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CONCORD TIMES

NEWSPAPER

Excellence & Objectivity

Vol. 17, No 140250865

Monday, April 3, 2023

Price: Le 2

ALSO INSIDE

SLeNCSA destroys unserviceable explosives, ammunition



Tobacco and Nicotine Act, 2022 in limbo

By Jariatu S. Bangura



Sulaiman Storm Koroma addressing journalists 1000 together with Members of Parliament on the dangers of tobacco and other tobacco related and how it has crippled not only people and also the economy of the country.

Cont Page 6



Leone Rock commissions mega 12 million metric tons processing plant

After seven month of its enactment by the Sierra Leone Parliament, the Media Consultant for Focus 1000 has informed pressmen and Civil Society activists that they don't know the whereabouts of the Tobacco and Nicotine Act, 2022.

WHAT HAPPENED: The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health collaborated with focus 1000 to take the Act to Parliament and prior to enactment, series of engagement were done by Focus

It's time to fight back, and launch a war on waste

-UN Secretary General

FBN Bank SL now First Bank Sierra Leone



Hon. Kandeh Yunkella, head of investigating committee

Investigating fake degree certificates: Report reveals political interference in university enrolment

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A reflection of five crucial occurrences in March

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

It could be quite significant to highlight events that happened these days because we are fast running into the June 2023 multitier elections.

What are the things that happened in March?

1. Remilitarization of Yenga: One of the most disturbing events that happened in the early month of March was the forceful remilitarization of Yenga, as Sierra Leonean soldiers watched helplessly while Guinean soldiers built a fresh demarcation with the inscription "since 1808" on pillars they mounted.

Yenga is a disputed border village in Kissi Teng Chiefdom, Kailahun District in the Eastern Province of Sierra Leone. In 1998, the border dispute between Sierra Leone and Guinea emerged into prominence. But what happened last month has never taken place since 1998.

2. Celebration of International Women's Day: Also on March 8, International Women's Day, the British Foreign Secretary, Rt. Hon. James Cleverly received a thrilling welcome in Bo, second capital city of the country.

The senior Conservative Party member is the first British MP with Sierra Leonean background.

3. Unveiling the new Freetown International Airport Terminal and Facility: On **Friday 3 March 2023**, President Bio officially unveiled the new Freetown International Airport Terminal and Facility.

The \$270 million terminal has the capacity for over one million passengers annually and five times the airport's current capacity. The airport was constructed through a build, operate and transfer agreement between the government and the global construction company, Summa Group of Companies from Turkey.

The new Freetown International Airport was on Saturday **25 March 2023** officially opened to the public for commercial use.

4. Key reports on President Bio's Governance: In March of 2023, there were several

reports which were damning for the government of President Bio. Firstly, it was the World Happiest Country Report, where Sierra Leone was ranked as the 3rd most unhappy country in the world and 1st in Africa, then the Amnesty International report, the European Parliament report on human rights and then the 2022 US State Department Country Reports on human rights practices by President Bio Government.

All of the above reports catalogued series of gross human rights abuses including police brutality, suppression of opposition, unlawful and arbitrary killings, degrading treatment by government or on behalf of government, harsh or life-threatening prison condition, government corruption and substantial interference with the freedom of peaceful assembly among others.

5. Gruesome Killing of a school teacher and sentencing of LAJ:

On Saturday, March 11, teacher of the Providence International High School Grillis Ola Edwin Johnson was gruesomely murdered allegedly by an SSS 3 school pupil he was teaching, Mohamed Arun Conteh at the teacher's 54 Victoria Street Resident in Freetown.

After spending nine months on remand, popular rap-star, Amadu Bah dubbed as Boss LAJ was on Friday March 17 sentence to nine years imprisonment for robbery and assault.

And what's more:

The death of a 2-year-old toddler in a 'Bondo Bush', Extension of the use of old Leones, police disrupting Unity Party's National Delegate's Conference, sacking of the Bank Governor, who was blame for plunging the nation's economy into mess, Samura Kaara, main opposition presidential aspirant's announcing Chericoco as his running mate for the 2023 election, proposed ban on street rallies by Political Parties Regulations Commission among others and fatal road accidents in Waterloo among others.

