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ALSO INSIDE

Parliament approves Chairman, Independent Commission for Peace

ReNIP delegates' convention: Beresford Williams re-elected as flagbearer

By Yusufu S. Bangura

Ahead of the 2023 general elections, the membership of the Republic National Independent Party (ReNIP) has over the weekend at their three-day National Delegates' Conference in Bo City, re-elected Beresford Victor Williams as their Chairman and Leader and flagbearer for the 24th June election.

The conference brought together representatives of the Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) All Political Party Association (APPA) and ReNIP party membership including executives from all parts of the country.

In his statement after his nomination and approval as the Chairman and leader of the party, Dr. Beresford Victor Williams victoriously expressed thanks and appreciation to his party membership for reposing another confidence and power in him to represent the party at national level and serve as flagbearer in the 2023 general elections.

He said his position is an interpretation of the fact that through his party, he is quite fit to positively change the narrative of Sierra Leone.

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ReNIP flagbearer, Beresford Williams ready to lead with experience.

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OP-Ed

One year of war against Ukraine:

acting together to ensure international law will prevail

By Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

24 February 2022 will forever be recalled as the day when Russia started its brutal, unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine. This was and remains a case of pure aggression and a clear-cut breach of the UN Charter. This war is neither 'just a European issue', nor is it about the 'West versus the rest'. It is about the kind of world we all want to live in: no one is safe in a world where the illegal use of force – by a nuclear power and permanent member of the Security Council – would somehow be 'normalised'. That is why international law must be enforced everywhere to protect everyone from power politics, blackmail and military attack.

One year on, there is a risk that people become inured to the images of war crimes and atrocities that they see – because there are so many; that the words we use start to lose their significance – because we have to repeat them so often; that we get tired and weaken our resolve – because time is passing and the task at hand is hard.

This we cannot do. Because every day, Russia keeps violating the UN charter, creating a dangerous precedent for the whole world with its imperialist policy. Every day, Russia keeps killing innocent Ukrainian women, men and children, raining down its missiles on cities and civilian infrastructure. Every day, Russia keeps spreading lies and fabrications.

For the European Union and our partners, there is no alternative to staying the course of our 'triple strategy': supporting Ukraine, putting pressure on Russia to stop its illegal aggression and helping the rest of the world cope with the fallout.

This is what we have been doing for one year now - and successfully so. We have adopted unprecedented sanctions; cut our dependency on Russian fossil fuels; and in close collaboration with key partners reduced by 50% the energy revenues the Kremlin gets to finance its aggression. Working together, we have also mitigated the global ripple effects with food and energy prices declining, partly thanks to our Solidarity Lanes and to the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

It is not enough to say that we want Ukraine to be able to defend itself – it needs the means to do so. So, for the first time ever, the EU has supplied weapons to a country under attack. Indeed, the EU is now the leading provider of military training for Ukrainian personnel so they can defend their country. We are also offering significant macro-financial and humanitarian aid to support the Ukrainian people. And we have decided to respond positively to Ukraine's request to join the EU. Finally, we are working to ensure accountability for the war crimes that Russia has committed.

Ukraine has shown its remarkable resilience, partly thanks to this support. And Russia has grown more isolated, thanks to global sanctions and the international condemnation by the overwhelming majority of states in the UN General Assembly. Our collective goal is and remains a democratic Ukraine that prevails; pushing out the invader, restoring its full sovereignty and, with that, restoring international legality.

Above all, we want peace in Ukraine, a comprehensive and lasting peace that is in line with the UN Charter and international law. Supporting Ukraine and working for peace go hand in hand

In all this, the EU does not ask anyone to 'pick a side'. We just ask countries to stand on the side of the UN Charter and international law, as we jointly agreed at the last EU-Africa Summit. The support of many African countries at the UN and elsewhere for the principles of territorial integrity, sovereignty and international law is crucial.

Just like Ukraine, our African partners are free to make their own choices and have the sovereign right to determine their own future. We reject any logics of countries belonging to any 'sphere of influence'. Indeed, Russia's aggression is a textbook example of an imperialist mindset.

We need to be clear that Russia's actions are responsible for the economic shockwaves in terms of food, energy and fertilizer prices. We have always exempted Russian energy, food and fertilisers from EU sanctions and we are monitoring any possible unintended effects of our sanctions. The EU continues to work hard to address food security needs and we have increased our funding, for instance with €1,6 billion for the most-affected countries in the Sahel, Lake Chad and the Horn of Africa.

More broadly, the Russian invasion has underlined the need for both Europe and Africa to avoid excessive dependencies. And it has reinforced our commitment to leverage our partnership to build more resilient and inclusive economies, protect our democracies and strengthen social cohesion.

History and justice are on the side of Ukraine. But to accelerate history and achieve justice, we need to amplify our 'triple strategy'. We know this is a collective task. That is why the EU is counting on all its partners, to act in a spirit of joint responsibility and solidarity: to ensure that aggression fails and international law prevails.

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LOCAL NEWS

Rokel Bank takes Agency Banking to Leicester and Gloucester

The Rokel Commercial Bank continues with its ambitious expansion drive as it opens its third Agency Banking outlet for Leicester and Gloucester communities in Freetown.

The new outlet came through collaboration with Peak Energy Gas Station which houses the outlet at the Leicester/Gloucester intersection.

Agency Banking is a platform through which a bank provides basic financial services rather than an in-house cashier. It is a type of branchless banking that allows the traditional banks to extend their network branches and services in a cost-efficient manner. Apparently, the new outlet has further cemented the bank's position as the undisputed champion of financial inclusion in Sierra Leone.

Head of Rokel Bank's Simkorpor department, Kezia Salankunle said the outlet would be operating beyond traditional banking hours, reiterating that residents of the two communities would now have the opportunity to carry banking transactions on their doorsteps and avoid the hassle of accessing the often crowded banking halls in town.

Director of Marketing, Mariama Jajua encouraged community people to inculcate a culture of banking as a sure way to manage their finances averring; "We believe that more people should come on board to access the banking system and that is why we have not relented in our pursuit to expand and promote financial inclusion in Sierra Leone

Managing Director of Rokel Commercial Bank, Dr. Walton Gilpin reaffirmed his bank's commitment to expand and get more people onboard the banking system with flexible, innovative strategies such as the Agency Banking project. He was happy that the new outlet would also be serving a larger portion of the nearby Fourah Bay College community to serve students and lecturers.

"This branch will be doing account opening, deposits, withdrawals, EDSA top up, phone tops and several other basic services to ensure you do not have to go all the way to town to access banking services..."

Other speakers including the Head of Administration, Bai Turay made similar statements.

ReNIP delegates' convention: Beresford Williams re-elected as flagbearer

From Cover

Dr. Williams stated that with his leadership calibre, he is ready and poised to bring back Sierra Leone on the night trajectory through key interventions and implementation of fruitful policies for the development of the country.

He said his party shall introduce the hybrid economic system, which will aim at even distribution of the county wealth across all regions with no preference to any tribe, ethnic group, region or political party.

He promised that he will tackle price control, hybrid economy, job opportunities, water and electricity and justice for all.

He added that access to water, sanitation and hygiene, improving the national drive for gender equality and food security are strategic on ReNIP's national governance agenda.

"Weak infrastructure in the areas of roads and electricity, coupled with hiking transportation costs are among barriers to trade limiting economic growth, which I will handle as president," he said.

