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# Ban on street rallies: PPRC says it was a 'unanimous decision', APC denies claim

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

registered political parties in Sierra Leone.

Bangura made the claim while briefing stakeholders during the 7th Multi-Stakeholders Elections Steering Committee Meeting held on March 30th at the conference room of Bintumani Hotel, Aberdeen, Freetown.

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Hon. Alusine Kanneh

## Over kidnapping, duping claims: SLPP MP vindicated

Chairman, Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC), Abdulai M. Bangura has confirmed that the proposal to ban on street rallies was 'unanimously' accepted by leaders of

## Promoting Democracy & Electoral Freedom project launched in S/Leone

## Juvenile gets 10-year imprisonment for manslaughter

## CSOs urge MPs to fast-track passing into law Child Rights Bill



High Court Building



A cross section of CSOs

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## PERSONAL GLIMPSES

By: Winstanley.R.Bankole. Johnson

# CLARITY IS KEY: NO AMBIGUITIES!!

Heartiest congratulations to the Sierra Leone Bar Association (SLBA) for yet another Annual General Meeting (AGA) convened between 17th and 18th March at the "Fabulous York Resort" in the Western Rural Village of York. Arising from those deliberations was a Presser purporting to support a "Declaration of Commitment" to their theme: "Promoting Free, Fair and Non-Violent Multi-Tier Elections on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

### Uncomfortable

I love the spirit of the "York Declaration", but feel very uncomfortable both with its presentation and the potential implicit ambiguities inherent therein and respectfully state as under some of the reasons for my discomforts:

1. For starters a "Declaration" of such critical import by a professional body like the SLBA was neither made on the Note Headed Paper of their "Association" nor even as an afterthought was it "embossed" with the Corporate Seal of the "Association" to promote its visual image/identity and "ownership".
  2. Though purported to have been born out of a unanimous "Resolution" by the SLBA, two other "Non-members of the Association" to wit: The Chairperson of the Electoral Commission Sierra Leone (ECSL) Mohammed K. Konneh and the President of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalist (SLAJ) Mr. Ahmed Sahid Nasrallah were also included among the "Declarants". That to my lay man's mind would appear untenable both in law and in fact, unless they were made to have signed the "Attendance Register" collated for that specific SLBA AGM as "Honorary Members of the Association" on the opening day. Otherwise the signatures of non-members of any organization or association cannot and should not be included as among the "Declarants" to any "Resolution" of any body corporate to which they do not hold regular memberships.
  3. All the other signatories to that "York Declaration" to wit: (a). The Hon. Chief Justice Babatunde Edwards; (b). The Political Parties Regulations Commission (PPRC) Chair A. M Bangura (c). The Secretary Generals of the two main political parties Messrs. Lansana Dumbuya and Umaru Napoleon Koroma respectively are all professional legal personalities, but even if they are members of the SLBA, their signatories on that "Declaration" are irregular because any "Declaration" borne out of "Resolutions" agreed at an AGA ought only to be signed off by designated signatories of the current executives, at least two of which should be that of the President and Secretary of the SLBA. Accordingly every other signature on that communicate was superfluous, unnecessary and a travesty – a distorted representation of the facts.
- Of course my take would have been totally different if the said "Declaration" was borne out of a Memorandum of Understanding" (MoU) emanating from a meeting of multiple interest groups including like for example: the two political parties (APC and SLPP), the Judiciary, the PPRC, SLAJ and ECSL. Then and only then would their signatories have sufficed and been acceptable as "Declarants" under this circumstance. But for the ECSL Chair and SLAJ (and even the others not in the "Executive" body of the SLBA to have appended their signatures to that "Declaration") and without any of those superfluous signatories been even designated as "Witnesses", I beg to differ. And I suppose it could well be that it was because the British High Commissioner Ms. Lisa Chesney shared my same discomforts that even though she was in attendance throughout that SLBA AGM, she did not sign it.
4. The thrust of the "York Declaration" by itself lacked flesh, as it omitted or was devoid of key words that are indicators complimentary to the conduct the upcoming Multi-Tiered Elections, and without which the SLBA could be restricted in their focus to just three criteria of them being "Free, Fair and Non-Violent". And those key operative words that were omitted in the SLBA "Declaration" are: "Credible; Transparent; Fully Participatory and Inclusive. This is the agreed way forward with all actors and our moral guarantors and without them

being included for keen focus, unforeseen and unbearable developments could likely crop up. But why the SLBA chose to omit those four key performance indicators in their "Declaration" beggars' belief.

What we (myself and the SLBA) cannot deny is that in the forthcoming elections it is "Transparency" (the strategic placements of local and international observers to monitor the processes countrywide) that will support their "Credibility". Also by the elections being "Fully Participatory" will guarantee that all those who made the effort to have "Registered" – irrespective of whether or not their names were among the 250,000 names deleted by the gerrymandering tactics of ECSL to reduce votes in the North-West – will definitely be allowed to cast their votes upon simple production of their Registration Certificates/Vouchers. And finally in much the same way that by the elections being "inclusive" will guarantee that the faces of all the Flag bearers of all the Registered Political Parties will appear on the ballot papers because in the eyes of the law, all accused persons are deemed innocent until they are proved guilty beyond all reasonable doubts.

### Eyelids

I do not know to what extent the "York Declaration" is binding or upon whom (if at all), given the fact that serious constitutional and Judicial aberrations have persisted in the last four years without either the SLBA or SLAJ batting their eyelids. Cases in point include but are not limited to:

- The egregious manner by which the Speaker of Parliament Dr. Abass Bundu was "elected" and how nine APC Parliamentarians were replaced by the Judiciary instead of constitutionally through bye-elections
- The equally egregious suspension of the substantive Director of the SL Law School Miss. Pamela O Davies almost five years ago and since which time no substantive replacement has been appointed, not to talk of the muteness or helplessness of the very SLBA each time law enforcement agencies randomly pick up their members like hawks do chicks even for expressing their own opinions of issues of public interests. They can't protect themselves in peace times, yet they want us to believe in their commitment to upholding electoral tenets and values from the safety of their hideouts on elections day which even the President and commander in Chief has clearly said he could not guarantee.
- The promulgation of a State of Emergency (SoE) and setting up of three (3) Commissions of Inquiries without the requisite Rules governing the SoE and those COIs and per Sec. 29 and Sec. 150 of our 1991 Constitution respectively
- Extra-judicial arrests, harassments, killings and burials including the upgrading of the corpses of citizens from "Terrorists" to warrant "Civic" burials with evidence of any written "Presidential Assent".

Add to all above the fact that the SLAJ by being a beneficiary of annual "Grants" from the Consolidated Revenue Funds the Association" has in recent times been factually downgraded itself to the status of a government agency and so cannot be expected to be biting the very hands feeding them. So in summary there's a lot left to be desired of the sincerity of both organizations when it comes to seriously prioritizing the interests of the citizenry.

I hope however that the SLBA will appreciate my reservations in good faith because in our kind of "toxic" (courtesy PPRC Chair citing inter-party vitrols) and volatile/insecure/polarized environment (courtesy HE President Bio, who has thought it wise to forewarn only his people in the South-East to be prepared to literally take the law into their own hands to defend themselves because he expects the security forces to be overstretched and unable to function efficiently during the elections), we cannot afford to overlook ambiguities and innuendos or small prints. Clarity is key and the SLBA would do well to re-construct and re-present their "York Declaration" taking full cognizance of inconsistencies and ambiguities highlighted.





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## LOCAL NEWS CSOs urge MPs to fast-track passing into law Child Rights Bill

**Y**outh and Child Advocacy Network (YACAN) Executive Director, Mr. Hassan Fuad Kanu has informed this medium that since February this year when the Minister of Social Welfare and Children's Affairs laid the Child Rights Bill in Parliament, for debate and eventual promulgation into law by Parliament, so far it has been encouraging, but more needs to be considered.

He highlighted the importance of the Bill, saying that it will protect children including (girls) from torture, degrading treatment, hazardous labour and early child marriage, adding that some of these undermine President Bio's Free Quality Education policy as the girl child would miss school once these things happen to her.

He added that in the area of violence, the Bill seeks to protect children from violence as it makes it incumbent on authorities not to include children in acts which have the propensity of leading or involving them into violent matters.



A cross section of CSOs

He used the opportunity to prevail on Members of Parliament to do all they can to debate the Bill and pass it into law as time is not on the side of children who suffer the brunt of these advantages which are detrimental to their safety, protection and well-being and which also prohibits children from being used as objects of torture.

It could be recalled that the

Parliament of Sierra Leone on Thursday, 23rd February, 2023, extensively debated the Bill entitled; "The Child Rights Act, 2022", and committed it to the Legislative Committee for further scrutiny.

This according to Mr. Fuad Kanu is not enough in itself because Members of Parliament had initially shown much interest in passing the Bill into law.

The Bill seeks to repeal and replace the Child Rights Act, 2007 (Act No.7 of 2007) and the Children and Young Persons Act, (Cap 44), to provide for the promotion of the rights of the child in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to provide for other related matters.

Presenting the Bill to the House then, the Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs, Manty Tarawallie, informed MPs that the objective of the Bill is to repeal and replace "The Child Rights Act of 2007". She informed the House that the Bill is divided into thirteen parts and went further to accentuate on the importance of the Bill towards the development and protection of the

child.

