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ALSO INSIDE

ACC engages education sector in Port Loko



Mysterious death of 22-year-old IPAM student: Parents frown at sluggish police investigation

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

Mariamama Kargbo, mother of the late 22-year-old Namisa Fatmata Kamara, who was found dead in a close neighborhood on August 9th, 2022, is seeking for justice for her late daughter.

The family who have been thrown into deep mourning since the mysterious death of their daughter, claimed that the delay in investigating the matter maybe connected to the fact that Lawyer Sonia Bobani-Browne, who works at the Law Officers Department, must have influenced the investigation.

Lawyer Sonia Bobani-Browne is the daughter of Mrs. Patricia Bobani-Browne, owner of the said compound where Namisa was found dead.

The family alleged that the deceased's mobile phone charger was found on a particular table positioned in the parlour of Mrs. Bobani-Browne residence, but that Police has never requested for the IMEI number of the phone to ascertain who the killer is.

According to the police, two suspects including Lawyer Browne and her mother were invited for questioning but were later released because there was no evidence linking them to the crime.



Late Fatmata Namisa Kamara

Cont Page 2

Africell launches Ramadan promo: Subscribers to win Nle500, 000



60% of unemployed graduates are social workers

- Deputy Minister

Sierra Leone Parliament cements bilateral ties with Qatar



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prof. David Francis

NRA to conduct classes for custom brokers

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LOCAL NEWS

From Cover

Mysterious death of 22-year-old IPAM student: Parents frown at sluggish police investigation

But the family is suspicious about a possible interference which could have been influenced by Lawyer Sonia Bobani-Browne of the Law Officers Department.

The bereaved family of the late 22-year-old has grown impatient over the delay of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) of the Sierra Leone Police, to speedily investigate and bring to book those behind the death of the late woman.

The deceased, who was a first year student at the Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM), had left home on August 1st, 2022, to do some chores for Lawyer Sonia Bobani-Browne, but later in the evening, Sonia's mother told the deceased's family that their daughter was missing.

According to Sonia's mother's message to the deceased family, it was certain that the deceased might have been kidnapped.

"What made Namisa's death more painful and suspicious was that Mrs. Patricia Bobani-Browne and her daughter, Sonia, never showed any sympathy or rather empathize with us all this while," sobbing Mariama explained.

Although the actual cause of death remains obscure till date, but autopsy report shows that the deceased death was unnatural.

According to the post-mortem examination carried by Doctor Simeon Owiss, the deceased had multiple blunt force fracture, injuries of head, neck and facial bones, severe fatal physical, assault and sexual abuse (manual strangulation) with finger excretion. The autopsy examination also revealed extensive skull fracture, cervical vertebrae with spinal cord injury at level C2, C5, neurogenic shock, fractured clavicle bones, nasal conchae and fractured hyoid bones, absent hymen, tears noted on vulva and vagina.

Uncle to the deceased, Gerald M. Kargbo, said since the death of Namisa from August to date, police has made no progress and that the matter has not been charged to court. He explained, "We do not see the case going anywhere and Police has not told us anything meaningful".

He said at some point they were fed up with the delay in police investigation and reported the



matter to the Independent Police Complaint Board, but they were told to hold their peace because three sources were already investigated by the police with only one remaining.

While bitterly crying, mother of the deceased said they would continue to exercise patience. Mariama said "the one responsible for the death of my daughter is out there carrying out with life, while we are here crying and mourning over our daughter who was so promising. All we want is justice, so whosoever is responsible for her death would be held responsible".

Meanwhile, investigators at the Criminal Investigations Department of the Sierra Leone Police, had confirmed the mysterious death of Namisa Kamara, but told noted that cases of such nature could take up to three years before truth could be ascertain.

"We don't want to hold anyone accountable when investigation is not completed. Besides, we do not have sophisticated equipment that will enable the easy trapping of the culprit but investigation is ongoing," he said.

Sierra Leone Parliament cements bilateral ties with Qatar

By Jariatu S. Bangura

Members of Parliament on Tuesday, March 21, ratified bilateral agreements signed between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Government of the State of Qatar.

The ratified agreement includes the agreement on the establishment of a joint committee for cooperation between the Government of the State of Qatar and the Government of Sierra Leone, agreement on mutual administrative assistance for the optimal application of customs law, repression, investigation and combating of customs violations between the government of the State of Qatar and the government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and agreement between the government of the State of Qatar and the government of the Republic of Sierra Leone concerning the regulation of the employment of Sierra Leonean workers in the state of Qatar.

According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, David Francis, during the first visit of President Bio to the State of Qatar in April 2018, the relationship between the two countries continues to grow from strength to strength, which led to



many prospective economic trade and investment dialogue between the two countries, given the strategic geographic location from the highly diplomatic relations enjoyed by the State of Qatar.

He said Sierra Leone has maintained warm fraternal relation at all levels on key issues of mutual benefits, adding that President Bio was again invited by the Government of Qatar in June 2022 to engage the leadership of the Qatari Government and private investors to showcase Sierra Leone's untapped opportunities and woo potential investors to increase foreign investment in the country.

He stated that during the said visit, the President and his delegation had key discussions with representatives of the State of Qatar, the Qatar Investment Authority, Qatar Foundation for Education, Research

and Community Development which committed 45,000 to support school children, among others, to explore areas of investment in Sierra Leone especially in the fields of agriculture, real estate, mining, manufacturing, marine resources and many more.

David Francis further stated that three agreements were signed with his Qatar counterparts, which he took to Parliament for ratification because that shows a shared vision and cooperation in diverse areas and further strengthen the diplomatic ties. On his part, Hon. Sama Sandy said those were some of the things they were looking forward to as that speak volume about the work done so far for the development of the human capital. He added that that will help the country in numerous ways and bring more investment for the people.

According to Hon. Aaron A. Koroma, the Qatar agreement was a laudable one even though lot of compatriots were faced with abuses in the Middle East.

He said they were looking forward to wherein agreements with those countries would be brought to Parliament for ratification and that the issue of an employee being dismissed by the State of Qatar

employer for doing some mistake should be looked into as most times employers used it to their advantage.

Hon. Dickson Rogers also emphasized that there was need to look at the labour laws of the State of Qatar on the dismissal process in order not to contradict the situation.

He also said the contract should be with the labour ministry and the employer rather than the employee.

Hon. Hassan Sesay said the agreements are good for the benefits of all Sierra Leoneans especially the concerns raised by colleagues as those are areas that calls have been made by Sierra Leonean workers in the Middle East.

He said they were expecting a synergy between the foreign affairs and labour ministry to address the abuse issues faced in the Middle East by Sierra Leoneans. "It is fortunate that the two are here to listen to what we are saying and also making sure that workers are protected in accordance with the law".

Hon. Matthew Nyuma said it is the responsibility of the Minister to ensure that before migrant leave to Qatar, they should be in compliance with the labour laws of Sierra Leone.