Williams said the next ReNIP manifesto devises means to explore and exploits opportunities for sustainable development involving a more or less equal focus on two different economic styles.

ReNIP flagbearer further said he has been able to convince party members that a hybrid economy that is based primarily on a mix of business and government to be run by less corrupt officials and development oriented citizens is essential to economic prosperity in Sierra Leone.

He concluded that his party was the last political party that the PPRC gave clearance to contest the 2018 elections.

The Chairman and Leader said he will continue to convince Sierra Leoneans that the party is a democratic socialist party that welcomes citizens to join them, and have their say to influence national policies for the good of all including unborn generations.

"I want to assure Sierra Leoneans that if elected as President of this country I will change the political narrative in this country by doing the things which are important to the people like increase the minimum wage from six hundred new Leones to one million, five hundred new Leones, upgrade the healthcare system, improve agricultural system for the people to have food on the table, among others,"he promised.

On his own part, the Chairman of All Political Party Youth Association Southern Region, Mustapha Brima Sannoh, extended immeasurable thanks and appreciation to the ReNIP party for its adherence to the cognition of youths and their importance to the party's achievement and progress.

He implored the leadership of the party to empower the youths through appointment to various national positions and provide a platform where youths will be given the opportunity to contribute to the development of the party and the country in general.

Mustapha Brima implored the youths to be wise enough and deviate from any form of political violence during and after the June 24th 2023 general elections in the country, he added that APPA would continue to seek the interest of all youths various political parties in the country.

He furthered said they would also proceed in creating the platforms where youth can contribute to national development.

The National Secretary General of All Political Party Association, Ibrahim Sorie Sesay expressed elation by the display of sense of unity during the conference, and therefore stated that as association they have the mandate to organise dialogue among political parties on issues bordering national interest, development and peace.

He disclosed that ReNIP had been active in the association with its positive contribution in promoting unity, peace and cohesion among political parties across the country.

He said APPA has no doubt in the leadership of ReNIP as their proactive movement are relies of their desire to gain state house.

The Director of Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) southern region, Joseph Elongima Mbawa, extended thanks to ReNIP party and its leadership for the democratic conduct of the national delegate conference.

He said ReNIP had fulfilled one of the mandates of the commission to ensure that internal democracy prevails among political parties in their lower level and national elections.

He mentioned that he was impressed with the peaceful and remarkable behaviour of the youths who have been used previously as tools to cause chaos and confusion.

He however, informed that the commission's hands are always opened to embrace complaints from aggrieved members of any political party over any inappropriate conduct of party election.

He stated that the commission has the mandate to address such reported issues as a redress mechanism for peaceful coexistence between political parties and their members.

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LOCAL NEWS

Chinese Embassy holds first session of Face to Face With China

By Ishmael Dumbuya

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China has yesterday, Thursday, 23rd February, held its first session of Face to Face with China session, which informs the people of Sierra Lone on the state of the bilateral relation with China as well as plans for future investments and developments in the country.

Updating the media on the state of Sierra Leone's bilateral relation with China, the Chinese Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Ambassador Wang Qing, stated that China and Sierra Leone have always been time-bonded friends and good brothers since the establishment of diplomatic relations 52 years ago.

He went on to disclose that Sierra Leone and China treat each other as equals, cooperate for mutual benefit and common development, adding that the cooperation in human resources development, education, agriculture, health, energy, communications, infrastructure and other areas has achieved numerous tangible results.

"On the third day of my arrival, I witnessed the handover of the Foreign Service Academy Building built with Chinese aid gratis, which marks a new milestone in the close cooperation between our two countries. Meanwhile, Sierra Leone has been working closely with China on issues of common interests in the international arena. We appreciate that Sierra Leone has stood firmly in adhering to the one-China principle and supporting China's legitimate efforts to safeguard national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity. It is of no doubt that China and Sierra Leone are reliable friends to each other and we have a strong belief in creating a better world together," Ambassador Wang Qing emphasized.

The ambassador noted that a lot of Sierra Leoneans are curious about knowing China, and to better understand China you first of all need the Communist Party System in China.

He explained that the Chinese Communist Party was born in the turmoil of war in 1921.

"Over the past century, the CPC has grown from a small party of 59 members to the world's largest ruling party with more than 98 million members, leading China from being bullied and abused to national independence, from national incompleteness to rejuvenation, from poverty and weakness to prosperity and strength," Ambassador Wing explained.

He furthered that the key to the success is that the CPC represents the overall interests of the Chinese people.

"It upholds the fundamental purpose of wholeheartedly serving the people and practices a people-centred philosophy of development. Between 2003 and 2016, Harvard University conducted eight surveys in China, and published its findings in July 2020."

According to Ambassador Wing, findings have it that over 90 percent of Chinese public are satisfied with the Chinese government.

"It clearly shows that the leadership of the CPC is the choice of history and the choice of the people. Respect for China requires respect for the leading position of the CPC and the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics chosen by the Chinese people," he said.

He however indicated that China is still a developing country.

"China's GDP is 18 trillion US dollars in 2022, but let's not forget that China has a population of over 1.4 billion. Its GDP per capita is only about 12,000 US dollars, which is one-sixth of that of the US. As a major developing country, China is still facing a lot of severe challenges," he said.

In his closing remark, the Ambassador noted that China adheres to an independent policy, always proceeds from the fundamental interests of the people of China and the world, and decides its position and policy based on the merits of the matter itself.

"China puts forward Global Development Initiative (GDI), which focuses on promoting stronger, greener, and healthier global development, expanding the cake of mutually beneficial cooperation and adhering to fairness, justice and extensive consultation. China is committed to enhancing the representation and voice of developing countries, promoting the democratization and rule of law of international relations, and jointly building a new type of international relations. Sierra Leone and China have for decades enjoyed a good bilateral relationship and China will do all it takes to invigorate the relation in the future," he said.

Sierra Leone's Minister of Information and Communications, Mohamed Rahman Swarray applauded and thanked the people of China and the Chinese government for their unflinching supports to Sierra Leone. He added that the relation between China and Sierra Leone has existed for a very long time.

He went on to state that they as government they will always help protects Chinese businesses, projects, and investments in the country.

"Since President Bio was elected president in 2018, he has committed himself to the establishing a mutual relationship with China."

He ended on the note that China has for a long time being very helpful and supportive to the Sierra Leone government and Sierra Leonean citizens when it comes to investments, developments, scholarships as well as education.

SLRA launches MRU road development project

By Yusufu S. Bangura

With funding from Africa Development Bank (AfDB), Sierra Leone Road Authorities (SLRA), in collaboration with Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Works, has launched the Mano River Union Road Development project, which will reduce transport cost from Sierra Leone to Guinea and Liberia.

The launching ceremony took place on Tuesday, 21st February,at the SLRA head office, Ferry Junction in Freetown.

Speaking at the event, Director General of SLRA, Ing. Amara Jambai Kanneh, welcomed the gathering and thanked AfDB and MRU for the support over the years.

He said the presence of stakeholders from Kailahun district shows how significant the project is towards the development of that district.

He said Kailahun has paid special attention to that road because people have always requested for that road to be constructed, so they were very grateful to AfDB for coming in at the right time to fund that project which will cover from Kenema to Koindu.

"We will always be grateful to them for the roll they have played in that district and the country at large," he said.

Ing. Kanneh said they have engaged stakeholders in the community for them to support the project because it will benefit them and the country as they will need to travel with their food stuff from their villages to Freetown.

