

A minimum of 3 years of professional experience in gender and social inclusion in the development space and experience in community development

Previous work experience on European Union grants or within the district is an advantage

Demonstrate understanding of gender issues, analysis, and policy formulation at national and international levels.

#### Critical competencies

Demonstrate strong communication and organization skills, dealing with various stakeholders with different backgrounds and capacity to perform in complex situations.

Ability to build effective working relationships in a diverse multicultural environment

Maintains an established network of contacts for general information sharing and remaining up to date

Generates new ideas and approaches, research best practices, and proposes new, more effective ways of doing things

Proactive, Problem solving, and result-oriented attitude.

Shares information openly with co-workers and partners while using discretion to protect confidentiality.

Good reporting and writing skills

Competence in the usage of computers and office software packages (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint)

Fluency in written and spoken English, and Krio

#### Benefits

AID-SL offers a competitive package of salary and benefits for the candidate with the required experience and passion for the role.

#### How to Apply

Interested and qualified candidates are encouraged to send their application letters and detailed CVs to [recruitment.aidsierraleone@gmail.com](mailto:recruitment.aidsierraleone@gmail.com) quoting the job title "Admin & Finance Officer", "Admin & Finance Assistance", or "Gender Officer" as the subject line. All applications should be accompanied by a CV with daytime telephone and contact details of three referees. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Application Deadline: Monday, 23rd January 2023.



# HALF-TIME/FULL-TIME



## Wednesday 18/01 & Thursday 19/01

## Set 18036

(\*) All bets subject to Mercury International rules. In case of discrepancy terminal data prevails. Canceled fixtures pay 1:1. Bets placed after kickoff are void. Single bets permitted.