He said Sierra Leoneans going to Qatar should make sure to abide by the laws they meet there should they want to enjoy their wages.

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<https://sierra-leone.actionaid.org/>

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Call for proposal

Terms of Reference

ActionAid Sierra Leone (AASL)

Evaluation of CSP III and National Contextual Review to Inform the Development of CSP IV

Background

A brief about ActionAid Sierra Leone

ActionAid Sierra Leone (AASL) was established in 1988 in Kambia District. Over the years, there has been programme growth leading to the establishment of new Development Areas/Local Rights Programme across all regions of the country. Its operations have expanded to 8 Districts out of 16 making 50% of the country's demographic landscape.

AASL's work has been guided by previous global organisational and accountability frameworks (such as Moving Forward in the 90's, Giving People Choices, Fighting Poverty Together, Rights to End Poverty, INGENDO, Another Africa is Imperative, ActionAid Planning and Reporting Systems, ActionAid's Accountability, Learning and Planning Systems (ALPS); and specific thematic strategies as the Country Strategy Paper (CSP) developed in 1993/4 was put aside due to significant changes in the operating context resulting from the escalation of hostilities.

When the war officially ended, the country programme was reviewed as an ALPS requirement. The review findings informed future programme directions by contributing to defining the first approved CSP – Enhancing Governance and Accountability to End Poverty (EGAP) which was implemented from 2007 - 2011.

AASL's second country strategy paper (CSP II), 'Claiming Rights to End Poverty' (CREP) coincided with the International Strategy which ended in 2016. The strategy reflects ActionAid's commitments to addressing the causes of poverty in rural and peri-urban areas in Sierra Leone. The implementation of this strategy (CREP) was accompanied with a restructuring plan which was meant to ensure that we align our structure to fit the purpose of the strategy. Significant changes took place over the period with the merging of 6 Local Rights Programme Offices to establish 2 Regional Offices. These merging led to redundancies, reduction of staff size and establishment of new roles. The mergers also implied at least 70% of all programme and project work were implemented through partners.

AASL principles of engagement are anchored on Feminist Research guidelines and Rights-Based approach to development: amplifying our work locally and globally; thematic working; working with and through partners and use of the participatory methodologies. Our Feminist Research and **Human Rights-Based Approach is the centerpiece of our work and is fully utilized for programming, implementation, monitoring and accountability. These are guided by AAI Programme Quality Standards (PQS).**

From 2013 (the start of implementation of CREP) to 2017, a lot of changes took place in the national context and these changes had impact on the work of ActionAid Sierra Leone. This is true for both the programming and fundraising aspect of the organization. For instance, the outbreak of the Ebola had deep impact on lives and communities which shifted AASL operations from its core programming priorities to responding to the emergency crisis for almost two years (2014-2016). The floods in 2015 that saw the displacement of communities mainly in the Western Area and Bo districts; the change in the funding landscape, donor politics and shift in priorities; the shrinking space for citizens' mass actions; the enactment of a new NGO policy and its potential impact on NGO operations; the gender inequality and increase in women's rights violations; the new global strategy with change in priorities and programming approach; the role of corporates and their influence on state accountability and impact of their actions on livelihoods of communities; to name but a few. These trends continue to prevail thereby necessitating a review of the operating context to inform the next priorities AASL will focus on.

Purpose and Objectives of the Contextual Review

The overall purpose of this work is to evaluate ActionAid Sierra Leone's current CSP by scanning the context (external and internal) to present a clear picture of current issues. Information that would be gathered will then be used in the development of a new Country Strategy Paper. It is important to note that the contextual review is to scan the external and internal environment from different perspectives. Internally, it is expected that assessment be done on AASL overall programme, finance, fundraising, HR Administration, our geographical coverage, partnership model and the trend of funding over the life of the current CSP noting the factors that contributed to the current realities of the country and the districts where we operate. It will involve gathering relevant information on the political, economic, social, technological, Climate and environmental and legal and emergency and the implication of each of these trends on AASL operations. With regards the

Evaluation, the consultant should ensure a thorough analysis of the programme over the 5 years period in relation to our Programme Quality Standards (PQS) and Theory of Change (ToC). Once these are done very well, the new CSP will be developed with concrete information and decision making on next steps with regards our Programme Design.

As ActionAid Sierra Leone is a member of a wider federation, it is expected that this work should be done in alignment with the Global Strategy and the Strategy Implementation Framework 2 (SIF2). This is to show the degree of coherence in addressing a global problem of poverty and injustice.

Specific Objectives:

1. To conduct a final evaluation of AASL CSP to ascertain national and global trends and overall implications on AASL programming.
2. To assess our Partnership model clearly presenting strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and treats and recommend concrete actions to better our model of partnership.
3. To generate lessons which can be used to shape the new country programme proprieties/strategies based on key emerging trend/issues.
4. To conduct analyses of organizational performance to assess how resources (both human and financial), systems and processes are used to achieve CSP priorities and make recommendations for the next strategy.
5. To review the organizational structure in tandem with its available funding and analyze its impact on the organization going forward
6. Define the course of AASL's work and national and international level linkages in the next 6 years based on the context.
7. To lead the development of a new CSP after evaluating the current CSP and assessment of our partnership model with separate reports of both.

Please go to the link below to access the detailed terms of reference.

<https://aasl.byteltd.com/jobs/detail/consultancy-289>

The successful consultant(s) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Sierra Leone. In addition, the successful consultants (s) must ensure the adherence of the following ActionAid International Policies:

- a. Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse (SHEA) Policy
- b. Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
- c. Child Safeguarding Policy
- d. Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Abuse (PSEA) Policy
- e. Anti-Terrorist Funding Policy

7. Proposals must be sent in both hard and soft copies. Hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to:

Procurement Committee

**ActionAid Sierra Leone Head Office
 97c Wilkinson Road, Off Thompson Bay
 Church Yard Junction
 Freetown, Sierra Leone.**

Soft copies can be submitted to AASL's procurement committee with

Email: procurement.aasl@actionaid.org

Bids must be delivery to the above address on or before **3 Pm 30th March 2023.**

Late proposals will be rejected.