Director General at SLRA, Country Program Officer at AfDB, Secretary General of MRU & Chairman of the event seats at the high table.

Country Program Officer at AfDB, Felicitas Atanga, said the MRU Road Development and Transport Facilitation project was approved by the board of directors at AfDB in March 2022, for a total cost of 35million United States Dollars grant.

He said the project is a regional project which covers Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, adding that there is a provision for the upgrading 25km road network from Kailahun to Buedu on the Kailahun-Koindu corridor in Sierra Leone,

"The construction of the 276m peace bridge on the Makona River linking Guinea will reduce transport cost, ease the free movement of people and goods, promote regional trade and improve the living standards of the local population. It is expected that the project will create approximately 500 temporary jobs over the next 2 years, 30% of which will be for women. Finally, the project will finance the feasibility studies for 90km road and the construction of the Koindu market," she said.

He said the project consolidates road rehabilitation efforts so far and is expected to boost economic recovery in the country, following the Covid-19 pandemic and the current effect of the Russia-Ukraine war.

"I wish to conclude by reassuring the government of the Bank Group's continuous support towards Sierra Leone's development agenda in the spirit of collaboration. We count on the usual support of the Ministry of Finance in the timely approval of all project documents sent to them for clearance," she promised.

In her statement, Secretary General of Mano River Union, Ambassador Maria G. Harrison thanked the MRU member states for their commitment to the implementation of Phase I and II of the MRU Road Projects.

"I believe that when completed, this project will contribute to the opening up of the interior of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone and to the strengthening of sub-regional integration and trade within the MRU region," she said.

She said with the help of the AfDB Road Transport Program, it is becoming more and more convenient to travel by road from Conakry to Abidjan, via Freetown and Monrovia.

She emphasizes that transport facilitation in the MRU sub-region has also helped to enhance trade facilitation and accelerate regional integration through the free movement of goods and people.

Harrison further said the component of the MRU Road project consists of trade facilitation and construction of the peace bridge.

"Let me assure you that the MRU will play a leading role towards the implementation of this regional component. As you are all aware, the signing of the MOU between Guinea and Sierra Leone is a prerequisite for the first disbursement," she said.

She said the MRU will continue to work closely with the governments of Sierra Leone and Guinea to ensure that the Memorandum of Understanding is signed, which is a necessary process for this road transport project.

"In order to expedite the process, I am kindly requesting for a tripartite meeting between the MRU Secretariat and the authorities of Guinea and Sierra Leone to discuss and conclude the signing of the MoU which is a key requirement for the construction of the Peace Bridge," she concluded.

Representative from the Ministry of Works and Public also made statement during the launching ceremony.

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LOCAL NEWS

Parliament approves Chairman, Independent Commission for Peace

By Jariatu S. Bangura

Members of the Appointment and the Public Service Committee have on Tuesday approved Rev. Shodankeh B. E.B Johnson as Chairman, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC).

The motion for the approval was moved by the Deputy Leader of Government Business, Hon. Bashiru Silikie and seconded by P. C Hon. Prince Pewa respectively

Hon. Neneh Lebbie commended the nominee as he was the first to invite her to go to church through his preaching on radio.

She said the nominee has been one of it kinds in the Bo district and the country as a whole.

She described the nominee as a father and transformer of lives especially young people that were once about to go astray and wayward in Bo district and the surrounding society, thus they were proud of him as indigenes.

She said the President has made the right choice to serve in the peace commission and sure that he will do much more than expected.

Hon. Sama Sandy said the nominee has been a father to many people and also described him as a nationalist and a patriot .He said the nominee is a national figure and has created the linkages between regions across the nation.

Rev. Johnson before Parliament during his approval

Hon. Musa Fofanah said President Bio has nominated fine Sierra Leoneans across all regions over the past years to help develop a better nation for the good of all.

He said the Commission is a critical one as there are weak politicians that are hiding behind conflict for their own good, but hope that he will make the difference and make the country proud.

He said the road will not be a smooth one without gallops but that they were confident that he will achieve the goal that is expected of him.

He said it is a challenge for the Commission to run without sufficient funding, therefore they should pay keen attention especially now that the country is about to go into elections.

Hon. Bashiru Silikie said the Commission should be supported by all MPs as there is need for the nominee to work for the interest of all.

Nigeria's main presidential candidates sign "peace" deal

Four top Nigerian presidential candidates signed a "peace" deal on Wednesday ahead of presidential elections on Saturday.

The only candidate absent from the ceremony was Bola Ahmed Tinubu from the ruling party All Progressives Congress (APC) who was represented by his vice presidential running mate.

The head of the Nigerian electoral commission confirmed the organisation is ready to hold the election.

"The signing of the Peace Accord today comes at a critical moment in the electoral calendar. Campaign for Presidential and National Assembly elections ends at midnight tomorrow Thursday 23rd February 2023. Election will hold on Saturday this week. INEC is ready", said the chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, Mahmood Yakubu.

Past presidential elections in Nigeria have been marred by violence, fraud, court challenges and a rise in ethnic tensions.

The peace deal is a private initiative of religious, traditional and opinion leaders who urged candidates to focus on issues and steer away from incitement to violence.

"The Commission is committed to free, fair and credible elections in compliance with the electoral legal framework and the letter and spirit of the Peace Accord. All political parties and candidates are hereby reassured of the Commission's neutrality. INEC is not a political party, we have no candidate in the election. Our allegiance is to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and our loyalty is to Nigerians", announced the electoral chief.

The Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, Mahmood Yakubu - Copyright © africanews AFP

A total of 18 presidential hopefuls are running, including one woman.

According to analysts, the election race will be close with third party candidate Peter Obi challenging the traditional dominance of the ruling APC and main opposition PDP.

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LOCAL NEWS

Sheik Mohamed Kamara alias Jagaban, a good political leader and the best to steer with Dr. Samura Kamara

BY: Mohamed Abdul Mansaray, From Blama

Sheik Mohamed Kamara Alias Jagaban's Political Leadership Sierra Leone is brimming with ambitious political leaders, but sadly very few matchups to the traits of good leadership.

In fact, many political leaders appear to be severely lacking in some of the most essential qualities of a good leader, such as integrity and accountability.

It's no coincidence that the word "politician" has many negative connotations. But experience tells us that there is only a handful that comes near to the principles of leadership and shows strong indicators of a successful political leader.

Sheik Mohamed Kamara is the kind of leader with stainless political and no political records in Sierra Leone.

Political leaders are vital – they determine the allocation of power and money through governmental policies, establish partnerships with other stakeholders, and make decisions that can have a major effect on a nation's well-being and its citizens. Political leadership requires a leader to focus on a country's long-term betterment, above and beyond any short-term personal gains.

Strong political leadership requires a mixture of charm and honesty, and the capacity to evaluate a circumstance and make a judgment based on what will be better for the majority.

Sheik Mohamed Kamara for running mate of the All People's Congress party and next vice president will resuscitate the country's economy from bad to good, with an accountability and transparency governance system.

Sheik Mohamed Kamara Political Leadership Skills With good political leadership skills, Sheik Mohamed Kamara will prove to be a successful leader who can easily distinguish between success and failure.

Sheik Mohamed Kamara can be a successful leader; he has a visionary dream and understands how to turn his visions into success stories in Sierra Leone. Let's look at some of the skills acquired by Sheik Mohamed Kamara.

Above all, leadership in a democratic system that needs statesmanship – as compared to just becoming a 'politician' – which implies possessing the honesty and ability to stand up for what is fair, here are some of his "sheik Mohamed Kamara" leadership skills 1. Sheik Mohamed Kamara is a Good communicator.

