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ALSO INSIDE

Chief Iman, 4 others in court over alleged malicious damage



Norwegian investor duped \$1.3million: Escapes kidnapping allegedly orchestrated by SLPP MP

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

SLeCAD trains Agribusiness Companies, SMEs, and Cooperatives on advocacy skills



Morlen Tronstad, a Norwegian mining engineer and investor, has narrated to journalists how he narrowly escaped kidnapping and subsequent death after he was allegedly duped by his Norwegian brother in cohort with Hon. Alusine Kanneh, all of Barvunra Mining Company operating at Ngrima Town in the Kailahun District.

But Hon. Alusine Kanneh, denied the claim of conniving to kidnap the investor, stating that he was never at the scene where the scuffle took place.



Cont Page 2

Morlen Tronstad is asking for justice

CONTRIBUTORS

FEMINISM
VOICES FROM BEHIND THE SCENES - VOL. 1
A compilation of the experiences of women in Sierra Leone

Novel
BOOK LAUNCH

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Groundbreaking SL Feminist Anthology Vol. One is Set to Launch

Labour Ministry launches SOS-USA, Canada work-study fair

Parliament okays Kono maternal centre agreement

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LOCAL NEWS

With support from the International Trade Centre (ITC) through its West Africa Competitiveness Project (WACOMP), the Sierra Leone Chamber of Agribusiness Development (SLeCAD) on the 22nd to 24th February, 2023, conducted three-day training for 30 Agribusiness Companies, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Cooperatives on advocacy skills and public private dialogue.

The training was hosted at the Royal Hotel, Magbroka Road in Makeni and participants were drawn from Kono, Tonkolili, Port Loko, Kambia, Bombali, Western Area Urban and Rural district.

The objective of the training was to build on the advocacy and lobbying capacities of existing cooperatives, SMEs, Agribusiness companies and sector associations to improve on the Business Environment and Trade Integration for the Cocoa, Cassava and Palm Oil value chains in Sierra Leone. ITC has been working in close

SLeCAD trains Agribusiness Companies, SMEs, and Cooperatives on advocacy skills



SLeCAD's Executive Secretary addressing participants



A group photo of participants at the training

cooperation with SLeCAD, an organization with long standing expertise and broad membership in the agribusiness and agriculture sectors in Sierra Leone and around the globe.

The activity relates to providing support to key institutions like SLeCAD in the provision of services to their members and engagement in

effective policy dialogue with the government on sensitive topics for farmers, producers and exporters including access to inputs, product inspection rules.

In his opening statement, SLeCAD Executive Secretary, Ahmed Nanoh welcomed participants to the training session and encouraged them to use the session as an opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in advocacy, to ensure the improvement of the business environment and trade integration for cocoa, cassava, and oil palm that are key commodities for export for S/Leone that will create jobs and wealth, reduce poverty and enhance economic growth in support of the Government New Direction Agenda.

He said the business environment has a lot of challenges and redtapes in the government corridors and that it needs high-level advocacy skills of the agribusiness value chains operators to unlock the Agribusiness and Agro-industrial potentials for the betterment of S/Leone.

"This could only change if the private sector continues to engage the public sector to bring the desired changed," he stated.

He encouraged participants not to mix politics with business as it will always end to be a defunct business, adding that the agribusiness sector is the largest private sector in the country and if properly managed it would be able to create the needed jobs for the youths, and women in S/Leone where there will be no need for the citizens of S/Leone go for greener pasture overseas.

He said should Sierra Leone manage the agriculture sector well the country will be one of the best economies in the sub-region, but that could only be achieved through advocacy and public private dialogue.

He further emphasised that the training will also provide the introduction to the principles and key functions of trade-related advocacy and policy dialogue, shares practical examples on how trade-related advocacy and policy dialogue can contribute to improve livelihoods and performances of your members and

clients, improve on participant skills to discuss key linkages between domestic business environment and international trade agreements, help to address opportunities and challenges for Sierra Leone's businesses in the agricultural sector.

Siaka Kawa, ITC WACOMP National Coordinator, commended the effort of SLeCAD in advocacy and confirmed that ITC finds it vital to partner with SLeCAD to champion the training of agribusiness private sector companies, SMEs and Cooperative in the cocoa, cassava and oil palm to improve on the business environment especially in the area of export promotion and trade integration that will help the Sierra Leone economy to grow and reduce poverty.

He said ITC was excited to support the training since it will unlock the potential of the agriculture sector and promote internal and regional trade key to the economic growth of every country. He encourages the participants to be focused and take the training seriously to enhance their business growth through improved business environment.

Fatmata Baby Sankoh, Coordinator for Kalamerrah Women's Farmers Association, thanked ITC, EU, UNIDO and SLeCAD for offering the Agribusiness Companies, SMEs and Cooperatives the opportunity to be trained in advocacy skills to enhance the improvement of the business environment that promote agribusiness growth.

She said she is coordinating over 1,500 farmers producing Palm, but stated that the value of Sierra Leone palm oil in the world market has drastically fallen due to poor quality and lack of improve processing materials. She said that there has been non check and balances in the supervision and regulation of the palm oil sector and making the country to lose huge foreign currency that currently negatively impacting on the depreciation of the Leones against the US dollar. She concluded by encouraging all agribusiness private sector players to work with the Chamber head by Ahmed Nanoh to improve on advocacy and make their business competitive and profitable.

Norwegian investor duped \$1.3million: Escapes kidnapping allegedly orchestrated by SLPP MP

From Cover

Trostad, who was telling his story to journalists at Radison Blu Hotel in Freetown, said he came in contact with his counterparts through a Norwegian Newspaper-the Financial Times, which had advertised an investment opportunity in Barvunra, a Norwegian mining company with subsidiary in Sierra Leone.

He said the call on the said advert was for the company to expand to large scale mining.

"I decided to invest into the mining and deposited the sum of \$ 1.3 million into the company's account in Oslo, Norway which account for 35% shares in the company. When I travelled to Sierra Leone in mid-October, I realized that the company was operating on a small scale gold mining in Salema Village, Penguia Chiefdom in Kailahun District," he said.

He added that he asked several questions around the operations of the company but couldn't get answers from his counterparts who kept giving him hope that they will acquire license to operate on a large scale.

The Norwegian investor explained that he was approached by several Sierra Leoneans who disclosed to him that he had been scammed and that it would not be possible for Barvunra to be granted large scale mining license, since a certain company named Majestic had been granted license to undertake large-scale mining operations in the community.

