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Gaps in electoral education: IGR says 61% of citizens not aware about PR system

By Yusufu S. Bangura

MRCG trains journalists on sensitive elections reporting



2023 elections: APC raises red flag

A survey compiled and launched on Wednesday, March 22nd, by the Institute of Governance Reforms (IGR) has indicated that 61% of Sierra Leoneans are not aware that government has decided to conduct the next elections under the District Block or Proportional Representation System.

The Survey titled 'Citizen's Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) Towards Politics and Election,' was presented to stakeholders involved in the electioneering process at the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL) conference room by the Executive Director of IGR, Andrew Lavalie.

During his presentation, Lavalie said the survey, which targeted 2,400 respondents, was part of a project called "Making Elections Meaningful, Promoting Electoral Justice and Policy-Based Voting in Sierra Leone's 2023 Elections" which was funded by Irish Aid.



Executive Director of IGR, Andrew Lavalie making his presentation

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Ramadan begins amid high costs, hopes are high for peace

In Beijing: China deepens economic, trade cooperation with Africa



Chairman for CTC Mining Company-Hisham Mackie

CTC dishes over le 200 million worth of Ramadan gifts to mining communities

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LOCAL NEWS In Beijing: China deepens economic, trade cooperation with Africa

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

On March 16, 2023, the third China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo and Promotion Conference of the Pilot Zone for China-Africa In-depth Economic and Trade Cooperation was successfully held in Hunan Mansion in Beijing.

According to a press release issued earlier this week by the Chinese Embassy in Sierra Leone, among several other distinguished personalities, Li Fei, Vice Minister of MOFCOM, and Zhou Haibing, Vice Governor of Hunan Provincial People's Government, attended and delivered speeches of optimism in the China-Africa relationship.

Some among the distinguished personalities that delivered speeches at the promotion meeting included Zhou Yixiang, Deputy Secretary General of the Hunan Provincial People's Government who presided the conference, Wu Peng, Director General of the Africa Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Martin Mpana, Ambassador of Cameroon to China, and Cao Derong, President of the China Chamber of Commerce for the Import and Export of Foodstuffs, Native Produce and Animal By-Products (COFNA).

It is also noted in the presser that Shen Yumou, Director of the Department of Commerce of Hunan Province, made a special statement on the promotion for the third China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo and the Pilot Zone for China-Africa deep economic and trade

cooperation.

It is noted that approximately 200 guests from 46 African countries attended, including ambassadors from Cameroon, Benin, Madagascar, Malawi, and other 16 countries; representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Finance, and other national ministries and institutions and representatives from relevant departments and cities and counties in Hunan Province among and beyond.

According to the presser, Li Fei said that the Pilot Zone for China-Africa Deep Economic and Trade Cooperation and the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo are two key initiatives for China to continue deepening its economic and trade cooperation with Africa.

"We warmly invite all China-African communities to actively participate in the third Expo and pay close attention to the creation of the pilot zone in order to positively advance the high-quality growth of China-African trade and economic cooperation and create a high-level China-African community with a shared future," he stated.

Zhou Haibing said that Hunan province will adhere to the principles of China's Africa policy: sincerity, real results, amity, and good faith, and pursue the greater good and shared interests proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, and take deep integration into the construction of the "Belt and Road Initiative" and the expansion of

economic and trade cooperation with Africa as the key to building the highlands of reform and opening up in the inland region.

In his statement, Wu Peng said that the "Nine Projects" of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and other major practical cooperation initiatives have continuously pushed the level of China-Africa economic and trade cooperation to a new historical high and injected great power into promoting South-South cooperation and boosting confidence in global economic development.

"We hope that all parties will take an active role in the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo and the creation of the pilot zone, engage in thorough discussion and cooperation, continually look for new opportunities for expansion in China-Africa trade and economic relations, and advance the transformation and upgrading of China-Africa relations".

Shen Yumou said that the third China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo will introduce more innovative practical measures, develop more features and highlights, and strive for wonderful event planning, exquisite exhibition presentation, effective and accurate



hosting of the Expo, and precise service guarantee.

Cao Derong said that COFNA has long been committed to promoting China-Africa trade cooperation in agricultural products and will hold the China-Africa Agricultural Products Industry Chain Cooperation Matchmaking Seminar and the China-Africa Food and Agricultural Products Trade and Investment Fair during the third China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo to build a smooth efficient, and practical mode of information exchange and business cooperation between China and Africa

About 30 events will be held during the conference, including major events, high-end forums, matchmaking negotiations, seminars, and supporting activities, among which the Counsellor's Office of the State Council, the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council among others.

Legal Link trains 140 church leaders, administrators

By Ishmael Dumbuya

The Christian Lawyers Centre referred to as LEGAL LINK, in partnership with the Pentecostal Fellowship of Sierra Leone, have on Tuesday, 21st March, provided training to pastors and administrators in Freetown on highly critical legal compliance issues bothering on the law.

The workshop, which was held at the Bethel Temple Church Hall, Tower Hill, Freetown, attracted several church leaders and administrators from different parts of the country.

The overarching objective of the training was to help broaden the horizon of church leaders and administrators in the area of the law and key legal compliance issues as they operate within and outside of the jurisdiction of Sierra Leone.

According to the Executive Director, LEGAL LINK, Rashid Dumbuya, the training was a proactive step aimed at reducing the increasingly devastating statistics of court cases against the church and to mitigate the embarrassment faced by the Body of Christ in Sierra Leone whenever a



pastor comes in conflict with the law. He further explained that the legal and compliance training was a vision from God to bring knowledge and clarity on legal issues to the church, stating that administration of God's church was both a legal and a spiritual assignment.