Various speakers debated and supported the Bill including Hon. Joseph Williams-Lamin, Hon. Charles Abdulai, Acting Leader of C4C, Hon. Musa Fofanah, Hon. Moses B. Jokie, an Independent MP from Kailahun District, Hon. Emilia Loloh Tongi, Hon. Sheku Muniru Turay, Hon. Sahr Charles, Hon. Dr. Abdulai Daniel Sesay, Hon. Neneh Lebbie and the Acting Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Hassan Sesay.

They individually and collectively commended the Minister and her officials for bringing the Bill before the House for enactment. "The issues of children should be paramount to the people of Sierra Leone" she said.

It is against this background that the YACAN Executive Director is making a passionate appeal to Parliament to consider passing the Bill into law if they really have the interests of Sierra Leone's children at heart and further called on MPs to be part of the deliberations when the Bill is submitted to the Legislative Committee for further discussion.

## Juvenile gets 10-year imprisonment for manslaughter

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay



High Court Building

**A** 14-years old Abdulai Sankoh Alias Ambosco (not his real name) was yesterday sentenced to ten-year imprisonment by Justice Costmotine Jarrett for manslaughter.

The convict was before the High Court on a count charge of murder contrary to the law of Sierra Leone. The State Counsel, Yusuf S. Kamara, alleges that the convict on the 15th of October, 2015 in Freetown, the convict murdered one Abdul Gbassay Kargbo.

The state Lawyer Yusuf S. Kamara made an application for the charge to be amended to manslaughter, which the court granted

After the charge was amended the

convict told the court that he wanted to change his initial not guilty plea to guilty.

Justice Costmotine Jarrett asked the clerk to read the charge again to the accused person, who later pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

The convict lawyer, Yusuf Kargbo, in his plea mitigation, stated that the convict has been in prison in October, 2015, noting that the convict is a young man, and being in prison has reformed him.

Justice Jarrett said because the accused didn't waste the court's time, he sentenced him to 10-year imprisonment for the offense of manslaughter including time spent on remand.

## Convict gets 24-month imprisonment for stealing 36 million

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

**J**ustice Alusine Sesay (JSC) has sentenced 35-year-old Alie Koroma to 24 month imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to have fraudulently converted 36 million Leones.

It was alleged that the convict on the 1st October, 2021, in the Western Area of Freetown, conspired together with other

persons unknown to fraudulently convert to his own use a certain property-Johnson Baby Lotion.

Justice Sesay, speaking yesterday while sentencing Alie Koroma, who pleaded guilty to fraudulent conversion charge, said because he was a first time offender and a promising young man, he decided to give him a minimal jail term.





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## LOCAL NEWS Over kidnapping, duping claims: SLPP MP vindicated

By Alusine Sesay

**M**orlen Tronstad he came in contact with his counterparts at Barvunra Company through a newspaper advert in Norway which had called for an investor to inject some cash and help expand the business 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.

**WHAT HAPPENED?** Morlen Tronstad, who is a mining engineer and investor, had earlier told 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.

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.

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.

**COMPLETE TWIST OF EVENT:** Trostad, who had earlier narrated his story to journalists and made several claims against the Member of Parliament, apologised to the MP at the entrance of the Criminal Investigations Department headquarters in Freetown, saying "Hon. Alusine Kanneh hasn't get anything to with my kidnapping. I feel sorry for whatever embarrassment my claim has brought to him. I hope the investigation will establish the fact around the issue."



For Hon. Kanneh, he felt pity for the Norwegian after he later found out that he had injected some money into the company without his knowledge.

"I have no idea about the 1.3 Million United States Dollars given by him to the company," he said.

Meanwhile, the matter is being investigated by the Criminal Investigations Department of the Sierra Leone Police.

## Promoting Democracy & Electoral Freedom project launched in S/Leone

By Yusufu S. Bangura

**A**s it barely left two months some days for Sierra Leoneans to go to the poll, Coalition for Inclusive and Peaceful Elections in Sierra Leone, which comprises Talking Drum Studio, Sierra Leone Association of Journalists and the Independent Radio Network, has launched the Promoting Democracy and Electoral Freedom in Sierra Leone project.

The official launch took place on Thursday 30th March 2023 at the New Brookfield's hotel, Jomo Kenyatta Road in Freetown.

Giving brief background about the project, National Director for Talking Drum Studio, Alpha Kamara, said the project is implemented by the coalition, adding that they have recently signed a six months elections peace promotion programme and voter education programme, to support peaceful electoral engagement and voter education before, during and after the June 2023 elections. He said the project will be implemented in eight districts out of the sixteen districts in the country through a combination of community-led peace promotion interventions and media programming for voter education.

Kamara said they are directly reaching an estimated 300,000 registered voters which represent 20% of all the registered voters in the 8 districts, including at least 50% of youth, women and Persons with Disabilities as well as key elections and democratic institutions.

Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone, Southern Region Commissioner, Edmond S. Alpha stated the project help Sierra Leoneans brace for the conduct of the presidential and general elections on the 24th June 2023.

"Let me state here publicly, that the current political environment is smeared with toxicity thus engaging the electorates especially at community levels will help build not only trust and confidence in the electoral processes



British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Lisa Chensney officially launching the project

undertaken by ECSL, but it will also motivate political interests among our people to participate in a peaceful and violence free environment," he said.

He said the commission has strengthened its policy objectives on inclusivity for meaningful participation of women, youth and PWDs, adding that the result framework of the project was timely and very significant in the current democratic dispensation.

While officially launching the project, British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Lisa Chensney said there must be a trust in ECSL and expressed the need for communication and dialogue between the electoral commission and the people.

She said as everyone knows Sierra Leone will conduct its 5th general elections since the end of the civil war in 2002 and will be the second election without direct UN oversight.

"The UK government will continue to work with partners in Sierra Leone to make sure that the people have free, fair and credible elections. We will make sure there is no political violence before, during and after the 2023 election," she said.

During the launching of the project, other key election stakeholders made statements.

## Ban on street rallies: PPRC says it was a 'unanimous decision', APC denies claim

From Cover

The PPRC boss said they have received supports from UNDP, ECOWAS, IDEA International and the National Democratic Institute for both institutional capacity building for PPRC and capacity building for political parties.

**WHAT HAPPENED?** On March 27, the leadership of registered political parties, Civil Society Organisations, the media and development partners met to discuss on campaign modes and nomination criteria for political parties ahead of June 24, 2023 elections where it was stated that political parties have agreed to have a ban on rallies. The recent development has generated mixed reactions among Sierra Leoneans, mostly the main opposition APC Party and its supporters.

**WHAT THEY SAID:** Mr. Bangura said leaders of registered political parties among several agreements, reached that ban be placed on "street rallies." He said political parties during campaign should converge with their members and supporters in a designated location.

However, the main opposition All People's Congress Party (APC) has vehemently

denied accepting the proposal by PPRC to have a ban on political rallies.

"The APC Party would not accept such proposal..., anytime we have campaign, we will organize rallies", Mohamed Kamara, Deputy Publicity Secretary of the APC told Concord Times through a telephone interview.

**THE BIGGER PICTURE:** Political rallies has been a norm in Sierra Leone, but currently the world has moved from the trend of organizing street rallies, where supporters of political parties would assemble, sing and dance on the streets, infringing on other citizens' right to move freely. Again, the right to assembly is a constitutional rights enshrined in the 1991 constitution of Sierra Leone.

**AND WHAT MORE:** Will the proposed ban on street rallies come into effect? Will the decision be challenged by the main opposition APC? Will the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party comply with by it? Political observers are keen on what happen in the coming days.





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**LOCAL NEWS**

By: Amadu Shaw-IEC Officer

**E**ffective public participation in environmental governance and management may not be easily attainable if members of the public lack the requisite understanding as to what environmental protection for sustainable development is all about. The Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone (EPA-SL) over the years established environmental clubs in various secondary schools across the country with the objective to serve as a conduit to reach out to young pupils and stimulate their interest in environmental management and sustainability.

The PRIC Deputy Director, Mrs Ramatu Massaquoi Led EPA Officials to Albert Academy As One of The Schools Visited

The clubs comprised of students and teachers that are usually engaged by EPA officials during school assemblies to educate them on environmental challenges.

For instance, last year, six secondary schools in the western area were visited and six has been visited this year with the aim to revamp and strengthen environmental education. This is one of the key mandate of the Agency to raise awareness and sensitize principal/Teacher coordinators and pupils on environmental issues

# EPA-SL engages environmental clubs in secondary schools

including Climate change.

Inter-schools quiz and debate competitions on issues with potential impact on the environment are often organised to impart the pupils with the requisite knowledge and to inspire them to serve as environmental ambassadors in the future. There is a moral proverb which says 'Catch Them Young', this discernable approach is used to transform the mind-set of the students to embark on significant environmental activities such as tree planting, waste disposal management, awareness raising, etc. within their respective schools and communities. The pupils will also be educated to play greater roles beyond the academic sphere in influencing their peer groups, parents and communities in promoting best practices thereby achieving a sound and sustainable environment.

Environmental education is not just about learning but comprehending the challenges confronting planet earth and to adopt a behavioral change. It is obvious that human inducements such as deforestation, carbon emission, improper waste



management, etc. have posed serious health and environmental threats to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13 (climate action), 14 (life below water) and 15 (life on land) respectively; however, many efforts have been integrated to mitigate and reduce the footprints of climate change which

has been a major concern in Sierra Leone and the wider world.

It is believed that if we nurture the school pupils and learn to protect the environment; understand the impact of our actions and work together, we shall achieve a sustainable environment adequate for the well-being of all Sierra Leoneans.