Tronstad said he then requested to leave the company so that his



investment could be reimbursed, but that he faced a stiff resistance from his partners.

Following the said development, Tronstad said he took one of his machines-the dumper to a safer place while the excavators remained at the site of Barvunra company.

He claimed that he was hoisted by three Operational Support Division Police personnel who he said were ordered by Hon. Alusine Kanneh representing Constituency 013 in Kenema, who is a shareholder of Barvunra company.

He said the police allegedly manhandled him and even threatened to take away his phone, adding that he was constantly threatened with death but was later rescued by a certain Paramount Chief in the chiefdom.

He said several attempts were made by his compatriot and Kanneh to get rid of him by armed police, but he was on each occasion being rescued by people.

Speaking to journalists in Freetown, Morlen Tronstad called on authorities to help him get justice.



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LOCAL NEWS

Groundbreaking SL Feminist Anthology Vol. One is Set to Launch

Sierra Leone is about to witness a historic event on March 31st, 2023, as a feminist anthology titled "Feminism: Voices from Sierra Leone" is set to launch.

This anthology, which has been long-awaited by the people of Sierra Leone, is a collection of stories and experiences from some of the most brilliant feminist minds in the country.

The anthology features eight pieces from Sierra Leonean feminists who have poured out their hearts on a wide range of issues such as gender-based violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation, and the role of women in politics and leadership positions. This is a significant milestone for the feminist movement in Sierra Leone, as it has never before been given such a platform to express its views and experiences.

The launch event, which will take

place virtually, promises to be of inspiration and celebration to the feminist movement in the country and beyond.

The guest speaker list includes renowned feminist activists, human rights advocates, and literary icons, Naasu Fofanah and Naffisatu Mustapha. Participants are welcome to the event as there will be some discussions on the importance of elevating the voices of women in Sierra Leone.

The editors of the anthology are thrilled about the launch and are hoping that it will spark a national conversation on feminism and gender equality in Sierra Leone.

They believe that the anthology will not only showcase the talent and creativity of Sierra Leonean feminists but also inspire others to join the movement and work towards achieving gender equality.

"The launch of "Feminism: Voices from Sierra Leone" is a significant

CONTRIBUTORS



FEMINISM

VOICES FROM SIERRA LEONE - VOL.1
A Compilation of the Experiences of
Feminists in Sierra Leone

Virtual
BOOK LAUNCH
31st March, 2023



Compiled and Edited by
Makalay S. Sonda, Theriyeh Karama-Neneh
and Claudine Hingston

Chief Iman, 4 others in court over alleged malicious damage

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

Chief Iman, Abdul Karim Kanu and four others have made their second appearance before Magistrate Sahr Kekura at the Ross Road Court No.1 in Freetown for allegedly maliciously damaging and throwing missiles at Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Mohamed Lamin Sankoh's.

The incident occurred on Sunday, 5th September 2021, at Kontolloh, Wellington in Freetown.

The accused are facing three count charges of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, throwing missiles, and trespass contrary to the laws of Sierra Leone.

Police alleged that the accused, on Sunday 5th September 2021, at Hill Top, Kuntolloh, Wellington in Freetown, assaulted Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Mohamed Lamin Sankoh in a manner thereby causing him grievous bodily harm.

Police also alleged that the accused were found throwing missiles at the complainant's.

Police added that the accused, on the aforesaid date and address in Freetown, maliciously damaged a window panel, valued one hundred Leones (NLe100), five zinc sheets valued five hundred Leones (NLe500),

all to the total sum of six hundred Leones (NLe600).

During the last hearing, police prosecutor, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Osman M. Bangura, commenced prosecuting, but requested for an adjournment date, noting that he wanted to have proper conference with his witness. Magistrate Kekura granted the application.

During Tuesday's hearing, ASP Osman M. Bangura told the Bench that even though the witness had earlier stated that the incident occurred on 28th September 2021, he was now going by the date on the face of the file-Sunday 5th September, 2021.

On the other hand, Defence Counsel, M. Fomba objected.

Lawyer Fomba disclosed that a change in the date will undermine their case and mentioned that the accused are before the court on a specific day.

He added that the mentioning of another date will be prejudicial and has the tendency to the probate value of the evidence.

In his response, ASP requested for an adjournment date and assure that he will put his house in order.

Magistrate Kekura granted the application and adjourned the matter to the 3rd April 2023 for further hearing.

step towards amplifying the voices of Sierra Leonean feminists and bringing attention to the struggles that women face in the country. It is a call to action for everyone to work towards creating

a more just and equitable society for all." said Dr. Claudine Hingston an editor and a contributor to the anthology.

For more information, please contact theriyehk94@gmail.com

3 put on bail for alleged theft

By Mohamed J Kargbo

Adama Bangura and two others made another appearance before Magistrate Peter Gogra of the Pademba Road Court No:6 in Freetown on two count charges of conspiracy to commit a felony and larceny contrary to the laws of Sierra Leone.

The indictment was read out to the accused persons by the court registrar and they pleaded not guilty.

It was alleged that, on March 3rd, 2023, at the Wharf Supermarket, 57 Sir Samuel Lewis, Road Aberdeen in Freetown, the accused conspired together with other persons unknown to commit a felony to wit larceny.

It was further alleged that, at the above mentioned place and date, the accused persons stole one carton five kilogram China Rice, two cartoon noodles, and one cartoon Aux standing fan, all valued the um of six thousand, four hundred Leones (LE6,400), property of one Inie Jia.

The prosecution led in a witness in court, Inie Jia, who doubles as the complainant in the case.

He testified that he recognized the accused person who was working for him and recalled on the above date when he went to the casino around 5am.

He said at that time he was approached by the police officer at the checkpoint along Aberdeen who gave him information and showed him photos from their phone and later went to the police check point where he identified the stolen items to be his own.

He further testified that the accused persons were in custody at the police station and that he later made statement at the Aberdeen Police Station.

The defence counsel cross examined the witness and later applied for bail for the accused persons and the magistrate granted them.

He granted them bail in the sum of twenty million Leones with two sureties and that the sureties should be residents in the Western Area and they must also produce valid identity cards depicting their addresses in Freetown.