Proposals will be opened in the presence of the consultants or representatives at the above address on **3rd April 2023 at 10:00 AM**

AASL Procurement committee

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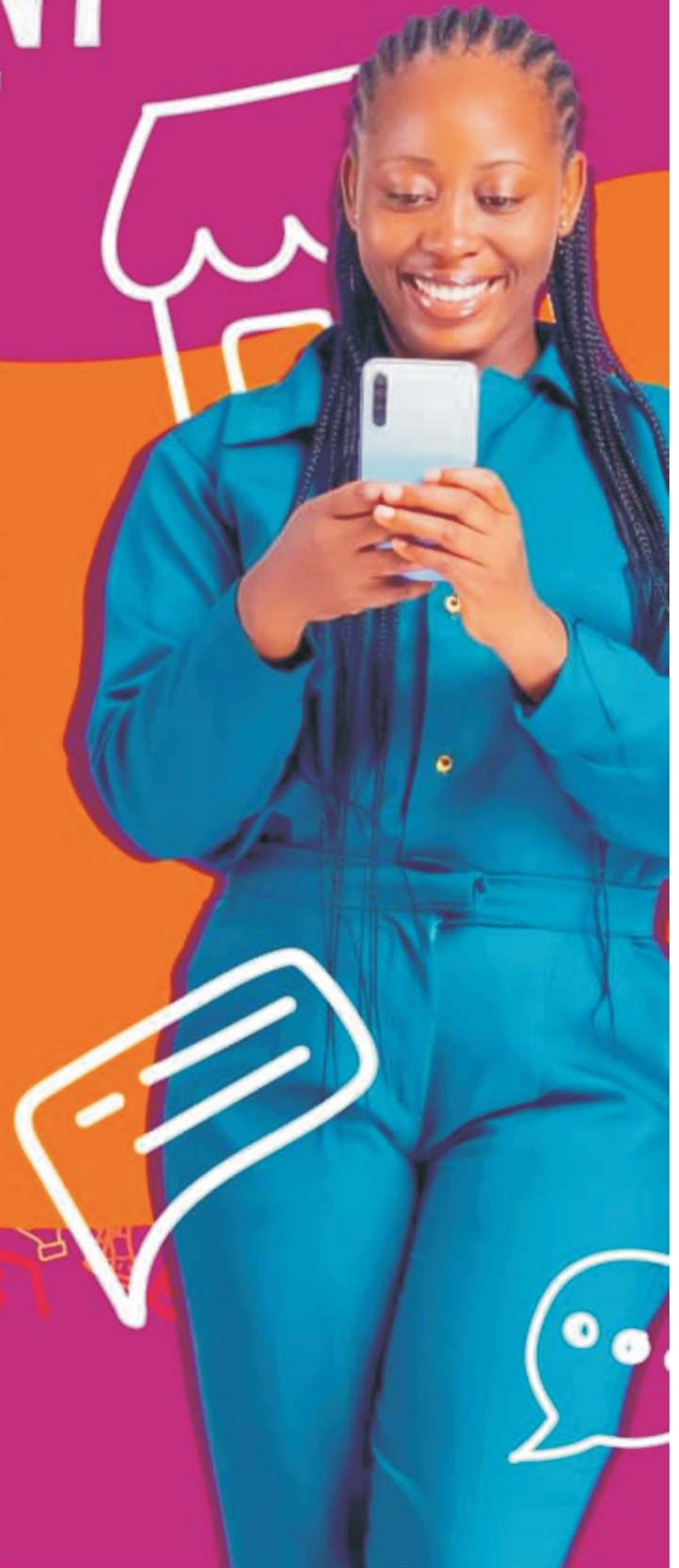
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LOCAL NEWS

By Ibrahim Kabbah

60% of unemployed graduates are social workers

- Deputy Minister

The Ministry of Social Welfare and Children's Affairs has joined other countries in the world to commemorate World Social Workers' Day, which is observed on 21st March, every year.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Respecting Diversity through Crime Social Actions".

This day is celebrated every year to encourage students who are studying social work as a course in college, to know that it is a course that guarantees them lots of job opportunities after graduating from college.

Speaking to Journalists at a press conference at the Ministry's Conference Room, New England Ville, the Chairman of the programme, Ansu Konneh said the celebration of the day started in 1983 as a global event meant to showcase what social workers do, including their many activities, adding that social work is about bringing success to justice, advocacy and enhancing equality.

Delivering his keynote address and proclamation, the Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Haji Mohammed Kella said the celebration was very important for Sierra Leone.

He said in 1898 the first lectures for social workers was hosted in Columbia University in the United States, the same year Sierra Leone had a Hut Tax War led by Bai Bureh.

He said "Social work stands for social justice and making sure that vulnerable people are given the right and optimum position to participate and meet their needs.

Despite its relevance in society, the Minister said 60% of the unemployed people in the country are social workers.

Notwithstanding, a Social workers, he said, is also a medic, mental health advocate, Lawyer, politician and much more, which makes the profession very unique.

Minister Kella further stated that if a person is a social worker and he or she does not understand the law, and the anatomy and physiology of the human being that he or she is working with, including the mental state of that person, then how does that person

does his or her assessments?

He said if a person is a social worker and he or she does not know the community they are working in, then there is a problem.

He added that Madam Yoko was known for the Bondo society, but she was the first person who stood against domestic violence as a Paramount Chief and had a shelter for women who had been battered and ensured they received counseling, which efforts he described as social work.

He said, 'When we look at most of these things, social work started in this country as long as we can imagine but because it is not written it has not been recognised.

He said in Sierra Leone, they have started seeing the light at the end of the tunnel as social work is now developing fast in Sierra Leone, and according to evidence, it is the second most popular course across universities in Sierra Leone, although the most unemployed graduates are social workers.

He assured that a lot of issues are actually being dealt with, 'but social issues are not being dealt with, yet there are a lot of social workers that can do that.

He said if 60% of qualified social workers were employed in the country, most of the social issues

like unemployment, homelessness, domestic violence, and those who are operating in post-hospital care and the environment wouldn't have happened and Sierra Leone would have been a better place.

Hassan Koroma, National Coordinator, Social Workers Sierra Leone, said every year in March they want the public to turn a spotlight on social workers and at the same time help them to make social work stronger and better for service users.

He said when it comes to perspective, every country in the world has their own experiences and when it comes to context everybody has their own way.

He said Sierra Leone as a country they want to look at the diversity from the cultural and mental health aspects, adding that as an organization, most of the social work has been psychosocial support as a component of social health.

Jason Barnes, Social Worker from the United Kingdom, in his presentation, said he likes working as a social worker in the UK and has worked for ten years, adding he feels very passionate about the

work of social workers, to transform lives, societies and building relationships.

He said in UK they talk about the quality of diversity and inclusion which means that people are offered the same opportunities and privileges regardless of their age, backgrounds, disability or belief; and as social workers they understand that diversity characterises and shapes human experience and is critical to the formation of identity.

He said diversity is about celebrating, respecting and finding value in the differences between people.

Sierra Leone Social Worker Steering Committee Coordinator, Michael Mitchell Conteh in his presentation thanked the Ministry of Social Welfare for supporting the progress of social workers.

He said the committee is not a standalone company, but has a composition of different organisations promoting social work including schools that are offering social work.

He said this year they thought it fit to put together the different strengths possessed by different organisations to bring them together as one and ensure that they have one voice.



Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Haji Mohammed Kella

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LOCAL NEWS

Africell launches Ramadan promo: Subscribers to win NLe500, 000

By Hassan G. Koroma

Africell Telecommunications Company, one of the leading GSM providers in the country, Tuesday March 21, launched their 2023 Ramadan promotion.

