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# CONCORD TIMES

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# Gento under criticism for religious, tribal bigotry

By Alfred Koroma

## Leone Afric Metals provides salary for 120 teachers in Ngowahun Chiefdom, donates 500 bags of rice



Leone Afric Metals rep. Fassally Tarawalle and PC Kpanga exchanging notes

The ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) mayoral aspirant for the Freetown City Council, Mohamed Gento Kamara, is under wide condemnation and criticism after he is seen in a leaked video making religious and tribal statements in a clumsy appeal to win Muslim voters. A leaked footage trending on social media shows Gento addressing a group of people in Bashaia Mosque, Kissy Road, Freetown, making tribal and religious sensitive statements while campaigning them to vote him in the June election. **Cont Page 4**



Gento: You have been called to order to do the needful



## Bribery and extortion are impermissible in the direct cash transfer

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## PERSONAL GLIMPSES

As a nation with a people full of great intellect, humour and wit, there are never dull moments Sierra Leone. Except that in the last four years of the Sierra Leone Peoples' Party (SLPP) incumbency, most of those moments have been for the wrong reasons. With such intellect, humour and wit though, we have scarcely been able to accommodate, control and contain the irascible vicissitudes of an SLPP Leadership that prides themselves in fomenting discords and divisions among the citizenry with incendiary and vitriolic speeches even as (God Forbid!!) they strive to seek re-election, than we woke up again this past Godly Sunday to more divisive, incendiary, hateful and misleading utterances by the SLPP Mayoral aspirant for the Municipality of Freetown Mohamed Gento Kamara. Rather sadly Gento took his evident emptiness at having nothing to offer – neither in personality nor by solutions or proposals - one step further than the entire SLPP Leadership, by lacing his own vile utterances up with what to all intents and purposes has been unanimously castigated and condemned as a sermon on Religious Intolerance.

And what makes Gento's performance sooooo untenable was that it happened right inside a Mosque – a Prayer House for supplications to the Almighty Allah for remission of sins, penitence, unity, peace, stability, national cohesion and peaceful co-existence. And to the extent that it received subdued rounds of intermittent endorsement and applause as if he was preaching The Gospel, it is imperative that they be condemned pronto. Gento's misleading assertions in the main are:

### 1. The Krios must allow us this time:

The implications are that all Krios – the weakest political link - are Christians. That only Christians have held the Mayoral seat and that Muslims too must be given the chance to become Mayor in the municipality.

How misleading!! Doesn't Gento know that there are thousands of pious, fervent Muslims among Krios and that a Muslim had held the Mayoral seat of Freetown without fanning flames of discord? Where are the evidences that Krios as a group or clan have ever stood in anyone's way or political ambition? Or was he trying to make our people – small as we are – much worse endangered than we already are?

### 2. Janna al Firdous

That Muslims have a religious duty to wage a Jihad (Islamic Holy War) against all non-Muslims to be assured of a place in Paradise (Jaana al Firdous) at death, and one of the surest ways of fulfilling that Islamic obligation especially in this Ramadan is to make a commitment to vote for him as a Muslim at the June 24<sup>th</sup> Mayoral election.

### 3. The Kalima

Gento inferred that only those who have recited the “Kalima” – the formal content of the “Sahada” which is a declaration of faith and commitment to Islam - should be considered a “brother” and eligible to be voted for. The implication here is that the rest of citizens that have not and will not recite the Sahada should be treated as non-believers (and accordingly non-brothers) and should not be voted for.

### 4. Employment Discrimination

Muslims youths have continued to bear the brunt of discrimination for employment leading to many resorting to conversion to Christianity out of desperation and against their will just so as to gain employment. Doesn't Gento know the extent to which he has sullied the present Labour Ministry and could he please furnish the public with hard data to justify this assertion?

### Mentee: Mentor

I am particularly not surprised – though still perturbed – that Gento have had to sink this low in canvassing votes to be elected Mayor of Freetown. Imagine to which lower depth he would sink if he wanted the Presidency of this realm? Here was a factual and physical evidence of the Spirit of God departing from man claiming piety and virtue right within the House of God.

# GENTO'S SERMON OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE MUST BE CONDEMNED!!!

By: Winstanley. R. Bankole Johnson

But again like I said I am not surprised because like “Mentee”: like “Mentor”. He is learning the trade straight from the leadership of his Party (the SLPP) that once they realized they have nothing to offer or show for their stewardship in almost five years of governance, would out of panic easily lapse into tirades of hateful, tribalistic, ethnocentric and divisive utterances to spew flames of insecurity among the very people they have let down, that if they make the mistake of voting the APC Party back to power, they will all be slaughtered. “So Gento suck am na bobby”. (He has been politically breastfed malice, hatred, vengeance and revenge)!! After all Video clips abound in the social media of:

- President the SLPP leadership reminding the peoples of the South-East that if “Jor-Jor Hi-Tia-Jorma (Push comes to shove) they will have to defend themselves by voting for their Bidi-Bidi (Brother) than for the APC and
- A female SLPP Member of Parliament in Pujehun telling her audience that all of them will be slaughtered in cold blood if they are to ever vote for the APC

### Worse

So it is in that same vein of hatred, malice and vengefulness that Mohamed Gento, also having nothing on offer is now waging his campaign of calumny, except that for effectiveness, he has spiked his own versions with the venom of “Religious Intolerance”. Gento is forgetting that if after (God Forbid) he should win the Mayoral seat of Freetown, he will still have to contend with us Non-Muslims and many more others of us as his citizens that haven't, and will never recite the “Sahada” because of commitments to our own religious associations as guaranteed under Part 3 of Sec.15 of our 1991 National Constitution in the exercise of our fundamental human rights and individual freedoms. Or is Gento implying our annihilation, forced conversion or marginalization thereafter that only Muslims will be recruited and employed once (God Forbid!!) he becomes elected Mayor of Freetown? And all of my concerns are germane because they are genuine reactions to the vile and unacceptable utterances of someone who has been touted as the sole preferred candidate of the SLPP for the Mayoral seat in Freetown municipality, so they could well be SLPP policy statements.

And if our APC Flag bearer aspirant Dr. Samura M. W. Kamara and former APC Mayor of Freetown Aki-Sawyer (OBE) could have been amply berated for their innocuous references to tribes by ostensible SLPP Journalists and Civil society acolytes, why should Mohamed Gento Kamara not be also be berated for uttering many times much worse words?

### Bar

Though we have consistently prided ourselves as a nation of exemplary religious tolerance, I am concerned – even before Gento's utterances – that cracks have begun to appear, manifesting themselves each passing day with the corresponding depravity in our social standards. In any civilized environment Gento would have been petitioned as unsuitable for the esteemed office of Mayor and sent scampering for cover leaving the SLPP desperately searching for a replacement candidate. But Oh Ya!! This is Sierra Leone, where the bar for eligibility to political offices is being progressively lowered at every electoral cycle.

But perhaps (just perhaps) as a panacea it will not be too much to ask the Political Parties Regulations Commissions (PPRC) to find the fortitude (and God help them for once in that regard!!) to take necessary actions to get both their SLPP Party and Mohamed Gento Kamara to severally dissociate themselves as a Party from culpability, and for Gento to retract his shameful and bigotry utterances respectively, which left as they are could only be intent on sowing seeds for Religious Intolerance” as well as undermining unity, national cohesion, peaceful co-existence and political stability.

And that is all the more reason why Mohamed Gento's sermon on Religious Intolerance this Past Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> must be condemned!!!





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# LOCAL NEWS NEC approves & adopts SLPPNA by-laws

In a just concluded National Executive Council meeting (NEC), which is the law making organ and the second highest decision making body of the Sierra Leone Peoples' Party (SLPP), had on Friday the 25th of March 2023 in Kambia Town, graciously, boisterously and euphorically approved and adopted the Sierra Leone People's Party North America Region (SLPPNA) by-laws. The by-laws were presented to the Council by the incomparable Chairman of the Sierra Leone People's Party North America Desmond Pessima, in the Presence of the National Leader of the Party President Julius Maada Bio, the Deputy Leader Vice President Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh, the National Chairman Dr. Alex Prince Harding, the National Secretary General Umaru Napoleon Koroma, among host of other party Stewards. The Chairperson of the Washington Metro Chapter Chairperson Fatmata Wurrie, the Regional Organizing Secretary Mohamed T. Fofanah who helped to organize the Kambia women to converge at the premise of the NEC meeting, and the First Lady to the Chairman Mrs. Racheal Pessima, were among the delegation from the United States to Freetown to grace the occasion. Active involvement of the Washington DC Metro Chapter under the auspices of the astute Chairperson, Mrs. Fatmata Wurrie in drafting and ratifying the by-laws, equally warrants indelible commendation. Just as presented by the Chairman Desmond Pessima, the SLPPNA by-laws were drafted by SLPPNA By-Laws Committee Chaired by Mrs. Elizabeth Momoh, and ratified by SLPPNA Delegates during the just concluded SLPPNA Regional Delegates Conference held on the 10th-11th March hosted by the Delaware Chapter. The By-Laws were ratified in tandem with appreciable democratic doctrine and



passed with adequate consultations, inclusivity and notifications of all members. It is obvious that the SLPPNA's by-laws met the democratic threshold of the party's National Constitution which precipitated unanimous and holistic adoption and approval by the National Executive Council in Kambia. The National Chairman Dr. Alex Prince Harding, slogged praises on the SLPPNA Chairman Desmond Pessima for exhibiting good leadership in the part of the region. The NEC Meeting was climaxed with nominations and approvals of committee chairpersons to man the affairs of the June 24th elections. Dr. Alex Prince Harding was nominated by Manso Dumbuya to serve as the Elections Campaign Chairman for the coming June 24th General elections, which was largely endorsed by the council. Chairman Desmond Pessima nominated Chief Minister Hon. Jacob