Seven modules on very critical areas concerning the church and the law were covered by Rashid Dumbuya, together with Bishop Mike C. Obot Esq, the first legal Pentecostal Bishop

in Sierra Leone.

The modules include: legal process of church registration, acquisition of church properties: the place of conveyance, leases and tenancies, deed of gift, letters of administration, ethics and conflict management in the body of Christ in Sierra Leone and preparation of church legal and governance documents.

Constitution, Administrative Policy Handbook, Finance policy and Code of Conduct for Choristers were also

discussed.

Bishop Akintayo Sam-Jolly, President of PFSL, and General Overseer of Living Word of Faith Outreach Ministries, encouraged participants to hold the training with weight and put the knowledge they've acquired into practice with careful consideration to their realities and challenges.

He also thanked the LEGAL LINK team, Bethel Temple Church and the membership of PFSL for the successful implementation of the program.

He then proceeded to thank the leadership of PFSL, Bethel Temple Church, and all the trainees for their joint support in making the program a reality.

The training was climaxed with the distribution of certificate of participation.

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LOCAL NEWS

CTC dishes over le 200 million worth of Ramadan gifts to mining communities

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In fulfilment of their corporate social responsibility, the Chairman of the Community Trading Company (CTC) Hisham Mackie, together with top management of the company, has on Wednesday the 22nd of March 2023, made colossal food condiments donation worth over two hundred million old Leones (Le200,000,000) as Ramadan gifts “sunakati” to Muslims in Marampa and Maforki Chiefdoms, Portloko District, North-Western Region of Sierra Leone. The donated items include bags of rice, vegetable oil, cash among others.

In his handing over statement, the

Chairman of the Community Trading Company Hisham Mackie, acknowledged the essence of Ramadan and some of the needs of people in this blessed month. He added that despite their continuous corporate social responsibilities to the two chiefdoms, they made special consideration to aid locals in those chiefdoms through the distribution of food and none food items worth over two hundred million old Leones.

Hisham Mackie confessed that he truly appreciated the indelible support from locals of the two chiefdoms for the acceptance in hosting CTC to mine Bauxite. He added that he had tremendous respect for the core values of traditions and religion which was the

more reason they decided to make that package of Ramadan gifts for Muslims in that part of the country. He therefore, concluded by expressing optimism that the donated items would help address the dire needs of locals in both chiefdoms. He also made an unflinching commitment and assurance to be providing more packages and supports for the people of Marampa and Marfoki chiefdoms respectively.

In receipt of the Ramadan gifts on behalf of his subjects, the Paramount Chief of Marampa Chiefdom PC Bai Koblo Queen II, expressed endless appreciation and elation for the Ramadan donation by CTC. He registered profound thanks to the chairman and management of CTC for the gift which he dubbed to have an added value to the locals especially the land owners.

“on behalf of the people of the Bauxite Mining Company, the land owners of Lower Marampa, we want to say a big thank you for this Ramadan donation which is an added value for the land owners”, he said.

PC Bai Koblo Queen II, equally assured the CTC Mining Company of the people's indefatigable commitment. He

said they are ready to work concertedly with the CTC Bauxite Mining Coming in ensuring that CTC yield the required dividend of their operation. He also prayed and anticipated bumper production and shipment of the bauxite as CTC continues their operation in the two chiefdoms.

On his part, the Paramount Chief of Marfoki Chiefdom PC Bai Forki Fainka II on behalf of his subjects also expressed profound thanks and appreciation to CTC for the timely Ramadan gifts. He added that the donation was a true testament that CTC always remembers locals of Marfoki Chiefdom. He prayed for such cordial relationship between CTC and the land owners to continue and that, CTC to start yielding dividend from their operation.

Irish Senate Speaker celebrates St. Patrick's Day in Sierra Leone

By Hassan G. Koroma

The Cathaoirleach/Speaker of the Irish Senate, Senator Jerry Buttimer, has concluded a four-day visit to Sierra Leone on the occasion of Ireland's National Day, known as St. Patrick's Day.

The visit encompasses meetings with the Vice President, Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh, Speaker of the Parliament, Hon. Abass Bundu and Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs, Manty Tarawalli.

He also joined the Minister for Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Dr. David Sengeh at the Municipal Primary School, Murray Town, where he met with pupils and teachers supported by the Free Quality Education Programme, to which Ireland provides funding via the Multi Donor Trust Fund.

Speaking about his visit, Senator Buttimer said he was delighted to be nominated by the Irish Government to travel to Sierra Leone in honour of St. Patrick's Day, their national day.

He stated that Sierra Leone is an important partner of Ireland, with shared values and priorities, particularly education, gender equality and food security and that his visit has been an excellent opportunity to review with their Sierra Leonean interlocutors their bilateral relationship, and to discuss how they can best advance it.

“The fantastic partnership of local, national and international



organisations in implementing Irish Aid funding has been critical in the empowerment of Sierra Leonean women and girls, with a particular focus on reaching the furthest behind first. Ahead of the upcoming elections on 24 June, it was an important opportunity to discuss our shared commitment to free, fair, inclusive, peaceful and multi-party elections,” he said.

Senator Buttimer also visited Irish Aid funded projects in Pujehun, Kenema and Freetown, to meet beneficiaries and partner organisations. The delegation, led by Ambassador Claire Buckley and Head of Development, Carol Hannon, first visited an Agriculture and Nutrition Project in Macca Community, Barri Chiefdom (Pujehun) with Welthungerhilfe.

In Freetown, he visited Susan's Bay where he met with beneficiaries of Concern Worldwide's support for community disaster management and rehabilitated WASH facilities and also met with the Executive Director and staff at the Freetown Rainbo Initiative Centre.