Until you communicate your vision clearly to your team and tell them the strategy to accomplish the goal, you'll find it very difficult to get the results you want.

To put it simply, Sheik Mohamed Kamara can effectively communicate his message to the people of this nation, as a good leader. Words can get people motivated and make them do the unimaginable. If you are making effective use of them, you can also achieve better results.

Sheik Mohamed Kamara Has Honesty And Integrity Honesty and Integrity are two main elements that make for a strong leader.

How do you demand integrity from your supporters if you neglect such qualities? Sheik Mohamed Kamara excel because he hold to his basic principles and convictions, and that won't be possible without ethics.

Sheik Mohamed Kamara Is A Good Decision Maker A leader should be capable of making the right decision at the right time. Sheik Mohamed Kamara takes actions that have a huge effect on people.

As a good leader, he "Sheik Mohamed Kamara" think long and hard before taking a decision but stand by it once the decision is made. 4. Sheik Mohamed Kamara Have Inspired Others Perhaps the toughest thing a leader to do is to convince people to follow them.

This will only be done by providing a clear example and encouraging your followers. We look up to them when the going gets tough and see how they. As a leader, react to shortcomings.

Sheik Mohamed Kamara thinks optimistically, and his positive attitudes should be evident from our actions. Sheik Mohamed Kamara always keeps cool under strain and retains a degree of encouragement.

He excel in inspiring his people/followers, he will comfortably resolve every obstacle now and in the future.

Sheik Mohamed Kamara Is a Man with a vision and purpose Sheik Mohamed Kamara is an Influential leader with intent and vision.

Not only can he imagine the future, but he also expresses his dreams with his supporters. If his fans could see the larger picture, they could understand where they are headed.

As a strong leader he discusses why they are going towards the path that they are heading and reveals the approach and course of action to accomplish the purpose.

Sheik Mohamed Kamara can make a better running mate for the All Peoples Congress party to win the June 24th Presidential Election, and to restore our democracy and good governance system in Sierra Leone, also he will be able to take severe actions in the interest of the country.

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

CEO of South Africa's public electricity company Eskom ousted

FILE - Headquarters in Johannesburg of South Africa's main electricity supplier Eskom on February 4, 2015 - Copyright © africanews

The CEO of South Africa's public electricity company Eskom, undermined by scandals and unable to supply the country, was ousted from his post on Wednesday. Eskom announced in a press release.

Andre de Ruyter had already announced his resignation in December, but had been expected to stay on until the end of March to give the company time to find a replacement.

The Board of Directors decided that Mr. de Ruyter did "not need to serve the remainder of his notice" and was "released from his obligations with immediate effect", Eskom said.

A few hours earlier the former CEO had expressed doubts about the government's political will to fight against endemic corruption within Eskom.

Asked in a recent interview with the TV station etv whether Eskom was an African National Congress (ANC) "feeding trough" he replied: "I would say the evidence suggests that it is."

The ANC has been the governing party in South Africa since 1994.

In another excerpt from the interview he claimed that "the amount of money that gets stolen in Eskom every month is in the region of a billion rand (51.5 million euros)."

In December, shortly before submitting his resignation, Mr. de Ruyter had been the victim of an attempted poisoning.

South Africa does not produce enough power for its economy and population of 60 million. The continent's leading industrial power has been subject to scheduled daily blackouts for months, reaching almost 12 noon on some days.

The country experienced a record 207 days of load shedding last year.

President Cyril Ramaphosa recently declared a state of national disaster. At the same time he has yet to appoint a Minister of Electricity, a new post dedicated to tackling the crisis, ahead of a cabinet reshuffle.

Eskom generates 90 percent of the country's electricity largely from coal. After years of corruption and mismanagement, it is unable to produce enough in ageing and poorly maintained plants.

Eskom is also saddled with colossal debt equivalent to more than 20 billion euros. The state announced last year it will pay half of it.

The bailout will take public debt to nearly 300 billion euros, or 73.6 percent of GDP, over the next three years, according to the finance minister, who added that the country was now spending more money on its debt than on health or defence.

The South African central bank is predicting near-zero GDP growth for the year at 0.3 percent, partly because of the energy crisis.

Nigeria's electoral commission distributes ballots across Lagos state

A member of the Nigerian police force walks past ballot papers in Lagos on February 22, 2023, ahead of the Nigerian presidential election scheduled for February 25, 2023. - Copyright © africanews JOHN WESSELS/AFP or licensors

Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has begun distributing ballots for Saturday's election from the commercial capital Lagos to polling stations across the state.

"This is one of the critical moments of the INEC: __to collect these sensitive materials, ballot papers, and result sheets from the Central Bank of Nigeria in Lagos here to move them to the twenty local governments areas of the state," said Olusegun Agbaje, the INEC's Resident Electoral Commissioner in Lagos.

Voters will choose among 18 candidates in a first-round vote to succeed incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari, who is winding down his second and final term. A runoff will be held unless one candidate gets at least one-quarter of the votes in each of at least two-thirds of all the states.

Candidates for the federal parliament - both the House of Representatives and Senate are also on the ballots.

Nigeria has at least 93 million registered voters, almost 40 percent of whom are under 35. The country has one of the world's largest youth populations, with about 64 million people aged 18-35 and a median age of 18.

Young people have made a third-party candidate with social media appeal into a serious contender in the polls. Their frustration with mainstream parties has made room for former governor Peter Obi, 61, to position himself as a change candidate.

That's surprising in a country where elections have long been usually dominated by Nigeria's two largest parties.

Initially seen as an underdog with little political experience, Obi has emerged as a leading candidate, coming ahead of or close behind Bola Tinubu and Atiku Abubakar in most polls. He's the candidate of the Labour Party, which won 5,074 votes in the 2019 presidential election, less than 0.1 percent of the vote.

He's spoken to young people, promising jobs, and to Nigeria's vast diaspora, promising changes that will give them a reason to return.

Meanwhile Atiku Abubakar, 76, of the Peoples Democratic Party has served as vice-president and is one of the country's richest businessmen and is running for the presidency for the sixth time. He's a Muslim from the Fulani ethnic group, as is current president Muhammadu Buhari.

Bola Tinubu, 70, of the All Progressives Congress has served as governor of Lagos, was an important backer of the current president and is known as a key funder for the ruling APC.

A key question now is how many people turn out to vote. Turnout in recent elections has been low. In 2019, only 34% of registered voters cast their ballot in the presidential vote. It reflects both cynicism about politics, and high barriers to participation. Voters can cast ballots only in person, and only at their place of registration.

Carnival returns to the streets of Bissau after a two-year absence

Carnival celebrations in the streets of Bissau - Copyright © africanews XAUME OLLEROS/AFP or licensors

After an interruption that lasted two years due to the pandemic, Carnival returned to the streets of Bissau last Saturday bringing together all ethnic groups in a show of colour and unity.

"The Guinea Bissau carnival is authentic and original, because it shows the customs of each ethnic group in the country and its cultural diversity: its dynamics, its way of singing, dressing and dancing. It is truly an authentic and original carnival!", said Rui Manuel Da Costa, co-organiser of the Carnival.

For many, Carnival represents an opportunity to celebrate the country's diverse cultural heritage.

This year, neighbouring Senegal was the guest of honour.