Jusu Saffa as the chairman of the Manifesto committee which was unanimously endorsed by the council. Mohamed Rado Swarray was endorsed as the committee chairman for the communication and Public Relations Committee for the campaign. Members of that campaign communications committee are the Hon. Minister of Tourism Dr. Memunatu Pratt, Hon. Tawa Conteh member of parliament constituency 132, among others. Her Excellency Dr. Fatima Bio was equally endorsed as the Chairperson of the Fundraising committee; Mr. Alhaji Kallon was endorsed as the chairman of the welfare committee of

which Babadi Kamara and Emma Kowa are members of that committee. Dr. Kapowa is the chairman of the Elections Management Committee; and John Oponjo Benjamin was endorsed as the Chairman of the Peace and reconciliation committee of which Hon. Veronica Kadie Sesay of Constituency 094 is a member. The occasion also peaked with a declaration ceremony wherein, colossal supporters of the All People's Congress Party (APC) and the National Ground Coalition Party (NGC), declared their supports for the SLPP and also made undying commitment to be part of President Bio's re-election movement.



## Gento under criticism for religious, tribal bigotry

From Cover

Gento Kamara has declared to contest for the Freetown City Council Mayoral seat under the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party. He is contesting for a seat that has never been won by a non-native Krio.



In a press statement, the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists condemned the statement, saying it is worried, and troubled after watching Gento's video on social media. "SLAJ vehemently condemns this type of campaign messaging from a political aspirant and further condemns the leadership of the mosque for allowing a politician to use their place of worship to campaign on such grounds, the association says in a press statement published yesterday. The Sierra Leone Labour Congress also condemned the aspirant and

called on political parties and aspirants to refrain from spewing hate, tribalism and religious bigotry. Mohamed Gento's religious and tribal bigotry has no place in our society, the main opposition party, All People Congress also reacted in a press release, saying Sierra Leone is a predominantly Muslim country whose religious tolerance is globally recognised and inspiring. But the aspirant remains defiant despite the wide condemnation. A press statement from his media team says his statement was misinterpreted.



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## LOCAL NEWS

# Leone Afric Metals provides salary for 120 teachers in Ngowahun Chiefdom, donates 500 bags of rice

The Lithium Leone Afric Metals Mining Company has on Sunday 26th March, provided salary for one hundred and twenty teachers and donated five hundred bags of rice to every household in Ngowahun Chiefdom, Bombali District.

The donation brought teachers and residents from Lawgbaray village, Mansongbo, Makaytay, Tambiama, Mayata and other villages in the chiefdom.

According to the country representative of Leone Afric Metals, Fassally Tarawallie, such humanitarian gesture was done due to the company's promises made to the chiefdom heads that Leone Afric Metal Company will provide salary for teachers who are not on government

payroll within the chiefdom.

"These teachers are doing exceptionally well to raise future leaders in the country and as a company that believes in education and mining developments, we are here today to boost the confidence of these teachers by giving them salary for one year. This will enable them to be effective and efficient in the classrooms," Fassally stated.

Speaking to beneficiaries and residents present, the Chief Executive Officer of Leone Afric Metals Mining Company, CEO Zong said that the company is there to stay and help develop the country through mining. He added that they will build two schools within Ngowahun Chiefdom - one will be for those interested in



learning Chinese language and the other school will be built for those who want to learn the normal school system in Sierra Leone. He added that as a company, they will continue to bring development and job opportunities for the residents in the chiefdom.

Speaking on behalf of Ngowahun Chiefdom, Paramount Chief Kandeh Kpanga 111, thanked and appreciated the empowerment of the 120 teachers who are working tirelessly to raise generational leaders through education.

"As a chiefdom, we will continue to welcome every development brought by Leone Afric Metal company for they are in our chiefdom to make our lives better," Paramount Chief Kandeh Kpanga 111 said.

One of the beneficiaries is a primary school agriculture teacher Mamusu Kargbo who appreciated the humanitarian gesture by Leone Metal Company. "I have been a teacher for over five years without getting any salary. Today, I am overwhelmed because my effort has been recognized," she said. She called on the company to continue with such financial aid.

One of the company's activities is to extract lithium in Bombali district. Lithium is widely used in batteries as a heater in a few mediums and as well as a component in various metal alloys. It is also used in the treatment of bipolar disorder, depression, and other mental health conditions due to its mood-stabilizing properties.



## Bribery and extortion are impermissible in the direct cash transfer - ACC cautions

The Regional Manager of the Anti-Corruption Commission in the North-West Region, Madam Fatu Florence Kamara has told beneficiaries of the Social Safety Net (SSN) programme in Kamakwie town that bribery and other forms of extortion are impermissible in the direct financial support provided under the SSN project implemented across the country. She made this statement during payment of financial support to extremely poor households and persons with disabilities in Karene District.

Addressing beneficiaries, she stated that transparency is crucial to engendering trust and also a vital component to mobilize and sustain financing and support from government and its development partners. As the leading agency in combatting graft, she noted that the ACC is committed to enhancing best practices in tackling petty bribes and grand corruption schemes that have the propensity to reduce the effectiveness of donor aid for poverty



alleviation programmes and initiatives. The Regional Manager pointed out that the commission's involvement in the process includes a rigorous scrutiny of corruption risks from the targeting phase to the payment stage so as to ensure the project meets its intended purposes.

Whilst noting the commission's strides

to monitoring and mitigating corruption incidences on the direct financial support provided to the poor, she registered a strong warning to anyone involved in any form of corruption to desist forthwith or face the full force of the ACC. She also explained the benefits of the SSN Programme and make meaningful use

of monies paid to them.

The District Monitor for Karene District Edward Kargbo informed beneficiaries on the amount to be paid and to ensure they count monies paid to them before leaving the pay centre. Mr Kargbo also highlighted some grievance reporting mechanisms available at the ACC.





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## LOCAL NEWS Opposition politicians defect to ruling SLPP party

President Dr Julius Maada Bio has received declarations in Kambia District from a two-time former Member of Parliament, MP, Alieu Badara Munu Kamara, Councilors for the opposition All People's Congress, APC and five Councilors of the National Grand Coalition, NGC.

Also, among the people who came out on that day to assure of their support to the President, were former teacher coordinators for the APC and stakeholders in the Tonko Limba Chiefdom, who openly consented to lead the June 2023 elections campaign for the SLPP party in that part of the country.

Hon. Alieu Badara Kamara said he started politics with the APC when the district used to have three constituencies, revealing that in 1982 he was the person who nominated Hon. Ibrahim Sorie to become a Member of Parliament. He added that he was declaring for the SLPP because of the many tangible developments that were taking place in their district, noting that his former party was unable to deliver for them.

Councillor Abdulai Yoko Kamara of NGC said he had declared, along with five other former councilors, for the SLPP because President Bio's development had no boundaries and that their women and girls had regained their respect in society.

"There have been absolutely no reported cases of rape or any other forms of violence against women. We are enjoying more electricity under this government than at any other time in the history of this district, even when we are running an opposition Council in the Kambia District," he recalled.

Former NGC female Councillor, Isata Sesay of Ward 203, described the day as historic. "I am declaring for the SLPP because of President Julius Maada Bio's political will and commitment to pass the GEWE Act into law, which constitutionally allows women to hold a 30 percent quota in politics.

"Before now, our girls celebrated pregnancy after their external examinations. But your government has liberated us, the mothers. We are happy and satisfied as you have given the women of Sierra Leone everything. Against that background, if we the women of Sierra Leone failed, in our duty, to vote for you with the highest margin, we will be making the greatest mistakes of our lives. Posterity will not forgive us," she said.

Former APC vigilante group leaders, Abdulai Salifana Bangura, Ibrahim Sahid Sesay and Jacob Conteh, as well as former APC Councillor Kadiatu Bangura, the APC Teachers coordinating group, Councillor Mohamed Salam Kamara and other Tonko Limba stakeholders and supporters, were all present and publicly supported President Bio and



assured that the district would vote overwhelmingly for him in the June elections.

"I am here as the head of the district coordinator with 342 coordinators and our supporters to declare support for President Bio's SLPP for the many developments his government has brought to our district," said Alimamy Hassan Kamara, a former member of the APC Teachers Coordinating Group, also known as the 'Psalm 23 Group'.