Caritas Freetown donates sanitary kits to women, girls in 3 fire affected communities

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

With support from Manos Unidas, Caritas Freetown, has recently donated Sanitary kits to 733 women and girls in three different fire affected communities in Freetown.

The donation came after a joint needs-assessment was conducted by Caritas Freetown and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) at Susan's Bay, Aberdeen Amputee Camp and Wilberforce communities. In her statement, the Program Manager of Justice and Peace Commission, Eliza Sillah, dilated on non-violence and how they want women to be safe in the forthcoming elections, stressing that the beneficiaries should advise others especially men to be mindful of their behaviour during the upcoming elections.

According to the Programs Manager of Caritas Freetown, Ishmael Alfred Charles, the assessment pointed out the undignified challenges women and girls go through due to the lack of sanitary kits, explaining about



Cross section of beneficiaries and their packages

women's hygiene and menstrual crises during disasters.

He highlighted that the sanitary kits comprise of assorted items including sanitary pads, laundry soap, bathing soap, lappers, slippers, toothbrush, toothpaste, towel, among others, adding that the donation will boost their self-esteem as the world celebrates women and girls.

“We celebrate with you with love and recognize the efforts of women right around the world,” said Charles, expressing gratitude towards Manos Unidas for the endless support they have been giving.

On behalf of all the beneficiaries, Zainab Kamara, expressed thanks to Caritas and Manos Unidas for the support

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LOCAL NEWS MRCG trains journalists on sensitive elections reporting

By Jariatu S. Bangura

The Media Reform Coordinating Group (MRCG), with funding support from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), has concluded two-day training for Editors, Station Managers and reporters on promoting media coverage and conflict sensitive reporting ahead of the forthcoming 2023 elections in Sierra Leone.

National Coordinator of MRCG, Dr. Francis Sowa, welcomed everyone to the workshop and stated that the training was similar to what they did in 2018 when sessions were conducted for media Editors and reporters respectively, as the MRCG considers the training very critical in performing their functions.

He said journalists are normally not recognised whenever good things are done but once wrong are done, the blame would be on them.

He said the objective was to engage Editors, Station Managers and reporters on the electoral processes, conflict sensitive reporting, fact checking, covering and reporting on elections, the safety and security of journalists, among others.

Chairman Guild of Editors, Donald Theo Harding, commended MRCG for considering the importance of training journalists on sensitive reporting as the country is merely three months closer to elections, adding that there have been so much red flags raised about the process and called on his colleagues to do the needful after the training.

President of Women in the Media, Eastina Taylor, said journalists should use genderless reporting whilst carrying out their duties especially when it comes to sensitive reporting on elections.

She said even though there are women that shy away from the media but they should be considered as very important.

Director of Communications from Ministry of Information and Communications, Emmanuel Turay said they are there to make policies that enhance good governance and that promoting election sensitive reporting is part of what they do.

He said they have reviewed regulations and professional standards that journalists need to take cognisance of, and that there are gaps that are needed to be filled in



order to avoid misunderstanding or ignorance.

Chairman of the Independent Media Commission, Dr. Victor Massaquoi said ever since the repeal of the 2020 IMC law, they have been engaging media owners on its implementation.

He said with the emergence of social media, something has to be done and that there was need to profess professionalism when working and that journalists should think as Sierra Leoneans while reporting the elections.

He said the training on sensitive reporting is essential as journalists should carefully and professionally use photos that will be good and avoid any conflict before, during and after

the forthcoming elections.

He urged that all comply with the IMC regulations, which have gone through Parliament, and obey the standards that cover them and should read and comprehend IMC laws.

President of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, Ahmed Nasralla, said there is need for journalists to take center stage in order to provide accurate reporting that will avoid conflict.

He said journalists should not contribute to any stereotypes in order to have free and fair elections and that they should continue to work professionally even if they are supporting any political party.

Gaps in electoral education: IGR says 61% of citizens not aware about PR system

From Cover

He said the survey was done in February this year and that they launched it for stakeholders to understand how citizens feel about elections, what are the gaps in elections and how can they make elections better. "The Survey that emphasised 61% of Sierra Leoneans are not aware that government has decided to conduct the next elections under the PR System, with 79% of the respondents saying they don't know how parties will select their candidates in the PR System and 77% of Sierra Leoneans stated that the elections will be free from violence," he said.

He said the aim of the survey was to understand the knowledge, attitudes and practices of the Sierra Leone electorates regarding various aspects of the electoral process and to solicit citizens' policy priorities to political actors that can form a basis for the development of political party manifestos.

Lavalie continued that the information from the survey would also help the country to develop the 2023 Citizens

Manifesto as it reflects what citizens are concerned about and would like the next government to address, as well as what commitments citizens can make to help Sierra Leone be a peaceful and developed country.

"The data would also help inform the work of state institutions and promote inclusive, free, fair, and peaceful elections in Sierra Leone," he said.

He disclosed that 99% of the people they spoke to said they registered for the upcoming elections, with 52% of the respondents saying they are going to vote based on policy.

He said 85% said they have already made up their minds about who to vote for, with about 15% yet to decide. He underscored that the survey shows that more people are inclined to regional based politics rather than tribal line which is 8%.

Lavalie further stated that 63% of the respondents said they will vote the same way they did in 2018, with citizens prioritizing road infrastructure, water, price inflation control, health and farming and food.

In her statement before the



presentation, Head of Development, Irish Embassy, Caroc Hannon, said the project is a way of Ireland's support to peaceful and credible elections in Sierra Leone.

She said active engagement of citizens is essential to a peaceful and democratic society, adding that it is their hope that the Elections Management Body will use such survey to build trust between them and the public.