"Carnival means a lot to me, because it allows me to feel truly Guinean. It is with the carnival that we can represent our culture and our way of life. I would like every Guinean to be able to show and live his or her culture, because every day our cultural heritage is disappearing", said Carnival participant Alfredo Sylvestre Nanque.

Another Carnival participant, Daniela Semedo Djoco, "the elders are trying to save our cultural heritage, but the youth don't want to learn. The government must set up a mechanism to make young people aware of Guinean culture, because our culture is very beautiful".

The event was opened by the minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Augusto Gomes, who stressed the close ties shared with neighbouring Senegal.

Tunisian rights group denounces President Saied's hate speech

The Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights reacted to President Kais Saied's comments accusing sub-Saharan African migrants of causing crime while posing a demographic threat.

The spokesman for the rights group accused the President of racism and hate speech.

"We feel ashamed of the president's (Kais Saied) speech. We feel discontented for the words used (in his speech) which stigmatise and discriminate against sub-Saharan migrants", said Romdhane Ben Amor, spokesman of the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights.

Last week, 23 rights groups said the state had already started cracking down on migrants from sub-Saharan Africa while turning a blind eye to racist "hate speech".

"The president of the republic must bear responsibility and the Tunisian state should live up to its commitments in regard to international rights treaties. We demand an immediate end to this systematic campaign against sub-Saharan migrants and the release of those detained. Secondly, the president must launch a thorough administrative process through which illegal sub-Saharan migrants can regulate their situation", demanded the spokesman of the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights.

Tunisia is a key departure point for African migrants seeking to reach Europe on what the United Nations says is the world's deadliest migration route.

According to official Italian figures, more than 32,000 migrants, including 18,000 Tunisians, attempted the crossing from Tunisia to Italy last year.

Severe damage by cyclone Freddy in the city of Mananjary in Madagascar

Several damage were caused by cyclone Freddy in the city of Mananjary in Madagascar. Four people were killed by the passage of Freddy on the large island of 28 million inhabitants, according to a report given in the morning by the National Office of Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC) which did not change during the day.

More than 16,600 Malagasy were affected, with some 4,500 houses flooded or damaged.

France's weather service Meteo-France said Freddy weakened as it tracked across Madagascar, dropping to an average wind speed of 55 kph.

But, the agency warned, the storm would pick up strength from the warm Mozambique Channel as it headed towards the African mainland.

Cyclone Freddy is expected to land Friday in regions between central and southern Mozambique, more than 500 kilometres north of the capital Maputo, and could reach Zimbabwe.

Mozambique's government has declared a red alert to allow agencies to prepare for a potential emergency.

Freddy had developed into one of the biggest cyclones in recent years to threaten Madagascar, which is typically lashed several times during the annual November-April storm season.

In the end, it brought less rain than feared but still ripped roofs off buildings and flattened rice fields and fruit trees.

It made landfall north of Mananjary, a coastal town of 25,000 people that remains devastated by last year's Cyclone Batsirai, which killed more than 130 people.

"The recorded damage is almost only related to the wind."

- Mozambique next -

Freddy is the first cyclone and the second tropical weather system to hit during Madagascar's current season, the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said.

The storm began to brew in the first week of February off the northwest of Australia and south of Indonesia and is now in its third week trekking across the Indian Ocean.

At its height, Freddy was a "supercyclone", with average wind speeds of 220 kph and gusts of 320 kph, said Meteo-France's cyclone specialist for the Indian Ocean, Sebastien Langlade.

The UN's World Food Programme had estimated more than 2.3 million people in Madagascar could be affected.

The cyclone coincides with a months-long drought in the southern part of the island that has inflicted widespread hunger.

Freddy is expected to make landfall in Mozambique on Friday as a likely tropical storm, bringing the risk of pounding rain and flooding, according to forecasts.

Mozambique is already in the middle of its rain season and the soil is saturated.

Authorities reported that dozens of houses in the central port city of Beira had flooded Wednesday.

Heavy rain could also hit parts of Zimbabwe and South Africa at the weekend.

Credit: Africanews with AFP

WEST AFRICA NEWS

Liberia:One died, another injured in armed robbery attack at former Chief Justice's residence

One person has died and another under critical condition following an armed robbery attack at the home of former Liberian Chief Justice Gloria Musu Scott.

The incident occurred between 9 to 10PM on Wednesday, February 22 in the township of Virginia in district 17, Montserrado County.

The deceased identified as Charloe Musu was a graduating student of the Starz University in Monrovia, and the daughter of Madam Scott.

The other victim was only identified as one AC, age 17.

Madam Scott reportedly used pepper spray to escape after one of the robbers attempted to stab her to death.

She escaped unharmed and is currently at an unknown location.

Prior to the latest incident, Madam Scott alarmed that unknown men broke into her home on February 8 and 9, respectively.

Residents of the community are living in fear as a result of the incident.

They expressed disappointed over the failure of the government, through the Liberia National Police to deploy officers at the residence of the former Chief Justice when she previously alarmed of threat on her life.

Officers of the LNP are currently investigating two private security guards who were on duty when the incident occurred.

https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news

At Least 19 Soldiers Killed in North Burkina Faso Attack on Monday - Security Sources

At least 19 members of Burkina Faso's army were killed in an attack in the north of the country on Monday, two security sources said, the second major assault on forces fighting jihadist militants in the area in less than a week.

The West African nation has become a hotspot for attacks by insurgents linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State, who have seized territory across the Sahel region south of the Sahara over the past decade, killing thousands and displacing millions despite the presence of foreign troops and United Nations peacekeepers.

The latest attack targeted a military camp in the town of Tin-Akoff in Burkina Faso's Oudalan province, less than 100 km from where at least 51 soldiers were killed in an ambush on Friday - one of the heaviest death tolls in recent memory.

One security source who did not wish to be identified told Reuters on Tuesday that 19 soldiers were killed in Tin-Akoff, and several more were missing.

A second security source on Wednesday said around 20 soldiers was killed.

The military government that seized power in a coup last year has not publicly commented on the attack. It did not directly blame insurgents for Friday's ambush but said that around 160 "terrorists" had been killed in reprisal air strikes.

France condemned two attacks on Burkinabe armed forces on Feb. 17 and Feb. 20 in a statement on Wednesday but did not provide details.

A local councillor in the provincial capital Gorom-Gorom, who did not wish to be named, said hundreds of civilians had fled from Tin-Akoff since Monday.

He said the displaced described armed assailants burning down homes and indiscriminately shooting at civilians, including women, children and the elderly.

"They saw so many burnt bodies," he said, breaking into tears as he spoke to Reuters via telephone on Wednesday.

The latest bloodshed in Oudalan, a focal point of jihadist violence on the border with Mali, coincides with concerns about a security vacuum following the end of French military operations officially announced over the weekend.

The departure of French Special Forces is a result of deteriorating relations between France and Burkina Faso's junta, which has vowed to restore security but said it wished to do so alone.

Last year France pulled troops out of Mali, where the Sahel insurgency first took root in 2012, after butting heads with a junta there. Several other countries have followed suit.

https://www.usnews.com/news

Mali: Three UN peacekeepers killed in explosive attack

The incident took place that morning near the village of Songobia, in central Mali, as their supply convoy was heading to its base in Sévaré.

El-Ghassim Wane, the head of MINUSMA, condemned the attack and offered his deepest condolences to the families and colleagues of the deceased peacekeepers.

"This is another tragic illustration of the complexity of our operational environment and the sacrifices made by the international community for peace in Mali," he said.