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LOCAL NEWS Labour Ministry launches SOS-USA, Canada work-study fair

By Yusufu S. Bangura

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security has on Tuesday, March 28, launched the SOS-USA, Canada work-study fair, which provides students the opportunity to study in the United States and Canada.

The launching ceremony took place at the Ministry's conference room, New England Ville in Freetown.

The work-study is a component of the ministry's transfer to transform project which was launched in 2021.

Speaking during the launching ceremony, Managing Director of SOS-Global Investment Company, Umaru Jalloh said the company is one of the licensed overseas recruitment agencies in Sierra Leone that offers overseas employment facilities for Sierra Leonean students.

He said they also have a study work program with EduCo for students to do their masters in the United States and Canada.

He continued that the program is a five-year program, but that after the two-year master course, an individual would work for three years for him to pay back the loan, adding that their main role is to provide pre-school scholarship for students.

Jalloh said should someone wants to apply for the master's program he or she must have the necessary requirement like bachelor's degree with 3.5 grade point, duolingo test, combined bank statements, submission of transcripts, among others.

He further stated that interested applicants should pay a token of 499.00 USD to be qualified for the program.

He said the program provides opportunity for students to go and study science, technology, engineering and mathematics, adding that this year they have also added sport management into the course for Sierra Leoneans that have the intention to study sport management and multimedia.

"As we are speaking now we have 11 Sierra Leonean students that are currently pursuing their studies in the United States of America, some went to study business analyses, nursing. I want Sierra Leoneans to grab this opportunity that the Ministry of Labour through SOS-Global investment have launched today because it is a one-time facility," he said.

While launching the program, Minister of Labour and Social Security, Alpha O. Timbo said the mandate of the ministry is to develop and administer Labour and Social Security regulations and policies and maintain cordial industrial relations among operatives in the labour market.

"As a minister, together with my deputy and team we have a responsibility to develop and implement policies and programmes relating to employment creation, promotion of occupational safety and health at work places and provide social security. Part of the mandate of the ministry is to encourage and support labour migration," he said.

Minister Timbo further stated that one of their core functions is to interview potential non-Sierra Leoneans who intend to come and work in the country, but that they are required to follow the labour laws.

He said for Sierra Leone, labour migration is not a new phenomenon because when he assumed office he witnessed when the labour migration policy was launched, so they had the labour migration policy but that it was not operational because a ban was imposed on people not to go and work overseas.

He said the ban gave Sierra Leoneans reasons to travel illegally and found themselves in various countries where they are faced with several challenges.

He added that after several meetings with the government the ban on labour migration was lifted in 2021, and embarked on the process of instituting the legal framework for them to ensure



Minister of Labour officially launching the company

that they facilitate Sierra Leoneans who intend to work overseas because they are allowing foreigners to come and work in the country.

He further said that after the ban was lifted, the CEO of SOS-Global investment, A.K Ocansey decided to come and assist the ministry by developing systems and structures for them to promote labour migration hence later developed the Transfer to Transform Project.

"The Transfer to Transform Project contains three components and one among them is providing jobs for Sierra Leoneans that fall within the semi-skilled and skill occupation like drivers, carpenters among others. As I speak now, the number of jobs that have been made available for Sierra Leoneans to go and work overseas is more than 10, 000, but we have not completed the framework for us to be able to make more professionally," he said.

He added that the second component is the work-study program which provides opportunity for Sierra Leoneans who had the necessary

qualification, but cannot afford the means to go and pursue their studies because of their financial statuses, to travel overseas and study.

He encouraged students to apply for loans which would help them to pursue their master's up to PHD level.

He continued that the third component has to deal with the diaspora element of labour migration which would give him the opportunity to meet with the Sierra Leone Ambassador to USA to introduce the diaspora element to him because they have Sierra Leoneans in the USA that have completed their programs and still want to further their studies.

"I want to encourage Sierra Leoneans to apply for licensed agencies for them to have access to good jobs. As we launch this company today we now have close to 15 licensed overseas recruitment agencies which we have accepted and registered based on criterial. We have also entered into agreement with several countries for Sierra Leoneans to be allowed to go and do their work," he said.

By Jariatu S. Bangura

Members of Parliament have ratified the Memorandum of Understanding for the Maternal Centre of Excellence in Kono district signed between the Government of Sierra Leone and Partners in Health Sierra Leone (PIH) Limited Liability Company.

In her presentation before the ratification, Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation, Princess Dugba, said PIH is a United States Limited Liability Corporation registered in Sierra Leone and the purpose of the Memorandum is to adhere to both parties related to the programming, operation and management of the Koidu government hospital, including the construction, operation and management of the maternity centre of excellence.

Parliament okays Kono maternal centre agreement

She said it is a shared commitment to rebuild a resilient responsive health system and progressively achieve a universal health coverage targeting Sierra Leone.

She said the ministry acknowledges PIH operations in the country and that the ministry was committed to working with them collaboratively and coordinately in furtherance of the purpose of the MOU.

She said they will create a framework through which the ministry and PIH will establish a commitment with respect to the funding, operation and management of the health facility.

Coalition for Change (C4C) Member of Parliament, Hon. Musa Fofanah said the essence of the project was to adhere to the global response and that the government was trying to make

sure that they strengthen the health systems.

He said government was trying to align in improving the health sector as during the Ebola regime PIH was around helping the country whilst others were busy folding up their support towards saving lives.

He assured that the people of Kono will embrace the project for the benefit of all.

For Hon. Hassan Sesay, he said they should bear in mind that quality care deserves quality money, stating that ensuring better health care requires enough money and that people should be encouraged to invest in the sector without any hesitation.

He said the agreement is good for the people of Sierra Leone and that it was but good that it be ratified.

He said a number of times people go to Kono to extract diamond from the land and that it is good to think about changing the narrative of bringing developmental programs to the place as Kono has been mutilated for far too long.

"For far too long, Kono has been mutilated, it high time good things are taken to the East. We want the government, partners and all stakeholders to believe that project of such nature will be ratified to improve the health sector of the country," he noted.

Acting Leader of Government Business, Hon Bashiru Silikie, said government has provided good things for Kono and commended the financier for the support.



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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Burkina Faso: Civil society concerned after cases of "forced recruitment"



Military personnel stand in front of the country's defence force headquarters ... - Copyright © africanews AHMED OUBA/AFP

A group of civil society organisations in Burkina Faso have expressed concern over cases of "abduction" and "forced recruitment" of citizens as army auxiliaries in the fight against jihadism, and denounced the "recurrent and systematic denial of freedom of opinion".