## Bike rider in court for sexual penetration

By Mohamed J Kargbo

**M**oses Abu, a commercial motorbike rider, made an appearance before Justice Komba Kamanda of the Freetown High Court No7 in Freetown for sexual penetration.

It was alleged that the accused on diverse dates between 1st to the 30th November, 2021, at Hamilton Village in Freetown, sexually abused a 12-year-old girl and threatened to kill her.

The accused is standing trial on one count charge of sexual penetration contrary to the laws of Sierra Leone.

Detective Police Constable 200067 Sulaiman Janneh, who testified in court said he stays at 13 Smith Street, Goderich in Freetown.

He told the court that he recognized

the accused standing in the dock and that on June 3rd, 2022, he was on duty at the Adonkia Police Station, when they handed over a case file of sexual penetration to him for further investigation.

He said the case file contained a medical report, witness statement and pictures of the crime scene.

The said medical report, together with other evidences, were shown in court, produced and tendered.

He told the court that himself and on Detective Sergeant 10048 Kamara A .went and obtained voluntary statement from the accused and was read and explained to him in Kiro.

He said the accused affixed his right hand thumb print to be true.

The matter was adjourned to April 4, 2023 for further hearings.

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

**Duration of the Activity:** 4 weeks

**Location:** Sierra Leone

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## 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: -

- 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.
- 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: -**

- 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.
- 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
- Institutional capacity to develop, implement and scale up the products
- 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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# UNEARTHING ACADEMIC FRAUD IN THE CIVIL AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF SIERRA LEONE

Summary and Policy Brief  
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE

HON. DR. KANDEH KOLLEH YUMKELLA  
CHAIRMAN

MARCH 2023



The proliferation of fake qualifications and academic fraud, in general, is a complex issue involving many actors and it has many drivers or causal factors at both local and global levels. The growing demand for degrees, certificates, and diplomas (for access to jobs, promotions, higher incomes, status and prestige, and political power) has led to what some researchers have called "credentialism or the credential society in which class, status and social mobility becomes intricately linked to possession of qualification. The advances in digital technologies and the internet in a globalized world have also led to a growth in "diploma mills" which are institutions selling or awarding bogus diplomas (and honorary doctorates) requiring no course work or "less than the minimum level of standard academic work" (Committee on Government Affairs, U.S. Senate 2004).

In March 2022 whistle-blowers exposed the acquisition of fake doctorate degrees by very prominent people in Sierra Leone. As a result, the Parliament of Sierra Leone established a Special Select Committee in April 2022 to, inter alia coordinate the Standing Committees to carry out certificate audits of public institutions, and to engage key stakeholders in the education sector to identify causes and determine solutions to the problem. In addition, the Special Select Committee engaged in a more systemic diagnostic approach paying keen attention to identifying structural issues around the academic infrastructure in the country. This was meant to not only understand the perennial and fundamental reasons influencing the proliferation of fake degrees in the country but also find suitable approaches to fixing the weaknesses in the system and infrastructure.

This report presents the initial findings of the Special Select Committee. We provide a general overview of the structure of the tertiary education system in Sierra Leone, recent Acts of Parliament that regulate the sector, and the procedures for accrediting institutions interested in awarding diplomas, certificates, and degrees. The report also presents the status of investigations and certificate audits carried out by various institutions since the fake degree scandal broke, the causal factors that enable the proliferation, and weaknesses in the current regulatory systems. Finally, the report presents recommendations, including improvements required in the policy and regulatory framework, and a plan of action to roll out robust reforms.

More importantly, the report demonstrates that the proliferation of fake qualifications is enabled by decades of prevailing political, governance, and management conditions. Its pervasiveness also reflects broader widespread corruption and erosion of societal values.

Therefore, solving the problem requires collaboration among policymakers, regulators, employers, managers of the academies, and a broader mobilization of the society at large to reject academic corruption. Hence, the Special Select Committee engaged in extensive and in-depth interviews and hearings across a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the education sector. Our approach was inclusive and participatory to enable key several actors to co-create a sustainable, robust, and effective regulatory environment to minimize the offer and acquisition of fake qualifications.

We express deep gratitude to the many stakeholders who met with the committee at the hearings held at Parliament, and others who provided written inputs or participated in virtual meetings. We greatly appreciated the collaboration and support of the Tertiary Education Commission, Conference of Vice Chancellors, and Principals. We commend the exemplary professional secretariat backstopping provided by the Centre for Strategy and Parliamentary Studies in the Parliament of Sierra Leone. We hope the Parliament and the Government will expeditiously implement the recommendations within the timeframe set out in the plan of action to restore the quality, validity, reliability, and integrity of our educational system.

Signed

Honourable Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, Ph.D

MP for Constituency 062

Chairman Parliamentary Special Select Committee

Plan of Action

Recommendations	Actions Required	Time Frame	Lead Institution(s)	Partner Institution(s)	Remarks
<b>Immediate Operational Actions</b>					
Robust Action Against Current Perpetrators.	Speed up investigations and prosecutions of Dominion, AGU, PGTI, etc.	March-May 2023	Sierra Leone Police and Judiciary	TEC, Ministry of Higher Education.	Lack of prosecutions.  One year after the scandal broke sends a signal of impunity and lack of commitment by the government.
	Outsource a competent body to complete ongoing audits in public institutions and punish perpetrators.	March-May 2023	Public Service Commission	MDAs, Ministry of Higher Education, Parastatals & Agencies.	
	TEC and universities to launch outreach activities on how to detect fake degrees and institutions.	March-May 2023	TEC	Tertiary Education Institutions	
Build the confidence of the public.	President to deliver a major statement on fake degrees	March-May 2023	State House	MTHE & TEC	
Launch Public Awareness Campaign.	Conference on Education, Moral and Value	August 2023	TEC, Conference of Vice Chancellors and Principals.	MTHE & MBSSE	
Publish list of graduates in university websites	All tertiary and higher institutions to immediately start the publication of list of qualified graduates for every year	Immediately	Conference of Vice Chancellors and Principals	Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)	
Institute Robust Lecturers/Teachers Recruitment Strategy	All tertiary and higher institutions inclusive of secondary & primary school teachers to take exams through computers and assessed on experience and behavioral competence	Immediately	Conference of Vice Chancellors and Principals/Private Institutions & Principals of Junior & Senior Schools	TEC, TSC, MBSSE & MTHE	
Digitization of academic records	All tertiary institutions embark on the digitization of all academic records, especially those dealing with grades, certificates and degrees.	Immediately	Public & Private Tertiary & Higher Institutions	NCTVA, TEC, TSC, MBSSE & MTHE	
	Explore Ongoing Opportunity of Using the MTHE Learning Management System (LMS) with linkages to other Universities Portal to Improve Digital Storage in Education Sector	April-July 2023	MTHE & MBSSE	NCTVA, TEC, TSC,	
<b>Short Term Operational Actions</b>					
Strengthening the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)	Increase budget to match responsibilities including verification and campus audits	Immediate Budget Process for Fiscal Year 2024	TEC Ministry of Finance	Parliament, Ministry of Technical and Higher Education	Discussion should start in August or earlier as part of the budget preparatory process.
	Parliament to table revised TEC Act including tough penalties for academic fraud	Sept. - Oct. 2023	MTHE & TEC	Parliament	Ministry of Higher Education to lay the revised Act in Parliament in Sept. / Oct. 2023
	Enhance staff capacity building	April 2023 and on-going	TEC	MTHE	TEC to determine skills requirements and consider best practices.
	Improve physical infrastructure and logistical capability for TEC. This should include:  1. Establishing the National Degree Verification and Registration Unit to verify and register all national and international qualifications	To be included in subsequent annual budgets	MTHE	MBSSE & Ministry of Finance	Ministry of Higher Education to consider requests already made by TEC.
<b>Medium Term Operational Actions</b>					
Institutional and Policy Reforms  Promulgate and implement several policy instruments already developed by TEC and the Conference of Principal	Increase budget to match responsibilities including verification and campus and online audits	Immediate Budget Process for Fiscal Year 2024	TEC, Ministry of Finance	MTHE & Parliament	Discussion should start in August or earlier as part of budget preparatory process.
	Strengthen regulations and punishment for academic fraud	Aug. 2023	TEC		Prepare statutory instrument for the regulations, or include penalties in revised TEC Act.
Chancellors and Vice Chancellors and WAEC	Implement the following policies which have been prepared by TEC  • Qualification framework for tertiary institutions (NQF) • Benchmark Minimum Academic and Professional Standards (BMAPS)	Aug. - Dec. 2023	TEC		All the Policies have been drafted but Ministry of Higher Education delayed implementation. The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and BMAPS are mutually reinforcing and will define learning outcomes, skills and credit transfer.
	Speed up the process for the submission of the WAEC ACT to Parliament to pass into law	May 2023	MBSSE	WAEC	
Set up the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund)	Establish the governance and funding mechanism for consideration by Parliament.	May 2024	TEC, Ministry of Higher Education	Conference of Vice Chancellors and Principals	Concept to be developed and discussed with Min. of Higher Education
Implement the provision of a national entrance examination as enshrined in the University Act	Ministry of Higher Education to create awareness.	Ongoing	Ministry of Higher Education	Conference of Chancellors and Vice Principals	Public Awareness is crucial
University outreach to explain course offerings and entry requirements.	Radio and TV programs to inform the public	May 2023 and ongoing	Conference of Chancellors and Vice Principals	TEC, MTHE, and MBSSE	Awareness creation should start ASAP
Put mechanisms to establish career and guidance counseling units in each tertiary and higher institution	Set functional career and guidance counseling and popularize their existence among students	June-December 2023	Conference of Chancellors and Vice Principals	TEC, MTHE & MBSSE	





**Njala University**  
**Invitation for Bids**  
**International Competitive Bidding**  
**Installation of Solar System**

**Procurement Number: NU/EST/ICB/2023/0006**

**Date of First Issue: 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**

**Njala University has allocated funds for the installation of Solar System on Njala Campus and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the installation of:**

No.	Description of Works	Qty	Location	Bid Security (Le)	Completion Period
1	Installation of Solar System on Njala Campus	1	Njala Campus, Moyamba District	25, 000.00	Six Weeks

Bidding is open to all registered bidders who have the capacity to undertake the works.