The promotion which is titled 'Ramadan Di Hurt Show' aims at giving back to subscribers of Africell an amount of five hundred thousand new Leones which is equivalent to five hundred million old Leones plus other goodies including provision and others.

Speaking at the launching ceremony at their Wilberforce Village Head Office, the Legal Affairs Manager of Africell, Hajaratu S. Turay, said as a company, they are doing everything to make their customers happy.

She said Ramadan is a month of giving and as a company they always find ways of giving back to their valued and esteemed customers.

Assistant Communication Manager,

she said every year, Africell joins Muslims across the country to observe and celebrate the Holy month of Ramadan.

He said during the Holy Month, they will not only be providing food to Muslims but they will also be taking them along on innovative initiative that will enable the company gives back to their customers across the country.

He said for someone to qualify to be part of the promotion, the person should own an Africell sim card and also registered for Afrimoney and calling or sending blank message to 777 for NLe1 will give that subscriber one chance to be part of the daily draw which enable the customer to win cash prize and other prizes.

Launching the promotion, Director of Afrimoney, Martison Obeng-Agyei, said the Ramadan promotion is not new at Africell, noting that this time around they are going to have a truck



full of foodstuff and provision that will go around the country allowing participating and winning lots of goodies.

He said any subscriber that pays into

his/her Afrimoney account the minimum sum of NLe2 will automatically have three chances to be part of the daily draw.

ACC engages education sector in Port Loko

As a way of preventing incidences of corruption in public institutions, the North West Regional office of the Anti-Corruption Commission on the 14th March, 2023 engaged Education stakeholders in Port Loko City at the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education Conference Hall in Port Loko City. The customized meeting was a response to several complaints relating corruption as well as a preventive approach to addressing inadequacies inherent in the sector.



Addressing school administrators, the Regional Manager Madam Fatu Florence Kamara said policies developed in the sector are an essential part to providing a roadmap to the development of education, gives guidance to decision making and defining expected standards of the quality of education in Sierra Leone. She pointed out that any act of corruption in the implementation of these policies defeats the purpose therein and consequently affects the standard and quality of education in the country. Manager Kamara emphasized that corruption and other administrative disregards will adversely affect the full realization of the key components of the Free quality education policy relating to access, equity completion, quality

assurance and relevance, integrity and system strengthening.

The Regional Head reminded them of the oversight functions of the commission on all public bodies and expressed serious concerns over the many complaints of illegal charges and extortion particularly issues relating to payment for report cards, payment for assignment and tests, absenteeism and late fees, exams malpractice, falsification of report cards, payment of extra classes within the precinct of the school, misuse of school fees subsidies among other things. She urged them to increase their monitoring mechanisms, abide by the dictates of the education policy and also informed them that the 2019 Amendment Act of the ACC makes examination malpractice a punishable offence with fifty million Leones on conviction or five years

imprisonment.

The Deputy Director of Education in Port Loko, Alpha D. Bangura acknowledged the efforts of the ACC in curbing corrupt practices in schools. Commenting on the issue of handling community teachers and its related issues, he provided a succinct explanation on the processes involved to the establishment of community schools and the recruitment of teachers therein. He also made clear the different roles of Board members, financial management and procedures, School Management Committees and Community stakeholders on the effective management of schools in the region.

The North West Regional Coordinator for the Free Quality School Education (FQSE) Ibrahim

Sheka Kanu called on the heads of schools to support the FQSE as government has shown commitment to improving the quality of education in the country. He expressed dismay on the deliberate inflation and discrepancies of school rolls which he said has affected the payment of fees subsidies to most schools.

The engagement according to the Senior Public Education Officer was to engage stakeholders in the sector and management of the ministry on critical issues relating to their operations.

Public Education Officer, Mohamed Thullah who spoke on ethics in the workplace stated that ethics as a key component of integrity regulates the conduct, attitude and behavior of public officers to be professional in the line of duty. In terms of internalizing the fight, he said Integrity Management Committees (IMC) provides a road map to internalizing the fight against corruption in various Ministries, Departments and Agencies adding that, a functional and an operational IMC will ensure strong internal controls to address corruption vulnerabilities in MDAs. He encouraged them to maintain high ethical standards in their daily operations and activities. He also provided a comprehensible explanation of the three pronged approach to combatting graft and bribery.

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Invitation for Bids

Freetown, Sierra Leone
March 2023

Re: Supply, Delivery and Installation of Agricultural Equipment.
Reference No: AVDP-PMU/ICB/G/5/1/23

- The Government of Sierra Leone has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Adaption Fund (AF), OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and Toni Blair Institute (TBI), the financing of which is being administered by IFAD towards the cost of Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (AVDP) and intends to apply part of the financing for the purchase of these goods. The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD's approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD's rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with the Agricultural Value Chain Development Project.
- The goal of AVDP is livelihoods and climate change resilience of rural farming households in Sierra Leone improved, while the project development objective (PDO) is to promote agriculture as a business for enhanced incomes and reduced rural poverty, among 42,985 rural households. The AVDP will be implemented nationwide over a six-year period. A value chain development approach will drive the implementation process, supported by the application of a robust targeting strategy to ensure the inclusion of the rural poor in both the implementation of project activities and the sharing of the benefits and priority attention to enhancing climate resilience among the project beneficiaries.
- The purchaser now invites sealed bids from eligible entities ("bidders") for the supply, delivery and installation of agricultural equipment. More details on these goods and related services are provided in the schedule of requirements in this bidding document.
- This IFB is open to all eligible bidders who wish to respond. Subject to the restrictions noted in the bidding document, eligible entities may associate with other bidders to enhance their capacity to successfully deliver the goods and related services.
- The goods and related services, and the contract expected to be awarded, are divided into the following lots:

Lot No	Lot Description	Item No	Item Description	Unit of Measure	Quantity
1	Supply, Delivery and Installation of Rice Processing Equipment	1	Rice Mills	No	25
		2	Rice Reaper	No	25
		3	Rice Thresher	No	25
		4	Winnowers	No	25
		5	Destoner	No	25
2	Supply, Delivery and Installation of Power Tillers	1	Power Tillers	No	25
3	Supply, Delivery and Installation of Production Equipment	1	Power Saw	No	90
		2	Compactor/Rammer	No	90

Bidders could quote for multiple lots. The Purchaser retains the right to award a maximum of two Lots to a bidder

- Bidding will be conducted using the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) method, the evaluation procedure for which is described in this bidding document, in accordance with the IFAD Procurement Handbook which is provided at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. The ICB process, as described, will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.

Please note that a pre-bid conference will not be held as described in the bid data sheet BDS, Section II of the bidding document.

- Bidders interested in submitting a bid shall purchase the bidding document against payment of a non-refundable fee of SLE500 or 25\$. Payment shall be made to the Agricultural Value Chain Development Project through Western Union Money Transfer, RIA, MoneyGram or in the following account:

Account Name: Agriculture Value Chain Development Project

Account No: 014-001-107-861-136-462

Bank: Commerce and Mortgage Bank

- Bidding documents can be obtained by sending an e-mail with a copy of the payment slip, giving full contact details of the bidder and the subject of procurement, to avdppmu@gmail.com. This will also ensure that the bidders receive the bidding document by email or hard copy (at the following address), as well as any updates regarding the bidding document.