Chairman of Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC), Abdulai M. Bangura, thanked IGR for such a survey, but raised some issues which he thought would have been beneficial if they were captured in the

survey.

Key among them are citizens knowledge on the electoral process, and also about the acceptability of the outcome of the elections.

In his statement, the Chairman of the National Council for Civic Education and Development (NaCCED), Kalilu Tutangay, commended IGR for such survey in accessing the knowledge gap of Sierra Leoneans.

He said the PR system is not known by many Sierra Leoneans, so he called on ECSL to educate people before going to the poll on June 24th.

The ECSL Commissioner, Western Region, Zainab Moseray, said the Commission is making inroads in enlightening the public ahead of the June 2023 elections.

Commissioner Moseray said they were using different techniques in ensuring that Sierra Leoneans get the required knowledge before they go to the polls.

The engagement was chaired by the ECSL Boss, Mohamed Konneh, with other key stakeholders also making pertinent contributions in relation to the IGR Survey.

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LOCAL NEWS CRS launches disaster comprehensive toolkits

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

In their effort to help mitigate disaster in the country and save the lives of citizen, the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), through its Preparing for Enhanced Protection in Disaster (PrEPD) and other partners yesterday, Wednesday, March 22, launched the disaster comprehensive toolkits.

The toolkits was launched during a National Dialogue and Closeout of the project to disseminate the final version of the entire PrEPD toolkits to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) actors, and to also discuss the processes involved in testing the toolkits and how they should be applied by different DRR actors.

Speaking at the event that was hosted at Bintumani Hotel, Aberdeen in Freetown, during a national dialogue and closeout of preparing for enhanced protection in disaster, Jeanne Ella Andrianambinina, said they have been providing support to the government of Sierra Leone and to local communities and they have been around for over 60 years now.

She said in the past 60 years, they have helped in the area of education, health, water and many other sectors and now they have included another project that will help raise disaster awareness in the country.

She said the project aims at strengthening local capacity to integrate protection in disaster risk reduction and reinforce protection of vulnerable groups including the children, the old people and people living with disability.

She said as a humanitarian organization they have the mandate to support development but they to do it

in a different way and that it will not be harmful to people they are targeting.

In his presentation, Programme Manager at Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Hassan John Sapateh, said the comprehensive toolkit that will be disseminated within the DIR space in order humanitarian actors and the goal of the project, is to ensure that they have a toolkit that will ensure that the actors are prepared and that they have the mechanism to use and manage potential leaks.

He said the tools are developed and tested, and at the end of the day, they are going to have a comprehensive toolkit that is well informed with local reality that is well informed with practical implementation and recommendation and it will be catalogued and comprehensively available within the space when the tools are well informed with local reality.

Founder and Director of Centre of Dialogue on Human Settlement and Poverty Alleviation (COLOSAPA), Francis Anthony Reffell said they are part of the slum dwellers international global network, which is actually a slum dwellers Federation.

He said they provide technical support to their partner and also leads on resource financial resource mobilization, noting that the federation itself comprises vulnerable women, men, youth and children.

He said they mobilized around dynamic saving schemes and they are network at settlement city as well as at national level and they are actually considered to drive a collective bottom of initiatives influencing change towards inclusive



and resilient cities and localities and they contribute to both local and national development agenda.

Senior Protection Officer at the Ministry of Gender, Foday Mohamed Sesay, said the Ministry is the national machinery charged with the responsibility of ensuring that policies, laws, that promotes women or fears as well as advance.

He said Ministry they try to have the guiding principles that ensure that they do no harm and they continue to promote the visible that promotes non-discriminatory services and show that the keep the vulnerable, especially when there is disaster.

He said many a times they hold the belief that women are usually tweaks when there is disaster, or a potential outbreak and because they are always a tweaks and they are always keep to the advice that when shoulder principle of guiding principles.

He said ministry they are committed to ensure that the toolkit developed by CRS will be used by development

partners, agencies, as well as frontline staff.

Deputy Director of the National Disaster Management Agency John V. Rogers, he commend the Catholic relief service for best interest demonstrated in addressing vulnerability, risk and hazards faced by the country's population.

He said with the plethora of disasters, some of the common hazards and ability that impact lives of people include floods, fire, landslide, erosion, windstorm, climate change, and epidemic hazards, though some of the disasters are localized yet they impact the life of the ordinary man and the impact many years of development agenda for both government and non-government organizations.

He said the attendant challenge is the diversification of resources to a material response, noting that What the Catholic Relief service has done, it's making sure that the fist they take the fresh trajectory and that is prepared in terms of the various elements and tools that can enhance the capacity and knowledge management of the population.

He said the four major disasters in recent time include the first was the flood of 16 September 2015, in which 70,000 were displaced, and warehouse, at the National Stadium, had Ebola virus disease that broke out that lasted from 2014 to 2015 and 8,500 people, the 14th of August 2017 devastated by a major disaster of both floors and land a landslide that event resulted to the displacement of over 7000 people and the recent fuel tanker disaster.

He said events recent past indicator communities are faced with threats of disaster on a day to day basis, noting that those new innovative tools are proper to effectively deal with them, noting that Those are the kinds of tools that are talking about a tool that can enhance the knowledge management of the population and some important initiative by government over time is making sure that they reduce disaster through established structures.

He said it is no gainsaying that the National Disaster Management Agency had actually applied some frantic efforts towards the establishment of a national coordination forum.

SLCB awards deserving staff

By Hassan G. Koroma

As part of its Golden Jubilee Celebrations, the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank (SLCB), last Saturday, March 19, awarded more than 120 staff for the meritorious service at the bank.