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address below between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm, Mondays to Fridays at the address below. Bidding documents may be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Le500.00 (Five Hundred Leones). Please make payment to the accounts stated below:

**BANK NAME:** Union Trust Bank  
**ACCOUNT NAME:** Revenue from the sale of Bidding Sub Treasury  
**ACCOUNT NO.:** 210113253-01  
**BBAN NO.:** 00-4001113253120144

**BANK NAME:** Sierra Leone Commercial Bank  
**ACCOUNT NAME:** Revenue from the sale of Bidding Sub Treasury  
**ACCOUNT NO.:** 003001081791112183  
**BBAN NO.:**

**BANK NAME:** Rokel Commercial Bank  
**ACCOUNT NAME:** Revenue from the sale of Bidding Sub Treasury  
**ACCOUNT NO.:** 02-011012428  
**BBAN NO.:** 002001002101242863

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 at 12:00 noon. All bids must be accompanied by:

- q A valid Business registration certificate;

- q A minimum of Class 2 Ministry of Works and Public Assets Certificate of Registration;
- q Bid Security of NLe25,000.00 from a reputable Commercial Bank;
- q A valid National Revenue Authority (NRA) tax clearance certificate;
- q A valid NASSIT clearance certificate;
- q Bid Form signed and stamped;
- q A signed Integrity Pact (attached);
- q One Original copy and three photocopies of bids;

Bids will be publicly opened on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 at 12:00 noon, in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders.

The address for bids submission:

The Procurement Unit  
 Njala University  
 University Secretariat  
 Njala Campus  
 Moyamba District.  
 +23278618811

The place for bids opening is:

The Senate Room,  
 Njala University  
 University Secretariat  
 Njala Campus  
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 MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SANITATION  
 INTEGRATED HEALTH PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION UNIT (IHPAU)  
 23 Cantonment Road, Off Kingharman Road  
 Freetown, Sierra Leone

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

<b>POSITION:</b>	<b>Communication Specialist to The Minister of Health &amp; Sanitation</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Ministry of Health and Sanitation, 4th Floor, Youyi Building, Freetown</b>
<b>REPORTING TO:</b>	<b>The Minister of Health and Sanitation (MoHS)</b>
<b>CONTRACT DURATION:</b>	<b>Initially for 1 year and renewable annually based on need for the position, performance and availability of funding</b>
<b>ISSUE DATE:</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation is mandated to provide strategic direction for health service delivery in the country. This requires effective planning, implementation, monitoring and promoting of effective health service delivery in the country. The Ministry in 2021 developed and launched the national health policy and strategy together with the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) roadmap. Successful implementation of the new health strategy and UHC roadmap will require multisectoral partnerships and regular communications with sector ministries, development partners, private sector, International Non-Governmental Organization (INGOs), national and community organizations for better health outcomes. It is for this reason that the Ministry of Health and Sanitation as part of the Delivery Team is recruiting a communication specialist to provide technical guidance for communicating the work of the Ministry to its partners and supporting the strategic public health communication to the public.

The Communications Specialist, Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) Advisory Team will have overall responsibility for coordinating the Ministry's communication to partners and the general public and promote the work of the Ministry and its key accomplishments.

### 2. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the assignment is to strengthen MoHS relationships with its partners and the public through the generation of communication products and effective management of the Ministry's communication platforms.

#### Specific objectives to be achieved are:

- Increase awareness of the work and accomplishments of MoHS across the country and promote greater engagement of the MoHS with key stakeholders and the public.
- To promote the Ministry's mandate and areas of work under the strategic program of the Presidential taskforce communication policy and strategy
- To foster greater information and knowledge exchange with key stakeholders, development partners, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and Civil Society Organizations in the health sector.

### ACTIVITIES

The Communications Specialist will carry out the following activities with guidance from the Minister and other senior officials of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

#### 1. Communication Projects:

- Develop and disseminate the MoHS external communication strategy and operational plan
- Develop and distribute quarterly newsletters on activities undertaken by the Ministry and its partners
- Produce video documentaries and disseminate on the implementing of critical health interventions including HIV, TB, Malaria and health emergencies
- Write/edit speeches, talking points and statements for the Minister, Deputy Minister, the Presidency and other important dignitaries
- Peruse and approve all MoHS official communications prior to publication.

#### 2. Electronic/Digital platform Platforms

- Oversee the functionality, content, and regular update of the MoHS internet webpage.
- Manage the MoHS Official WhatsApp, facebook, twitter and other social media platforms.
- In collaboration with the Information, communications, and technology (ICT) unit of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, accelerate the use of internet-based communication among the Ministry's staff as a cost control measure.
- Develop, maintain, and update a digital photo record.
- Support preparation, production and dissemination of educational materials including print and electronic media.
- Keep up to date on the latest developments in the media landscape and digital marketing trends and provide analysis of best practices, opportunities and trends and innovation.

#### 3. Support to Other MoHS Directorates and Units

- Support preparation, production and dissemination of educational materials including print and electronic media.
- Assist with the revision and editing of texts or documents developed by the MoHS directorates for publication.
- Support the development of appropriate risk communication and IEC materials by directorates and units as required.
- Provide technical support and the search of spaces or airtime in the journalistic media for the dissemination of health information.

- write up human interest stories and arrange their filming, where required.
- Document lessons learnt to inform future preparedness and response activities.
- Develop and manage public events calendar for the various directorates, departments, and units.

#### 4. Press:

- Create an updated press contact, national and international organization interested in receiving information from MoHS.
- Organize press conference and press briefings as required by the Minister or other members of MoHS Leadership
- Manage international and national media relations
- Facilitate publication and monitoring of health-related stories in print and electronic media
- Identify published articles/stories for consideration by the annual media award committee
- Establish links with allies and entities in general with the health sector and promote the dissemination of health information.
- Collaborate with other communication officers in other sector ministries to harmonize government communication priorities and messages.

#### 5. Key Partners

- Provide project summary and regular update to health development partners and HSSC on key interventions implemented by the MoHS
- Ensure time communication of events and ensure invitations are timely sent to relevant stakeholders
- Liaise with Donor Partner unit to regularly update the directory of HDP and HSSC members and ensure key stakeholders gets MoHS regular updates

### 6. EXPECTED OUTPUT

- Communication products developed and used to facilitate MoHS engagement with partners and the public.
- MoHS communication to the public and relevant partners using digital media and social media enhanced.
- MoHS directorates and units strengthened to communicate results of programmes more effectively and timeously.
- Improved engagement of Press and media coverage of health interventions.
- Adequately inform Health Development Partners (HDPs), Health Sector Coordinating Committee (HSCC), and other key partners about MoHS projects and programmes.

### 7. COMMUNICATION'S SPECIALIST PROFILE.

- A Master's Degree in Communication, Mass media and/or Journalism
- A Bachelor's Degree in Media Communications and/ or Journalism from a recognized University.
- Previous employment experience (3 years minimum) in the field of journalism or media communication at strategic or Senior level in public or private organization.

### 8. TECHNICAL COMPETENCES

- Excellent in verbal and written communication.
- Able to articulate key strategic policies and goals of the Minister using the various communication medium and networks forums
- Familiarity with local media and established network with local journalist
- Ability to express clearly and concisely ideas and concepts with local journalists.
- Competent in the use of computer and internet use of desktop publishing.

To apply, please send your application (a mandatory cover letter and an updated CV with at least 3 references) to the following email address: [recruitment@mohsihpau.gov.sl](mailto:recruitment@mohsihpau.gov.sl)

#### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Only email applications sent to the above email address will be included in the pool of applicants to be assessed by MOHS. No hand deliveries will be accepted. Please also note that your CV should contain your full contact details such as residence address, working mobile telephone number, working email address, as well as those of your three referees.
- Selected candidates will be required to sign a contractual agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone's Ministry of Health and Sanitation.
- The recruitment will initially be for a period of one year and thereafter an annual extension subject to performance and funds availability.