Address: 23 Torwama Road, Bo, Southern Sierra Leone

Bids must be delivered electronically to the PMU via the following link and in the manner specified in the bid data sheet – instructions to bidders 23.2, no later than 4th May, 2023 at 12:00 GMT. Link: <https://bit.ly/equipbidsubmission>

- Bidders shall be aware that late bids will not be accepted under any circumstance. All bids must be accompanied by:

Applicable to Local Bidders

·Certificate of Incorporation/Registration

·Copy of valid NASSIT Clearance Certificate

·Copy of valid NRA Tax Clearance Certificate

·Copy of valid Local Council Certificate

·Manufacturer's authorization

Evidence of the availability of aftersales services facility in Sierra Leone, including contact details of workshop/garage (for Lots 1 & 2 only)

Applicable to Foreign Bidders

i) Certificate of Incorporation/Registration

ii) Copy of valid Tax Clearance Certificate

iii) Manufacturer's authorization,

iv) Evidence of the availability of aftersales services facility in Sierra Leone, including contact details of local accredited agents' workshop/garage (for Lots 1 & 2 only) along address of workshop/garage

- Bid security in the form of a Bank Guarantee. The amount and currency of the Bid Security shall be in the equivalent of US\$, denominated in any freely convertible currency and be expressed in lots as indicated below: Lot 1 = \$14000; Lot 2 = \$5,500 and Lot = 3 \$11,000. Bid Security from community and village banks and Bid Bond from insurance companies are not acceptable

2. Please note that only electronic bids shall be accepted.

3. There will be a virtual bid opening via ZOOM on 4th May, 2023 at 12:30 GMT.

Link to join Bid Opening: <https://bit.ly/bidopeningequip>

- For any further clarification, please contact the above email address:

Yours sincerely,
Project Manager

Agriculture Value Chain Development Project

NRA to conduct classes for custom brokers

By Yusufu S. Bangura



NRA Commissioner-General, Dr. Samuel Jibao

The National Revenue Authority (NRA) has informed the public that they would conduct tutorial classes and examination for the Fiscal Year 2023 for the issuance of a certified Customs Brokers Certificate (CBC) According to a release sent out yesterday, 21st March, to inform interested applicants, the Authority will commence a week tutorial classes for all applicants starting from Monday 3rd April to Wednesday 12th April 2023, which would be followed by a written examination. The examination would take place on Saturday, 29th April 2023. The release further states that the examination forms the basis of the certificate which is one of the sufficient and legal criteria for obtaining or issuance of a Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agency License by the Commissioner General (CG). It further states that they would conduct the classes pursuant to Section 4 (d) of the Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agency Regulation 2015. According to Section 4 (d) of the Customs Brokers Regulation, 2015. According to Law, the Commissioner-General would not grant a license to any clearing and forwarding agency if at least one certified customs broker is not employed by that agency. Also, if someone wants to be considered a qualified or certified Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agent/Broker, one must have gone through an examination set by the NRA.

JOB VACANCY

Our Client is an Oil and Gas company operating in the Republic of Sierra Leone seeking application from qualified, competent self-motivated individuals to fill the following position.

JOB TITLE: PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR

Reporting to:

N+1- FINANCE MANAGER

N+2- MANAGING DIRECTOR

N-1- PROCUREMENT ASSISTANT

JOB DIMENSION

- Implementation and monitoring of all company's purchases in line with Group Purchasing standards and best practices
- All imports, exports and local purchases required for the operations of the company: OPEX & CAPEX
- Devise future purchasing plans and contacts with suppliers

A- PROCUREMENT

- Develop purchasing plan, tools for analyzing supplier bids and proposals (price, suppliers, value analysis, etc.)
- Conduct research to ascertain the best products and suppliers in terms of best value, delivery schedules and quality, cost benefit analysis.
- Maintain and update suppliers' catalogue and periodic evaluation of supplier's performance for classification
- Ensure timely follow-up of orders, negotiation with suppliers, accurate charging to departments and timely deliveries.
- Prepare and submit contracts with suppliers, contractors to MD's signatures
- Issuing and managing request for tenders and regular requisitions.
- Act as Tender Committee Secretary.
- Submitting the purchase specifications validated with the budget for budget purposes.
- Ensures that the 8 purchases golden rules are strictly applied
- Adhere to guide for Preventing Fraud Corruption and Competition Law Violations in the Purchasing Process

B- REPORTING

- Participating on OPEX and CAPEX report.
- Monthly report for outstanding PR and PO.
- Evaluating purchasing gains and tracking the satisfactory progress of contracts with users.
- Make sure that the files for tenders are well documented and made available upon request

C- CONTEXT & ENVIRONMENT

Improvement in economic conditions in the country but factors such as high interest rate and inflation continue to present serious challenges to the purchasing channel. Limited number of well-established suppliers Lots of substandard goods in the markets

D-ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Ensuring that purchasing data is properly, accurately, and correctly recorded and posted in the Purchasing System.
- All purchases are to be procured as per the approved procedures.

E-QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

- Ensure budgetary controls
- Devise and use fruitful sourcing strategies
- Discover profitable suppliers and initiate business and organization partnerships
- Negotiate with external vendors to secure advantageous terms
- Approve the ordering of necessary goods and services
- Finalize purchase details of orders and deliveries
- Examine and test existing contracts
- Track and report key functional metrics to reduce expenses and improve effectiveness

E-QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

- A holder of bachelor's in engineering, Purchasing, Economics or Accounting
BSc degree in supply chain management, logistics or business administration
At least 5 years post qualification experience.
Good IT skills, ability to use computer software in Procurement/Accounting.
Must exhibit high integrity and honesty in the performance of his/her function.
Capable of working with minimum supervision.
Proven working experience as a procurement manager, procurement officer or head of procurement
Knowledge of sourcing and procurement techniques as well as a dexterity in "reading" the market Talent in negotiations and networking
Good knowledge of supplier or third-party management software
Aptitude in decision-making and working with numbers
Experience in collecting and analyzing data Strong leadership capabilities

Candidates possessing the requisite experience are highly encouraged to apply. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview. Interested candidates must send their CV's and application to info@freetownnominees.com with the wording PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR as subject of their email.

Application deadline date : Close of Business Thursday 23rd March, 2023

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Cameroon: The Hunt for drinking water in Douala

For some residents of Cameroon's economic capital it is a routine to get up early and queue outside a brewery to fill their bottles with water.

The public water utility Camwater is not reliable which makes the business of drilling for water a lucrative one. It is good deal for private contractors and the only option for many residents.

"Drinking water sources are extremely rare, it is so rare and not very visible and few neighborhoods have them," Cédric a computer scientist deploras.