The event which took place at the Family Kingdom in Freetown, featured awards including gold, silver and bronze categories that were presented to staff from different branches of the bank that have served the for the past 15 years on.

Osman Barrie and Tamba James received golden awards as the longest serving staff of the bank with 41-year of services. The other awardees who received gold include Fatmata Binta Bah, Abu Daramy Kargbo, Adama B Bai-Marrow, Sylvia O. Eule and Ann Marie Tengbeh, who have served the bank for over 36 years.

Speaking at the event, the Managing Director of the Bank, Yusufu Abdul Silla said the 50th Anniversary of the bank is an important milestone to all the distinguished long serving staff who



had been awarded for their uninterrupted service to the bank.

He added that the ceremony was a special day to recognize and show gratitude to staff of the bank who have dedicated their time and commitment to see the growth of the bank.

Silla pointed out that the awardees had created a shining path that will serve as an inspiration to others. He also appreciated colleagues who would be retiring this year for their relentless

service to the bank.

Director of Human Resources, Arthur B.S. Cole said the award is an appreciation to his colleagues who had being serving the bank for considerable period with loyalty and commitment, noting that the awards will help to solidify the bond among his colleagues and urged that to continue to work in earnest to ensure that the bank continue to strive in the sector.

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2023 elections: APC raises red flag Ramadan begins amid high costs, hopes are high for peace

PDF Compressor Free Version
By Ishmael Dumbuya



Sierra Leone's main opposition party, the All People's Congress (APC), has yesterday, 23rd March, raised some concerns in relation to the conduct of the upcoming general elections.

Before shedding light on some of the concerns, the National Secretary General of the party, Lansana Dumbuya, urged the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (EC-SL) to ensure credible, fair and balanced elections come June 24, noting that the party will not accept result from any rigged or fraudulent elections.

Dumbuya noted that an election can be rigged years or months before polling day and that one phenomenon that is common in electoral fraud is voter suppression where the voter is deliberately prevented from registering

to vote. He said a lot of qualified people were prevented from registering in the opposition strongholds.

"The importance of registering to vote cannot be overemphasied enough but when a government is really determined to rig an election, ensuring that you register, is not a guarantee that the election will be free and fair," he stated.

Barrister Dumbuya ended on the note that they were not trying to have a good relationship with the ECSL, but that they intend on seeing the ECSL conduct a free, fair and credible elections in the country.

"We won't allow any election rigging in the upcoming election as we are determined to come into governance in June 24th come what may," he reiterated.



Muslim faithfuls perform the Compensation Prayer (Fay-Faat), on the last Friday of the holy fasting month of Ramadan, in the street near the Blanchot mosque, the oldest mosque - Copyright © africanews CARMEN ABD ALI/AFP or licensors

The first daily fast of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan began Thursday, as hundreds of millions of Muslims worldwide enter a four-week period of worship.

This comes as rising costs have left shoppers unable to splurge on Ramadan food shopping as they might have in past years across the African continent.

During the coming four weeks, hundreds of millions of Muslims will abstain from food and water from dawn to dusk, before gathering with family and friends for

indulgent nighttime meals. According to Islam, fasting draws the faithful closer to God and reminds them of the suffering of the poor.

Across African capitals, families prepare and sell culinary delights weeks in advance to mark the break of the fast each evening, a meal known as Iftar.

In addition to fasting, charity giving is another of Islam's five pillars. During Ramadan, mosques and charities regularly provide meals for the poor at long tables that sprawl out onto the street.



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!!!**

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Kenyans cry foul over economic crisis



A protestor runs during an anti-corruption demonstration in downtown Nairobi, Kenya ... - Copyright © africanews Ben Curtis/AP

Hempstone Monari's taxi business had just been launched when his future slipped away and a Kenyan bank auctioned off his car for non-payment of a \$9,900 loan.

"They took my car when business was slow," the 29-year-old told AFP, his eyes reddened by tear gas, on the sidelines of a protest that included clashes with police. Now unemployed and struggling to feed his family of three, he joined hundreds of pro-opposition demonstrators in Nairobi this week to protest against the high cost of living. "Life has become difficult," he says.

Kenya is an economic and political powerhouse in East Africa and has seen a host of infrastructure projects in recent years - but the problems are getting worse behind the facade.

Inflation hit 9.2% in February, according to the government.

The region's record drought has left millions of people without resources and food, and the upcoming rainy season, between March and May, is expected to be the sixth consecutive year of water shortages.

The country's currency, the Kenyan shilling, has fallen to an all-time low, losing nearly 4% of its value against the dollar in February, according to Oxford Economics Africa.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have contributed to the crisis, protesters like Hempstone Monari believe their government could do much more to alleviate their woes.

They are now prepared to hold demonstrations twice a week, posing a major challenge to the administration of President William Ruto six months after his election. According to Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, the protests have already cost Kenya \$15 million. On Wednesday, the Kenyan president sought to reassure investors, highlighting his commitment to ensuring a "safe and conducive environment on a sustainable basis" for the business community.

- He added that his government would "take strong measures (...) to demonstrate that no one is above the

law by decisively fighting impunity, lawlessness and disorder".

An ambitious young leader, William Ruto had campaigned on a promise to revive the economy and put money into the pockets of the oppressed. But his decision to lift subsidies on fuel and maize meal - a staple food - was met with anger and misunderstanding.

"Honestly, we don't know what tomorrow or next week or next month is going to be like," Jane Chege, 33, manager of an electronics shop that has seen its income more than halved in the past six months, told AFP.

"Just paying the rent is a chore. The cost of importing mobile phones will soon be unaffordable for small businesses like mine," she says.

For economists, the future looks bleak.