Closing date: 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023



## NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

## Vice President Harris takes a bold stance in defense of democracy with her visit to Tanzania



U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and Tanzanian Vice President Philip Mwakilima - Copyright © africanews EMMANUEL HERMANI/AP

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris will step onto the front lines of the battle for democracy in Africa on Thursday, spending time in Tanzania as it makes fragile progress toward restoring its reputation as a more inclusive government. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Tanzania's first female president, has undone some of the country's more oppressive policies, such as a ban on opposition rallies, even though she came to power as a member of the ruling party. She's finishing out the term of President John Magufuli, who died in office and earned a reputation for stamping out dissent, arresting critics and forcing them into exile. Hard-liners have been uncomfortable with some of Hassan's changes, however, which could cost her in the next election two years from now. Harris, the first woman to serve as U.S. vice president, will meet with Hassan on Thursday, a noteworthy show of support from Washington as the United States deepens its outreach to Africa. "There's so much excitement here and people are saying it's like Madam President's efforts in changing the country are being rewarded with recognition from an economic and political superpower that is the U.S.," said Tanzania-based analyst Mohamed Issa Hemed. During a previous meeting in Washington, Harris told Hassan that "we welcome the progress that you have made during the course of your leadership and, in particular, the work you have done to empower women

leaders in Tanzania and the work you have done to support human rights." Harris arrived in Tanzania late Wednesday after spending three nights in Ghana. Much like at her first stop, she was greeted with music and dancing as she walked down a red carpet that was rolled out

to Air Force 2. Some of the welcoming party wore shirts with Harris' face.

Harris is scheduled to spend two nights in Tanzania, then conclude her weeklong trip with a stop in Zambia, another country that is striving to strengthen its democracy. She plans to return to Washington on Sunday.

Idayat Hassan, director of the Centre for Democracy and Development in Abuja, Nigeria, said Harris' visit can help galvanize enthusiasm at a time when there are concerns over backsliding into authoritarianism in Africa and around the world.

"Many people will want the U.S. to speak to the issue of democracy, which they feel is beginning to decline and is not what it used to be," she said. "There are more that need to be assured that democracy is here to stay."

Like Tanzania, Zambia has made uneven steps toward democracy since its independence. However, there's been a burst of hope after the country elected Hakainde Hichilema, a former opposition leader who once faced charges of treason.

Zambia has since decriminalized defamation of the president, a law that was used to stifle opposition. It's also serving as a co-host of President Joe Biden's second Summit for Democracy this week.

However, Hichilema warned this week that economic progress is necessary to sustain open societies.

"You can't eat democracy," he wrote in The Washington Post. "Human rights may sustain the spirit, but not the body."

## Shea tree is a development tool for women in Africa



Women making shea butter - Copyright © africanews AP Photo

The shea tree, which grows only in Africa and whose fruit is harvested almost exclusively by women, is emerging as a real development tool in some of the world's poorest countries.

Mali is one of the world's leading producers of shea butter, along with Nigeria and Burkina Faso.

In the rural commune of Siby nearly one thousand women work at the local cooperative Maison du Karité.

"Once drawn from the pot, we proceed to the filtration with a rod. Then, we remove the impurities. The next day, we come back to stir the liquid and remove the impurities at the bottom of the pot. Finally, we do the filtering, knowing that the oil is ready before putting in the jars", said Salimata Camara, a Maison du Karité employee.

According to the Global Shea Alliance (GSA), sixteen million African women from Senegal to South Sudan live or survive off the shea tree, mainly in rural areas.

"One of the benefits of the cooperative is that it has provided employment for the women. Before the cooperative, the women's activity was limited to

the rainy season. But now it is year-round", added Filifing Koumare, Maison du Karité store manager.

One of the challenges is the lack of training and financial support, particularly for marketing.

"One of the difficulties is the lack of support. There is no support. The fact that all the expenses fall on the House, that is a huge difficulty", denounced Assitan Kone Camara, President, Cooperative of Women Shea Butter Producers in Siby.

The mayor of the local town recognises the importance of this activity.

"They (Maison du Karité, editor's note) contribute greatly today to the socio-economic development of the commune through the products made and sold on site. And, beyond that, you know that the Maison du Karité, the advantage of this company today is that it attracts a lot of outside customers", concluded Daouda Keita, Mayor of Siby.

Demand for the product, used in particular in food (chocolate, biscuits) and cosmetics (creams), has exploded in recent years, driven by Western consumers, who are increasingly keen to buy products presented as organic or natural.

## Sonko issued two-month suspended sentence by court in Senegal



Supporters of Senegalese opposition figure, Ousmane Sonko - Copyright © africanews AP Photo

A Senegalese court on Thursday gave opposition politician Ousmane Sonko a two-month suspended prison sentence for defaming a minister.

Ousmane Sonko, 48, had to answer for defamation, insults and forgery against the Minister of Tourism Mame Mbaye Niang.

In addition to the two-month suspended prison sentence, the court fined Mr Sonko, who was absent from the hearing, 200 million CFA francs (300,000 euros, Ed.) to be paid to the minister. It released him from the offences of insult and forgery.

According to Sonko's legal team, the opposition politician is still eligible to run in the presidential elections in 2024.

The opponent, who came third in the presidential election in 2019, and his supporters claim that the judiciary is being used by the government to eliminate him politically and clear the way for the incumbent Macky Sall.

Opposition calls for protests on Wednesday and Thursday appeared to have little effect.

Hundreds of people have been arrested in recent weeks, including among Sonko's supporters.

## Global leaders at conference in China warn on growing geopolitical competition

World leaders at the annual Boao Forum for Asia on China's Hainan Island delivered warnings about growing geopolitical competition, decoupling and fragmenting supply chains.

Speaking Thursday at the Boao Forum, a major political and economic conference in southern China, IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva called for global cooperation and solidarity in a time of high uncertainties and geopolitical tensions.

"We ought to guide our world economy to a safer future," Georgieva said at the opening plenary of the forum in the southern Chinese island Hainan. "It has been in choppy waters for quite some time, experiencing shock upon shock upon shock."

Citing uncertainties including impact of the war in Ukraine and supply chain disruptions, Georgieva urged the world to stand together to promote economic growth.

"We have learned that supply chains must be made more secure and more resilient," she said.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim also called for unfettered competition to give way to collaboration in a time when geopolitical competition has become a feature for Asia.

"The rivalry to be ahead can take either a productive or destructive turn," Ibrahim said. "We need to establish certain guardrails, so that the competition does not lead to bifurcation in the technological world, one that will raise cost and impede progress."

Patrick Achi, Ivory Coast Prime Minister, said his country joined China's Belt and Road initiative to promote development, and that he took China and other Asian countries as an inspiration for his own country's economic growth.

"Unity is also essential to Africa. It is in this spirit that our country joined the belt and road initiative in 2018. This initiative promotes cooperation, free trade, and brotherly ties between Europe, Asia, and Africa," he said.

Credit: africanews with AP

## Violent clashes as Kenya opposition stages third day of protests

Violence broke out in Kenya on Thursday, the third day of opposition demonstrations to protest at the government and the high cost of living.

Security was tight, with police in riot gear patrolling the capital Nairobi after fierce clashes erupted during similar protests on Monday.

On Thursday, dozens of people in the congested Nairobi neighbourhoods of Mathare and Kibera engaged police in running battles, throwing rocks and burning tyres while officers responded with tear gas.

In opposition leader Raila Odinga's lakeside bastions of Kisumu and Homa Bay in western Kenya, protesters also hurled rocks at police and lit bonfires in the middle of the road.

Odinga has called for protests every Monday and Thursday, accusing President William Ruto of stealing last year's election and of failing to control the surging cost of living.

The demonstrations – declared illegal by the government – have turned violent on previous days, with police firing tear gas, water cannon and occasionally live bullets, while looters have gone on the rampage.

Two civilians have been killed and 51 police officers and 85 civilians injured, according to



government figures.

The international community and religious leaders have called for calm, voicing fears that the violence could degenerate into the ethnic post-election fighting witnessed after the 2007 election that claimed the lives of more than 1,100 people.

"We are deeply concerned by the recent unrest and violence as well as destruction of places of worship and private property," eight foreign embassies, including the United States and former colonial power Britain said in a joint statement Wednesday.

"We therefore call on all leaders and all Kenyans to maintain peace, show restraint, and work toward a swift resolution for the common good of Kenya."

The African Union also appealed Tuesday for calm and political dialogue to put paid to chaos.





# Invitation for Bids

Freetown, Sierra Leone  
March 2023

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

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

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

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

- Bidding will be conducted using the **International Competitive Bidding (ICB) method**, the evaluation procedure for which is described in this bidding document, in accordance with the IFAD Procurement Handbook which is provided at [www.ifad.org/project/procurement](http://www.ifad.org/project/procurement). The ICB process, as described, will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.
- Please note that a **pre-bid conference will not be held** as described in the bid data sheet BDS, Section II of the bidding document.
- Bidders interested in submitting a bid shall purchase the bidding document against payment of a non-refundable fee of **SLE500 or 25\$**. Payment shall be made to the Agriculture Value Chain Development Project through Western Union Money Transfer, RIA, MoneyGram or in the following account:  
Account Name: Agriculture Value Chain Development Project  
Account No: 014-001-107-861-136-462  
Bank: Commerce and Mortgage Bank
- Bidding documents can be obtained by sending an e-mail with a copy of the payment slip, giving full contact details of the bidder and the subject of procurement, to [avdp@pmu.gov.sl](mailto:avdp@pmu.gov.sl). This will also ensure that the bidders receive the bidding document by email or hard copy (at the following address), as well as any updates regarding the bidding document.  
Address: 23 Tonwama Road, Bo, Southern Sierra Leone

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

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

#### Applicable to Local Bidders

i) Certificate of Incorporation/Registration

ii) Copy of valid NASSIT Clearance Certificate

iii) Copy of valid NRA Tax Clearance Certificate

iv) Copy of valid Local Council Certificate

v) Manufacturer's authorization

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

#### Applicable to Foreign Bidders

i) Certificate of Incorporation/Registration

ii) Copy of valid Tax Clearance Certificate

iii) Manufacturer's authorization

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

1. **Bid security in the form of a Bank Guarantee. The amount and currency of the Bid Security shall be in the equivalent of US\$, denominated in any freely convertible currency and be expressed in lots as indicated below: Lot 1 = \$14,000; Lot 2 = \$5,500 and Lot 3 = \$11,000. Bid Security from community and village banks and Bid Bond from insurance companies are not acceptable**

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

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

Link to join Bid Opening: <https://bit.ly/bidopening2023>

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

Yours sincerely,

Project Manager

Agriculture Value Chain Development Project

# Freetown Polytechnic JOB Advertisement



## Background

In accordance with the Polytechnic Act of 2001, Freetown Polytechnic was established in November 2021 with the merger of Freetown Teachers College at Jui and Government Technical Institute at Kissy Dockyard. The institution offers professional teacher training and technical and vocational skills training programmes in various professions through the traditional face-to-face and distance education modes of instruction delivery. The following programmes are offered by the institution: Teachers Certificate, Higher Teachers Certificate Primary and Secondary, Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts in Education and Bachelor of Science in Education in various subject matter areas and Certificate, Diploma and Higher National Diploma in electrical, electronics, mechanical, water and sanitation, building and civil engineering, business administration, banking and finance.