"We are here to declare our unconditional support to the SLPP with all our hearts and without attachment and be assured that we are here to bring all our expertise to support the SLPP to transform our district and the country at large," he concluded.

President Julius Maada Bio welcomed

them and said, "I want to personally welcome all our brothers and sisters who have taken the big decision to come home because the SLPP party is a party for all Sierra Leoneans, particularly for the Kambia people. As a party, we stand for nothing but the development of Sierra Leone, which I am certainly sure has encouraged you all to come back to your party.

"As the President of Sierra Leone and Leader of the SLPP, I am assuring all of you to feel free and feel at home as we plan to ensure that we cater to all of your aspirations. I am happy that you have declared to work with the SLPP to help take development to your district. I am happy that history will remember all of you for joining the SLPP to develop Sierra Leone. Thank you," the president appreciated.

## NaCCED delivers video, audio contents solar-powered television project



On Sunday March 19, 2023, a team consisting management of National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED, in collaboration with District Youth Coordinators, representing the National Youth Council, embarked on a five-day field visit to all chiefdoms in the Southern and Eastern regions, to operationalize the national solar powered television project and to deliver relevant video and audio contents containing activities of the government and partners in all (87) chiefdoms in the two regions.

In the departure briefing, the Council Chairman Kalilu Ibrahim Totangi emphasized the need to engage all relevant stakeholders (Paramount Chiefs or Regent Chiefs, Town and Section Chiefs, District and Chiefdom Youth

Council Leaders, etc.) of the project in all the chiefdoms to understand the rationale of the project as well as promote sustainability and community ownership.

"As you embark on this field trip, I encourage you to engage all key stakeholders, discuss the relevant issues pertaining the project, promote the importance of community ownership and sustainability, and ensure you test the video and audio contents at every facility", the Chairman advised.

In fulfillment of the responsibility to nurture an informed and engaged society, you will recall that by mid last year, NaCCED unveiled a national solar-powered television project the Council runs in all 190 chiefdoms of the country. The primary objective of this project is to keep the community informed of government and partner activities across the country, and to keep the public abreast with development projects nationally.

This endeavor will get community members up to speed with government activities – to know about as well as understand various development projects undertaken nationally with the hope of

minimizing misinformation, disinformation and fake news.

On explaining the objectives of the project to stakeholders of her chiefdom, P. C. Haja Fatmata Mima Kajue, the Paramount Chief of Manor Dasse Chiefdom who also doubles as the Paramount Chief Member of Parliament for Moyamba District, welcomed the team to her chiefdom. She thanked the central government and NaCCED, for, in her words, "a laudable community intervention". She added that "this project is a very good step taken by the government through the Council. It will ensure dissemination of correct and authentic information across the country. Be assured of my unflinching support to ensure the project succeeds", she committed.

Mr. Jinah A. Kpundeh, District Youth Chairman of Kailahun District thanked the government for, in his words, "involving young people in community development and for taking government to the people, and the people to the government,". Mr. Kpundeh also underscored the importance of information dissemination to national development. He promised to work closely with colleague Youth Chairmen and chiefdom authorities in his region to

ensure the project achieves its objectives. In his words, "I will work with my colleague youth leaders and all stakeholders to achieve the objectives of this project because it is very important to national development", he ended. Madam Umu Koroma a resident of Teilu, chiefdom headquarter town of Bongor Chiefdom in Bo District, thanked government for the facility. In addition to facilitating dissemination of credible information in the community, Madam Koroma informed the team that the project also supports the Free Quality Education programme because pupils use the electricity generated by the solar to prepare for exams, which in her words, "eases the burden associated with night study before the project started".

The teams visited 83 chiefdoms out of 87 (95.4%), engaged stakeholders, and delivered and tested the video and audio contents at every location. NaCCED Regional Coordinators assured the authorities that they would keep in constant touch to support the project and they would be visiting them for the same purpose, occasionally and whenever necessary. Similar field visit will be carried out in the remaining chiefdoms in the North-eastern and North-western regions of the country.



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## LOCAL NEWS

# Two minors discharged on alleged sexual penetration

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

Justice Momoh Jah Steven has discharged two minors-Alie Humper Bendu and Gassium Bendu (not their real names), who were alleged to have sexually penetrated a child below the age of eighteen-year to wit 14-year.

The two juveniles were in court on one count of sexual penetration contrary to Section 19 of the Sexual Offences Act of 2012, as repealed and replaced by Section 4 of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. of 2019. The state prosecutor, M.P. Sesay had alleged that the accused, on 18 February, 2022, in Freetown, Western Area District, sexually penetrated the victim who was below the age of 18-year to wit 14-year.

When the charges were put to the accused by the court's registrar, they

pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Taylor Younge, from the Legal Aid Board, applied to the court to discharge the accused because there was still not a single evidence against the accused persons since the matter was committed to the High Court.

The lawyer told the court that the matter has taken too long and that the state has not produced any witness in the matter.

Justice Momoh Jah Stevens ruled that because the state has failed to proceed with the matter, he had no option but to discharge the matter for wants of prosecution.

He further stated that he will not acquit the accused persons and that whenever the persecutions have witnesses against the accused they can bring them to court.

# Deputy Commissioner ACC hosts trainers from Canada

By Ishmael Dumbuya



The Deputy Commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Augustine Foday Ngobie, has officially received Trainers from Canada in his office at the commission's headquarters at Gloucester Street, Freetown.

The Deputy Commissioner, on behalf of the ACC Commissioner, Francis Ben Kaifala, warmly appreciated the team for the training and implored them to do more.

He emphasised that, changing mindsets and cultures that entertain corruption was tough, but the responsibility of the ACC, which makes their training very relevant.

The Deputy ACC boss assured them of the institution's support and collaboration once it relates to increasing and improving staff knowledge and capacity to curb corruption in Sierra Leone.

Whilst introducing the trainers, Director, Public Education and External Outreach, ACC, Patrick Sandi stated that Bill Pipke, representing 'Commissioning Lifestyle of Integrity' and Bruce Mann from Canada are in

Sierra Leone to provide training to staff of the ACC. Sandi furthered that that was the second training provided to the Commission in house by Bill and Bruce.

The Director of Operations ACC, Emmanuel Koivaya Amara, made it resoundingly clear that training on integrity and the fight against corruption were critical to staff.

He called on the Trainers to ensure that staffs are properly skilled and their capacities improved in order to effectively deal with anti-corruption issues.

In their presentations, Bill Pipke and Bruce Mann thanked the ACC leadership for the hospitality and reception, adding that a lot more of public officers require this training to up their skills in public sector management and the proper handling of public resources.

The team is in Sierra Leone to provide training to various institutions on mainly transforming societies, cultures and integrity.

It is expected that other staff members of the Commission will also benefit from the training programme whilst plans remain active for a comprehensive training to be rolled out, consisting of, ACC partners, and Schools Integrity and Accountability Now Clubs leaderships.

It should be noted that during their last visit, this team had an engagement with the ACC Commissioner.

## World Vision Career Opportunity

World Vision is a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

World Vision International Sierra Leone (WVSI) has been operational since 1996 assisting communities with various interventions in health, education, child protection, water & sanitation and livelihoods.

Applications are requested for suitably qualified Sierra Leoneans to fill the position of 'People and Culture Intern' in Freetown.

### PURPOSE OF THE POSITION:

The P&C Intern is responsible to perform various administrative tasks and support our P&C department's daily activities. She/he will work with the P&C Systems Officer in updating employee records with new hire information, tracking staff attendance, filing, and supporting the P&C team in achieving key HR deliverables.

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### MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

§ With the supervision of the P&C Coordinator, work with the P&C Systems Officer in setting up and managing the P&C filing systems (active and archived files);

§ Support the team in ensuring the completion of all new hire paperwork;

§ Helping with the preparation and logistics for meetings and training programs;

§ Providing support to the P&C team in scanning all P&C-related documents and maintaining an accurate and updated electronic filing system;

§ Provide support in uploading documents into the P&C Knowledge Management System/BOX; folders;

§ Support the P&C team in ensuring that new hires are properly oriented;

§ In liaison with the P&C Systems Officer to ensure prompt response to staff to ensure the smooth running of the staff medical scheme.

§ Support the P&C Team to following with staff and managers on staff performance management issues as instructed;

§ Support the team in organizing staff engagement meetings and socialization events; and

· Any other duty as may be assigned.

### WVI GENERAL CORE COMPETENCIES:

· Be Safe and Resilient

· Build Relationships

· Learn and Develop

· Partner and Collaborate

· Deliver Results

· Be Accountable

· Improve and Innovate

· Embrace Change

### QUALIFICATIONS: EDUCATION/KNOWLEDGE/TECHNICAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

**Qualification required:** Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management, Business Administration, General Management, or any other related field.

**Experience:** 1 year of experience in human resources position

### Technical Skills & Abilities:

· Strong interpersonal skills with an ability to take and lead new initiatives.