"Our short-term outlook remains on the downside," Shani Smit-Lengton of Oxford Economics told AFP. The country will continue to suffer from a lack of foreign exchange for the next 18 months, he predicted.

Drought is expected to further reduce agricultural prospects while the vital tourism industry, which accounts for nearly 10% of GDP, could be hit by the protests.

The weakening currency has also added to Kenya's soaring loan repayment costs.

Until the government restructures the debt, the economic situation is unlikely to change, economist Reginald Kadzutu told AFP.

The International Monetary Fund is expected to review the country's credit facilities in May and it is expected to receive a further loan disbursement in June.

"The problem is that we are moving towards excessive debt" because "we are borrowing to repay the debt", notes Reginald Kadzutu.

The World Bank continues to forecast 5.2% growth for the Kenyan economy.

Hempstone Monari and other Kenyans say they are not about to give up the fight. "You can never get anything in this country unless you shout," he believes.

New exhibition explores destruction of wildlife in Africa

American photographer Roger Ballen is about to showcase his work in South Africa. The exhibition highlights the destructive ties between Man and Nature focusing on the Golden Age of African hunting at the end of the 19th century.

"What we try to document, we try to document the initial experience of safaris and hunting in Africa more or less between 1870, 1880s and 1920 and 1930s", explained the artist.

The exhibition explores the "antagonistic" relationship between Man and Nature, a cycle that is doomed to repeat itself, according to Ballen.

"So, if you look at the history of humanity, it's just been the destruction of nature and the destruction of

wildlife. This is the history of humanity, there's no end to it", said Ballen.

The artist hopes this exhibition has a lasting impact on all those who come to visit it.

"So we would hope that the exhibition makes a deep impression on people that they better understand the history of what happened and they better, they're challenged psychologically by my work. So it's two fold, it's historical, this is what happened here isn't that terrible? And psychological, which is the Roger Ballen aesthetic", concluded the photographer.

According to the World Wildlife Fund, animal numbers across the continent have dropped 66 percent since 1970.

Senegal: President Sall demands measures to stop unrest

Senegal's President Macky Sall asked the government on Wednesday to take measures to "preserve public order" after protests over the trial of opposition leader Ousmane Sonko left at least one person dead.

Violence has flared in several cities since Sonko's defamation trial opened on March 16, a case that could make him ineligible to contest next year's presidential elections.

A man was killed on Tuesday during clashes between Sonko's supporters and police, according to local officials.

Sall said the government should "take all

appropriate measures to ensure the absolute security of goods and people", according to an official statement.

Sonko is being tried for allegedly defaming Tourism Minister Mame Mbaye Niang, a member of President Sall's party.

The opposition leader has been receiving medical treatment since he was allegedly sprayed with tear gas and manhandled last week as authorities escorted him to a courthouse.

A hearing in Sonko's trial has been postponed to March 30.

Ethiopia appoints rebel leader to head regional government



Lead negotiator for Ethiopia's government, Redwan Hussein, left, and lead Tigray rebel leader, Getachew Reda, right, signing a peace agreement at a table. - Copyright © africanews Themba Hadebe/Copyright 2022 The AP. All rights reserved.

The Ethiopian government on Thursday appointed a Tigrayan rebel figure to head the interim government of the northern region, a major step in the implementation of a peace deal signed by the two sides after two years of civil war.

"Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has appointed Getachew Reda as chairman of the interim administration of the Tigray region," Ahmed's office said in a statement posted on Twitter.

Getachew Reda, an adviser to the leader of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), Debretsion Gebremichael, was previously the spokesperson for the movement.

On Wednesday, Ethiopian MPs removed the TPLF from the list of terrorist entities, as provided for in the peace agreement signed by the rebel movement with the Ethiopian government last November in Pretoria.

The removal of the terrorist designation paved the way for the establishment of an "inclusive" interim Tigrayan regional government, also provided for in the agreement, to be led by the TPLF until elections can be held.

Getachew Reda was previously Minister of Information in the Ethiopian federal government of Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn between 2012 and 2018.

He has since become the public face of the TPLF, for whom he signed the African Union (AU)-mediated Pretoria Agreement with Abiy Ahmed's National Security Adviser, Redwan Hussein.

In accordance with the peace agreement, the fighting has stopped, basic services (electricity, telecommunications, banks, etc.) have begun to be re-established in Tigray, and access to the region - which was virtually cut off from the world for nearly two years - has been reopened, notably to the humanitarian aid on which 90% of its six million inhabitants depend.

- American pressure - Long all-powerful, the TPLF governed Ethiopia de facto for three decades before being gradually marginalised on the arrival of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in 2018, following

several months of popular protest.

This movement was classified as terrorist by the Ethiopian authorities on 6 May 2021, six months after the start of the war in Tigray.

The war began in November 2020, when Abiy Ahmed sent the federal army to Tigray, accusing the authorities in the region who had been challenging his power for several months of attacking federal military bases there.

The toll of the conflict, marked by terrible atrocities, is difficult to establish, but the United States estimates that about 500,000 people have died, more than the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The war has, in the eyes of Washington in particular, transformed Abiy Ahmed, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019 for ending 20 years of open or latent war between Ethiopia and neighbouring Eritrea, from a symbol of a new generation of modern African leaders to a virtual pariah.

The conflict has deprived Ethiopia of some of the international aid - and the foreign exchange that goes with it - on which it depends. Washington has excluded it from the benefits of the Agoa, a mechanism that exempts some African countries from export taxes to the US.

These steps towards peace come shortly after the mid-March visit to Addis Ababa by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, during which he put pressure on Ethiopia by linking the resumption of a broad economic partnership with Washington to "reconciliation and accountability" for the atrocities committed in Tigray.