**Job Title:** Principal, Freetown Polytechnic

**Status:** Senior Staff

**Tenure:** Four years renewable for another period of four years immediately following the initial term

**Main Purpose of the Job:** As provided for by the Polytechnic Act 2001 under Part IV Section 10.

"A Polytechnic Institution shall have a Principal who shall be a person of high academic and administrative distinction, appointed by the Minister on the advice of the Council".

Suitable candidates not above the age of 60 years are invited to apply.

The Principal shall be the Chief Academic and Administrative Officer of the Polytechnic institution;

**Key responsibilities/duties include, but not limited to, the following:**

The principal shall:

- be responsible generally to the Council and the Academic Board for maintaining and promoting the efficiency of the Polytechnic institution;
- shall, together with the Finance officer, be a signatory to the accounts of the polytechnic institution.
- present annual reports on administrative and financial matters of the polytechnic to the Council;
- preside over all meetings of the Academic Board
- hold office for an initial term of four years subject to renewal for another period of four years immediately following the initial term

## Qualifications

- The candidate must have obtained a PhD from a recognized university with 3 years of experience serving as head or senior administrative officer of an educational institution and have a minimum of 10 years of teaching and professional experience in an institution of higher education.
- The candidate must have attained the rank of Principal Lecturer for not less than four years and must show evidence of outstanding scholarly ability. Therefore, the candidate must have a minimum research and publications score of 40 points.

## Competencies

The candidate

- must be proficient in providing strategic leadership, management and oversight of an institution higher education and can steer Freetown Polytechnic in vigorous pursuit of her mission and vision.
- Cooperate with the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) on all matters pertaining to that commission's responsibility to the polytechnic.
- Must be innovative and an ICT friendly user in education.
- must be reliable and dependable in fulfilling obligations, pleasant with others and open to change and variety in the workplace.
- must be capable and willing to: take charge and offer direction; collaborate with staff to develop and maintain curriculum standards; confer with sponsors and staff to discuss educational activities, policies and student behavioural or learning problems; counsel and provide guidance to students and staff regarding personal, academic, vocational or behavioural issues; enforce discipline and attendance rules; establish, coordinate and oversee programmes across faculties and departments; and evaluate curricula, teaching methods and programmes to determine their effectiveness, efficiency, utilization and compliance.

## Application Submission

All applications must be accompanied by

- a letter of application
- updated Curriculum Vitae
- Photocopies of all relevant certificates and other documents to the following email addresses below: [registrar.fc@gmail.com](mailto:registrar.fc@gmail.com); [registry@freetownpolytechnic.edu.sl](mailto:registry@freetownpolytechnic.edu.sl); and copy: [martyna2002@yahoo.com](mailto:martyna2002@yahoo.com); [subiewurie@rocketmail.com](mailto:subiewurie@rocketmail.com).

Please note that applications not submitted through the email addresses provided above will not be considered. Make the subject of the email reads: "**Application for the position of Principal of Freetown Polytechnic**". Please, provide your current email addresses and phone numbers of three referees.

## Closing Date

Closing date for receipt of all applications for the position of Principal of Freetown Polytechnic is 4 pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Please note that only short-listed candidates will be invited to the interview.





## 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 Uggun Freetown  
Tel: +232 76638022/+232 76649441/+232 76640162/+232 76646565  
Email: [sierraleonebroadcasters22@gmail.com](mailto:sierraleonebroadcasters22@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



# PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT



The public is hereby informed that it has come to the notice of the Sierra Leone National Commission on Small Arms (SLeNCSA) that individuals who obtained firearms (gun) licenses have failed to renew their Firearms licenses yearly as required by section **18, subsection (3)** of the Arms and Ammunition ACT No.9 of 2012. an offence liable on conviction to a fine of not less than five thousand Leones (New Leones) or a term of imprisonment of not less than 12 months. The Commission strongly advises individuals who are unable to renew their firearms licenses to surrender them to the Commission's Firearms Licensing Bureau at State Avenue with immediate effect.

The Commission **HEREBY CALLS ON ALL PERSONS** who have failed to renew their firearm licenses to do so with immediate effect. Failing to renew a firearm license is Any one found in possession of firearms without a valid license issued by the Registrar of Small Arms and Light Weapons; will be prosecuted and the full penalty of the law will be enforced. **You have been warned!!!**





# Invitation for Bids

Freetown, Sierra Leone  
March 2023

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

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

Lot No	Lot Description	Item No	Item Description	Unit of Measure	Quantity
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3	Supply, Delivery and Installation of Production Equipment	1	Power Saw	No	90
		2	Compactor/Rammer	No	90

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

- Bidding will be conducted using the **International Competitive Bidding (ICB) method**, the evaluation procedure for which is described in this bidding document, in accordance with the IFAD Procurement Handbook which is provided at [www.ifad.org/project/procurement](http://www.ifad.org/project/procurement). The ICB process, as described, will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.
- Please note that a **pre-bid conference will not be held** as described in the bid data sheet BDS, Section II of the bidding document.
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Account Name: Agriculture Value Chain Development Project  
Account No: 014-001-107-861-136-462  
Bank: Commerce and Mortgage Bank
- Bidding documents can be obtained by sending an e-mail with a copy of the payment slip, giving full contact details of the bidder and the subject of procurement, to [avdp@pmu.gov.sl](mailto:avdp@pmu.gov.sl). This will also ensure that the bidders receive the bidding document by email or hard copy (at the following address), as well as any updates regarding the bidding document.  
Address: 23 Tonwama Road, Bo, Southern Sierra Leone

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

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#### Applicable to Local Bidders

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1. **Bid security in the form of a Bank Guarantee. The amount and currency of the Bid Security shall be in the equivalent of US\$, denominated in any freely convertible currency and be expressed in lots as indicated below: Lot 1 = \$14,000; Lot 2 = \$5,500 and Lot 3 = \$11,000. Bid Security from community and village banks and Bid Bond from insurance companies are not acceptable**

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

Yours sincerely,

Project Manager

Agriculture Value Chain Development Project

# Freetown Polytechnic JOB Advertisement



#### Background

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**Job Title:** Principal, Freetown Polytechnic

**Status:** Senior Staff

**Tenure:** Four years renewable for another period of four years immediately following the initial term

**Main Purpose of the Job:** As provided for by the Polytechnic Act 2001 under Part IV Section 10.

"A Polytechnic Institution shall have a Principal who shall be a person of high academic and administrative distinction, appointed by the Minister on the advice of the Council".

Suitable candidates not above the age of 60 years are invited to apply.

The Principal shall be the Chief Academic and Administrative Officer of the Polytechnic institution;

**Key responsibilities/duties include, but not limited to, the following:**

The principal shall:

a) be responsible generally to the Council and the Academic Board for maintaining and promoting the efficiency of the Polytechnic institution;

b) shall, together with the Finance officer, be a signatory to the accounts of the polytechnic institution.

c) present annual reports on administrative and financial matters of the polytechnic to the Council;

d) preside over all meetings of the Academic Board

e) hold office for an initial term of four years subject to renewal for another period of four years immediately following the initial term

#### Qualifications

a) The candidate must have obtained a PhD from a recognized university with 3 years of experience serving as head or senior administrative officer of an educational institution and have a minimum of 10 years of teaching and professional experience in an institution of higher education.

b) The candidate must have attained the rank of Principal Lecturer for not less than four years and must show evidence of outstanding scholarly ability. Therefore, the candidate must have a minimum research and publications score of 40 points.

#### Competencies

The candidate

a) must be proficient in providing strategic leadership, management and oversight of an institution higher education and can steer Freetown Polytechnic in vigorous pursuit of her mission and vision.

b) Cooperate with the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) on all matters pertaining to that commission's responsibility to the polytechnic.

c) Must be innovative and an ICT friendly user in education.

d) must be reliable and dependable in fulfilling obligations, pleasant with others and open to change and variety in the workplace.

e) must be capable and willing to: take charge and offer direction; collaborate with staff to develop and maintain curriculum standards; confer with sponsors and staff to discuss educational activities, policies and student behavioural or learning problems; counsel and provide guidance to students and staff regarding personal, academic, vocational or behavioural issues; enforce discipline and attendance rules; establish, coordinate and oversee programmes across faculties and departments; and evaluate curricula, teaching methods and programmes to determine their effectiveness, efficiency, utilization and compliance.