· Good communications and mediation skills.

· Good organizational skills with an ability to set priorities and meet the required deadlines.

· Team player with a caring personality to adhere to staff care needs.

· Ability to demonstrate life/work balance and encourage others to do so.

· Ability to advise and coach others, when necessary.

· Fluency in English

If this position appeals to you, send a letter of application with your updated CV to the email address: [recruitment\\_wvsi@wvi.org](mailto:recruitment_wvsi@wvi.org).

Applications sent through any other means will not be accepted. Please ensure that the subject reads 'Application for the position of "People and Culture Intern" Referees of successful candidates and previous employers will be contacted and each application should include the referees' current email and telephone numbers.

Closing Date: **March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

World Vision International Sierra Leone takes diligent measures to screen out people who might seek to work with them to ensure they do not harm children or adult beneficiaries in the discharge of their duties. A successful candidate for this position will therefore be screened and required to sign the World Vision Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy. World Vision International Sierra Leone will also conduct a Police check for successful applicants.

**WOMEN ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY**





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PMB 1237, Freetown, Sierra Leone  
Mobile: 077 713533, 077630832, 088 635750



## NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

### Harris visits Ghana's president, promises aid, investments

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris on Monday praised Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo for his "democratic principles" during a visit with the West African leader, who's facing rising discontent over inflation and fresh concerns about regional security.

Harris is just beginning a weeklong trip to the continent that will also take her to Tanzania and Zambia, part of a concerted effort to broaden U.S. outreach at a time when China and Russia have entrenched interests of their own in Africa.

On Monday, the vice president was welcomed into the Ghanaian presidential palace, called the Jubilee House, where she promised assistance with security in the nation and increased investments there, announcing \$100 million in U.S. aid to the region.

"Under your leadership, Ghana has been a beacon of democracy and a contributor to global peace and security," she told the president in remarks following their meeting. Akufo-Addo oversaw one of the world's fast-growing economies before the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the cost of food and other necessities has been skyrocketing, and the country is facing a debt crisis as it struggles to make payments.

During the meeting with Harris, Akufo-Addo called for solidarity as countries like Ghana work to get their economies "back on track." He also expressed concern that private American investors tend to overlook the nation.

"We want to be able to change that dynamic," he said. He said their meeting had been a "boost to the steadfast cooperation" between the two nations.

In addition, sporadic fighting has increased in Ghana's north, which borders the more tumultuous nation of Burkina Faso and the Sahel, a region where local offshoots of al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have been operating.

Akufo-Addo called terrorism a "poison" that was spreading across West Africa, making the region unstable.

"We're spending a lot of sleepless nights trying to make sure we're protected here," he told the vice president as the two gathered in a conference room at the palace, their delegations seated on opposite sides of a long table.

During a press conference following their meeting, Akufo-Addo said he was concerned about terror groups but said he had no formal confirmation that al-Qaida is present in the nation.

He also said he worried that the Russian mercenary force known as Wagner could expand its footprint in the region.

"It raises the very real possibility that once again our continent is going to become the playground for a great power conflict," Akufo-Addo said.

Akufo-Addo dismissed any concerns about China's influence in the region, saying his country had relationships with many nations, including the United States, and they were separate from one another.

"The relationships with America is a relationship that has been close over several decades," he said.

Some of the money pledged by Harris will require congressional approval, which could prove difficult amid sharp partisan differences over the federal budget. The Treasury Department also plans to dispatch an adviser to Accra to help manage the country's burdensome debt.

Other programs are intended to reduce child labor, improve weather forecasting, support local musicians and defend against disease outbreaks.



US Vice President Kamala Harris and Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo in ... - Copyright © africanews Misper Apawu/Misper Apawu

The United States has already sent troops to train militaries from Ghana and other countries in the hopes of bolstering their defenses. However, other countries have turned to Wagner, which has been on the front lines of Russia's war in Ukraine but also has a presence in Africa. Wagner began operating in Mali, which ousted French troops based there, and there are concerns that it will also deploy to Burkina Faso, where France also ended its military presence. Ghana recently accused Burkina Faso's leaders, which took power in a coup last year, of already turning to Wagner for help, something Akufo-Addo said would be "unsettling."

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently visited Niger, which borders Mali and Burkina Faso, to announce more assistance for the region.

"We've seen countries find themselves weaker, poorer, more insecure, less independent as a result of the association with Wagner," he said.

Although China's influence in Africa has been a leading concern for U.S. foreign policy, Russia's own attempts to make inroads has alarmed Washington as well. Some countries have longstanding ties dating back to the Soviet era.

The Russian foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov, has made multiple trips to the continent in an effort to show that the West has failed to isolate Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine.

"The Russians are continuing to make the first move in Africa, and the U.S. is continuing to play catch-up," said Samuel Ramani, associate fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, a London-based defense and security think tank.

"It's really unclear how Russia will really be able to expand its influence in the long term," he added. "But in the short term, they're creating goodwill for themselves."

Mucahid Durmaz, a senior analyst at Verisk Maplecroft, a global risk intelligence company, said that Moscow's overall investments in Africa "are very modest" compared with Washington's but adds that it's been able to leverage anti-Western sentiment in some areas of the continent.

"The Ukraine war has boosted Africa's importance in international politics and increased geopolitical jostling among global powers for the support of its governments and nations," he said.

U.S. officials have steered clear of framing their approach in terms of global rivalries, something that could swiftly sour Africans who are wary of being caught in the middle.

"They remain cautious about becoming collateral damage to geopolitical competition by repeating the same mistakes of the Cold War era," Durmaz said.

beat incumbent president Masisi in the ballot box.

"I have to fix the mistake I made in appointing Masisi to be my successor, and it's important that before the elections I try and join with the other parties to ensure that he and his party are removed," he says.

"Democracy rocked" "Botswana has been a democracy, right from independence, we had a very good reputation for democracy, we were a shining light on the African continent, we were renowned worldwide for our adherence to democracy and then you get this one man who comes in one day and just overturns everything," said Khama. "And this is the Botswana version of Donald Trump in Masisi."

Both Masisi and the government's spokesmen did not respond to AFP's request for a comment on Khama's claims.

"We thought we had built enough foundation that could not be rocked when it came to our democracy, but we have found out that it just takes one man in that position to reverse all the gains that we have made and sweated for many years," he said.

In preparation for his return, he says he has undergone a full medical check and updated his will because he strongly believes that within days of arriving he will be locked up.

Former retirement plans

When he retired from power, the former senior military officer said he had intended to pursue conservation charity work, farming and that politics was not on his radar.

"When I left office, I intended to completely leave politics but here I'm now more involved in politics than even when I was president because I'm determined to make sure this man (Masisi) goes," he said.

In an address to a ruling BDP rally in Khama's home district late January, Masisi struck a reconciliatory note. "I pray to God for us to meet at some point... to ask for each other's forgiveness," the president said speaking in Tswana.

"It was a huge mistake, one that I think we are all regretting as a country, because he's totally undermined democracy, human rights, the rule of law, interfered with the judiciary."

On December 29 last year Botswana issued an arrest warrant for Khama, alleging unlawful possession of firearms.

In an address to a ruling party rally in January, Masisi struck a reconciliatory note.

### Chad's interim president pardons 380 rebels jailed for 2021 death of former president

Chad's interim president, Mahamat Idriss Deby, has pardoned 380 rebels from group, The Front for Change and Concord in Chad (FACT).

They were part of a group of 400 people who were handed life sentences last Tuesday in connection with the 2021 death of his father, the country's long-time ruler, Idriss Deby Itno.

He was killed when he went to visit troops fighting FACT on the frontline in northern Chad. The group had launched an offensive earlier that year from bases in Libya.

The rebels were found guilty of terrorism, undermining national security, endangering the life of the head of state, and the recruitment of children, among other charges.

The exiled leader of the rebel group, Mahamat Mahdi Ali,

who was tried and convicted in absentia, was not included in the presidential pardon.

Idriss Deby, who was installed by the military junta after his father's death, has held peace talks with various rebel groups since then.

But FACT has not taken part saying the transitional authorities needed to make gestures of peace first, including releasing prisoners.

He had promised to hold democratic elections after 18 months, which would have been in October 2022, but has now said the vote will take place in 2024.

This lead to violent anti-government protests in which at least 60 people died and hundreds others were arrested.

### Hundreds storm ex-President Kenyatta's farm

Number of unknown persons on Monday stormed the family farm of Kenya's former president Uhuru Kenyatta.

The group has cut down trees using power saws, stolen livestock and set the farm on fire. The motive is still unknown, the BBC reported.

However, earlier last week, sources said that Kenyan Kwanza leaders intended to organize locals to swarm President Kenyatta's property.

These politicians have been blaming the president for supporting the current Azimio wing protests.

In an interesting initiative intended to pressure the William Ruto-led administration to decrease living expenses, Raila Odinga and his Azimio allies are set to swarm the city this afternoon.

Azimio is requesting that the president include them in the decision-making for IEBC officials as well as the intriguing launch of IEBC servers.