What Next?: As elections draw closer, with barely two months to pools, we speculate more interesting events to happen in this month. Therefore, we shall be also refreshing readers' minds with some other crucial events that will happen this month.

LOCAL NEWS

From Cover

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS: According to Sulaiman Storm Koroma, since Parliament enacted the Act on the 3rd August, 2022, the President has not appended his signature to the said document till date.

"We went to the House of Parliament and we were told that the Act has been taken to the President and we called at State House to enquire likewise, at

Tobacco and Nicotine Act, 2022 in limbo

some point we were told that indeed the President had signed the Act and on hearing that we went to the gazette shop and printing press to get the copy of the printed version they told us they have not seen such Act there," he stated.

He further stated that they were left in a state of despondence as it stands; adding that they pressed on enquiring

and that they were later informed that it was yet to reach State House. He said they engaged the Clerk of Parliament and he categorically told them again that he had sent the Act to the President.

He said they don't know whether the Act is actually in Parliament or it has been stocked on its way to State House.



It's time to fight back, and launch a war on waste

By Alfred Koroma

-UN Secretary General

UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres has called for a war on waste management, warning the planet is drowning on garbage.

Mr Guterres made the call during an event marking the first International Day of Zero Waste on Thursday last week.

Over two billion tonnes of municipal solid waste, including plastics, textiles, rotting food, discarded electronics, and debris from mining and construction sites is generated annually by human activities. Every minute, the UN Chief said equivalent of one garbage truck full of plastic is dumped into the ocean.

According to the World Bank, the world generates 2 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste every year and 33 per cent of that is not properly managed in controlled facilities, he added, saying that humanity is treating the planet like a garbage dump.



"We are trashing our only home. We are spewing a torrent of waste and pollution that is affecting our environment, our economies, and our health. Plastics, textiles, rotting food, discarded electronics and batteries, debris from mining and construction sites, abandoned chemical containers — the list goes on," he said.

By 2050, municipal solid waste will double to 4 billion tonnes each year, the UN Chief warns, urging: It's time to fight back, and launch a war on waste on three

fronts.

He called on those who produce the waste to take the lead and design products and services that are less resource and material intensive, smartly manage any waste created across all stages of their products' lifecycle, and find creative ways to extend the lives of the products they sell.

He said these companies will also need to invest in waste management, recovery and recycling systems in communities where they operate.

Mr Guterres also called on countries, cities and local governments to develop and scale-up modern waste management systems, as well as policies that encourage re-using and recycling plastic bottles, ageing electronics and other items.

He emphasized the need to consider the origins and impacts of the goods and products we buy every day and rethink

how we dispose of them. "We need to find opportunities to reuse, recycle, repurpose, repair and recover the products we use. And we need to think twice before throwing these items in the garbage."

Second, we need to massively invest in the ability of countries, cities and local governments to develop and scale-up modern waste management systems, and policies that encourage people to re-use and recycle everything from plastic bottles to ageing electronics, he said.

The head of the UN's urban development agency, UN-Habitat, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, is also quoted by the UN News urging countries to be "waste wise" through finding value in reusing items before discarding them.

"Zero Waste is the first step towards creating waste-wise societies," she said. "The first step is to take responsibility and make a conscious effort to reduce our consumption of single-use plastics. Remember that everything we use and discard must go somewhere."



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VOXPOP

What Sierra Leoneans say about the ban on street rallies

By Yusufu S. Bangura
On March 27, the Chairman of Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) Abdulai M. Bangura together with heads of political parties 'unanimously agreed' to ban all forms of street rallies. They said political party leaders should organize a town hall meeting in designated areas. However, street rallies have been a

tradition in Sierra Leone, but recently the world has moved from the trend of organizing street rallies where supporters of political parties would assemble, sing and dance on the right to move freely. In this Report, Concord Times' Yusufu S. Bangura last Friday took to the streets of Freetown to gauge the views of Sierra Leoneans on what they think about the ban on street rallies by PPRC.