Fix No.	Sales Close	Competition	Home Team	Home Goals	Draw	Away Goals	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	1/18/2023 11:25	Turkey Cup	KARAGUMRUK	0	v	0	BASAKSEHIR	4.80	13.00	23.00	6.80	4.90	4.70	30.00	13.00	2.90
2	1/18/2023 11:25	Indonesia	PERSITA TANGERANG	8	v	11	PERSEBAYA SURABAYA	5.00	14.00	26.00	6.60	4.40	4.50	35.00	13.00	3.05
3	1/18/2023 11:55	Greece Cup	APOLLON PARALIMNIOU	0	v	0	LAMIA	15.00	24.00	28.00	16.00	6.00	3.55	99.00	22.00	1.88
4	1/18/2023 12:40	Egypt	HARAS EL HODOOD	15	v	16	EL DAKLYEH	4.20	15.00	45.00	5.60	3.55	6.40	40.00	15.00	5.00
5	1/18/2023 13:55	India	JAMSHEDPUR	10	v	8	BENGALURU	3.95	12.00	29.00	5.80	4.30	5.60	29.00	12.00	3.75
6	1/18/2023 13:55	Croatia	GORICA	10	v	5	VARAZDIN	3.65	14.00	35.00	5.40	4.80	6.40	30.00	14.00	4.60
7	1/18/2023 14:40	Turkey Cup	ANKARAGUCU	0	v	0	BESIKTAS	4.00	13.00	24.00	6.00	5.00	5.20	28.00	13.00	3.30
8	1/18/2023 14:55	Egypt	TALAEA EL GAISH	13	v	18	ISMAILY SC	4.20	14.00	45.00	5.60	3.50	6.40	40.00	14.00	5.20
9	1/18/2023 14:55	Morocco	AS FAR RABAT	1	v	5	MAGHREB AS DE FES	2.85	15.00	50.00	4.00	3.65	7.40	30.00	16.00	6.60
10	1/18/2023 15:25	Greece Cup	AEK ATHENS	0	v	0	PANSERAIKOS FC	1.40	35.00	99.00	3.55	11.00	40.00	26.00	35.00	30.00
11	1/18/2023 15:55	African Nations Championship	DR CONGO	2	v	4	IVORY COAST	5.20	16.00	40.00	6.20	3.80	5.00	45.00	16.00	3.95
12	1/18/2023 16:55	Egypt	ENPPI CLUB	17	v	2	FUTURE FC	6.80	15.00	35.00	8.20	3.85	4.80	50.00	14.00	3.15
13	1/18/2023 16:55	Cyprus Cup	APOEL NIKOSIA	0	v	0	ARIS LIMASSOL	2.75	15.00	45.00	4.00	4.40	7.20	26.00	15.00	6.00
14	1/18/2023 16:55	Greece Cup	OLYMPIACOS PIRAEUS	0	v	0	ARIS	2.23	20.00	80.00	3.70	5.20	12.00	29.00	21.00	11.00
15	1/18/2023 17:10	Morocco	HASSANIA AGADIR	0	v	0	JEUNESSE SPORTIVE S.	4.10	14.00	40.00	5.00	3.50	5.40	40.00	14.00	4.30
16	1/18/2023 17:25	Belgium	CERCLE BRUGGE	10	v	2	SAINT-GILLOISE	5.40	14.00	27.00	7.40	5.20	5.00	35.00	14.00	3.10
17	1/18/2023 17:25	Belgium	OOSTENDE	16	v	3	ROYAL ANTWERP	6.60	15.00	24.00	9.20	5.60	4.60	45.00	15.00	2.60
18	1/18/2023 17:25	Turkey Cup	UMRANIYESPOR	0	v	0	TRABZONSPOR	5.80	14.00	22.00	8.00	5.20	4.30	40.00	13.00	2.48
19	1/18/2023 17:55	Spain Copa del Rey	GIJON	0	v	0	VALENCIA	5.60	15.00	30.00	7.40	4.50	5.00	40.00	14.00	3.25
20	1/18/2023 18:25	Brazil Carioca	BANGU AC RJ	4	v	11	RESENDE FC RJ	3.35	14.00	45.00	4.60	3.65	6.20	30.00	14.00	5.20
21	1/18/2023 18:25	Brazil Goiano	IPORA GO	5	v	1	AC GOIANIENSE GO	9.00	17.00	28.00	10.00	4.10	3.70	70.00	16.00	2.26
22	1/18/2023 18:25	Greece Cup	PAOK	0	v	0	PANATHINAIKOS	3.20	16.00	50.00	4.50	4.20	7.40	35.00	16.00	6.40
23	1/18/2023 18:55	Italy Super Cup	AC MILAN	0	v	0	INTER MILAN	4.50	14.00	30.00	6.60	5.20	6.00	35.00	14.00	3.90
24	1/18/2023 18:55	Brazil Catarinense	CONCORDIA AC SC	6	v	4	FIGUEIRENSE FC SC	4.90	14.00	35.00	6.00	3.30	4.90	45.00	14.00	3.75
25	1/18/2023 18:55	African Nations Championship	SENEGAL	1	v	3	UGANDA	3.85	16.00	45.00	5.00	3.80	6.40	40.00	16.00	5.40
26	1/18/2023 18:55	Spain Copa del Rey	ATHLETIC BILBAO	0	v	0	ESPANYOL	2.29	17.00	70.00	4.00	5.20	11.00	27.00	18.00	9.60
27	1/18/2023 19:40	Scotland Premier	CELTIC	1	v	6	ST MIRREN	1.37	40.00	99.00	3.60	12.00	40.00	26.00	35.00	30.00
28	1/18/2023 19:40	Scotland Premier	HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN	3	v	5	ABERDEEN	3.25	14.00	35.00	5.20	5.20	7.00	27.00	14.00	5.00
29	1/18/2023 19:40	Belgium	ANDERLECHT	13	v	17	WAREGEM	2.13	17.00	50.00	4.20	6.60	12.00	22.00	17.00	8.60
30	1/18/2023 19:40	Belgium	KORTRIJK	15	v	18	SERAING	2.70	14.00	45.00	4.70	5.40	8.80	25.00	15.00	6.40
31	1/18/2023 19:40	Scotland Premier	LIVINGSTON	4	v	10	DUNDEE UNITED	3.85	14.00	35.00	5.40	4.60	6.20	30.00	14.00	4.60
32	1/18/2023 19:40	England FA Cup	LEEDS	0	v	0	CARDIFF	1.80	22.00	90.00	3.70	7.40	17.00	23.00	22.00	14.00
33	1/18/2023 19:55	Scotland Premier	KILMARNOCK	11	v	2	RANGERS	14.00	22.00	23.00	17.00	7.60	3.70	90.00	22.00	1.78
34	1/18/2023 19:55	Premier League	CRYSTAL PALACE	12	v	4	MANCHESTER UNITED	7.40	17.00	27.00	9.60	5.40	4.60	50.00	16.00	2.65
35	1/18/2023 19:55	Spain Copa del Rey	REAL BETIS	0	v	0	OSASUNA	3.20	15.00	45.00	4.80	4.40	7.40	30.00	15.00	6.00
36	1/18/2023 19:55	Spain Copa del Rey	LEVANTE	0	v	0	ATLETICO MADRID	7.80	16.00	28.00	9.60	4.80	4.30	60.00	16.00	2.55
37	1/19/2023 13:55	Italy Cup	ATALANTA	0	v	0	SPEZIA	1.89	19.00	80.00	3.85	7.00	15.00	23.00	20.00	12.00
38	1/19/2023 19:55	Italy Cup	JUVENTUS	0	v	0	MONZA	2.16	18.00	70.00	3.95	5.60	12.00	26.00	19.00	10.00
39	1/19/2023 19:55	Premier League	MANCHESTER CITY	2	v	5	TOTTENHAM	1.86	21.00	80.00	4.00	8.00	17.00	23.00	21.00	12.00
40	1/19/2023 19:55	Spain Copa del Rey	VILLARREAL	0	v	0	REAL MADRID	4.40	13.00	27.00	6.80	5.40	5.80	30.00	13.00	3.50

## INT'L SPORT

**S**ir Jim Ratcliffe's company INEOS has officially entered the bidding to buy Manchester United.

Sky Sports News has confirmed a story first published by The Times that Ratcliffe, one of Britain's richest men, wants to complete the purchase of the Premier League giants.