Kenya's former president Uhuru Kenyatta speaks at a joint press... - Copyright © africanews Ben Curtis/Copyright 2023 The AP. All rights reserved

### USA to hold a democracy summit days after China's International Forum on Democracy

The United States is to hold a Summit for Democracy this week which will be co-hosted with leaders from Zambia, Costa Rica, the Netherlands, and South Korea.

This second edition of the forum on 29-30 March takes place against the backdrop of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Leaders from around the world, including from several African countries, will discuss strengthening democratic institutions, tackling corruption, and defending human rights.

It comes hard on the heels of the Second International

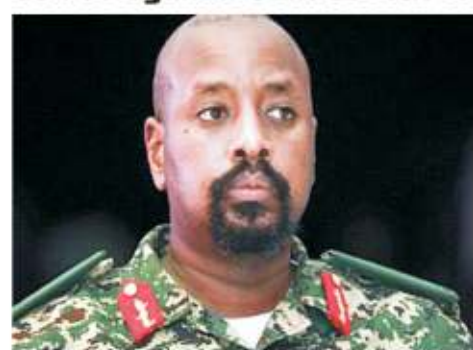
Forum on Democracy which took place in the Chinese capital, Beijing, last week.

Politicians, scholars, and experts in various fields from over 100 countries and regions attended the gathering.

It centred around five main themes focusing on democracy and sustainable development, innovation, global governance, diversity, and modernisation.

Participants said there was no single formula or model for democracy saying that each country has its own political culture and national needs.

### Son of Uganda's Museveni to retire from army 'this year'



Lt. Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, son of Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, attends a... - Copyright © africanews Hajarrah Nalwadda/ Copyright 2022 The AP. All rights reserved.

After serving in the army for nearly three decades, the oldest son of Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has announced his retirement this year.

The decision was made public recently, marking the end of his long-standing military career.

Muhoozi Kainerugaba, an army general, made the announcement in a Twitter post.

"I will be retiring from the UPDF this year," he tweeted.

He made a similar announcement on Twitter in March last year when he was the commander of land forces. The army however said it had not officially received Mr Kainerugaba's retirement request.

His latest retirement remarks come days after he deleted a tweet announcing that he will stand for the presidency in 2026.

The tweeting general has not hidden his ambition to take over the top job from his 78-year-old father, who has led Uganda since 1986.

The Ugandan law does not allow serving soldiers to participate in politics.

### Botswana 2024 polls: 'I have to fix the mistake I made in appointing Masisi' - Khama



Use-up former Botswana president Ian Khama on Mar. 22, 2023. - Copyright © africanews Cleared / AFP

Botswana's former president could be a candidate to watch out for in the nation's upcoming general elections. Ian Khama who is exiled stands for presidency of his party next month.

He claims his successor has become a threat to democracy. In South Africa since 2021, Khama says he possesses intelligence information on plans to arrest and poison him if he returned home. He believes the authorities fear his influence.

"They fear, have got, still a lot of influence on the people of Botswana to be able to sway them, not that they need swaying, I think they have pretty much made up their own minds now that regime change should take place."

The row between the pair started immediately after Khama resigned in 2018 at the end of his constitutional limit of two five-year terms when Masisi started reversing some key policies adopted during Khama's tenure.

Months later, and in the run up to the last elections, Khama dramatically quit the long-ruling Botswana Democratic Party, which had been co-founded by his father Seretse Khama, Botswana's first president.

Once in Botswana where elections are due next year Khama should bolster the opposition into a coalition to

### DRC: 14 tribesmen killed by militia in west

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has killed 14 people, including two traditional chiefs, since Friday by alleged militiamen from a rival tribe, an administrative official said on Monday.

The chief of the village of Kimpasi, in the Kisima-Ngasi grouping, was killed in his residence by assailants from Kwamouth, Amedeo Bangambuma, administrator of the Bagata territory in Kwilu province, told AFP on Monday.

In this grouping (group of villages) of Kisima-Ngasi, "twelve villagers were killed in a farm on Friday by assailants (...). The chief of the grouping who came to inquire about the situation was also killed," he added, indicating that all the victims were members of the Teke community and were killed with machetes.

The Kisima-Ngasi grouping is in a remote area. There are no security forces on site and the nearest police station is about 100 km away, Mr Bangambuma said.

He said the perpetrators of the killings were militiamen from "Kwamouth territory, on the other side of the river, who come to attack Teke people in Bagata territory" in neighbouring Kwilu province.

The Kwamouth territory is located in the province of Mai-Ndombe, which has been plagued by communal violence that started last June over a land dispute between the Teke, who consider themselves to be the originators and owners of villages along the Congo River for a distance of about 200 kilometres, and the Yaka, who came to settle after them.

The violence, which later spread to Kwilu province, left at least 180 people dead last year, according to the Kinshasa



Lieutenant Colonel Kebibi Mutware is escorted to his detention cell after a day... - Copyright © africanews Pete Muller/AP2011

government. The United Nations has put the number of displaced people driven from their villages by the conflict at tens of thousands, some of whom have taken refuge in neighbouring Congo-Brazzaville.

After a lull, violence resumed earlier this month when at least 15 people were killed in an attack on two villages by armed men. Hundreds of Teke have fled their villages and abandoned their fields, according to reports.

"The Teke are living in a climate of great panic, they are afraid of being killed at any moment," said administrator Bangambuma.

Credit: africanews with AP



# Call for Proposals for Grants



**Title:** Call for proposals for Financial Intermediaries to identify and adapt/refine financial services and products to meet the needs of micro small and medium enterprises, specifically informal enterprises/entrepreneurs in Sierra Leone.

**Institution:** Financial Intermediaries

**Supervisor:** UNDP Sustainable Local and Economic Development Cluster

**Deadline:** 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023

**Duration of the Activity:** 4 weeks

**Location:** Sierra Leone

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

## Timing and Contacts

- Proposals should be submitted via email to [procure.sle@undp.org](mailto:procure.sle@undp.org) no later than **3rd April 2023**
- Queries to this call for proposals can be submitted via email to [procure.sle@undp.org](mailto:procure.sle@undp.org) before **3rd April 2023**

## RATIONALE FOR THE CALL

Access to finance is an important element in supporting the growth and formalization of informal enterprises. It supports businesses to improve productivity, become more efficient and competitive and comply with regulations and laws, access new markets, and expand their operations, which can lead to increased profits and growth

Financial services in Sierra Leone are fragmented, small in scale and largely informal, characterised by volatility in individual and aggregate income levels. The financial market lacks depth and breadth in terms of reach and products offered to the clients and interest spreads and banking industry margins are high. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic and the current economic crisis due to the Russian aggression in Ukraine have affected entrepreneurs' ability to meet loan repayments resulting in relatively high non-performing loans in some sectors. This coupled with the lack of knowledge, high unit costs and the perceived higher level of risks associated with MSMEs has affected financial intermediaries' capital adequacy and profitability and further reduced their risk appetite to lend to the MSMEs and informal enterprises.

On the other hand, there is evidence that the financial intermediaries are interested in diversifying their portfolios, however, some of them lack sufficient management and technical capacity to design better tailored made financial products adapted to the needs of specific sectors such as agriculture where a significant number of informal companies are operating. This will require a deliberate strategy to identify and adapt financial service products offer in terms of products, delivery models and management processes among others.

Given the low supply of financial services in the country, and the high demand for financial services from enterprises, financial intermediaries hold the leverage to influence business practices. Therefore, commercial banks, insurers, credit unions, microfinance institutions, community banks and Financial Services Associations are potential financial intermediaries for promoting the formalization of informal enterprises and improving access to finance in rural areas.

At the same time, supporting formalization has the potential to enhance financial institutions' business performance: through a better performance of the MSMEs as well the risk and business management perspective. A formalised enterprise is more transparent and hence is a less risky borrower, which helps reduce operating costs and identify future earning opportunities more accurately. Financial institutions with a social agenda, or a double-bottom-line approach, can additionally enhance their social impact by promoting formalization

Therefore, there is a need to support the financial intermediaries to cushion their capacity to efficiently serve these under-served markets through improving their management and technical skills and managing innovative processes such as a partnership with Fintech firms, product development, partnerships with value chain actors to develop, pilot, roll out financial and non-financial services to reach these untapped markets in the informal economy.

UNDP and partners recognise the high demand for financial services among the informal actors for savings, credit, insurance, and digital services. However, the current products and services are either unaffordable, out of reach or not aligned with their needs. On the other hand, financial intermediaries do recognize the need to provide alternative products and

services that suit the needs of informal enterprises.