Shaka Bangura, Mercury Retailer

As a citizen of the country, I am not in favour of the decision made by PPRC because since I have knowledge about elections I have never heard of such, as street rally is meant for citizens to come out and throw their support for their candidates. It also sends a signal to the international community that citizens are happy or not happy with the present government, but if they have banned it, it will affect the campaign process.

I want PPRC to know that chaos do occur with or without street rallies, even in

football there must be chaos, talk less of election. But that is why we have the security forces who are responsible for the protection of lives and properties so if they don't want any chaos to occur there should be security personnel deployed in different areas for a peaceful atmosphere. As for me I think they place a ban on street rallies because they don't want the people to give their views on the current trend of the country. On the area of town hall meeting it does not make any sense because supporters will still come out and dance for their leader, so PPRC must allowed street rallies to go on.

Ramatu Conteh, Businesswoman



As a citizen, I do not have any much to say on the banning of street rallies because we don't have the power to stop the government or PPRC not to take this decision, so as for me I will do what they say and I will not go to the street and dance for any political leader, but rather wait for the time of election and vote peaceful.

Abdulrahman Conteh, Driver

In my own view, there is no sense in banning street rallies as far as I am concerned there has never been a ban on rallies. So, if the current government knows they have work for the people, let them allow the people to show sign of appreciation by organizing rallies.

We don't want PPRC to seize our democratic right by banning rallies, if they ban rallies we will not be able to give out our views because this is the only way we can express our views. As am concern peaceful rally will not lead to any chaos so am pleading with PPRC to give us our freedom of assembling.



Nabieu Kamara, Student at IPAM



I am happy for the banning of street rallies as most times people misbehave in the street and most people will use that day as an advantage to create problem like stealing, fighting among others which give the reason for business people to close their shops before the closing hours, so am happy for it.

Kadiatu Kamara, Merchant in cosmetics



leaders to pass on their messages.

I will also like to know if supporters are coming from their houses to attend the town meeting will they dance or work as if they have funeral because in any Africa country there must be street rallies, but if our country has ban street rallies what plan do the government have for us?

As for me, I do not feel happy for the banning of street rallies because that is time we will inform our leaders what we need as citizens and for them to know that they have strong support, town hall meeting will not be enough for supporters to gather in one location and listen to their leaders, so PPRC should allow us to carry on with our activities.

As a senior citizen of the country, I will firstly want to know how PPRC want political leaders to gather their supporters to tell them about their plans for the election because if they said no street rallies it will be difficult for

Kadiatu Kamara, Trader

In my whole life I have never heard about banning of street rallies because we have got use to rallies, so I don't want PPRC to seize our freedom as if we kids. I want PPRC to lift the ban on street rallies because that is the time we free our stress.

I want Sierra Leoneans to act responsibly when the ban would be lifted on street rallies.



Mohamed Bangura, Dealer in electrical items



Since the days of Siaka Steven there have never been a ban on street rallies, but this is my first time to hear it so it's a surprise to me which I do not support. In previous years, we used to have rallies but Pa Sheki will give strong warning to supporters not to fight or misbehave in the street during rallies.

I believe that politicians must be prepared to receive abusive language because there is no respect for them no matter who they

are in society. Also political parties will not rally on the same date so PPRC must tell political leaders to advise their supporters not to create any violence.

Town hall meeting is a constrain for political leaders because they will not have enough vehicles to transport their supporters to attend meetings, but rather supporters will have to work in group with joy to attend the meeting because election is for the people to choose their leaders.

Tity Conteh, Orange Money Agent

As for me I support the decision taken by PPRC because bad guys who used to disturb our peaces will not have the chance again to disturb us. If someone knows he or she is not happy with the present condition of the country let that

individual wait for the day of election to express their feeling.

I want everyone to focus on their business and pray for a peaceful election during and ask God for direction.



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LOCAL NEWS

SLeNCSA destroys unserviceable explosives, ammunition

By Patrick Jaiah Kamara
Assistant Communication
officer- SLeNCSA

With funding and technical support from the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), the Sierra Leone National Commission on Small Arms (SLeNCSA) in close collaboration with the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF), have begun a nationwide demolition of close to 7,000 unserviceable high explosives and the incineration of 622,000 small arms ammunition.