"So, when there is a point like this, everyone rushes. You could already see how difficult it is for people to get it from here. It's a struggle, the struggle is real. It's not easy at all. Accessing drinking water in the city of Douala is like a treasure."

If the government says that Camwater supplies most of households, it is clear that many the demand actually exceeds the supply. In addition to a lack of infrastructure, the city of Douala continues to spread, worsening the problem of the access to drinking water. Lack of infrastructure and growing population "We live in peripheral neighbourhoods and the water is not safe for drinking there, Jodelle, a housewife says."

So we'd rather travel to get drinking water here. Access to drinking water is still a problem in our country."

Private contractors have launched many project for those who can pay. Indeed, drilling cost over 25 times the minimum wage. In the PK12 district near Douala, technicians are busy drilling in search of groundwater. "Geophysical studies direct the way we select the sites," Tindo Kaze says.

"We did geophysical studies here, and we were shown a source, we were told a point where we had to drill, that's where we positioned the machin. They told us we could find groundwater about 50 to 70 meters deep, so that's what we're going for."

Authorities have however warned: drilling works that are not made at the required depths or that have possible points of contamination around present health risks.

President Paul Biya might have got the measure of the issue: in his New Year's address, he "asked the government" to launch urgently, "starting from 2023", a "mega-project of drinking water supply" in Douala and its surroundings.

EU fears "a collapse" of Tunisia



Tunisian President Kais Saied walks with European Union foreign policy chief - Copyright © africanews Slim Abid/Copyright 2021 The AP. All rights reserved.

The European Union is concerned about the deterioration of the political and economic situation in Tunisia and fears a collapse of the country, declared Monday the head of European diplomacy Josep Borrell.

"The situation in Tunisia is very dangerous," he warned after a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels.

"If Tunisia collapses, this risks causing migratory flows towards the EU and causing instability in the MENA region. We want to avoid this situation," he said.

The ministers asked Belgium and Portugal to send representatives on a mission to Tunisia in order to carry out "an assessment of the situation to enable the EU to

direct its measures", he specified.

"The European Union cannot help a country unable to sign an agreement with the International Monetary Fund" (IMF), he maintained. "President Kais Saied must sign with the IMF and implement the agreement, otherwise the situation will be very serious for Tunisia," he insisted.

President Saied has granted himself all powers since July 25, 2021, and has arrested many personalities. The main opposition parties denounce an "authoritarian drift" which is wobbling the young democracy that emerged from the first revolt of the Arab Spring in 2011.

Kenya: 43 fired Facebook moderators file suit against Meta



FILE - Facebook's Meta logo sign is seen at the company headquarters in Menlo Park, ... - Copyright © africanews Tony Avelar/Copyright 2021 The AP. All rights reserved.

A group of 43 Facebook moderators fired in January have announced they are filing a lawsuit in Kenya against the social network's parent company Meta for, among other things, "unlawful dismissal," according to a statement released Monday.

Meta, which also encompasses Instagram and WhatsApp, has undertaken to reduce its workforce by nearly 25% in less than six months, a symbol of the difficulties faced by the tech sector.

in Nairobi are filing a lawsuit against the social media company and its contractors for firing the entire workforce - and for blacklisting all the fired workers," the statement continued.

In December 2022, a Kenyan NGO and two Ethiopian citizens filed a complaint in Kenya against Meta, accusing the platform of not fighting enough online hate and demanding the creation of a fund of 1.6 billion dollars to compensate victims.

After posting insolent growth since its creation, Facebook, which became Meta at the end of 2021, has been suffering from a slowdown in online advertising since last year.

"In January, 260 content moderators working at Facebook's moderation center in Nairobi, Kenya, were informed that they would be let go by Sama, the outsourcing company that has run the office since 2019. Overnight, these moderators doing critical work for East and Southern Africa have lost their jobs," the statement said.

"43 moderators at Facebook's moderation center

Journalist arrives back in France after two years of captivity in Mali



French journalist, Olivier Dubois, greeted at the airport by his sister - Copyright © africanews AFP

French journalist, Olivier Dubois, arrived back in France on Tuesday after his release by Islamic extremists in Mali who had held him captive for nearly two years.

He was reunited with his sister and father at the Villacoublay military airport near Paris, where he was welcomed by President Emmanuel Macron.

Dubois was captured in April 2021 from northern Mali, a region wracked by jihadi violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group.

He had been working with the daily Libération and the magazine Le Point, among others, and had been living in Mali since 2015.

The 48-year-old reporter was the last Frenchman known to be held hostage by a non-state organisation since the October 2020 release of aid worker, Sophie Pétronin, who was also kidnapped in Mali.

He arrived in the Niger capital, Niamey, on Monday after being freed together with the 61-year-old humanitarian aid worker, Jeffery Woodke, who was kidnapped in south-west Niger in October 2016.

The conditions of their release have not been disclosed.

"After several months of effort, the Nigerian authorities obtained the liberation of two hostages held by Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin," said Nigerian Interior Minister, Hamadou Adamou Souley, at the airport.

Without making any further comment on the government's role in their release, he said the two men had been picked up by the Nigerian authorities before being handed over to the French and American authorities.

Nigeria's ruling party leads in local elections



Officials count ballots in front of agents and observers at a polling station in... - Copyright © africanews Sunday Alamba/Copyright 2023 The AP. All rights reserved.

Nigeria's ruling APC party has won a majority of governorships, including in the powerful city of Lagos, after more than two-thirds of the votes were counted in local elections held in the wake of the presidential election and marred by violence and irregularities.

Africa's most populous country of about 215 million people voted on Saturday to elect more than 900 state assembly representatives and governors in 28 of the 36 states.

The polls came three weeks after the presidential election, which was won by ruling party candidate Bola Tinubu and deemed fraudulent by the main opposition parties.

According to the results in 23 states, released in dribs and drabs by the Electoral Commission (Inec), the presidential party APC won governorships in 15 states, while the main opposition party (PDP) won in seven states and the small NNPP in one state.

Governors are very powerful in Nigeria. Some governors have budgets for their states that are larger than those of many African countries.

In the February 25 presidential election, one of Mr. Tinubu's rivals, Labour Party (LP) candidate Peter Obi, caused a stir by coming out on top in Lagos, which is

considered the new president's stronghold.

But at the national level, Mr. Obi finished third, behind Atiku Abubakar of the People's Democratic Party (PDP). The two unsuccessful candidates disputed the results.

The LP and the PDP claim that technical failures allowed manipulation in favour of the APC candidate, which the electoral commission refutes.

Incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari will step down in May after two terms marked by an explosion of poverty and insecurity in Africa's most populous country.

At stake on Saturday was whether Obi's rising popularity, especially among the youth, would be felt in the local elections.

But his party has so far failed to win any governorships and in Lagos, incumbent APC governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu was re-elected by a landslide.

The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), which observed the elections, noted a "trend of discouragement" in some parts of the country following the presidential election.