Financial intermediaries, placed at the core of economic activities, are recognized as crucial members of the MSMEs ecosystem. As such, they can play an important role in supporting enterprise development while benefitting from the resulting reduction of the financial risks associated with the MSME's client portfolio and the competitive advantages of building better client knowledge and lasting relationships. Therefore, in addition, the ILO plans to establish partnerships with financial institutions aiming at promoting enterprise development by means of the provision of relevant business skills development, digital and financial literacy capacity building to the target groups of the project

## THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

UNDP, in collaboration with ILO, shall support financial intermediaries to identify and adopt existing financial products/services targeting informal enterprises/entrepreneurs, in order to incentivize formalization. Through this call, UNDP would like to strengthen the capacities of financial intermediaries to adapt innovative financial products and solutions that meet the financial needs of MSMEs, while fostering the way to formality. This may include technical assistance to support the product development process, marketing of the products, and management to ensure that appropriate products meet the needs of the market and provide pathways to the formality of their clients.

As such, UNDP in Sierra Leone is inviting financial intermediaries (commercial banks, insurers, credit unions, microfinance institutions, Savings and Credit cooperatives, community banks, Financial Services Associations and insurance companies, to submit proposals describing their suggested products/services targeting informal enterprises/entrepreneurs. UNDP shall provide technical support in capacity building to up to 8 Financial Intermediaries in the country.

In addition, ILO will further support the identified financial institutions in piloting and rolling out the developed products and estimating the impacts achieved.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSAL

The specific objectives of the call for proposals include: -

1. Improve the capacity of financial intermediaries including banks, microfinance institutions, Savings and Credit cooperatives, community banks, and insurance companies, to provide appropriate financial products and services to informal enterprises and entrepreneurs.
2. Promote access and usage of financial services for promoting the formalization of the economy and better responding to the financial needs of the private sector.,

## SELECTION CRITERIA

This is a call for proposals (expression of interest) based on which UNDP will identify up to 8 proposals that will qualify for technical support.

### Key areas for consideration for financial intermediaries for this call include: -

1. Registered financial intermediaries including banks, microfinance institutions, Savings and Credit cooperatives, community banks, insurance companies, etc operating in the country for a minimum of three years.
2. Feasibility of financial products /services to be refined and adapted to respond better to the market needs and promoting pathways to the formality of enterprises
3. Institutional capacity to develop, implement and scale up the products
4. Compliance to call requirement

## CRITERIA FOR SELECTING THE PROPOSAL

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 process:

- Company's performance/track record and experience working with MSMEs and informal enterprises (30%)
- Potential product scalability, catalytic effect, (30%)
- Impact of the proposed financial product and its feasibility (40%)

The deadline for applications is **5:00pm on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Grant Proposals Submissions are to be made electronically in one file (pdf format) signed and scanned to the following email: [procure.sle@undp.org](mailto:procure.sle@undp.org). Hard copies may be submitted to **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at UNDP Reception Area, Fourah Bay Close, Off Main Motor Road, Wilberforce, Freetown, Sierra Leone.**



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Church Yard Junction  
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Email [aasl@actionaid.org](mailto:aasl@actionaid.org)  
<https://sierra-leone.actionaid.org/>



# 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 mergers 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:

- To conduct a final evaluation of AASL CSP to ascertain national and global trends and overall implications on AASL programming.
- To assess our Partnership model clearly presenting strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and treats and recommend concrete actions to better our model of partnership.
- To generate lessons which can be used to shape the new country programme proprieties/strategies based on key emerging trend/issues.
- 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.
- To review the organizational structure in tandem with its available funding and analyze its impact on the organization going forward
- Define the course of AASL's work and national and international level linkages in the next 6 years based on the context.
- 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:

- Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse (SHEA) Policy
- Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
- Child Safeguarding Policy
- Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Abuse (PSEA) Policy
- Anti-Terrorist Funding Policy

- 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](mailto:procurement.aasl@actionaid.org)

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

Late proposals will be rejected.

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

AASL Procurement committee



# SWIAG Account

- Savings Account targeted at student at tertiary levels from 18 years and above
- Sum saved can be used to pay exam fees, purchase reading materials or start small scale businesses
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## Guild of Editors - Sierra Leone

C/O MRCG 145 Circular Road, Freetown.

Email: [editorsguild94@gmail.com](mailto:editorsguild94@gmail.com) Mob: +23276653596

### Public Notice

## Increase in Advert Pricing for Newspapers

24<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.

The general public is hereby informed that the Guild of Newspaper Editors - Sierra Leone (GoNE-SL) has reviewed the advert pricing for newspapers as follows:

#### Black & White

No.	Description	Old Price (NLe)	New Price (NLe)
1	Quarter Page (¼)	700	800
2	Half (½)	800	1,200
3	Full Page	1,000	1,500
4	Centre Spread	2,000	3,000

#### Coloured

No.	Description	Old Price (NLe)	New Price (NLe)
1	Full Page	2,500	3,000
2	Centre Spread	5,000	6,000

The cover price remains the same.

Please note that the new pricing takes effect on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2023.

Your cooperation is highly solicited.

Signed:  
Donald Theo-Harding  
Chairman, GoNE-SL.

Bankers: Union Trust Bank A/C No: 01-210-25968-01

SIERRA LEONE BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION  
Motto: Victory in Solidarity  
48 Jenner Wright Road Uppun Freetown  
Tel: +232 76838022/+232 76694943/ +232 76640162/+232 76646565  
Email: [sierr Leonebroadcasters22@gmail.com](mailto:sierr Leonebroadcasters22@gmail.com)



PRESS RELEASE

### INCREASE IN COST OF RADIO COMMERCIALS

Mile 91 Town, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023

The National Executive and General Membership of the Sierra Leone Broadcasters Association (SiLBA) wish to inform the public that the Association has unanimously resolved to increase the cost of radio commercials.

The decision was reached at a national consultation meeting held at Mile 91 Town, Tonkolili District, on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023, as part of the efforts to meet the current inflation rates and other statutory obligations in the country.

This decision will enhance quality in service delivery and sustainability in the operations of radio stations across the country.

It should be recalled that this is the only increment in commercials announced by radio stations in 12 years.

The Association therefore craves the understanding and patronage of the public.

The new commercial quotation which will take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 shall be as follow:

#### FREETOWN

1. Jingle – Jingle slot – NLe 35.00 per minute
2. Public notice – NLe 30.00 per 50 words
3. (a) Cost for 30 minutes airtime, between NLe 750,00 and NLe 1,250 (Depending on the coverage of the Radio station)  
(b) Cost for 1hr airtime, between NLe 1, 500, 00.and NLe 2,500.00 (Depending on the coverage of the Radio station)

#### PROVINCIAL

1. Jingle – Jingle slot – NLe 20.00 per minute
2. Public notice – NLe 20.00 per 50 words
3. (a) Cost for 30 minute airtime: between NLe 500.00 and NLe 750.00 (Depending on the coverage of the particular Radio station)  
(b) Cost for 1hr airtime: between NLe 1,000.00 and NLe 1,500.00 (Depending on the coverage of the particular Radio station)

SiLBA regrets any inconvenience this may cause.

END

Signed:

Daniel M. Amara  
Secretary General

Approved By:

Stanley Bangura Jr  
Chairman



**WEST AFRICA NEWS****Mali's junta leader presents new constitution project**

In order to promote Mali's new draft constitution, Colonel Assimi Goita, head of the country's junta, meets with religious leaders, politicians and civil society. "It is now up to you to make this work your own. Above all, you are expected to disseminate it widely and explain it to the population" he says to the crowd, adding "Maliens in all parts of our country and abroad need to be informed about the developments and progress of the draft constitution," he said. This Constitution is the starting point of the vast reform project initiated by the transitional authorities in Mali for the return to civilian power.

"We must work together so that the Malian people, with full knowledge of the facts, take ownership of the draft constitution and adopt it by a large majority. We will then have taken a decisive step in the process of rebuilding our state," added Colonel Assimi Goita.

The referendum for its adoption



was previously scheduled to be held on March 19, but since Friday March 10, the authorities have announced its postponement to a later date arguing there is a delay in the distribution of new biometric identity cards and that the National electoral body wasn't fully operational.  
<https://www.africanews.com>

## Ghana commemorates 53rd Anniversary of International Organisation of La Francophonie



Ghana on Monday commemorated the 53rd Anniversary of the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) with a flaghoisting ceremony at the forecourt of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration in Accra.

Madam Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration hoisted the flag of Ghana, while that of the OIF was hoisted by Mr Maher Kheir, the Ambassador of Lebanon to Ghana and President of the La Francophone Ambassadors Group.

The Francophonie is an institution, dedicated since 1970 to promoting the French language and political, educational, economic, and cultural cooperation among the 88 member countries of the OIF.

This year, Ghana has taken the commemoration of the Francophonie Week a step higher to enhance the visibility of La Francophonie in Ghana.

The week-long celebration is from 18th March to 25th March.

Speaking at the flaghoisting ceremony, Madam Ayorkor Botchwey on behalf of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, and the Government and People of Ghana, extended felicitations to Madam Louise Mushikiwabo, the Secretary General of La Francophonie and her staff for their hard work in moving the Organisation forward despite the numerous global challenges and political crises that had beset the Francophone space.

The Minister congratulated her, especially for her able leadership, which had invigorated the Organisation to provide adequate responses to the myriad 21st Century challenges facing humanity ranging from security, environmental, technological, and digital revolution to gender equality issues.