The exercise which commenced on March 28, 2023, in Gondama, Bo district is expected to last for 11 days. During the period the demolition team comprising MAG technician, RSLAF personnel, Medics and SLeNCSA staff will move across five Control Demolition Sites where expired explosives and small arms ammunition have been assembled for destruction.

According to RSLAF's Armed Technical Officer (ATO) Captain Crispin Dumbuya, the exercise came as a result of a statement that was issued to SLeNCSA to help detonate some of the stored explosives and ammunition that were in poor condition or had exceeded its safe storage life in order to reduce the risk of an unplanned explosion in some of the barracks' areas that could harm even civilians, damage critical infrastructure and also detonate other explosives that may still be in good condition.

He said together with MAG and Small Arms Commission, they have assembled all obsolete explosives and small arms ammunition in five Control Demolition Sites (CDS) including Gondama, Bo district, Daru, Kenema district, Kabala in Koinadugu district, 11 Infantry Battalion, Malikia Barracks,



A trained military personnel connecting the detonating cable and assembling the bombs into pits

Kambia district and the Armed Forces Training Center, Benguima, Western Rural Area.

"Members in those aforementioned communities are advised to stay off the range area during the exercise. The general public are equally urged not to panic from sound of explosives but go about their lawful daily activities," Captain Dumbuya warned.

He explained that each of those CDS' is located about 1,500 meters radius off human settlement. He added that the stockpile of expired munitions, consisting primarily of mortar bombs, RPG Anti-Personnel, RPG Anti-tank among other explosives were transported to an isolated location where the items were stacked in a man-made hole and feed them with an explosive substance in preparation for destruction.

"Once that is done, a detonator cable is connected inside the explosives and move at a safer distance, myself and the MAG technician will use an electric detonator to initiate a fire, which consumed the flares and eventually detonate the explosives into the air," he explained.

When quizzed as to how the ammunitions were determined expired, the ATO said "Just like food, every munition has an expiration date," "The percentage of

functionality depreciates over the munitions' service life. Once we inspect and identify the defects or determine that munitions are no longer useable in accordance with technical orders, we declared them unserviceable for destruction."

When asked as to whether the blasting pressure will not affect the settlements and the people around, Captain Dumbuya said the health hazards of the blasting pressure depends on the amount of explosive material, the duration of the explosion, the distance from the explosion site, and can include serious damage to the thorax or the abdominal region, eardrum rupture, and death "that is why we move far away from human settlements".

Meanwhile, the Assistant Commissioner of SLeNCSA, Colonel (Rtd.) Mbade Sogo Bangura started off by explaining that Section 10 (a) of the Arms and Ammunition Act of 2012 gives the Commission the lawful authority to destroyed obsolete stocks of small arms and light weapons held by armed and security forces and other authorized bodies.

He added that because the military could not readily produce the detonating materials either because of its cost or some other reasons, they requested the

Commission through an official correspondence in 2018 to help them destroyed explosives whose lifespan had elapsed and posed danger to not only their men, but also the community.

He said it was based on that request that they solicit support from one of their international partners MAG- that have been very supportive over the years especially to the Commission and Sierra Leones' primary security forces.

He noted that MAG have helped strengthened the capacity of the Primary forces through building and rehabilitating amouries to ensure proper management of weapons, reduce stockpiles of excess and obsolete ammunition and provide trainings in different areas.

"MAG is one of our reliable partners. Over the years, they have facilitated the training of our primary security forces to implement best practices for physical security and stockpile management at secure storage facilities, and also train our personnel in stockpile management," he noted.

He said SLeNCSA will continue to collaborate with its partners to deliver on its mandate with the view to ensuring a safe and secured environment.



Military personnel offloading the unserviceable explosives at demolition sites



MAG technician feeding the bombs with explosive substance



Final stage of explosion



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LOCAL NEWS

By Jariatu S. Bangura

Findings on the Parliamentary Special Select Committee on Academic fraud in the Civil and public services in Sierra Leone, have revealed that crippling politics of patronage and interference in the educational administration is undermining reforms in the sector.

WHAT HAPPENED: The Parliamentary Special Select Committee headed by Hon. Dr. Kandeh Yumkella was instituted on April, 2022 to investigate staff of all Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) after an alleged proliferation of academic fraud and fake qualifications awarded by fake Universities and the growth in the popularity of online and distance learning opportunities.