The elections were also marked by "multiple incidents of violence and intimidation that interrupted the voting in various places," the European Union (EU) observer mission said Monday

Over 200 arrests in Kenyan protests against high cost of living

Police in Kenya said they had arrested 238 people during Monday's violent protests over the cost of living which also saw 31 police officers injured.

Protesters had joined demonstrations in Nairobi and other parts of Kenya on Monday in response to a call by veteran opposition leader Raila Odinga.

It was the first major unrest since President William Ruto took office in September last year, narrowly beating Odinga in an election his rival claims was "stolen".

Odinga had called for the day of action, blaming the government for the economic woes faced by Kenyans. They are battling high prices for food and fuel, a plunging currency, and a record drought that has left

millions hungry.

Police fired tear gas and water cannon against demonstrators, some of whom were hurling rocks and burning tyres, as well as against Odinga's motorcade.

On Monday, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua urged the organisers to call off the "mayhem and the chaos," saying the protests had cost Kenya about \$15 million in lost business.

But Odinga has vowed no let-up the action, calling for protests and strikes to be held every Monday until the cost of living comes down.

On Tuesday, the situation had returned to calm in Nairobi.

Credit: africanews with AP

ActionAid Sierra Leone
 97c Wilkinson Road
 Off Thompson Bay
 Church Yard Junction
 Private Mail Bag 1058
 Freetown, Sierra Leone

Phone +232 73 461370
 Email aasl@actionaid.org
<https://sierra-leone.actionaid.org/>

actionaid

Call for proposal

Terms of Reference

ActionAid Sierra Leone (AASL)

Evaluation of CSP III and National Contextual Review to Inform the Development of CSP IV

Background

A brief about ActionAid Sierra Leone

ActionAid Sierra Leone (AASL) was established in 1988 in Kambia District. Over the years, there has been programme growth leading to the establishment of new Development Areas/Local Rights Programme across all regions of the country. Its operations have expanded to 8 Districts out of 16 making 50% of the country's demographic landscape.

AASL's work has been guided by previous global organisational and accountability frameworks (such as Moving Forward in the 90's, Giving People Choices, Fighting Poverty Together, Rights to End Poverty, INGENDO, Another Africa is Imperative, ActionAid Planning and Reporting Systems, ActionAid's Accountability, Learning and Planning Systems (ALPS); and specific thematic strategies as the Country Strategy Paper (CSP) developed in 1993/4 was put aside due to significant changes in the operating context resulting from the escalation of hostilities.

When the war officially ended, the country programme was reviewed as an ALPS requirement. The review findings informed future programme directions by contributing to defining the first approved CSP – Enhancing Governance and Accountability to End Poverty (EGAP) which was implemented from 2007 - 2011.

AASL's second country strategy paper (CSPII), 'Claiming Rights to End Poverty' (CREP) coincided with the International Strategy which ended in 2016. The strategy reflects ActionAid's commitments to addressing the causes of poverty in rural and peri-urban areas in Sierra Leone. The implementation of this strategy (CREP) was accompanied with a restructuring plan which was meant to ensure that we align our structure to fit the purpose of the strategy. Significant changes took place over the period with the merging of 6 Local Rights Programme Offices to establish 2 Regional Offices. These merging led to redundancies, reduction of staff size and establishment of new roles. The mergers also implied at least 70% of all programme and project work were implemented through partners.

AASL principles of engagement are anchored on Feminist Research guidelines and Rights-Based approach to development: amplifying our work locally and globally; thematic working; working with and through partners and use of the participatory methodologies. Our Feminist Research and Human Rights-Based Approach is the centerpiece of our work and is fully utilized for programming, implementation, monitoring and accountability. These are guided by AAI Programme Quality Standards (PQS).

From 2013 (the start of implementation of CREP) to 2017, a lot of changes took place in the national context and these changes had impact on the work of ActionAid Sierra Leone. This is true for both the programming and fundraising aspect of the organization. For instance, the outbreak of the Ebola had deep impact on lives and communities which shifted AASL operations from its core programming priorities to responding to the emergency crisis for almost two years (2014-2016). The floods in 2015 that saw the displacement of communities mainly in the Western Area and Bo districts; the change in the funding landscape, donor politics and shift in priorities; the shrinking space for citizens' mass actions; the enactment of a new NGO policy and its potential impact on NGO operations; the gender inequality and increase in women's rights violations; the new global strategy with change in priorities and programming approach; the role of corporates and their influence on state accountability and impact of their actions on livelihoods of communities; to name but a few. These trends continue to prevail thereby necessitating a review of the operating context to inform the next priorities AASL will focus on.

Purpose and Objectives of the Contextual Review

The overall purpose of this work is to evaluate ActionAid Sierra Leone's current CSP by scanning the context (external and internal) to present a clear picture of current issues. Information that would be gathered will then be used in the development of a new Country Strategy Paper. It is important to note that the contextual review is to scan the external and internal environment from different perspectives. Internally, it is expected that assessment be done on AASL overall programme, finance, fundraising, HR Administration, our geographical coverage, partnership model and the trend of funding over the life of the current CSP noting the factors that contributed to the current realities of the country and the districts where we operate. It will involve gathering relevant information on the political, economic, social, technological, Climate and environmental and legal and emergency and the implication of each of these trends on AASL operations. With regards the

Evaluation, the consultant should ensure a thorough analysis of the programme over the 5 years period in relation to our Programme Quality Standards (PQS) and Theory of Change (ToC). Once these are done very well, the new CSP will be developed with concrete information and decision making on next steps with regards our Programme Design.

As ActionAid Sierra Leone is a member of a wider federation, it is expected that this work should be done in alignment with the Global Strategy and the Strategy Implementation Framework 2 (SIF2). This is to show the degree of coherence in addressing a global problem of poverty and injustice.

Specific Objectives:

1. To conduct a final evaluation of AASL CSP to ascertain national and global trends and overall implications on AASL programming.
2. To assess our Partnership model clearly presenting strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and treats and recommend concrete actions to better our model of partnership.
3. To generate lessons which can be used to shape the new country programme proprieties/strategies based on key emerging trend/issues.
4. To conduct analyses of organizational performance to assess how resources (both human and financial), systems and processes are used to achieve CSP priorities and make recommendations for the next strategy.
5. To review the organizational structure in tandem with its available funding and analyze its impact on the organization going forward
6. Define the course of AASL's work and national and international level linkages in the next 6 years based on the context.
7. To lead the development of a new CSP after evaluating the current CSP and assessment of our partnership model with separate reports of both.

Please go to the link below to access the detailed terms of reference.