MINUSMA is one of the most dangerous peace operations for "blue helmets". Since its establishment in 2013, 168 peacekeepers have lost their lives in hostile acts.

While renewing MINUSMA's commitment to work for peace in Mali, Mr. Wane recalled that attacks on peacekeepers can constitute war crimes under International Law.

He stressed "the need to do everything possible to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of hostile acts against MINUSMA".

UN Secretary-General António Guterres strongly condemned the attack, his Spokesperson said in a statement.

"The Secretary-General conveys his heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Senegal and his profound sympathies to the families of the victims. He wishes a speedy and full recovery to the five injured peacekeepers," it said.

The UN chief also recalled that attacks targeting UN peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law. He reaffirmed the UN's commitment to support Mali in achieving sustainable peace and security.

The UN Security Council condemned the attack in the strongest terms.

The Council issued a statement calling on the transitional authorities in Mali to swiftly investigate the attack with the support of MINUSMA, and promote accountability by bringing the perpetrators to justice.

Members reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

They also underlined the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of terrorism to justice.

https://news.un.org

SWAG
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Savings Acount targeted at student at tertiary levels from 18 years and above
Sum saved can be used to pay exam fees, purchase reading materials or start small scale businesses
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ELECTORAL COMMISSION FOR SIERRA LEONE
O. A. U. Drive, Tower Hill
Freetown- Sierra Leone

Invitation for Bids

ELECTORAL COMMISSION FOR SIERRA LEONE

Procurement of Card Distribution Forms

Date of First Issue: 23rd February 2023

The Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) has received funds from the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and intends to use part of the funds for eligible payments under the contract for the procurement of card distribution forms. The Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the printing and delivery of the undermentioned materials:

No.	Item Description	Procurement Number	Quantity	Amount of Bid Security Required (SLE)	Delivery Period
1.	Procurement of Card Distribution Forms	ECSL/OPS/NCB/G/2023/0065	Various	13,000	One (1) Week

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at procurement department, Electoral Commission Office, OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown between 9:00am-4:00pm from Monday-Friday. Bidding documents may be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred New Leones only (SLE 500).

Payment for the bidding document should be made into any of the bank accounts listed below, and the payment slip should be presented at the ECSL Procurement Department to collect the bidding document:

- Bank Name: **Bank of Sierra Leone**
  Account Name: **NPPA-Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents**
  Account Number: **0111003981**
  BBAN: **000001011100398165**

Below are details of Transit Accounts at the following Commercial Banks:

- Bank Name: **Union Trust Bank**

Account Name: **NPPA-Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents**
Account Number: **0111003981**
BBAN: **004001113253120144**

- Bank Name: **Sierra Leone Commercial Bank**
  Account Name: **NPPA-Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents**
  Account Name: **0111003981**
  Account Number: **003001081791112183**

- Bank Name: **Rokel Commercial Bank**
  Account Name: **NPPA- Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents**
  Account Number: **0111003981**
  BBAN: **002001002101242863**

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **3rd March 2023 at 12:00 NOON**. All bids must be accompanied by:

- **A Valid Business Registration Certificate**
- **Bid Security in the amount specified above and from a reputable Commercial Bank;**
- **A Valid NRA Tax Clearance Certificate;**
- **A Valid NASSIT Clearance Certificate;**
- **A signed Integrity Pact; [*see attached*]**
- **A signed and stamped Bid Form and Price Schedule**
- **Compliance with Payment Terms**
- **Evidence of undertaken similar assignment, including reference letters/contract documents.**
- **Sample of the Forms to be Printed and Submitted**

Bids will be publicly opened on **3rd March 2023 at 12:00 NOON,** in the presence of the bidders/bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders.

For any further clarification, please contact the address below.

Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone;
Procurement Department;
OAU Drive, Tower Hill;
Freetown;

Pay No Bribe

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The public is hereby informed that it has come to the notice of the Sierra Leone National Commission on Small Arms (SLeNCSA) that individuals who obtained firearms (gun) licenses have failed to renew their Firearms licenses yearly as required by section **18, subsection (3)** of the Arms and Ammunition ACT No.9 of 2012.

The Commission **HEREBY CALLS ON ALL PERSONS** who have failed to renew their firearm licenses to do so with immediate effect. Failing to renew a firearm license is an offence liable on conviction to a fine of not less than five thousand Leones (New Leones) or a term of imprisonment of not less than 12 months.

The Commission strongly advises individuals who are unable to renew their firearms licenses to surrender them to the Commission's Firearms Licensing Bureau at State Avenue with immediate effect.

Any one found in possession of firearms without a valid license issued by the Registrar of Small Arms and Light Weapons; will be prosecuted and the full penalty of the law will be enforced. **You have been warned!!!**

TERMS OF REFERENCES

Production of a Visual Documentation of the Fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases in Sierra Leone through the USAID program "Act to End NTDS |West"

FEBRUARY 2023

I. Context

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are a group of communicable diseases that are widespread in tropical regions and affect more than 1.5 billion people worldwide, 39% of whom live in Africa (47 out of 55 African countries are endemic to at least one NTD). According to statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO), these diseases cause more than 170,000 deaths per year worldwide. These preventable and treatable diseases continue, unfortunately, to cause serious disfigurements and other handicaps which, in the long term, have negative repercussions on education, employment, economic growth and development in general.

The people most affected by these diseases are vulnerable populations, often poorly educated with problems of access to drinking water and hygiene and sanitation services. According to a WHO report on NTDs, the annual economic losses related to these diseases amount to several billion dollars, which keeps low-income countries in a cycle of poverty.

Sierra Leone, with 70% of its population living below the poverty line (earning less than 2 dollars a day), pays a heavy price for these diseases which are endemic in all regions of the country. Among the seventeen NTDs defined by the WHO, four have been selected by Sierra Leone. These are subject of preventive chemotherapy.

Sierra Leone, in accordance with the WHO strategies on preventive chemotherapy and the resolutions of the World Health Assembly, has developed and implemented an integrated program since 2007 to control and eliminate schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis.

One of this plan's strategies is organizing mass drug administration campaigns.

Since 2007, several mass drug administration campaigns have been organized and have allowed the administration of millions of doses of drugs to target populations with support from the United States Agency for International Development -USAID.

Helen Keller Intl's actions in the context of the integrated fight against NTDs began in 2008 with support to the MoHS/NTD Program to achieve the elimination objectives of the Strategic Plan for the fight against NTDs.

Thus, Helen Keller Intl's NTD program materialized through the execution of two major projects with USAID funding:

The END in Africa project **from 2011 to 2018 and the Act To End NTD's | West program from 2019 to 2023 which is a cooperative agreement managed by FHI 360 for 11 beneficiary countries, including Sierra Leone.**

This second program provides in its 2023 budget programming, the recruitment of a photographer consultant for the production of visual documentation (photos and videos) of activities to combat NTDs.

II. GOALS

1. Main objective

This consultancy aims to produce video footage (both B-roll footage and interviews) and photos of the drug distribution campaign for schistosomiasis, transmission assessment survey (TAS) for lymphatic filariasis and efforts to ensure the safety of service providers as well as beneficiaries during these activities.
The service provider/consultant will work closely with Helen Keller's team, health workers, supervisors, and distributors in the field.