The Committee was set up following the Dominion Christian University and the African Graduate University scandal of the 26th of March 2022. The committee was set up in April to investigate the issues of fake certificate and operations of distance learning programmes without recourse to any set standards or regulations.

WHAT DOES THE REPORT SAY: The report states that after meetings with students and members of the Academic Staff Association (ASA-SL), it was revealed that sometimes universities receive calls from top politicians requesting them to enroll certain students in faculties that they are not qualified for.

Investigating fake degree certificates: Report reveals political interference in university enrolment

"We received testimonies of instances of political interference in the administration of universities and colleges, especially regarding admissions and enrolment. Arm-twisting universities and other institutions of higher learning to bend the rules regarding admission of students have had a concomitant effect on quality standards and integrity," the report states.

The report further states that the Eastern Technical University was particularly concerned that they were summoned to Parliament for conducting entrance examinations. These, they were told, are problems that have bedeviled the governance and autonomy of educational institutions in Sierra Leone.

The report continued to state that the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) explained to the committee that the entrance examination is now a part of the laws of Sierra Leone as enshrined in the Universities Act of 2021.

This is similar to what obtains in other countries in the region such as Nigeria where entrance examinations like the Joint Examinations and Matriculations Board (JAMB) have been in place for a very long time.

"Most experts we heard from bemoaned the absence of a robust regulatory framework for institutions of higher learning in Sierra Leone. It is regrettable

to note that neither the Tertiary Education Commission nor the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education possess an enforceable guideline for higher education regulation. It was revealed that despite designing guidelines along this line and distributing to Technical Education Institutions for adoption in 2020, the TEC was unable to enforce same since it lacked regulatory powers," the report noted.

Other findings include serious bribery and corruption in the educational sector, challenge in accessing higher education and misuse of internets are among the several challenges embedded in the tertiary educational sectors.

WHAT THE COMMITTEE MAKES OF THE GOVERNMENT: The report states that the committee does not believe the nation has taken the issue seriously. It is critical that the President and Parliament make a strong pronouncement on fake qualifications since it will have a direct long-term negative impact on human capital development and the free quality education initiative. It is important that the recommendations and the action plan to be presented later are implemented expeditiously.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Also, the Committee called on the nation to take the issue of the proliferation of fake qualifications as a major national



emergency.

"In particular, it should be noted that the endemic spying and fraud at the secondary school level (in some cases aided and abetted by parents and teachers) feeds into the tertiary education system, and eventually into work force" the report states.

The report noted that it would be critical that the Executive Branch, Parliament and Civil Society make a strong pronouncement on fake qualifications, and launch a national campaign. Fake qualifications will have a direct long-term negative impact on human capital development and the free quality education initiative.

"The negative impacts on the economy as a whole, and the reputational damage to our academic system cannot be over emphasized. It is important that the recommendations and the action plan of this report be implemented expeditiously," the report added.

FBN Bank SL now First Bank Sierra Leone

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

The FBN Bank Sierra Leone on Friday 30 March, 2023 at their head office Charlotte Street in Freetown, officially unveiled a new name from FBN Bank to First Bank Sierra Leone.

The FBN bank was established in 1894 in Marina the heart of Lagos where there headquarter is located. Over the years, they have been operating in six countries - United Kingdom UK, Nigeria, Gambia, Senegal, Guinea, Ghana and in Sierra Leone.

During the unveiling, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the bank, Udemé Udoh, in his statement, said the name change of the bank was done to align with the parent brand, to leverage the strong heritage and brand equity built by First Bank Nigeria Limited in its one hundred and twenty-nine years of existence as a leading bank and foremost financial services provider in the industry to the advantage of their customers globally.

He further said that the name change will further ensure brand clarity, safeguard brand uniformity and consistency across



The management of the First Bank of Sierra Leone

all the respective markets where First Bank Group does business.

He said the subsidiaries name change will also entrench the perception of the bank as a monolithic brand and enhance the synergy optimisation opportunities across the globe.