<https://aasl.byteltd.com/jobs/detail/consultancy-289>

The successful consultant(s) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Sierra Leone. In addition, the successful consultants (s) must ensure the adherence of the following ActionAid International Policies:

- a. Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse (SHEA) Policy
- b. Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
- c. Child Safeguarding Policy
- d. Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Abuse (PSEA) Policy
- e. Anti-Terrorist Funding Policy

7. Proposals must be sent in both hard and soft copies. Hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to:

Procurement Committee

ActionAid Sierra Leone Head Office
 97c Wilkinson Road, Off Thompson Bay
 Church Yard Junction
 Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Soft copies can be submitted to AASL's procurement committee with

Email: procurement.aasl@actionaid.org

Bids must be delivery to the above address on or before **3 Pm 30th March 2023**.

Late proposals will be rejected.

Proposals will be opened in the presence of the consultants or representatives at the above address on **3rd April 2023 at 10:00 AM**

AASL Procurement committee

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INT'L SPORT

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Kylian Mbappe selected as New France captain by Didier Deschamps

Kylian Mbappe has been reportedly selected as the new captain of France by manager Didier Deschamps ahead of their Euro 2024 qualifiers.

After former skipper Hugo Lloris retired from international football following the 2022 World Cup, Deschamps was tasked with finding a new leader for Les Bleus. According to ESPN, the manager informed the France squad on Monday evening that Mbappe will get the armband. The Paris Saint-Germain superstar, who scored 36 goals in 66 appearances for his country, is reportedly set to be officially announced as France's new captain on Thursday.

ESPN states that Deschamps spoke to Mbappe on Monday at Clairefontaine, the France team training centre, and also had a chat with Antoine Griezmann - who was the other candidate for the role - before confirming his decision to the rest of the squad.

The Atletico Madrid forward will be the vice-captain.

Mbappe has already led France once in a Nations League clash against Denmark last September. He will now become one of the youngest captains in Les Bleus history, with Deschamps confident that the 24-year-old has matured enough to lead the side on the back of his stellar 2022 World Cup performance.

Lloris was one of the longest-serving captains of France as he held the armband for 14 years from 2008 to 2022.

Mbappe's era as the French national team captain will start on Friday against the Netherlands at the Stade de France in a 2024 European Championship qualifier.

<https://www.goal.com>



Manchester United could be sold for a World record fee of more than £5BILLION



Manchester United will be sold for a world record fee - should the Glazers accept one of the incoming bids for control of the club.

Officials are confident that offers of more than £5bn will be forthcoming ahead of Wednesday's deadline, which would eclipse the \$4.65bn paid for the NFL's Denver Broncos last year.

United are expecting six bids, which would be a mix of full takeover and partial investment.

Of those, at least two - the Qatari bid revealed by this newspaper and that of rival Sir Jim Ratcliffe, are expected to go beyond £5bn. Initial offers are thought to have been closer to £4.5bn. Those involved in the running believe another round of bids may be invited before a buyer is chosen, with Easter viewed as decision time. A further period of negotiation would then take place.

Last week, a delegation from Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani's bid visited Old Trafford and Carrington

for tours, presentations and the opportunity to ask questions. Talks went on for more than 10 hours and were described as cordial and positive. While the visit of Ratcliffe and his group was around three hours shorter, it is understood that they made a good impression on those involved in the process, which is being run by US bankers Raine Group.

The view is that the Glazers are keen on a full sale but would take investment should their valuation not be met.

Sheikh Jassim's bid is for all of United's shares and he has promised to clear the club's debt. While Ratcliffe is seeking to buy the 69 per cent stake currently owned by the Glazer family he could join with a number of groups who are also in the hunt.

Around eight groups in total were given tours of the stadium and training ground, with the Jimmy Murphy Centre - usually used for media duties and press conferences - turned into a salesroom for a two-week period.

The club's chefs prepared meals for those present while the press were forced to take a step back in time.

Instead of their usual venue, press conferences took place in the small room to the right of reception - in which Sir Alex Ferguson used to regularly dish out his rollickings.

US firm Elliott Investment Management, who have offered funding, were among the eight, along with others from the same country.

The presentations were held by Raine and United officials, including John Murtough and Richard Arnold, but none of the Glazer family were present.

The Broncos were bought by a group fronted by Rob Walton, a member of the family that owns retail giants Walmart, last June. The \$4.65bn paid at the time translated to around £3.71bn.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football>

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AFCON 2023: Leone Stars seeks to revive Nations Cup hopes in Sao Tome double-header

Sierra Leone's national team, Leone Stars' bid to secure a place in Africa's biggest football spectacle for the second time in a row in the TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations continues today with a must-win encounter against bottom place Sao Tome & Principe at Stade Agadir in Morocco.

Leone Stars need to revive their Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) qualification hopes from Group A as they are currently with just a point from two matches after a loss away to the current group leaders Nigeria and a 2-2 draw at home to second-placed Guinea-Bissau.

Nothing but a back-to-back win over

Sao Tome will be enough if they are to have a shot at finishing in the top two of the group and their coach, John Keister said he loves the challenges and looking forward to qualifying again for the African football showpiece.

He said: "Going to Cameroon after 25 years was probably the best thing that's happened to Sierra Leone and Sierra Leone football in that period, it's a challenge, but I love challenges. I want to carry on working and hopefully get the right group of players. I'm enjoying it. I'm trying to do the best I can. The aim is to qualify for the next Afcon, but I have hopes and aims as a manager."

Sao Tome, on the other hand, is seen



as the weeping boys in the group having suffered two heavy defeats; losing 1-5 against Guinea-Bissau and 0-10 against Nigeria will looking to get the basics right and restore some sense of pride in these two matches in Agadir.

The Falcons and True Parrots Team have only managed wins over fellow minnows Mauritius in the past seven years but will be hoping for an upset against Sierra Leone - especially with Argentina-based veteran forward Luis

Leal in the squad.

In head-to-head stats, Sierra Leone and Sao Tome have met in four previous matches, dating back as far as 2000. The Falcons and True Parrots Team have claimed two wins compared to one for the Leone Stars, while one game has been drawn.

The team's most recent meeting was an Afcon qualifier in June 2012 in Freetown which ended in a goalless stalemate.

Viareggio Cup: SPAL Primavera faces FC Kallon today



After their 2-2 draw in the opening match against Pisa, FC Kallon will today engage SPAL Primavera who were also forced to a 1-1 by Honved Budapest.

The African side will take on the Primavera at the "GB Fabbri" Sports Center in Ferrara with the kick-off scheduled at 15:00.

Against the Hungarian formation of Honved Budapest, the blue-and-whites got off to a strong start and nearly took the lead after ten minutes with Van der Vlugt's header only being rejected on the line by an opposing player. Shortly after half an hour of play, SPAL had two more

chances, first with Semenza and then with Carrozzo, but Honved managed to keep a clean sheet.

At the start of the second half came the blue-and-whites lead goal scored by Carrozzo who, served by Rao, volleyed with his right foot past Gyetvan. In the immediately following minutes two great chances to double, both on Rao's feet, but the Hungarian fullback manages to save himself in both circumstances.

Just two minutes from the 90th minute, Honved scored the equalizer with Braun's goring from a corner that sanctioned the final 1-1.