The Burkinabe Movement for Human and Peoples' Rights (MBDHP) "learned with dismay of the kidnapping and forced enlistment of Boukaré Ouédraogo, president of the "Appel de Kaya" movement, as a VDP. (Volunteers for the Defence of the Homeland, civilian auxiliaries to the army)", which occurred on 22 March, the organisation wrote in a statement sent to AFP on Wednesday.

Another organisation, the Collective against Impunity and Stigmatisation of Communities (CISC), confirmed the abduction and recruitment in a separate statement. According to the MBDHP, Ouédraogo went last Wednesday "to the residence of the governor of the Centre-North to meet the transitional president Ibrahim Traoré", who was visiting Kaya, the capital of the region, the MBDHP explained, citing witnesses.

For the CISC, the arrest of Boukaré Ouédraogo is linked to a press conference a few days earlier where he had questioned President Traoré, who came to power in a

putsch at the end of September, about the security situation in the region.

The two organisations denounced an "arbitrary arrest" and called for the immediate release of Mr Ouédraogo while deploring the "current trend of recurrent and systematic denial of citizens' freedom of opinion and expression".

On Saturday, during a meeting with citizens of Kaya, Captain Ibrahim Traoré admitted having ordered the enlistment of a citizen - without naming him -, accusing him of having divulged information that led to the attack on a "nerve centre" near the town that left at least fourteen dead, including four soldiers.

"By their (his) fault, men fell. We made him understand and we hired him immediately to be a PMV. And so it will be with all those who are not capable of defending the country," he said to the cheers of the audience.

According to other civil society organisations, on Saturday, two of their representatives were also arrested and registered as VDPs after criticising the management of the transition at a press conference. Since 2015, Burkina has been caught in a spiral of violence perpetrated by jihadist groups linked to the Islamic State and al-Qaeda, which has left a total of 10,000 civilians and soldiers dead, according to NGOs, and some two million displaced.

Top 10 African countries with the most millionaires



Polo players walk their horses during training at Inanda Country Club in Johannesburg, ... - Copyright © africanews THEMBA HADEBE/AP2004

The African continent currently holds investable wealth worth USD 2.4 trillion, and according to the recently published 2023 Africa Wealth Report by Henley & Partners in collaboration with New World Wealth, the population of millionaires is expected to increase by 42% over the next 10 years. The report indicates that Africa's 'Big 5' wealth markets, namely South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya, and Morocco, together make up 56% of the continent's high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) and over 90% of its billionaires.

As of now, the continent is home to 138,000 HNWIs with a wealth of USD 1 million or more, along with 328 centi-millionaires valued at USD 100 million or more and 23 US dollar billionaires.

Despite a challenging past decade, South Africa still has twice as many HNWIs as any other African country and accounts for an impressive 30% of the continent's centi-millionaires.

Egypt has the highest number of billionaires in Africa,

while Mauritius has by far the highest wealth per capita (average wealth per person) at USD 37,500, followed by South Africa at USD 10,880 and Namibia at USD 10,050.

The report indicates that Africa's wealth market is growing steadily, offering opportunities for investors, entrepreneurs, and businesses looking to expand their operations in the region.

List of African countries with the most millionaires:

1. South Africa (37,800)
2. Egypt (16,100)
3. Nigeria (9,800)
4. Kenya (7,700)
5. Morocco (5,800)
6. Mauritius (4,900)
7. Algeria (2,800)
8. Ethiopia (2,700)
9. Ghana (2,600)
10. Tanzania (2,400)

Gabonese student killed in Turkey

The death of a Gabonese student in Turkey, confirmed by her embassy and her university, provokes strong emotion among the African students welcomed in increasing numbers in the country.

The body of the young woman, 18-year-old Jeannah Danys Dinabongho Ibouanga, was found on Saturday in a river near a railway line, not far from the University of Karabük (north) where she was studying mechanical engineering, report Turkish media.

According to initial findings, the young woman died "drowned" and no other injuries or traces of sexual violence were identified.

The exact cause of death should be specified after an autopsy, the report of which is expected "in the coming days", indicates the private channel NTV.

Contacted by AFP, the Gabonese embassy in Ankara confirmed the death of the young woman on Wednesday, without further details but promising that she "will communicate later".

The Gabonese Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed, in a press release read on Gabonese television, its "dismay and deep concern (after) the assassination of our compatriot", specifying that its representation in Turkey had received instructions from demand an autopsy and the opening of a judicial inquiry into this tragedy.

The rector of Karabük University published a message of condolence on the establishment's website, in Turkish and French, assuring that the young woman was "much loved by her friends and professors".

On Twitter, the hashtag #JusticepourDina spread



Photo: An ambulance on the Istiklal pedestrian avenue in Istanbul, 13 November 2022 - Copyright © africanews Can Ozer/AP

among African students at her university, several dozen of whom demonstrated on the premises of the establishment, brandishing portraits of the victim.

In a voicemail, billed on Twitter as a call from 'Dina' to her mother, the crying student pleaded with her mother to let her go to Sakarya University, less than two hours' drive east from Istanbul: "There is no racism there", said the young woman.

Turkey, whose President Recep Tayyip Erdogan deploys intense diplomatic and economic activity in Africa, welcomes more than 61,000 students from the continent (compared to 40,000 in 2019), most of them benefiting from scholarships, indicated Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Cavusoglu visited South Africa last month, according to his remarks reported by the official Anadolu agency.

The minister then underlined that Ankara saw in education "the main axis of cooperation with the continent".

Nigeria's outgoing president recommends pay rises

In Nigeria, the outgoing government of President Buhari recommended that the new administration of President-elect Bola Tinubu give civil servants pay rises.

Behind the announcement is the long-delayed removal of a fuel subsidy planned for last year.

Many Nigerians regard subsidized fuel as one of the

few benefits provided by the government which fails to deliver in terms of power and security despite receiving billions of dollars every year from oil exports. The call from the outgoing president piles pressure on the new president-elect to deliver on what was a campaign promise.