Adesola Adeduntan said the name change which coincides with First Bank Group celebrating 129 founding anniversary was a milestone reflection of their resolve to continuously provide the gold standard of excellence and value as they put their customers first.

He said the new identity of the subsidiaries contribute to an enhanced brand presence and help their customers and other stakeholders better appreciate the value of the diversified product suites,

competitive pricing and large business network the First Bank Group offers.

The manager further said that since their establishment in 1894, First Bank has consistently built relationships with customers focusing on the fundamentals of good corporate governance, strong liquidity, optimised risk management and leadership.

He said at First Bank Sierra Leone, they have expanded their branch network in March 2022 with the opening of a new branch at Ross Road Cline Town and it is an addition to the two existing branches in Lumley and Charlotte Street.

He further stated that leveraging of their highly trained team of professionals who possess many years of valuable banking experience, they provide a rich bouquet of products to meet the banking needs of individuals, companies and business communities in the country, adding that they are committed to providing best-in-class personalised competitive and customer focused services.

He said the change of name from FBN Bank Sierra Leone to First Bank Sierra Leone will reinforce their bank's vantage position as a partner for nation

building.

In a presentation done by the Manager, he said in 1894 the bank was incorporated and the headquarter was in Marina the heart of Lagos and in 1894 again they acquired Africa banking corporation and in 1957 the bank's name was changed from BBWA to Bank of West Africa to truly reflect the regional identity of the bank.

He said in 1979 the name was changed again to First Bank of Nigeria Limited and in 1982 the London branch was established to facilitate international banking relationship for Nigeria and foreign boundaries and in 1991 they became a PLC and in 2011 they acquired banquet international credit.

He said in 2012 First Bank reverted to limited with the emergence of FBN Holdings and in 2013 they acquired International Commercial Bank in the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea and Sierra Leone and in 2014 they started operating in Senegal, adding that in also 2014, they commenced operations in Sierra Leone as FBN Bank Sierra Leone.

He said that their primary brand color is blue as it is a rich shade that has been combined with an exciting and vibrant color to achieve visibility in the retail space for the retail facing components of the group business.

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LOCAL NEWS

WHAT HAPPENED: Leone Rock Metal Group through its subsidiary vehicle, Kingho Mining Company, on Thursday, 30th March, 2023, laid the cornerstone for the construction of a 12-million tons per annum beneficiation plant for its phase 2, stage 2 project as part of the company's strategic vertical integration drive.

The ceremony was held at the mine site at Ferengbeya, Tonkolili District, Northern Region in the presence of government authorities, community stakeholders, Management & staff of Leone Rock Metal Group & other dignitaries.

The program attracted the President of Sierra Leone, Julius Maada Bio, The Chinese Ambassador, Wang Qing, Leone Rock Metal Group/ Kingho Energy Group President, Colin Ding, LRMG CEO, Gilbert Zhao, Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Timothy Kabba, the newly appointed CTO, Salim Sillah, Community Stakeholders among others.

WHAT PRESIDENT BIO SAYS?: President Julius Maada Bio said the cornerstone laying ceremony to start the construction of a 12-million metric tons iron ore processing plant, worth \$230 million by Leone Rock Metal Group, is a big investment in the country & it is in line with the Government's drive for value addition in the minerals industry.

"It is a real pleasure to be here today to jointly celebrate the clear outcomes of the many policies and governance reforms we clearly laid out in our 2018 manifesto for the transformation of the mining sector," the President remarked.

"For over ten years of mining on the Tonkolili Iron Ore Mine, there is no tangible community development footprint from community development agreements negotiated before 2018," the President pointed.

"My Government believes that communities can achieve better development outcomes when more resources are directly provided to take care of their stated development needs. There is a saying in popular folklore that 'diamonds are not forever.' Mining is not forever, but mining communities deserve to be better off even when mining operations close down or are scaled down.

He emphasised that his government was grateful that investors from the People's Republic of China could keep faith in the country's economy, adding that at a broader level, that was a deep manifestation of the close solidarity between the two countries based on mutual trust and respect, a shared vision, and a shared interest in their common prosperity.

"The community must, therefore, do everything to support the peaceful operations of Leone Rock Metal Group and to protect the company's assets," he stated.