The Glazer family, United's current owners, announced in November they are willing to listen to offers for the club after a 17-year reign dominated by fan protests and declining on-pitch performance.

INEOS, Ratcliffe's chemical firm, announced it had formally lodged interest with the Glazers.

"We have formally put ourselves into the process," a spokesperson said.

Ratcliffe has made no secret of the fact he would be interested in buying United. He supported them as a boy and is understood to remain a fan.

The 70-year-old billionaire was among bidders for Chelsea when their ownership came up for grabs after the start of Russia's war in Ukraine.

His offer, of £4.25bn, was rejected under the sale process ordered by the Government when Roman Abramovich was sanctioned for his links to Vladimir

Putin's regime in Moscow. Ratcliffe is no stranger to big sporting investments. He also owns cycling team INEOS Grenadiers, Ligue 1 side Nice, who he took over in 2019, and FC Lausanne-Sport, a Swiss Super League club.

As well as Ratcliffe, Saudi Arabia sports minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Faisal has previously confirmed his country's intentions of taking over United - valued at around £5bn. Technology giant Apple has been another reported interested party.

United are live on Sky Sports Premier League and Main Event this Wednesday when they travel to Crystal Palace. Coverage begins at 7.30pm with kick-off at 8pm.

"Sir Jim Ratcliffe has always made it clear he wants to buy a Premier League club. A few years ago he said Premier League clubs were overvalued, which is why he went and bought Nice for €100m. He said he wasn't going to spend billions of pounds on a Premier League club, but his attitude has changed over the past few years.

# Manchester United takeover: Sir Jim Ratcliffe officially enters bidding to buy Premier League club



"His company has a lot of interest in different sports, he's somebody who grew up as a Manchester United supporter even though he regularly goes to watch Chelsea. Last year, he tried to buy Chelsea when they were put up for sale. He made a very, very late bid of about £4.25bn which matched the winning bid.

"This time, as far as Manchester United are concerned, he's the first person to show his hand. I think what

we'll see now is more people showing their hands and more people getting to look at the books. Then next month, we'll start hearing about different bids that are being made.

"I think we can anticipate Manchester United changing hands before the end of the season if the club is sold 100 per cent."

C r e d i t : <https://www.skysports.com/football/news>

## Gallagher determined to stay at Chelsea despite interest from Newcastle

**C**helsea starlet **C**onor Gallagher has no interest in leaving the club, despite recent interest from Premier League sides such as Newcastle United.

The likes of Nottingham Forest, Southampton, Everton and Crystal Palace - where he spent last season on loan - were also thought to be keen on bringing in the 22-year-old alongside the Magpies. However, the Daily Mail report that Gallagher has no interest in leaving his boyhood club, especially while he is still being selected by Graham Potter.

The midfielder has already played 24 matches for Chelsea across all competitions this season. Despite many appearances coming from the bench, Gallagher has recorded a goal and assist and produced performances that earned him a call-up to England's World Cup squad. However, with the mass influx of creative players at Stamford Bridge this winter, the 22-year-old had been mooted for a potential exit.

However, it is thought that Gallagher is



keen to fight for his place, especially given the recent injury problems affecting the club. Chelsea have nine first-team players out and are also without new loanee Joao Felix through suspension. As a result, Potter himself would be against any potential move due to his current threadbare squad, with Gallagher set to feature heavily in the coming weeks.

The England international will be looking to get the nod for Chelsea's crunch match against fellow Premier League strugglers Liverpool on Saturday.

Credit: <https://www.goal.com>

## Pep Guardiola is confident Kevin De Bruyne will feature in this week's crucial clash with Tottenham



**M**anchester City are expecting Kevin De Bruyne to prove his fitness for Thursday's clash against Tottenham after an injury scare on Tuesday.

De Bruyne did not train with Pep Guardiola's squad at the City Football Academy ahead of a Premier League game they can ill-afford to drop points in.

City have fallen eight points behind leaders Arsenal after the weekend derby defeat and losing their talisman for Tottenham's visit would be a significant blow. But Guardiola is confident that De Bruyne will be ready to play a part, while City have also been handed welcome news in defence.

Dias has not played since aggravating a hamstring injury during the World Cup, while Stones missed the trip to Old Trafford. The pair have not started together in the Premier League since September.

Meanwhile, City are expected to open talks with Julian Alvarez's representatives over an extension to his contract at the end of the season. Alvarez impressed at the World Cup winners Argentina and has scored eight goals in 23 appearances for City since making a £14million switch from River Plate.

C r e d i t : <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football>

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**NEC** NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD **NPPA** **EBK UNIVERSITY** **JUDICIARY OF SIERRA LEONE**

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