Pirates hijack oil tanker, capture 16 crewmembers in Gulf of Guinea



Photo Credit: Nigerian Navy Special Forces board a ship in the ... - Copyright © africanews Sunday Alamba/Copyright 2019 The AP

A Danish tanker flying the Liberian flag was attacked by pirates off Congo-Brazzaville in the Gulf of Guinea and contact was lost for three days with the crew of 16 sailors, its owner announced on Tuesday. During this attack, which took place on Saturday evening 138 nautical miles west of the port of Pointe-Noire, in international waters, pirates were able to board the Monjasa Reformer and "the entire crew put themselves in security in the citadel" (armored refuge, editor's note) of the ship, indicated the shipowner Monjasa.

No communication with the sailors of this maritime supply vessel, 134 m long and with a capacity of 13,700 tonnes, has taken place since the company said in a press release. According to Congolese authorities, three men attacked the boat, which was in the area to supply ships with fuel. "It was three men who took him hostage and since then the crew can no longer be reached," said a Pointe-Noire port official contacted by AFP.

Taken hostage

The shipowner confirmed that he had not heard from him since Saturday evening, without being able to say whether or not the crew had been taken, hostage. "Communications are currently cut off and we are working with local authorities to establish communication and understand the situation on board," the statement said.

At the time of the incident, reported at 2239 GMT, the ship was immobilized with 16 crew members on board, according to Monjasa.

Contacted by AFP, the shipowner, which employs 568 people around the world, said it had no additional information to communicate, in particular on the nationalities of the sailors. According to the Danish press, they are not nationals of the Nordic country.

A "missing ship notice" has been issued for passing boats to report to us if they encounter it," Noel Choong, head of the International Maritime Bureau's (IMB) piracy reporting centre, told AFP, in Malaysia. "We encourage coastal

authorities with resources to help us. We need regional cooperation," he added.

Global piracy

A crucial maritime route bordering hydrocarbon-rich countries, the Gulf of Guinea, which stretches 5,700 km between Senegal and Angola, was for several years the new black spot of global piracy. But the attacks have dropped recently thanks to the joint efforts of coastal countries and European states.

In June, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution strongly condemning acts of piracy, armed robbery and hostage-taking in the region. This hijacking took place further south, in an area not usually

attacked by pirates.

"It's worrying because it's rare in this area compared to the Gulf of Guinea, for example, where many ship hijackings take place every year," said Rida Lyammouri, a researcher at the Policy Center for the New South, a think tank based in Morocco.

"Hopefully we are not seeing a new trend and this is just an isolated incident. It could also be explained by the tightening of security measures in the Gulf of Guinea and the pirates are looking for new areas of operation," he added.

Merchant navy

Denmark, a major merchant navy power via its giant Maersk, notably sent a frigate in the fall of 2021. The mission was marked by a shootout with suspected pirates that claimed the lives of five of them.

In 2022, only about 20 skirmishes were recorded in the Gulf of Guinea, according to the Maritime Information Cooperation & Awareness Center. There had been 52 in 2021 and 115 in 2020, according to the maritime security expertise body based in Brest in France, which saw it as an "encouraging" example.

Since the beginning of the year, two attacks have been reported in the area, the last on March 2, according to the BMI. The Monjasa Reformer affair shows that "piracy problems off the west coast of Africa are far from being resolved", the Danish Shipowners Association said on Tuesday.

Nigerian thugs

With the war in Ukraine, "we fully understand (...) that Denmark's naval military capability is needed elsewhere", she added. But, according to her, the countries with ships in the region, European "in particular, should coordinate their presence more, in order to cover this vast area as well as possible".

Most of the attacks in recent years have been carried out by Nigerian thugs attacking ships in fast boats. Some have captured larger fishing vessels which they use as bases for their speedboats to raid further out to sea.

Credit: africanews with AP

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WEST AFRICA NEWS

Nearly 600 Former Boko Haram Militants Graduate From Nigeria Rehab

Nigerian authorities say a rehabilitation program for former Boko Haram sect fighters is helping weaken the group's fighting power. Nearly 600 fighters graduated from the program over the weekend and tendered a public apology for their actions. Authorities say they will be reintegrated into society, but experts are warning of possible relapse. The former Boko Haram fighters dressed in white simultaneously and echoed an oath of allegiance to Nigeria during a graduation ceremony Saturday at the De-radicalization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (DRR) camp in northern Gombe state.

They're the latest batch of voluntary defectors from the sect to undergo the six-month physical, mental and psychosocial rehabilitation program tagged Operation Safe Corridor.

Nigerian authorities started the safe exit program in July 2016 as a strategy to degrade the fighting power of terror groups like Boko Haram.

Program coordinator Uche Nnabuihe spoke to Lagos-based television during the ceremony.

"Based on the therapeutic interventions these sets of clients have undergone, they're better citizens from when they initially arrived at the DRR camp and accordingly are certified fit for

graduation and subsequent reintegration to their respective communities," Nnabuihe said.

Authorities said three of the graduates are from Niger and one from Chad, while the rest are Nigerians mostly from Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, Zamfara, Niger and Nassarawa states.

The former fighters offered a public apology and promised to embrace peace in their respective communities.

Security analyst Senator Iroegbu said in theory the program could help but warns there could be relapses.

"Repentance is a thing of the mind," Iroegbu said. "Someone can pretend to have repented because the conditions to

express himself otherwise are not there. This is a controversial program in many facets. There'll always be resistance to it. What has been the impact? Has it been able to stop more recruitment?"

Authorities say thousands of repentant Boko Haram members have been freed since 2019 and that they have become productive members of society.

But in 2021, Borno State Governor Babagana Zulum called for a review of the program, saying ex-Boko Haram members spy on communities and then rejoin the group.

Local communities in Borno, which is the epicenter of the Boko Haram insurgency, have also questioned the



program.

Vivian Bellonwu, founder of Social Action Nigeria, explained why.

"It appears rehabilitation attention has mostly been focused on the rebels themselves, whereas the communities also suffered very far-reaching trauma," Bellonwu said. "And they are actually supposed to undergo psychological, psychosocial rehabilitation. And I have not seen this sufficiently being done for them."

Bellonwu said it will not be easy for the former fighters to be accepted back into the communities they once harmed.

"These are communities that have been abducted en masse, Bellonwu said. "Their women have been raped. Some of

the children have watched their parents being slaughtered by these elements. These kinds of things have a way of having a lasting impact in the minds of the victims. How do you expect them to forget?"

Boko Haram has been fighting to create an Islamic caliphate in northern Nigeria since 2009. The violence has led to tens of thousands of deaths and spilled over into neighboring Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

On Sunday, Nigerian defense authorities said some 51,000 Boko Haram militants and their families surrendered to Nigerian forces between July 2021 and May 2022.