The President disclosed that his government would not want to see the mines close anymore, adding that Leone Rock Metal Group through its Subsidiary, Kingho Mining Company, had assured him that the ore optimisation plant to be constructed would add value to the iron ore before export.

"I am, therefore, most pleased to be laying the cornerstone for the company's phase II Stage II processing plant. I thank you for your kind attention," he concluded.

DIPLOMACY: Chinese Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Wang Qing, said the mega iron ore processing plant in Sierra Leone, when completed, would be the biggest in West Africa, adding that the success of

Leone Rock commissions mega 12 million metric tons processing plant



Leone Rock Metal Group was a demonstration of fruitful, practical, win-win relations.

"Since 2010 Leone Rock Metal Group has stood firmly with the Government of Sierra Leone in a bid to transform the mining sector. Irrespective of the many difficulties they had experienced, along with the huge global risks and challenges, the company was resilient enough to invest in the country.

"Our presence here today is a result of that trust and political will. Now, here we are, and we are trying to transform their losses into gains by expanding their investment through the construction of a 12 million metric tons iron ore processing plant that will add value to the iron ore to meet global standards.

INVESTOR CONFIDENCE: President of Leone Rock Metal Group, Colin Ding, said the 12 million metric tons per annum saprolite processing and beneficiation plant is a demonstration of the Company's aspiration and effort to support the continuous development of the mining industry in Sierra Leone and the creation of a stronger financial contribution to the economy, thereby providing more jobs & more revenue for the government through different tax regimes.

"Our current employment is over 3,600 vibrant and passionate employees, of whom 96 percent are Sierra Leoneans engaged in different roles in the company" he mentioned.

He also stated that when the company completed the phase 2 stage 1 concentrate plant last year with an investment of over 8 million dollars, the Company hope for a sustainable Tonkolili iron ore mine.

"Now, I envisage that with further expansion, through the construction of our Phase II stage II saprolite processing plant, the company will completely transform Tonkolili Iron Ore Mine into the largest sustainable iron ore-producing company in West Africa", he stated. This Phase II of the project targets an optimized grade of the ore of at least 62%Fe. In the past only Direct Shipping Ore(DSO) of an average grade of 57% Fe has been exported from this mine. This is why the company has deemed it prudent to upgrade to 62%Fe in order to meet acceptable global market standards & specification.

In his submission, the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Timothy Kabba showered praises on LRMG for investing a huge amount in the country & contributing immensely to human capital development, especially in the area of providing job opportunities for & training of Sierra Leoneans. He outlined that the upgrade will give added value to the product, create more jobs & inject more revenue to the economy of Sierra Leone.

The Director General of National Minerals Agency (NMA), Julius Mattai, who made a statement earlier on in the programme, gave a vivid account of the history & geology of the Tonkolili Iron Ore Mine. He commended Leone Rock Metal Group through its operational vehicle, Kingho Mining Company for expanding its operations & venturing into optimization after two previous operators had failed. He clearly enumerated on the benefits of Beneficiation & commended Kingho Mining Company for upgrading the grade of the ore to a minimum of 62%Fe.

The event was climaxed with the symbolic laying of the cornerstone for the construction of the 12MT Plant by HE, the President & accompanied by the President of Kingho Energy Group & other dignitaries to a thunderous applause by those present.



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INTERVIEW

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LOCAL NEWS

By Ishmael Dumbuya

The Chief Executive Officer, Leone Rock Metal Group, Gilbert Zhao, has indicated that the Le. 20billion given to host communities in Tonkolili is primarily geared towards addressing the basic amenities of residents in Tonkolili District.

WHAT HAPPENED?

On the 30th March 2023, the Leone Rock Metal Group disbursed over Le.20 billion to host communities in Tonkolili District. The disbursement is geared towards addressing the basic amenities of residents living in those host communities and it was done at the Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology campus.

WHAT WAS SAID?

The CEO, Leone Rock Metal Group Gilbert Zhao narrated that they have made significant investment into the host communities through their Community Development Agreement Fund, CDA. He noted that the fund is primarily pumped into the host communities in order to address the basic needs of residents.