2. Specific objectives

- **Take 1600 resolution photos (at least 300 dpi) in RAW and JPG format to illustrate the mass drug distribution campaign in the Covid-19 context;**
- **Produce video sequences in RAW format with synchronized stereo audio capture (lav mic for left channel, boom mic for right channel). These sequences include two interviews in English, an interview with a local health worker and/or a supervisor, and another interview with a beneficiary.**

III. EXPECTED/DELIVERABLE RESULTS

The main activities of the consultancy and the expected deliverables are as follows:

1. Taking photos and video footage (both B-roll footage and interviews) of activities - drug distribution campaign, social mobilization caravans, surveys, as well as beneficiaries in their natural surroundings (house, veranda, courtyards, fields, workplace etc) and the efforts made to ensure the safety of health workers and beneficiaries during the campaign.
2. List (in Word or Excel format) listing the following details for each photo:
   - i. Subject of the photo (name, title, age)
   - ii. Location (country, district, village)
   - iii. Type of activity (i.e., mass drug administration, survey, training)
   - iv. Disease (Lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths, onchocerciasis)
   - v. Any other relevant details
   - vi. Photo credit
   - vii. Signed Consent Form: Yes or No
   - viii. Act to End NTDs | West.
   - ix. NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION
3. Taking photos of individuals and small groups, (based on the short list provided by Helen Keller Intl)
4. Taking short video testimonials/interviews in Krio (to be transcribed in English) (at least 2-two): one interview with a local health worker and/or supervisor, and another interview with a beneficiary receiving the treatment during a filmed sequence. Videos must be captioned.
5. Signed consent forms (electronic and hard copy)

IV. SPECIFICATIONS

The other specifications will be shared in writing, before shooting. Meanwhile, consider these:

- **All photos must be of1600 resolution (at least 300 dpi) in RAW and JPG format**
- All metadata should be embedded in 1600-resolution RAW and JPG files (at least 300 dpi)
- Video should be taken with synchronized sound, using a lav mic for interviews and a boom mic for ambient sound, recorded on two separate channels.
- To guide filming, Helen Keller Intl will provide the contractor with a list of shots and questions to ask during interviews. The provider should act diligently to obtain all possible images and to ask all questions as indicated on the list, as soon as the situation allows.
- The contractor will be required to make themselves available for a brief virtual chat with the Media Content Manager in New York prior to filming (Skype, WhatsApp, etc.) (approximately half an hour) to discuss the scope of work, list of shots, questions for interviews, etc.
- It is the contractor's responsibility to obtain consent from all persons to be filmed, when they appear in the foreground and/or are interviewed during filming, and to have them sign an appearance waiver that identifies them. with their full name and contact details.
- Photo editing: Photos should have minimal cropping, color adjustments, noise reduction and other post-processing edits - stylist edits are acceptable if the originals are also provided for side-by-side comparison.
- Explicit captions are required for each photo.

V. Schedule of the service

Travel (round trip to the filming location), 02 Days
Field production 02 Day
Post-production to choose the best photos, retouch if necessary and upload the selected video sequences and photos to Helen Keller's Dropbox account. 03 Days

VI. DURATION OF THE SERVICE

This consultancy will last of **7 days** over a period of March and June 2023.

VII. QUALIFICATIONS/SKILLS REQUIRED

The consultant sought must have the following qualifications:

- Ù Photojournalist/ Photo-videographer
- Ù Demonstrated experience in the production of images (Photos and videos) and interviewing;
- Ù Deep sense of photography techniques.
- Ù Good image culture and artistic sensitivity
- Ù Good interpersonal/relational skills
- Ù Knowledge of IT tools (storage and image editing software)

VIII. SUBMISSION OF SERVICE PROPOSALS

Interested candidates must provide a technical and financial offer, as well as a photo album like that required, to the office of Helen Keller Intl Sierra Leone no later than February 28, 2023

IX. CRITERIA OF ANALYSIS OF THE TECHNICAL OFFER SUBMITTED

The analysis of the technical offer will be done based on the personal experience of the service provider and technical capacities.

- a) Compliance with the financial offer
- b) Qualifications
- c) Experience in the production of visual documents (the album provided will be an asset)
- d) References of the service provider on similar work (in case of doubt, the technical committee could ask all the structures cited in reference to producing a certificate of good performance from previous work)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO WORK SCOPE

Ethical Considerations

- In no way should the photography hinder the work of the teams either by disrupting their activities or by damaging the reputation of Act | West and/or implementing partners, impacting future activities, or community and governmental relationships. This is the number one priority.
- **Always use good taste when photographing people in their communities. Do not emphasize the negative aspects of communities unless otherwise highlighted in the shots list—and then only in a respectful manner.**
- Helen Keller International and our partners are guests of the Government and the community. The success of our work is dependent on their goodwill. Always keep this in mind and listen to instructions from the teams on the ground.

Consent process
To be managed in partnership with the local team:

- **Use a language well understood by participants to give a clear explanation of the purpose of gathering their image/story.**
- **Individuals must willingly share their image/story. Inform participants that they have the right to refuse to be photographed, filmed or interviewed and will face no repercussions for refusal (i.e., they will still receive treatment, care, etc.).**
- **Explain how the content will be used. Where possible, show examples of how it may be used on your phone or by bringing print materials. You must also explain that their image and stories may be used in television, newspapers, blogs, social media, and print materials or could be picked up by print or online sources locally, nationally, or globally.**
- **Provide participants with the opportunity to ask questions and express any concerns.**
- **Individuals can withdraw consent at any time in the future. Provide the individual with contact information for the program, should they wish to decline use of their image or story at any future date. Withdrawal of consent will stop any continued use by Helen Keller International but may not remove all use of photos or stories, if, for example, they have been picked up by news or websites not owned by Helen Keller and Act | West's lead organization, FHI 360.**

Consent forms
To be managed in partnership with the local team:

- **Consent forms should only be signed after the above process is completed**
- **Consent forms must be signed for all interviews, photos, and videos where a person is identifiable.**
- **Generally, consent forms are not required for identifiable individuals in the background of a public scene that does not reveal any personal or private information about the individual (e.g. refugee status, seen at a health center waiting area, HIV testing site, etc.).**
- **Consent for children under 18 must be obtained by a parent or guardian.**

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INT'L SPORT

John Motson, legendary BBC football commentator, dies aged 77

John Motson, the legendary BBC football commentator, has died aged 77, the broadcaster has said.

Motson, popularly known as "Motty", had an illustrious 50-year career with the BBC, working with the broadcaster's flagship football highlights show, Match of the Day, since 1971.

According to the BBC, he commentated on over 2,500 televised games and covered 10 World Cups, 10 European Championships and 29 FA Cup finals for BBC Sport.

Revered across the game, the commentator, often seen beside the pitch pre-game with a microphone and in his trademark sheepskin coat, was awarded an OBE for services to sports broadcasting in 2001.

Motson, who is survived by his wife Anne and son Frederick, hung up his microphone and retired from the BBC in 2018, saying "I am going out on a high".

Figures throughout the game paid tribute to the commentator, including Sky Sports pundit Jamie Carragher.

In a post on Twitter, he wrote: "RIP John Motson. An absolute Legend of the game.

"So many of us grew up listening to this man describing the action and goals on MOTD and cup finals. Sad loss."

Former England striker and Match of the Day host Gary Lineker also posted a tribute, writing: "Deeply saddened to hear that John Motson has died.

"A quite brilliant commentator and the voice of football in this country for generations.

"He'll be very much missed. RIP Motty."

Fellow commentator, Clive Tyldesley, who worked alongside Motson at BBC Sport in the 1990s, wrote: "As a teenager I just wanted to be John Motson. Nobody else. Terribly sad."