#### Application Submission

All applications must be accompanied by

a) a letter of application

b) updated Curriculum Vitae

c) Photocopies of all relevant certificates and other documents to the following email addresses below: [registrar.fc@gmail.com](mailto:registrar.fc@gmail.com); [registry@freetownpolytechnic.edu.sl](mailto:registry@freetownpolytechnic.edu.sl); and copy: [martyna2002@yahoo.com](mailto:martyna2002@yahoo.com); [subiewurie@rocketmail.com](mailto:subiewurie@rocketmail.com).

Please note that applications not submitted through the email addresses provided above will not be considered. Make the subject of the email reads: "**Application for the position of Principal of Freetown Polytechnic**". Please, provide your current email addresses and phone numbers of three referees.

#### Closing Date

Closing date for receipt of all applications for the position of Principal of Freetown Polytechnic is 4 pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Please note that only short-listed candidates will be invited to the interview.



Bake some festive treats this Christmas!

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

Ready, Steady, Bake!

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

@padifoods @padi\_foods @padifoods +232 34 313132

"The fondest memories are made when gathered around the table."

**Padi**  
You Padi for life

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

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

Enriched with / Enrichi Vitamin A & D

Proudly made in Sierra Leone

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

Padi, sharing is caring 😊

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

@padifoods @padi\_foods @padifoods +232 34 313132

Mama Mia!

Padi Spaghetti, strands of deliciousness!

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

@padifoods @padi\_foods @padifoods +232 34 313132

Daddy you are my best Padi!

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

@padifoods @padi\_foods @padifoods +232 34 313132

Spread the love!

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

@padifoods @padi\_foods @padifoods +232 34 313132

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

**Padi**

Truly Natural & Healthy

Good Morning Padi Premium Black Tea  
Finest Ceylon Blend

**Padi**  
You Padi na kitchen

@padifoods @padi\_foods @padifoods +232 34 313132





# LONG LIST

Friday 31/03

Set 17280

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)	Ev (26)	1 (29)	2 (30)			
1	3/31/2023 8:40	Australia	W5 WANDERERS	16 v 1	ADELAIDE UNITED	1.91	3.37	3.08	3.20	3.75	1.66	1.26	4.50	6.00	2.50	2.28	3.65	2.27	2.70	3.35	3.75	1.55	2.06	1.43	2.33	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.51	2.19	1.43	2.22	
2	3/31/2023 8:55	Australia (South)	SOUTH ADELAIDE FC	6 v 2	NE METROSTARS	3.91	3.76	1.50	7.60	5.40	1.15	2.07	3.85	2.28	4.50	2.05	2.15	3.90	2.40	2.00	4.20	1.06	2.49	1.28	1.67	1.72	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.34	2.31	2.80	1.22
3	3/31/2023 9:25	Australia (Victoria)	HEIDELBERG UNITED FC	10 v 6	PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS	2.44	3.08	2.19	4.80	4.20	1.37	1.47	3.95	4.10	3.10	1.90	3.05	2.90	2.10	2.85	3.25	1.14	1.90	1.53	1.36	2.25	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.44	2.05	1.79	1.61
4	3/31/2023 9:40	Australia (South)	ADELAIDE OLYMPIC FC	12 v 7	ADELAIDE COMETS FC	2.98	3.42	1.78	6.00	4.60	1.25	1.72	3.75	3.00	3.75	1.90	2.60	3.50	2.20	2.30	3.60	1.11	2.10	1.42	1.46	2.03	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.40	2.15	2.19	1.38
5	3/31/2023 9:55	Japan	KASHIWA REYSOL	17 v 6	URAWA RED DIAMONDS	3.13	3.03	2.01	6.60	4.30	1.25	1.59	3.55	3.70	3.90	2.55	2.75	3.45	2.45	2.43	2.85	1.28	1.65	1.91	1.23	3.15	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.75	1.82	2.17	1.45
6	3/31/2023 10:05	Azerbaijan	TURAN TOVUZ	6 v 8	SUMGAYIT	1.82	2.78	3.61	3.60	3.25	1.69	1.18	4.40	9.40	2.55	1.82	4.50	2.23	2.14	3.90	2.15	1.40	1.37	2.22	1.13	1.60	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.98	1.48	1.31	2.41
7	3/31/2023 12:25	Bulgaria 2	SPORTIST SVOGUE	4 v 15	MINYOR PERNIK	1.76	2.88	3.66	3.40	3.20	1.74	1.18	4.50	9.40	2.50	1.84	4.60	2.16	1.99	3.95	2.20	1.38	1.40	2.15	1.12	3.50	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.96	1.49	1.29	2.47
8	3/31/2023 12:25	Bulgaria 2	FC VITOSHA BISTRICA	17 v 1	FK CSKA 1948 II	4.89	3.32	1.46	13.00	5.20	1.10	2.18	3.15	2.48	5.60	2.01	2.07	5.00	2.39	1.81	2.50	1.28	1.54	1.88	1.18	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.93	1.51	3.25	1.15
9	3/31/2023 12:25	Bulgaria 2	PEK BOTEV PLOVDIV II	16 v 10	PEC SPARTAK PLEVEN	2.21	2.78	2.64	4.70	3.60	1.46	1.32	3.90	6.00	3.00	1.85	3.50	2.60	2.21	3.00	2.30	1.34	1.44	2.06	1.13	3.35	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.81	1.59	1.57	1.85
10	3/31/2023 12:25	Bulgaria 2	FC KRUMOVGRAD	3 v 14	LITEX LOVECH	1.64	2.98	4.10	3.05	3.15	1.87	1.14	4.70	11.00	2.35	1.87	5.00	2.22	4.40	2.24	2.40	2.24	1.41	2.12	1.12	3.45	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.99	1.48	1.23	2.70
11	3/31/2023 12:25	Bulgaria 2	DOBRUDZHA DOBRICH	13 v 9	FC DUNAV 2010	1.94	2.88	3.08	3.80	3.50	1.59	1.24	4.30	7.00	2.65	1.92	3.85	2.32	2.27	3.35	2.46	1.29	1.51	1.94	1.17	3.10	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.75	1.65	1.41	2.12
12	3/31/2023 12:25	Bulgaria 2	LUDOGORETS RAZGRAD II	5 v 8	FC MARITSA PLOVDIV	1.58	3.18	4.20	2.75	3.30	1.95	1.14	5.00	10.00	2.19	2.02	4.80	1.94	2.28	4.30	2.60	1.26	1.58	1.83	1.20	2.90	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.79	1.61	1.21	2.80
13	3/31/2023 12:25	Bulgaria 2	FC VANTRA GABROVO	11 v 18	SOZDOPOL	1.67	2.98	4.01	3.05	3.25	1.83	1.15	4.70	10.00	2.34	1.92	4.70	2.06	2.26	4.10	2.37	1.32	1.47	2.00	1.15	3.25	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.88	1.54	1.25	2.65
14	3/31/2023 13:55	Slovakia 2	MFK DOLNY KUBIN	13 v 5	SPARTAK MYJAVA	2.74	3.13	1.99	5.60	4.30	1.30	1.56	3.75	3.65	3.35	2.11	2.60	3.00	2.48	2.31	3.10	1.16	1.82	1.58	1.32	2.37	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.49	1.96	1.98	1.48
15	3/31/2023 13:55	Croatia 2	KUSTOSIA ZAGREB	9 v 3	CIBALIA	2.74	2.93	2.08	6.40	3.90	1.30	1.52	3.45	4.40	3.55	1.90	2.70	3.40	2.15	2.40	2.26	1.36	1.43	2.08	1.13	3.40	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.86	1.56	1.93	1.51
16	3/31/2023 14:25	Bulgaria 2	ETAR	2 v 6	BELASITSA PETRICH	1.33	3.52	6.64	2.17	3.05	2.55	1.06	5.60	18.00	1.91	2.02	7.20	1.68	2.40	6.40	4.42	1.31	1.50	1.95	1.16	3.15	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	2.18	1.39	1.08	3.90
17	3/31/2023 14:25	Bulgaria 2	DIRAGOVOLJAC	12 v 7	STRUMSKA SLAVA RADOVIR	1.48	3.27	4.89	2.45	3.25	2.15	1.10	5.20	12.00	2.04	2.07	5.40	1.82	2.42	4.80	2.65	1.24	1.61	1.79	1.21	2.80	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.82	1.58	1.15	3.20
18	3/31/2023 14:25	Croatia 2	ASO CHLEF	10 v 4	DUBRAVA	2.41	2.93	2.33	5.00	3.85	1.39	1.41	3.70	4.80	3.10	1.90	3.00	2.95	2.05	2.85	2.55	1.27	1.55	1.87	1.19	2.95	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.68	1.71	1.72	1.67
19	3/31/2023 14:40	Algeria	CONSTANTINE	2 v 3	ES SETIF	1.78	2.83	3.61	3.85	3.25	1.63	1.19	4.30	9.00	2.80	1.85	4.70	2.43	2.21	4.10	2.21	1.48	1.38	2.45	1.11	4.30	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	2.15	1.53	1.36	2.40
20	3/31/2023 14:40	Algeria	MAGRIA	13 v 7	BISKRA	1.51	3.03	5.08	2.90	3.10	1.95	1.11	5.00	13.00	2.35	1.93	6.00	2.08	2.27	5.20	2.29	1.44	1.42	2.35	1.13	4.10	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	2.26	1.48	1.19	3.20
21	3/31/2023 14:40	Algeria	EL BAHADH	12 v 11	RC ARBAA	1.66	2.88	4.10	3.25	3.35	1.75	1.16	4.70	9.60	2.50	1.98	4.90	2.24	2.31	4.30	2.50	1.37	1.50	2.16	1.17	3.65	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.97	1.63	1.29	2.70
22	3/31/2023 14:40	Algeria	KOLUBARA	9 v 10	NAPREDAK	1.39	3.18	6.06	2.60	2.95	2.18	1.07	5.20	17.00	2.23	1.91	7.20	1.94	2.28	6.40	2.17	1.50	1.37	2.48	1.11	4.40	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	2.55	1.37	1.13	3.75
23	3/31/2023 14:55	Czech Rep 2	PRIBRAM	1 v 5	VARNSDORF	2.54	2.93	2.44	5.20	3.85	1.37	1.40	3.80	4.90	3.35	2.00	3.25	2.95	2.38	2.85	2.70	1.31	1.59	2.00	1.21	3.35	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.78	1.80	1.77	1.71
24	3/31/2023 14:55	Armenia	ARARAT YEREVAN	7 v 8	LENINIVN ARTSAKH FC	1.76	3.13	3.32	3.10	3.55	1.74	1.21	4.60	7.20	2.36	2.09	3.90	2.10	2.46	3.50	2.95	1.19	1.74	1.65	1.28	2.50	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.58	1.83	1.33	2.33
25	3/31/2023 14:55	Uthmaniyah	BANGA GARGZAI	7 v 5	HEGELMANN LITAUEN	4.79	3.47	1.45	12.00	5.20	1.10	2.21	3.25	2.37	5.40	2.10	4.80	2.50	1.78	2.80	1.22	1.68	1.87	1.24	2.14	3.40	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.93	1.51	1.26	2.60
26	3/31/2023 14:55	Cyprus	ANORTHOSIS	2 v 1	NEA SALAMINA	1.75	3.27	3.71	3.05	3.35	1.80	1.19	4.60	8.20	2.45	2.09	4.50	2.16	2.50	4.00	2.90	1.27	1.68	1.87	1.24	3.10	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.80	1.77	1.31	2.60
27	3/31/2023 14:55	Romania 2	POLITEHNICA IASI	2 v 5	FC BUZAU	1.83	2.78	3.52	3.55	3.30	1.68	1.19	4.40	8.80	2.55	1.86	4.40	2.23	2.19	3.80	2.25	1.36	1.42	2.11	1.13	3.40	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.90	1.53	1.32	2.36
28	3/31/2023 14:55	Slovakia	Z. MORAVCE-VIRABE	4 v 3	MFK SKALICA	2.16	2.98	2.59	4.30	3.70	1.48	1.34	4.00	5.40	2.85	1.97	3.30	2.50	2.35	2.90	2.65	1.24	1.60	1.80	1.21	2.80	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.64	1.76	1.57	1.84
29	3/31/2023 15:40	Iran	FOOLAD SEFIDKAN	16 v 1	SAHAB NAFTE ARADAN	1.17	4.20	9.77	1.73	3.20	3.50	-	6.20	25.00	1.66	2.19	10.00	1.46	2.65	9.40	2.65	1.25	1.61	1.79	1.21	2.85	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	2.45	1.30	-	4.80
30	3/31/2023 15:55	Poland	ZAGLEBIE LUBIN	13 v 5	WARTA POZNAM	2.31	2.88	2.74	4.60	3.65	1.45	1.32	3.95	5.80	3.15	1.95	3.60	2.75	2.33	3.15	2.55	1.35	1.53	2.10	1.18	3.55	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.85	1.73	1.61	1.89
31	3/31/2023 15:55	Poland 2	SANDECIJA NOWY SĄCZ	16 v 17	SKRA	1.52	3.22	4.29	2.65	3.15	2.05	1.12	5.00	12.00	2.17	1.96	5.20	1.89	2.																