She said Ghana applauded the flagship projects that she had initiated to enhance the visibility and relevance of the organisation, "La Francophonie avec elle" which was a poverty alleviation initiative to assist women in distress situations.

Adding that it was a worthy cause

which Ghana supported and made modest contributions to the seed fund.

"I hope the fund grows and serves more women in the French speaking world in this difficult post- COVID era," Madam Ayorkor Botchwey said.

She said the Youth Development programmes aimed at involving the youth in governance issues as well as the Francophone games were laudable programmes that would change the narrative of the Francophone world, if well implemented.

On the founding fathers of the OIF, she said as Africans, it was with extreme pride that they paid tribute to the founding fathers of this all-important Organisation, which was born on 20th March 1970, exactly 53 years ago by four Heads of State, three of whom were Africans and one Asian.

She said the International Organisation of La Francophonie boasted of 88 Member States and other Non-State Actors, thanks to the visionary leadership of President Léopold Sédar Senghor of Senegal, President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia, President Hamani Diori of Niger, and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, "King Father" of Cambodia.

"Our delight in belonging to this robust Organisation founded on such noble principles as the promotion of the French language, cultural and linguistic diversity, the promotion of peace, democracy and human rights, which are at the core of our constitution, cannot be over emphasised," she said.

<https://www.ghanabusinessnews.com>



# LONG LIST

## Tuesday 28/03 & Wednesday 29/03

Set 17277

Fix No.	Sales Close	Competition	Home Team	Away Team	Normal		Handicap [0:1]		Handicap [1:0]		First Half Result		Second Half Result		Wire 1.5		Wire 2.5		Wire 3.5		Half With Most Goals		Odd or Even?		Draw No Bet									
					1 (1)	X (3)	2 (2)	1 (4)	X (6)	2 (5)	1 (7)	X (9)	2 (8)	1 (10)	X (12)	2 (11)	1 (13)	X (15)	2 (14)	1 (16)	2 (17)	1 (18)	2 (19)	1 (20)	2 (21)	1 (22)	X (24)	2 (23)	O (25)	X (26)	1 (27)	No (28)	2 (29)	3 (30)
1	3/28/2023 8:25	FIFA Friendly	AUSTRALIA	EQUADOR	2.21	2.93	2.54	4.50	3.70	1.46	1.35	3.95	5.40	2.95	1.94	3.30	2.55	2.31	2.90	2.55	1.27	1.56	1.86	1.19	2.95	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.68	1.71	1.59	1.81
2	3/28/2023 9:55	FIFA Friendly	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	THAILAND	1.60	3.22	3.91	2.80	3.30	1.93	1.15	4.90	9.40	2.21	2.04	4.60	1.95	2.43	4.10	2.70	1.23	1.64	1.76	1.22	2.75	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.72	1.67	1.23	2.70
3	3/28/2023 10:15	FIFA Friendly	JAPAN	COLOMBIA	2.08	2.88	2.78	4.10	3.65	1.52	1.29	4.20	6.00	2.75	1.97	3.45	2.43	2.32	3.05	2.85	1.25	1.59	1.82	1.20	2.85	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.65	1.75	1.50	1.95
4	3/28/2023 10:55	FIFA Friendly	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	URUGUAY	2.08	2.98	2.69	4.10	3.60	1.52	1.31	4.00	5.80	2.80	1.94	3.45	2.45	2.33	3.00	2.55	1.27	1.56	1.86	1.19	2.95	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.69	1.70	1.52	1.91
5	3/28/2023 11:25	Turkey 2	BOLUSPOR	SAMSUNSPOR	3.61	3.32	1.76	7.60	4.70	1.20	1.79	3.50	3.00	4.30	2.17	2.41	3.85	2.60	2.15	3.25	1.22	1.82	1.72	1.31	2.70	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.67	1.92	2.55	1.33
6	3/28/2023 12:55	African Cup of Nations	ESWATINI	CAPE VERDE	4.01	3.22	1.71	9.60	4.60	1.16	1.84	3.20	3.05	5.00	1.99	2.47	4.40	2.41	2.14	2.55	1.36	1.53	2.11	1.17	3.60	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	2.01	1.61	2.75	1.27
7	3/28/2023 12:55	African Cup of Nations	NAMIBIA	CAMEROON	4.01	3.13	1.73	9.60	4.60	1.16	1.81	3.25	3.15	4.90	1.98	2.48	4.40	2.38	2.17	2.50	1.37	1.51	2.13	1.17	3.65	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	2.00	1.61	2.75	1.28
8	3/28/2023 12:55	African Cup of Nations	MALAWI	EGYPT	4.89	3.32	1.54	12.00	5.00	1.11	2.07	3.10	2.65	5.80	2.02	2.25	5.20	2.44	1.97	2.55	1.37	1.53	2.11	1.17	3.60	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	2.12	1.54	3.25	1.19
9	3/28/2023 12:55	African Cup of Nations	BOTSWANA	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	2.54	2.78	2.54	5.60	3.70	1.37	1.37	3.70	5.60	3.50	1.85	3.50	3.05	2.22	3.05	2.27	1.45	1.41	2.38	1.12	4.10	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	2.03	1.60	1.74	1.74
10	3/28/2023 13:25	FIFA Friendly	JORDAN	PHILIPPINES	1.21	4.30	7.62	1.77	3.35	3.15	-	6.20	18.00	1.68	2.31	7.40	1.49	2.80	7.20	3.10	1.17	1.83	1.57	1.31	2.39	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.96	1.50	1.05	4.40
11	3/28/2023 13:25	FIFA Friendly	INDONESIA	BURUNDI	1.80	3.03	3.27	3.40	3.45	1.68	1.22	4.40	7.40	2.50	1.97	3.95	2.19	2.34	3.50	2.60	1.26	1.57	1.84	1.20	2.90	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.70	1.69	1.36	2.25
12	3/28/2023 13:55	Turkey 2	ALTINKORDU	DENIZLISPOR	1.88	3.27	3.27	3.25	3.55	1.70	1.23	4.50	7.00	2.55	2.13	4.00	2.26	2.55	3.65	3.10	1.24	1.77	1.77	1.29	2.85	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.68	1.90	1.38	2.34
13	3/28/2023 13:55	Turkey 2	PENDIKSIPOR	ANKARA KEDIRENGUCU	1.74	3.22	3.42	3.25	3.50	1.71	1.21	4.50	7.40	2.50	2.11	4.20	2.24	2.55	3.70	3.05	1.25	1.73	1.81	1.27	2.90	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.71	1.86	1.36	2.40
14	3/28/2023 13:55	Czech Rep 3	FRYDLANT MAD OSTRAVICI	SLOVAN ROSICE	4.69	3.76	1.42	10.00	5.40	1.11	2.28	3.50	2.20	4.90	2.29	1.92	4.60	2.70	1.72	3.35	1.13	1.98	1.48	1.39	2.18	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.58	1.83	3.20	1.15
15	3/28/2023 14:55	FIFA Friendly	ARMENIA	CYPRUS	1.85	3.08	3.13	3.45	3.45	1.66	1.24	4.40	7.00	2.55	1.99	3.85	2.21	2.37	3.40	2.65	1.24	1.60	1.80	1.21	2.85	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.67	1.72	1.38	2.19
16	3/28/2023 14:55	Holland, Women	ZWOLLE W	PSV EINDHOVEN W	5.86	4.40	1.26	12.00	6.20	1.07	2.85	3.70	1.79	5.00	2.20	1.90	4.75	2.50	1.75	4.00	1.08	1.27	1.32	1.59	1.82	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.52	1.91	3.85	1.09
17	3/28/2023 15:25	Germany Amateur	DIK VILZING	BURGHAEUSER	2.49	3.13	2.14	5.00	4.10	1.36	1.49	3.80	4.10	3.15	2.08	2.75	2.80	2.47	2.46	3.00	1.18	1.78	1.62	1.29	2.46	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.52	1.92	1.82	1.58
18	3/28/2023 15:25	Germany Amateur	FC PIPINSRIED	NUREMBERG II	3.47	3.37	1.66	7.40	4.80	1.19	1.85	3.55	2.80	3.95	2.19	2.22	3.60	2.60	1.98	3.25	1.15	1.91	1.52	1.36	2.25	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.51	1.94	2.48	1.29
19	3/28/2023 15:25	Germany Amateur	EICHSSTATT	HANNOFEN-HAILING	1.47	3.57	4.40	2.39	3.40	2.15	1.12	5.20	10.00	2.02	2.17	4.90	1.79	2.60	4.40	3.05	1.18	1.60	1.60	1.30	2.43	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.66	1.74	1.18	3.05
20	3/28/2023 15:55	FIFA Friendly	SAUDI ARABIA	BOLIVIA	1.44	3.42	5.08	2.41	3.15	2.23	1.10	5.20	13.00	2.03	2.03	5.60	1.79	2.42	5.00	2.55	1.27	1.57	1.84	1.19	2.93	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.92	1.52	1.14	3.30
21	3/28/2023 15:55	African Cup of Nations	LIBERIA	SOUTH AFRICA	2.98	2.93	2.12	6.60	4.10	1.28	1.53	3.50	4.20	3.90	1.94	2.95	3.40	2.34	2.55	2.50	1.37	1.51	2.14	1.17	3.65	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.90	1.69	2.06	1.51
22	3/28/2023 15:55	Euro Qual.	GEORGIA	NORWAY	3.13	3.03	2.01	7.00	4.20	1.25	1.59	3.45	3.85	4.00	1.98	2.80	3.55	2.38	2.46	2.60	1.34	1.55	2.06	1.19	3.50	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.86	1.71	2.17	1.45
23	3/28/2023 16:55	Germany Amateur	FC ROT-WEISS ERFURT	FSV LUCKENWALDE	1.49	3.52	4.30	2.44	3.40	2.11	1.13	5.20	9.80	2.05	2.17	4.70	1.82	2.60	4.30	3.05	1.17	1.81	1.59	1.30	2.42	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.64	1.76	1.19	2.95
24	3/28/2023 16:55	Germany Amateur	STEINBACH 1921	VFR WORMATIA 08 WORMS	1.21	4.40	7.62	1.75	3.40	3.15	-	6.20	18.00	1.67	2.34	7.40	1.48	2.80	7.00	3.15	1.16	1.87	1.55	1.33	2.33	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.92	1.52	1.05	4.30
25	3/28/2023 17:25	France National	NANCY	CONCARNEAU	2.69	2.83	2.37	5.80	3.90	1.33	1.42	3.70	4.90	3.55	1.93	3.20	3.15	2.29	2.80	2.48	1.38	1.49	2.17	1.16	3.70	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.89	1.69	1.85	1.64
26	3/28/2023 17:25	France National	PARIS 13 ATHLETIC	RED STAR	3.42	3.03	1.91	7.60	4.40	1.22	1.65	3.45	3.50	4.20	2.01	2.65	3.75	2.40	2.34	2.70	1.32	1.59	2.00	1.20	3.35	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.83	1.74	2.33	1.39
27	3/28/2023 17:55	FIFA Friendly	UZBEKISTAN	VENEZUELA	2.54	2.83	2.26	5.60	3.90	1.35	1.44	3.70	4.70	3.30	1.90	3.00	2.90	2.26	2.62	2.44	1.30	1.50	1.95	1.16	3.15	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.73	1.66	1.79	1.61
28	3/28/2023 18:40	England National League	ALTRINCHAM	NOTTS COUNTY	5.08	4.20	1.41	10.00	5.80	1.10	2.40	3.60	2.05	5.20	2.55	1.91	5.00	3.05	1.72	4.30	1.11	2.35	1.42	1.56	2.04	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.56	2.09	3.55	1.15
29	3/28/2023 18:40	Euro Qual.	SCOTLAND	SPAIN	4.69	3.37	1.57	11.00	5.00	1.12	2.02	3.25	2.65	5.40	2.10	2.23	4.80	2.50	1.98	2.80	1.29	1.64	1.93	1.22	3.20	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.93	1.66	3.10	1.20
30	3/28/2023 18:40	Euro Qual.	TURKIYE	CROATIA	2.88	3.03	2.12	6.40	4.10	1.28	1.55	3.50	4.00	3.80	1.99	2.90	3.35	2.41	2.55	2.65	1.32	1.58	2.01	1.20	3.40	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.82	1.75	2.06	1.51
31	3/28/2023 18:40	Euro Qual.	WALES	LATVIA	1.15	5.28	11.72	1.58	3.45	3.90	-	6.40	23.00	1.62	2.50	10.00	1.44	3.15	10.00	3.45	1.19	1.95	1.62	1.36	2.55	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	2.36	1.44	-	5.60
32	3/28/2023 18:40	Euro Qual.	SWITZERLAND	ISRAEL	1.29	4.40	7.03	1.85	3.45	2.85	1.05	6.00	15.00	1.79	2.45	7.00	1.60	3.00	6.80	3.65	1.17	2.02	1.57	1.40	2.40	3.00</								