On his return from Africa on Monday, Antony Blinken accused all the belligerents in the conflict of committing war crimes, saying that many of them were not "random" or "an indirect consequence of war" but "calculated and deliberate".

He also accused the Ethiopian Federal Army and its allies - the Eritrean army and forces and militias in the Amhara region - of crimes against humanity - including "murder, rape and other forms of sexual violence and persecution" - without implicating the TPLF in this.

South Africa's economy at risk of stagnation, says IMF



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa arrives for his swearing-in ceremony at Loftus... - Copyright © africanews Jerome Delay/Copyright 2019 The AP. All rights reserved.

South Africa's economy is at risk of stagnating this year as the country's electricity crisis continues to cause regular power cuts, the IMF warned on Wednesday.

In January, the South African central bank announced a GDP growth forecast of 0.3% for the year, against 2% in 2022.

But the short-term outlook in the continent's leading industrial power has worsened, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) findings after a mission to the country.

"South Africa's economic and social challenges are mounting, posing a risk of stagnation amid an unprecedented energy crisis," the IMF said.

"Real GDP growth is expected to slow sharply to 0.1% in 2023, mainly due to a significant increase in the intensity of power cuts," the fund said.

GDP contracted by 1.3% in the last quarter of 2022. The country would enter a recession if its economy continued to contract in the first quarter of 2023.

South Africa's electricity crisis has worsened since last year, with scheduled load shedding lasting up to 12 hours daily. State-owned Eskom is unable to generate enough power for South Africa's 60 million people, with ageing and poorly maintained power plants.

The outages cost more than \$50 million a day in lost production, according to estimates by the Department of Energy.

"Treasury is aware of most of the risks to economic growth and is working on measures to address them," it said in a statement.

Credit: africanews with AP

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<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 (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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Invitation for Bids
NATIONAL FIRE FORCE

Procurement Number for lot one: NFF/ADMIN/NCB/2023/006

Procurement Number for lot two: NFF/ADMIN/NCB/2023/007

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF RICE AND STAFF PROVISIONS

Date of Issue: 1st March, 2023

The National Fire Force has allocated funds received from the Government of Sierra Leone for the procurement of rice and provisions for officers and other support staff of the Department and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of these goods.

Bidding is open to all national suppliers who can demonstrate that they have the required capability and evidence of the following:

1. Being able to supply these items as and when needed;
2. Being able to supply the goods at the required destination, (i.e. Fire Force Headquarters, Freetown)
3. Having the financial capability to pre – finance the supply of the goods and upon submission of delivery notes and invoices before payment is made.

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address below between the hours of 9am to 4:30 pm, Mondays –Fridays daily. Bidding documents may be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of NLe 400 (Four hundred Leones) into the following accounts with details as shown below:

Bank: Bank of Sierra Leone
 Account name: NPPA revenue from the sale of Bidding Document
 Account number: 011100398165
 B.Ban number: 000001011100398165

Alternatively, the prospective bidders will also have the option to pay for the bidding documents in any of the transit account at the following commercial banks:

Bank name: Rokel Commercial Bank
 Account name: Revenue from the sale of bidding documents
 Account number: 0111003981
 B.Ban number: 002001002101242863

Or

Bank name: Union Trust Bank
 Account name: Revenue from sale of bidding documents
 Account number: 0111003981
 B.Ban number: 004001113253120144

Bids must be delivered to the following address on or before Thursday 30th March, 2023 and before 1:00 p.m.

Contact Official: **Assistant Director of Procurement,
 Procurement Unit,
 Email: ashimsahid@gmail.Com
 National Fire Force
 A.J. Momoh Street (1st Floor), Freetown.**

All bids must be accompanied by:

- q A bid security of – Le 20,000,000 (Twenty Million Leones) for each lot from a reputable Commercial Bank;
- q A valid tax clearance certificate from the National Revenue Authority;
- q A valid business registration certificate;
- q A valid business license;
- q A valid NASSIT Certificate
- q A valid city or local council certificate from bidder's municipality or locality;
- q Evidence of similar and successful business with government institutions in the past three or four years;
- q Physical evidence of established business premises which must belong or owned by the bidder (for easy contact, accessibility and transaction purposes);
- q Evidence of signed Bid Form;
- q Submission of Technical Specifications for each item or good indicated in the schedule of requirements of the bidding documents;
- q Bid must be correctly submitted and completed in all general respects;
- q Evidence of financial capability, in the form of line of credit from a reputable commercial banking Institution.

Bids will be opened on Thursday 30th March 2023 at 1:00 p.m. in the presence of bidders or their representatives who may choose to attend at the Conference Room of the National Fire Force, A.J. Momoh Street, Freetown, first floor. Please note that all bids submitted after the above specified date and time would be considered late; and by regulations, late bids will be rejected and returned unopened

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Call for Proposals for Grants



Title: Call for proposals for innovation challenge awards to support financial intermediaries and fintech firms to develop, design, pilot, and scale up financial products and services targeting informal enterprises and entrepreneurs.

Supervisor: UNDP Sustainable Local and Economic Development Cluster

Deadline: 27th March 2023

Duration of the Activity: one year

Location: Sierra Leone

Bidders can download the bid documents from the UNDP Procurement website at: <https://procurement-notice.undp.org/>

Timing and Contacts

- Proposals should be submitted via email to procure.sle@undp.org no later than **27th March 2023**
- Queries to this call for proposals can be submitted via email to procure.sle@undp.org before **27th March 2023**

OBJECTIVES OF THE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

This call for proposals for innovation challenge awards aims to support financial intermediaries (commercial banks, insurers, credit unions, microfinance institutions, community banks and Financial Services Associations) and fintech firms to develop, design, pilot, and scale up financial products and services targeting informal enterprises and entrepreneurs

WHO CAN APPLY

All registered financial intermediaries (commercial banks, insurers, credit unions, microfinance institutions, community banks, and Financial Services Associations) and fintechs operating in the country. These may include financial institutions (Banks, MFIs, SACCOS, and others); Payment Service Providers; Agent Banking Aggregators; Mobile Network Operators; technology providers; E-commerce platform providers; FinTech companies.