<https://www.voanews.com>

Kamala Harris begins Africa tour, announces security aid in Ghana



The United States will provide \$100m to Ghana and four other West African countries to help them deal with instability and violence from armed groups, Vice President Kamala Harris says during a visit to Ghana.

Harris was in Accra on Monday at the start of a weeklong, three-nation African tour, the latest in a series of visits by senior US officials as Washington seeks to counter growing Chinese and Russian influence on the continent.

"President [Joe] Biden and I have made clear the United States is strengthening our partnerships across the continent of Africa," Harris said during a joint news conference

with Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo.

China has invested heavily in Africa in the past two decades, particularly in infrastructure, mining, timber and fishing while Russia's private military contractor Wagner Group is providing security assistance in several countries.

Akufo-Addo, who alleged in December that its embattled neighbour Burkina Faso had hired the mercenaries, reiterated that he was concerned about Wagner's presence in West Africa.

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

Several countries across West Africa and the Sahel region have been struggling to quell violence by armed groups that have caused humanitarian disasters and fuelled discontent, which contributed to military coups in Mali and Burkina Faso.

"We appreciate your leadership in response to recent democratic backsliding in West Africa," Harris told Akufo-Addo.

"To help address the threats of violent extremism and instability, today I am pleased to announce \$100m in support of Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo," she said.

That money is in addition to \$139m in assistance that the US intends to provide Ghana in the 2024 fiscal year, according to Harris's office.

Harris was asked during the news conference whether she would be promoting LGBT rights during her tour, including in Ghana where a bill that would severely restrict those rights is going through parliament.

"I have raised this issue," Harris said, adding that she felt very strongly about supporting freedom and equality for all people and that LGBT rights were a human rights issue.

Ghana's draft bill would make it a crime to be gay, bisexual or transgender. Gay sex is already

punishable by up to three years in prison under Ghanaian law although no one has been prosecuted in years.

The new bill would lengthen jail terms and force people to undergo "conversion therapy", practises intended to change their sexual orientation. Parliament held public hearings on the bill starting in 2021. It is unclear when it will be put to a vote.

Akufo-Addo responded to a question about the bill from a US reporter by saying that it was not official government policy but rather had been put forward by legislators acting in a private capacity.

He also said the attorney general had submitted opinions to a parliamentary committee about "the constitutionality or otherwise of several of its provisions".

"My understanding ... is that substantial elements of the bill have already been modified as a result of the intervention of the attorney general," he said without giving details.

"I have no doubt that the parliament of Ghana will show as it has done in the past ... its sensitivity to human rights issues as well as to the feelings of our population and will come out with a responsible response to the proposed legislation," the president said.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news>



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Guild of Editors - Sierra Leone

C/O MRCG 145 Circular Road, Freetown.
 Email: editorsguild94@gmail.com Mob:+23276653596

Public Notice Increase in Advert Pricing for Newspapers

24th 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, 3rd 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

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Call for applications for International Master's Programme in Energy and Green Hydrogen

Photovoltaic and system analysis for green hydrogen technologies, University of Abdou Moumouni-Niger.

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Economics/policies/infrastructures and green hydrogen technology, University of Cheikh Anta Diop - Senegal.

Bioenergy/Biofuels and Green Hydrogen Technology, University of Lome - Togo.

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PRESS RELEASE
INCREASE IN COST OF RADIO COMMERCIALS
 Mile 91 Town, 25th 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, 18th 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 1st 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



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) is an international non-profit NGO based in Los Angeles, California, USA. AHF operates across 45 countries worldwide and has 1.7M+ patients in care, the majority of these being in Africa. AHF Africa comprises 13 country programs. AHF collaborates with the Governments of these countries through Ministries /Departments of Health (MoH) to provide cutting edge medicine and free HIV and AIDS services, including antiretroviral therapy in resource constrained settings. AHF is registered in Sierra Leone as AHF-Sierra Leone, offers services on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care services in collaboration with the Government of Sierra Leone and other stakeholders.

The organisation now seeks to hire a highly competent, dynamic, and experienced persons to fill the positions below.

FINANCE OFFICER

This position is based at the Administrative Office in Freetown. The Finance Officer will be responsible for the day to day finance and accounting function of AHF-Sierra Leone. This function will be executed by ensuring proper documentation, timely preparation of payment vouchers, timely dispatch of cheques/EFT confirmation to staff/vendors, timely submission of accurate accountabilities, management of fund and adherence to AHF policies and procedures. The position will also involve working closely with the accounting firm to make sure that partner advances, staff and travel advances are tracked and liquidated on time for month end reports. The holder of this position will perform among others the following duties.

- Ensure the implementation and adherence to AHF global finance policies and procedures. Participates in the review of policies and procedures as the need arises.
- Receive and reviews all financial documents and prepares requisition forms, payment vouchers and all supporting documents.
- Ensure that all vouchers are approved by the respective authorities and ensures timely submission of accountabilities as per the AHF policy & procedures.
- Receive/Record all accountabilities and cash refunds received from staff/partners. Deposit all cash refunds in AHF bank accounts.
- Review monthly partners expense reports in line with budgets and supports financial discipline in the utilization of funds.
- Maintain proper filing system for all financial documents by recording/entering all disbursements and receipts transactions in the accounting records.
- Prepare monthly cash call in collaboration with CD.
- Administer petty cash in accordance with AHF policies and procedures and never allow float to fall lower than the approved thresholds.
- Be the country focal person in communicating the finance global policies and procedures and any circulars from Africa bureau office and HQ.
- Together with managers, facilitates processes to identify areas of concern and improvement related to finance operations.

Qualifications and Experience:

- University degree in Accounting or Commerce; and part qualification of any professional course ACCA, CPA, CAT, is a MUST.
- Minimum of 3 years working experience with an international NGO. Experience working in healthcare delivery systems or related field is an added advantage.
- Excellent computer skills especially excel spreadsheets and Ms. Word. Experience in usage of any accounting software.

COMMUNITY HEALTH OFFICER

This position is based at Jenner Wright Clinic, Freetown. The Community Health Officer (CHO) is a combination of leadership and clinical care position. S/He manages resources building and maintaining strategic partnerships, reporting and ensuring highest standards of care. Ultimately this role entails day-to-day operations, quality assurance and decision-making in liaison with appropriate team members under supervision of medical officers.