## INT'L SPORT

**L**ionel Messi continues to be showered with praise as a World Cup and multiple Ballon d'Or winner, with a new statue of him unveiled by CONMEBOL.

The Argentina international, who inspired his country to global glory at Qatar 2022, is being immortalised in the official museum of South American football alongside fellow legends Diego Maradona and Pele. Messi has also been presented with replicas of the World Cup and Finalissima trophies that he has helped the Albiceleste to collect over the course of a memorable 12 months. The 35-year-old, who recently netted his 800th goal, has found the target on 99 occasions for Argentina and could become a centurion when facing Curacao on Tuesday.

Messi said of seeing his achievements recognised once again: "I had never dreamed or thought about this. My dream

## Lionel Messi presented with statue that will be placed next to Diego Maradona & Pele in CONMEBOL museum

was to enjoy what I liked when I was little, to be a professional soccer player, to do what I always loved in this life. I had a very long road, many decisions and defeats, but I always looked ahead and wanted to go for a triumph, for a victory. I think that is the most important thing, to fight for your dreams, that everything is possible and to enjoy the game, which is the most beautiful thing there is."

Messi – who remains on the books of Paris Saint-Germain for now but is seeing a return to Barcelona or a possible move to MLS as a free agent speculated on – added on landing the one major trophy that had eluded him prior to a historic tournament in the Middle East: "We are living a very special and beautiful moment, getting a lot of love. It was time for a South American team to win the World Cup again."

<https://www.goal.com/en/news>



## David de Gea REJECTS Man Utd contract extension offer



**G**oalkeeper David de Gea has reportedly rejected Manchester United's first offer of a contract extension.

The Spaniard's current contract at Manchester United is set to expire in June 2023. According to The Athletic, De Gea has turned down the first extension offer put on the table by Manchester United but will continue to negotiate in the hope of reaching a positive conclusion.

The shot-stopper is currently the world's highest-paid keeper drawing a weekly salary of more than £375,000, but is well aware that at 32, he cannot continue to ask for a renewal with the same numbers and must settle for a lower pay package. The report mentions the club has made a "good proposal" to De Gea but the player is not convinced by the offer and feels that

his remuneration does not do justice to his performances on the pitch.

Despite having a shaky start under Ten Hag, culpable in the 4-0 defeat to Brentford, he has proved to be an instrumental figure between the sticks and his efforts to deny Kelechi Iheanacho in United's 3-0 win over Leicester City was adjudged as the Premier League save of the month for February. The Dutch manager is impressed with his improvement over the course of the season and wants him to continue at Old Trafford which is a key factor to a potential successful extension.

The goalkeeper will be back in action for Manchester United next time out at St James Park against Newcastle United in the Premier League on Sunday.

<https://www.goal.com/en/news>

## Premier League braced for battle with Chelsea over potential breach of financial rules



**C**helsea are set for a battle with the Premier League over a potential breach of spending rules with the club ready to cite Antonio Rudiger's departure for Real Madrid on a free transfer last season as one justification for their huge losses.

In reporting a loss of £121million for the 2021-22 season Chelsea cited 'extraordinary expenses and loss of revenue' when working under a government licence last year, but sources have told Sportsmail that the restrictions only cost the club a few million pounds.

Chelsea were barred from receiving revenue by the government after Roman Abramovich was sanctioned on 10 March last year until the Todd Boehly takeover was completed on May 28, but the vast majority of their income for the season had already been banked by that point.

Premier League central funding, television fees, season-ticket and corporate hospitality revenue had all been paid by that point, although the club did lose out by being unable to sell merchandise, programmes and match-day food and drink.

Chelsea were also unable to negotiate any new commercial deals or player contracts during that three-month period however, with the club ready to cite the collapse of contract negotiations with Rudiger as a

potential loss of income if charged with breaching profit and sustainability rules.

The accounts published this week take the club's losses over the Premier League's rolling three-year period to £241.9m - they made a profit of £32.5m in 2019-20 followed by a record loss of £153.4m the following year - putting them at risk of breaching the limit of £105m.

Rudiger moved to Real Madrid on a free transfer last summer after failing to agree a new deal at Chelsea, whereas if he was under contract the 30-year-old would have been worth tens of millions.

Sources with knowledge of the negotiations claim that Rudiger had already decided to leave on a free before Abramovich was sanctioned however, and the Premier League could ask Chelsea for evidence to demonstrate that they had realistic hopes of extending his contract.

Andreas Christensen, Ross Barkley and Marcos Alonso also left Stamford Bridge on free transfers last summer, but their departures were not confirmed until after 30 June so cannot be included in the 2021/22 accounting period.

The missed opportunity to renegotiate major commercial deals could also be cited, with Three and Hyundai suspending their arrangements with Chelsea for three months after Abramovich was sanctioned.

The Premier League have shown clubs significant leeway in the past, with Everton understood to have successfully argued that the depression of the European transfer market caused by the pandemic cost them tens of millions of pounds in lost revenue in 2021, although they were charged last week for breaching spending limits in the period ending June 2022.

Chelsea will have huge problems complying with the rules next year even if this season's accounts are signed off, as the club have spent £553m on new players since the takeover was completed.

In addition they are also facing the loss of around £80m in Champions League revenue as they are unlikely to qualify for any European competition, while their current league suggesting they will miss out on significant Premier League prize money, which is worth around £2m-per-place.

Chelsea's financial predicament is illustrated by the fact that they were put on a watchlist of clubs in danger of failing UEFA's Financial Fair Play regulations last September, although that will not be relevant if they are not in Europe.

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



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