The potential applicants should meet the following criteria: -

- The applicant must be a registered entity with at least 3 years of operations in the country.
- They should have long-term viability and financially sustainable solutions.
- Experience working with MSMEs will be considered an added advantage.
- Applicants with product development experience would be an added advantage. The idea to be supported presents an opportunity for replicability and is built on technologies or methodologies that are adaptable to various contexts.
- Additionality to other existing financial solutions to maximise impact and value proposition for the target group

CRITERIA FOR SHORTLISTING THE PROPOSALS

UNDP will set up an evaluation committee, to review all proposals received using UNDP's principles of fairness and integrity.

The following criteria will guide the selection of the winning proposal:

- Company's performance/track record and product development experience (30%)
- Financial viability of the proposed financial product scalability, catalytic effect, (30%)
- Impact of the proposed financial product and its feasibility with the available resources and partner contributions (40%)

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must submit a detailed proposal for funding support and the use of such resources via email to procure.sle@undp.org not later than **27th March 2023**. The proposal must explain the business model of the company, show how it is inclusive and its financial viability, and explain which development challenge to solve and how the award would be used to improve informal enterprises and entrepreneurs' access to financial services

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After SPAL defeat, FC Kallon to face Honved today



FC Kallon would be seeking to bounce back from their 2-1 defeat to SPAL last Wednesday when they take on Hungarian side Honved today, Friday, March 24, in their final Group 4 match in the ongoing Viareggio Cup in Italy.

Honved are presently in command with 4 points together with SPAL who also secured 4 points with their 2-1 win over Kallon, who are with just a single point from

two matches following their 2-2 draw against Pisa.

Today's duel is very important for the West African side if they are to progress to the next phase of the tournament and a win with a good goal margin could be as important as a decider between the two sides.

Honved only needs a draw to progress

Malmö FF, Buya Turay agree to go separate ways



Malmö FF and Sierra Leone striker, Mohamed Buya Turay have both agreed to terminate the contract with immediate effect.

The Swedish Allsvenskan league side confirmed they have agreed with the striker to go their separate ways on their website, just 8 months after the forward joined them from China.

The club stated on their website: "The reason why Malmö FF and Mohamed Buya Turay are now going their separate ways is the player's family situation where Buya Turay did not live together with his wife and children in Sweden. Malmö FF wishes Mohamed Buya Turay the best of luck in his future career!"

The club's Sports Manager, Daniel Andersson said: "Mohamed has been open with his feelings all the way and we have had a good dialogue together to try to resolve the situation. When it then dragged on, it finally became unsustainable for him and he feels that he cannot perform here and needed to go home to his family. It is of course sad when it happens like this, but this is the best solution for everyone involved."

Buya Turay joined Malmö FF in July 2022. During his time in MFF, the striker managed to score only an Allsvenskan goal in ten games, as well as a goal in five games in qualifying and group games for the Europa league.

whiles FC Kallon can only make it to the next round with a win.

It was a disappointing result for the West African side on Wednesday as SPAL managed to eventually prevail and secure all three points with goals from Martinelli and Puletto.

In the first 45 minutes, FC Kallon puts the blue-and-whites in a difficult run with their combativeness and physicality, and in the 7th minute, it was FC Kallon who created the first goal opportunity with an angled shot by Conteh, that promptly saved by Abati.

The blue-and-whites are struggling to nine

produce real dangers but were able to secure their opener after nine tries. Down by a goal, FC Kallon did not give-up and in the 35th minute risked equalizing the match again with Conteh his attempt though ends up over the crossbar.

In the 43rd minute SPAL double their advantage but in the second half the game offers a twist with the immediate draw of FC Kallon who pulled one back despite ending the match in numerical inferiority as Turay was sent off for double yellow.

On Friday 24 March, the other match of the group will see SPAL play against Pisa for a place in the round of 16 of the Viareggio Cup at the "San Miniato" Stadium.

Boxing Association presents silver medal to the NOC/CGA-SLE



Sierra Leone Boxing Association (SLBA) has on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, called on Sierra Leone President of the National Olympic Committee/Commonwealth Games Association-Sierra Leone (NOC/CGA-SLE), Prince Sualley to present to him the Silver Medal won at the AFBC Zone II Boxing Championship in Dakar, Senegal.

Abu Bakar Kanu was Sierra Leone's lone competitor at the just concluded AFBC Zone II Boxing Championship in Dakar, Senegal and the 60kg fighter who took the rim without a coach or a trainer boxed all his way to the finals and lost to a Malian counterpart by a split decision after three rounds of competitive bouts.

Presenting the athlete, medal, and certificate to the NOC/CGA-SLE president, SLBA Secretary General,

Alhaji Komba said it was prudent for them to make the presentation as had it not been for the timely intervention of the Olympic Committee the Boxer would have not realized his dream or retain his silver medal.

The NOC /CGA-SLE president, Prince Vandy Saulley said he is proud to receive the boxer and the medal, adding that the NOC/CGA-SLE is looking forward to other athletes and associations bringing more medals back home.

"We are proud to see the boxer return home with glory, this is what we want to make hear and see, it is a great achievement for Boxing Association and us as an Olympic Committee. It shows the support we render was important."