- Provide technical and clinical care to patients in need of services in an ambulatory setting.
- Review history and examines patient to determine general physical condition.
- Request or performs various tests, analyses, and diagnostic images to provide information on patient's condition.
- Responsible for the timely updates of patient charts. New patients require complete History & Physical examination with generation of a problem list and course of action. Follow-up patients require generation of progress notes and additions, if applicable, to the problem list.
- Analyze reports and findings of tests and examination, and diagnoses condition.
- Complete and document treatment drugs.
- Provide the client/s with adequate information related to the diagnosis, the condition being treated and course of action.
- Refer patients to medical specialists or other practitioners for specialized treatment.
- Complete medical records and referrals for clients in need of hospital admission, specialized treatment and transfers to other health facilities.
- Participate in training activities, mentorship and supervision of other staff.
- In conjunction with other team members participates in clinical team and quality of care meetings and interventions.
- Compiling and submitting periodic reports.
- Lead a team of Nurses, Lab Technicians and MCH nurses in the delivery of quality prevention, treatment and care service within a health facility.

Qualifications:

- Diploma in Clinical Medicine and Community Health from a recognized institution
- Certificate in ART management would be an advantage
- At least 3 years experience in a busy Health facility
- Computer literate

DATA ENTRY CLERKS (4)

These positions are based at the Connaught, Waterloo, Kallahun and Makeni Clinics. The Data Entry Clerk (DEC) is responsible for the entry of clinic records into available medical records systems. This job entails ensuring that the records are accurately collected, collated, cleaned, updated and reports generated in a timely manner. DEC will also work closely with other clinic staff in responding to data needs in the clinic. The holder of this position will perform among others the following duties.

- Periodically generate and submit quality reports to the Data Manager
- Conduct preliminary interviews/counseling for ART to selected clients so to assess client's immediate needs, including medical housing, mental health, transport, and other supportive services.
- Periodically reassess adherence level barriers and support. Make a record of findings as well as plans generated

during counseling.

- Facilitate monthly support groups for HIV/AIDS treatment information, treatment adherence, counseling, monitoring treatment follow up.
- Participate in data validation exercises.
- Assist when and where necessary in developing improved patient records management.
- Consult with supervisor(s) for troubleshooting database problems.
- Attend required data management trainings, CMEs, meetings and provides input to enhance data systems.
- Produce automated reports on request.
- Produce weekly/monthly data reports to be disseminated to the clinical team.
- Other duties may be assigned.

Qualifications and Experience:

- High school diploma or general education degree (GED); or
- One-year related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Computer literate

LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

This position is based at the Connaught Clinic. The Laboratory Technician in Sierra Leone provides laboratory oversight and ensures adherence to standard laboratory protocols in all program sites. S/he is involved in training, supports supervision, mentorship and team building exercises for laboratory staff S/he ensures that high quality of laboratory services is maintained. The holder of this position will perform among others the following duties.

- Participate in planning and oversight for the laboratory function.
- Oversee laboratory services provision and ensures standard and current practices are in place for maintaining high quality of services and maximizing the use of all resources.
- Ensure compliance and implementation of laboratory protocols and participates in the development and replication of the laboratory protocols and practices at all affiliated healthcare centers.
- Conduct quality control checks for all required lab tests for the program.
- Participate in training, mentorship and team building exercises for laboratory staff in the project.
- Participate in inventory control management for laboratory supplies and reagents under AHF-Sierra Leone for all project sites.
- Ensure the compilation of monthly laboratory inventory at the project sites.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Diploma in Medical Laboratory Sciences, Immunology and Parasitology or Medical Hematology from a recognized institution.
- At least 2 years experience in a busy Health facility
- Computer literate

NURSES (3)

These positions are based at the Bo, Kenema and Waterloo Clinics. The Nurse in Sierra Leone assist in the daily running of the clinic to ensure patients get quality and timely care in line with AHF and Sierra Leone Government standards. S/He may act as a team leader within the scope of the practice guidelines as dictated by the scope of practice of Nurses. The holder of this position will perform among others the following duties.

- The nurse assist and works with the clinical officer.
- Support of the community component of program including outreaches and mobilization for care and support.
- Organize follow up of clients who have defaulted treatment and care, leads and supports educational sessions
- Provide skilled nursing procedures (i.e dressing changes).
- Administer medication as ordered within the scope of practice of the licensee.
- Perform phlebotomy and/or initiates intravenous infusions as ordered (provided is certified).
- Provide patient and family education and reports significant changes in the patient's physical status to the clinician in-charge.
- Triage patients at clinic

Qualifications and Experience:

- Certificate in Nursing from a recognized institution
- Registered with Nursing Council of Sierra Leone
- Training in HIV management
- At least 2 years' experience in a busy Health facility
- At least 1 years' experience in a Comprehensive Care Clinic
- Computer literate

DRIVER

This position is based at the Makeni Clinic. The driver drives assigned personnel on official duties. S/He supports community outreaches so that the prevention and treatment efforts are scaled up and also provides logistical support to the administrative office and clinics in the northern Region.

- Drives safely and responsibly at all times, must be knowledgeable about, and comply with Government of Sierra Leone driving / traffic and parking rules & regulations.
- Driving assigned AHF personnel on official duties.
- Picks up, drops off, and delivers documents, quotes, invoices, financial reports, logistical requirements and for all AHF programs.
- Picks up and drops off AHF guests from/to the airport or from any other point of departure.
- Maintains vehicle logbook, accounting for all mileage and fuel consumption/ costs, minimizes fuel cost and does not permit anyone to drive the vehicle, unless authorized to do.
- Maintains cleanliness of the vehicle.
- Maintains vehicle in good mechanical order and completes and submits weekly log sheets to support this.
- Reports damages, abuse, repairs and arranges any replacements immediately with approval from the immediate supervisor. Does not undertake/order repairs without approval.
- Ensure that vehicle under his/her care is secured from loss or damage at all times.

Qualifications & Experience:

- Post elementary/secondary education,
- Valid driver's license with at least 5 years minimum working experience, 2 of which is with NGOs or international agencies in Sierra Leone

To be considered for this recruitment, please.

- Address your email application (Cover Letter and CV ONLY) to: globalhr.africa@aidhealth.org mentioning clearly Position and Location in the subject line. The email should not be larger than 2 MB - any larger email will not be considered.