Bake some festive treats this Christmas!

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

Ready, Steady, Bake!

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

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**Padi**  
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Spaghetti Jollof. You can use Padi items to cook it and it will taste delicious. Promise!

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

ARE YOU  
TEAM KETCHUP OR TEAM MAYO

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You Padi na kitchen

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Proudly made in Sierra Leone

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

Padi, sharing is caring

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

Mama Mia!

Padi Spaghetti, strands of deliciousness!

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

Daddy you are my best Padi!

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

Spread the love!

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

I followed my heart and it led me to the kitchen.

**Padi**

Truly Natural & Healthy

Padi Premium Black Tea  
Finest Ceylon Blend

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen



## John Keister reacts to Leone Stars' first Afcon qualifiers win



Sierra Leone head coach, John Keister, has lauded his team for an improved performance after their 2-0 win over Sao Tome as they revived their hopes of qualifying to the 2023 TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations.

Following a poor display from last week's 2-2 draw where they twice came from behind to pick a point against Sao Tome, coach Keister and boys needed the all three points in Agadir last Sunday.

"I felt we did very well today. In the first half we set up really well because Sao Tome is not a bad side. We had to change a few things around the first leg and we started better compared to the first match. The message to the boys was very clear that if we could start this first half the way we played the second half last weekend, we stood a chance," Keister told CAF online.

Sunday's win moved Sierra Leone to five points and stays in third place in Group A, as they look forward to their next two matches against Nigeria at home and Guinea Bissau away.

Goals from Abubakar Samura and Alhassan Koroma were enough for Leone Stars to secure maximum points and it all started just seven minutes into the game when Samura powered the ball home from inside the box after Mustapha Bundu nodded down a freekick from the left.

Bundu almost doubled the tally on the quarter hour mark when he found some shooting space on the right, but the effort came off the outside of the post.

They eventually doubled their lead after 27 minutes when Koroma struck a long range shot on his left foot, the venomous strike slipping under the keeper's arms.

In the second half, Sao Tome came back stronger and pushed to get back into the game. They however couldn't hit the target and the closest they came was when Hernane Spirito picked out a cutback just outside the six yard area but blew his shot over.

Sao Tome's hopes of qualification are now almost blown as they sit bottom of the group with a single point.

# "Grandpa" Kei Kamara makes more MLS history for Chicago Fire FC

Chicago Fire FC's Kei Kamara has been scoring goals since his current head coach, Ezra Hendrickson, was still his teammate on the Columbus Crew.

That was in 2006 and 2007, when Hendrickson was a towering veteran defender and Kamara was just a burgeoning striker out of Cal State Dominguez Hills trying to make name for himself in MLS.

Fast forward more than a decade-and-a-half, and Kamara is the same hungry goalscorer he always was, now banging in his 140th goal in MLS (third all-time) in the 92nd minute of Chicago's dramatic 3-2 road victory over Inter Miami CF, the Fire's first win of the 2023 season.

"Kei did tonight what he's been doing for quite some time now. If [Brian] Guti[érrez] got that ball to him, he would put it in the back of the net," said Hendrickson. "He's a guy that I trust. He's a guy that I've known for a long time now."

Kamara was a bit chagrined to be reminded of the full length of his career but is nevertheless thrilled to be playing for his old teammate.

"I think it's not good for me to play for

somebody that I played with because the guys call me grandpa in the locker room. That's really bad," joked Kamara, who's now scored for 10 MLS clubs. "But it's something I followed. ... And I believed in him all these years, so I was really happy, even last season, I was happy that he was the leader of the team here."

Kamara joined the Fire just before the 2023 season after publicly requesting a trade away from CF Montréal, where he enjoyed a resurgent 2022 campaign, tallying 9g/7a for the Canadian side.

Beyond adding a proven goal-scorer to a squad that recorded 12 shutouts but still failed to make the Audi MLS Cup Playoffs last season, Hendrickson is happy to have another veteran leader in the locker room.

"He's been good for us on and off the field," remarked Hendrickson.

"He's an older guy, but we know what he gives us. He's still fit and he's going to bring a lot to this team, this organization," the coach continued.

More than scoring a goal, Kamara was happy Chicago's young squad closed out a game with a win after giving up a



2-0 lead to find themselves tied 2-2 late in the second half, the second time they'd squandered a lead in four matches this season.

"It was really about how we played the past three games and not being able to close it out and get a win," said Kamara. "So it felt so much bigger than me scoring that goal for the rest of us because it gives us a lot of beliefs that we've been working on, obviously, since I've been here for the past three, four weeks now that is paying off."

The veteran striker, who scored his goal off an assist from Chicago's 19-year-old homegrown Gutierrez, has full faith in the team's youth, even if he prefers to keep his praise close to the chest for now.

"I hope they don't hear this interview, but I can see so much of the heart that they do have and everybody wants to prove something," extolled Kamara, who's five behind Landon Donovan (145) in the all-time goals chart. "And it's great. It's really great." Credit: MLS