BBC director-general Tim Davie said: "John Motson was the voice of a footballing generation - steering us through the twists and turns of FA Cup runs, the highs and lows of World Cups and, of course, Saturday nights on Match of the Day.

"Like all the greats behind the mic, John had the right words, at the right time, for all the big moments.

"He will rightly be remembered as a

legendary figure in British sports broadcasting, respected by those in the game, loved by fans and an inspiration to those who followed him in the commentary box."

The FA also paid tribute, describing him as the voice of football.

In a post on Twitter, the organisation said: "We are very sad to hear that John Motson has passed away.

"His iconic voice will always be synonymous with football. Our thoughts are with his family and friends. RIP, Motty."

Born in Salford in July 1945 to a Methodist minister father, Motson began his career with stints on the Barnet Press and Sheffield Morning Telegraph.

He joined the BBC full-time as a sports presenter for Radio 2 in 1968, having worked at first as a freelancer for BBC Radio Sheffield.

His commentary on Ronnie Radford's famous long-range strike which helped non-League Hereford knock top-flight Newcastle out of the FA Cup in 1972 saw him take top billing on Match of the Day.

"Oh what a goal!" declared Motson after Radford's strike.

"Radford the scorer. Ronnie Radford! And the crowd are on the pitch. What a tremendous shot by Ronnie Radford."

His long career took in two Olympic Games and Wimbledon's memorable 1988 FA Cup final triumph against Liverpool at Wembley as the Crazy Gang beat the Culture Club.

https://news.sky.com

Football regulator: UK government confirms new independent body

Blocking clubs from joining a breakaway European Super League will be among the powers held by English football's new independent regulator.

The plan for a regulator, recommended by a fan-led review last year, has been confirmed by the UK government.

Preventing historic clubs going out of business is one of the aims, as well as giving fans greater input and a new owners' and directors' test.

The significant move aims to protect English football's cultural heritage.

The main purposes of the proposed new regulator will be:

Stopping English clubs from joining closed-shop competitions, which are judged to harm the domestic game

Preventing a repeat of financial failings seen at numerous clubs, notably the collapses of Bury and Macclesfield

Introducing a more stringent owners' and directors' test to protect clubs and fans

Giving fans power to stop owners changing a club's name, badge and traditional kit colours

Ensuring a fair distribution of money filters down the English football pyramid from the Premier League

"The English game remains one of the UK's greatest cultural exports, with clubs and leagues around the world modelling themselves on its success," the government said before its white paper on football governance - a policy document which outlines the proposed legislation - is released on Thursday.

"That is why the government is today taking the necessary and targeted steps to ensure that continues for generations."

The Premier League was understood to be wary of a regulatory body when the proposals were announced in April last year.

The league says it is "vital" a regulator does not lead to any "unintended consequences" that could affect its global appeal and success.

Six English clubs - Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham - were among a dozen from across the continent that announced plans to form a European Super League in a shock move in April 2021.

It sparked a tumultuous few days in English and European football.

Fans quickly demonstrated their anger at the plan outside English clubs' stadiums - with similarly vitriolic protests taking place across Europe - forcing the Premier League clubs to back down and apologise.

Despite the U-turn, the debate over the future of top-level European football has continued.

"The regulator will have the power to prevent English clubs from joining new competitions that do not meet a predetermined criteria, in consultation with the FA and fans," said the government.

"That criteria could include measures to stop clubs participating in closed-shop breakaway competitions which harm the domestic game, such as the European Super League."

A new licensing system will require every club - from the Premier League to the National League - to prove it has a sustainable business model implemented by responsible custodians as part of an application process.

If clubs are not granted a license by the regulator, they will not be allowed to compete.

Another key power of the regulator will be ensuring fans have a greater say in their club's strategic decisions.

Moves by owners which may prove controversial - for example, changing the name, badge and traditional kit colours, or moving stadium - will not be allowed to be made before consulting fans.

It will "put fans back at the heart of how football is run", says the government.

The test to determine the suitability of owners and directors of English clubs has long been under scrutiny.

The regulator will introduce an "enhanced" test which will operate alongside the current process implemented by the Premier League, Football League and Football Association.

According to the government, it will lead to "ensuring good custodians of clubs, stronger due diligence on sources of wealth and a requirement for robust financial planning".

The suitability of Premier League's owners' and directors' test has been criticised in the past, most recently following the Saudi Arabian-backed takeover of Newcastle.

Amnesty International urged the league to change the test to address human rights issues, with the Saudi state accused of human rights abuses.

A bid for Manchester United by Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani, the chairman of one of Qatar's biggest banks, has also raised concerns among human rights and LGBTQ+ groups.

Requirements that currently prohibit someone from becoming an owner or director of a Premier League club include criminal convictions, a ban by a sporting or professional body or breaches of key football regulations such as match-fixing.

The regulator will have backstop powers to impose a new financial settlement, which effectively means it can force the Premier League to share more money across the pyramid.

EFL chairman Rick Parry wants a 25% share of pooled broadcast revenue with the Premier League, merit-based payments across all four divisions, and the abolition of 'parachute payments' to teams relegated from the top flight.

But the EFL has told its clubs it is "not hopeful" of securing the settlement it is looking for.

While discussions between the bodies are ongoing, the new regulator will force arbitration if an agreement is not reached.

"The Premier League remains the envy of club competitions around the world and the government remains fully behind its continued success," said the government.

"But in order to secure the financial sustainability of clubs at all levels, a solution led by those running the leagues and their clubs is needed, and remains the government's preferred outcome.

"However, if the football authorities cannot reach an agreement the regulator would have targeted powers of last resort to intervene and facilitate an agreement as and when necessary."

The Premier League has said it gives away 15% of its revenue already and in 2020 also agreed a £250m rescue package to help ease the financial challenge faced by EFL clubs as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Parachute payments are solidarity payments made to help relegated sides adjust to lower revenues. Clubs receive 55% of the amount each Premier League side get as part of a share of broadcast revenue in the first year after relegation, followed by 45% in year two and 20% in year three.

The payments have been criticised for creating 'yo-yo' clubs and financial disparity between sides in the Championship.

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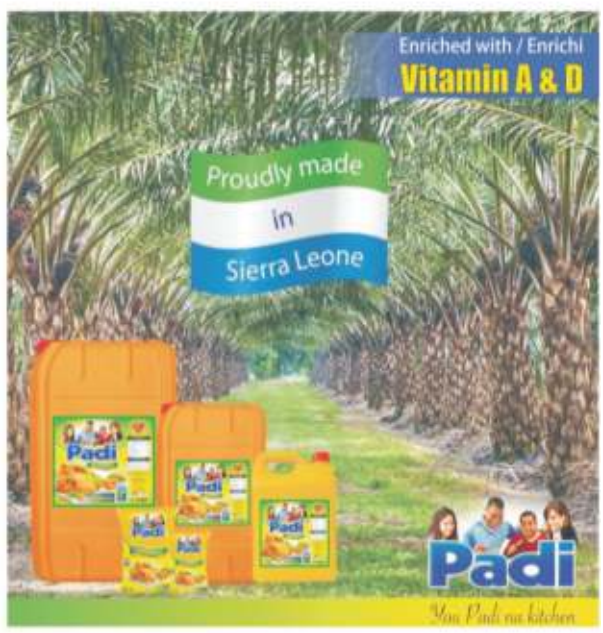
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