Deadline: Thursday 6 April 2023 at 5:00pm

AIDS Healthcare Foundation is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Notice for Open Tender



INVITATION TO BID

Beneficiary country: Sierra Leone
Reference no: ITB/2023/46280

Description: Re-bid: Invitation To Bid (ITB) for the Provision of Legal Consultancy Services to enhancing energy access through mini-grid and stand alone systems in Sierra Leone

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is looking for a qualified legal service provider that is capable of providing comprehensive legal advice and representation to the Ministry of Energy (MoE) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in relation to the implementation of proceedings and all contracts under the enhancing Sierra Leone Energy access Through Mini Grids and stand alone systems (ESLEAP) Project

The tender is posted on the United Nations Global MarketPlace (UNGM) under reference Number ITB/2023/46280 and is accessible through: <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/196222>. Interested legal service providers must submit bids by and following the instructions stated in the ITB instructions.

Please be advised that UNOPS reserves the right to amend the documents at any time. Any amendments or clarifications will be posted on UNGM. We kindly ask you to check the site before submitting your bids.

Please note that no remuneration will be made to bidders for preparation and submission of bids. For companies not registered with the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM) it is mandatory to do so in order to be able to do business with UNOPS. The United Nations Global marketplace is a database of active and potential suppliers available to all UN and World Bank procurement personnel, and is the main supplier database of more than 20 UN organizations. To register go to www.ungm.org, click on "REGISTER NOW" or on Registration drop down and select "Register as Supplier".

In addition please refer to the link below for the user guide on how to register on UNGM and submit your bid <https://esourcing.unops.org/#/Help/Guides>

The tender has been published through UNGM on **29 March 2023** and the deadline for Bid Submission will be on **10th April 2023 at 12:00 UTC (12.00 PM Sierra Leone time)**.

Kindly note a virtual pre-bid meeting will be held on 3 April 2023; Time: at 2:00 PM (Sierra Leone Time) using the Meeting link: <https://meet.google.com/exd-bets-sdb?authuser=0> and you are required to confirm your participation 24 hrs before the meeting by sending an email to: amareg@unops.org; olubunmit@unops.org

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 is 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.

Communicate World Vision's Christian ethos and demonstrate a quality of spiritual life that is an example to others.

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.

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 31st, 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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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: 3rd 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 no later than **3rd April 2023**
- Queries to this call for proposals can be submitted via email to 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, 3rd 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. 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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JT Kamara to miss Ljungskile SK opener against Åtvidaberg



Newly acquired Ljungskile SK attacking midfielder, John Thomas Kamara, is set to miss Swedish Division 1 league opener at home against Åtvidaberg in the Uddevalla Arena.

According to LSK coach Erik Lund Fahlén, the 21-year-old who signed years deal, couldn't see his debut for the club delay due to work permit.

"It is incredibly exciting that "JT" is joining the team. A joker, who can stir the pot. We would like to thank all the supporters who participated and contributed. Together we make a big difference and you are worth your weight in gold."

"As it takes time with the work permit, unfortunately he will not play in the first match, but we hope he can be ready to play soon. I personally also want to give a big thank you to the LSK FANS collection that made this signing possible," he said.

John Thomas Kamara had a test session with LSK for a couple of weeks and was very impressive especially not only with the coaching staff, but also the audience on site.

For LSK, the Sierra Leonean winger when in action always stands out from the crowd with technique, talent on the ball and coolness.

Kamara joined the Swedish club from AIK Freetong in Sierra Leone and has found a home in a linking role between midfield and attack in LSK's formation during the pre-season.

"It feels fantastically fun that "JT" is ready for Ljungskile SK. He is a player with extreme one-on-one skills and a nice touch," Fahlén said.

John Thomas Kamara signed for AIK Freetong in January this year as a free agent after his contract with US based club Columbus Crew 2 expired on the 31st December 2022.

AIK Freetong upon signing the player in January facilitated the return of his ITC from the US Soccer Federation to the Sierra Leone Football Association.

Kamara who has plied his football trade in the United States from February 2021 to December 2022 playing for Louisville City, North Carolina FC and then Columbus Crew 2 is an exciting talent to watch with his quick feet and dribbling skills.

He represented Sierra Leone in the U20, U23 and Senior Category, most recently featured in a double header U23 fixture between Sierra Leone and Zambia. Kamara was also part of the Leone Stars squad that played in a friendly match against Algeria B in UAE in November 2022.

Cricket: Rwanda defeats Sierra Leone by 5 wickets

Sierra Leone Women's cricket team suffered their second defeat in three matches after losing their Wednesday's tie against Rwanda by 5 wickets.

The Lady Patriots won the toss and opted to bat with skipper Fatu Pessima, scoring 12 runs from 34 balls not out. Both Fatu Kamara and Zainab Kamara scored eight runs each as Sierra Leone finished with 56 runs for 10 in 19.1 overs with Belyse Murekatete grabbed 4 wickets from 17 runs.

Rwanda replied with 57 for 5 in 9.1 overs, thanks to Henriette Ishimwe, who led the team as top scorer with 17 runs followed by Gisele Ishimwe with 12 runs.

Sierra Leone's Alice Fillie took 3 wickets from 19 runs conceded.

Meanwhile, in day two of the fixture, Sierra Leone, who were beaten by Nigeria on Monday, recorded their first win of the tournament against Ghana by picking up a seven wickets win after a tough battle.

Both teams sought their first wins going into the game, but it was the Lady Patriots who triumphed, having scored 68 runs for the loss of three wickets in 12.2 overs, while Ghana recorded 67 runs all out in 19.3 overs.

Sierra Leone also recorded the first six of the tournament against Ghana courtesy of Celina Bull's brilliant pull shot over mid-wicket which sent the stands into wild cheers.

"The strategy was to win. After our defeat to Nigeria on Monday, we talked it over and particularly worked on our bowling," Sierra Leone Fatumata Parkinson, said in her post-match presser.



RWANDA WOMEN WON BY 5 WICKETS

	56/10 (19.1 OV)	57/5 (9.1 OV)	
FATU PESSIMA	12* (34)	17 (13)	ISHIMWE HENRIETTE
ZAINAB KAMARA	8 (16)	12 (21)	GISELE ISHIMWE
ALICE FILLIE	2/15	4/17	BELISE MUREKATETE
JANET KOWA	1/9	2/9	VUMILYA MARGUERITTE

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