Furthermore, the President Julius Maada Bio applauded Leone Rock for such a kind gesture. He added that since his administration took over the mantle of leadership, he has made it mandatory

The impacts of the Le.20bn to host communities in Tonkolili

for mining investors to benefit the members of the host communities. He emphasized that over the past ten years host communities have not been benefiting enough from the mining operations undertaken in those communities, as the country was marred with corruption at the time, and all the developments were taken to the birth place of former president Koroma, Makeni.

He went on to state that mining has a lot of devastating consequences to community members, and as such Leone Rock must ensure that they honour their commitments by paying their annual CDA fund to host communities, noting that the fund is geared towards the construction of bridges, healthcare centres, school, and potable drinking water. He ended by admonishing residents not to stifle the operations of the company as more fund will be allocated to the CDA. He recalled that last year, Le.5billion was pumped in to the CDA fund. However, this year brought a whopping Le. 20billion into the CDA fund, noting that as time progresses, the rate would increase.

HOW SIGNIFICANT IS THE CDA FUND?

Honestly, the importance of CDA fund cannot be overemphasized. Firstly, those monies will better the host

communities by allowing residents to purchase property, start businesses, save for the future, and support other important local businesses and initiatives.

CDA fund has a Public Benefit Status as it helps carry out community development projects through small-scale community investments. It was established as an appropriate tool for offering improvements of living standards of residents in the host communities. The CDA fund supports the construction of bridges in the township, hospitals, schools and help provide a potable drinking facility. Leone Rock Metal Group has contributed immensely to the development of communities within its operational areas.

Since the commencement of their mining operations in March 2020, LRMG has contributed to the socio-economic development of the country. In their annual reporting period of 2022, Leone Rock's annual payment in taxes, royalties, and licenses to the government amounted to \$9.25million, including taxes \$2.39million, royalties \$3.58million and licenses \$2.41million.

In addition, the CDA fund will help in the construction of schools. On the 26th November 2022, Leone Rock officially handed over a modern primary school to



the people of Kakim Island which will be utilized by island communities of Kakim, Gbaray, Mangay, Oku Town, Samblegma and Tassoh Island in Port Loko District.

As part of the company's continuous community engagement and strengthening mutual relationship with the relocated communities, Leone Rock in partnership with the Ministry of Mines, on October 29th 2022 engaged residents of the relocated communities of Foria, Wondugu and Ferengbeya to discuss the socioeconomic development of the communities.

The company acquired the Tonkolili mines in January 2020, with proven reserves of 13.8billion tons. The company positions itself to be an internationally comprehensive enterprise integrating mining, processing, smelting, and steel production in the country through their integrated Iron Ore supply chain from mine to steel.

Development Ministry, UNFPA commit to strengthening partnerships with IPDS

The Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Dr. Francis Kai-Kai, was joined by Ms. Nadia Rasheed, the Country Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in a visit to the Institute of Population and Development Studies (IPDS) at Fourah Bah College (FBC), University of Sierra Leone, on 23 March 2023.

UNFPA and the Ministry helped to create the foundation for the Institute in 1974 by establishing a Demographic and Research Training Unit at the University of Sierra Leone. UNFPA provided technical assistance and funds for the set-up of the training unit, which expanded to become the Institute of Population and Development Studies. The Institute currently offers an undergraduate program in Population and Development Studies, a certificate in Population Analysis and Social Statistics, and a Master of Science degree in Population and Development Studies. It also supports research on key areas related to population and development and provides professional in-service training opportunities in the field of demography and population studies.

Addressing the administration and students, the UNFPA Representative thanked the Minister for providing a platform to strengthen collaboration between the Institute, UNFPA and the Ministry, and highlighted joint initiatives with the Ministry and Institute to support Demographic and Health Surveys, development of demographic dividend profiles, and consultations for Voluntary National Reviews of the 2030 Agenda for



The visit highlighted the unique historical collaboration for the development and transformation of IPDS

Sustainable Development and on commitments towards the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), among other areas. She emphasized that "academic institutions like the Institute of Population and Development Studies play a vital role in helping countries to achieve their development goals, by building human resource capacity, generating data, knowledge and research, and informing evidence-based policy and practice," adding "UNFPA is proud to be associated with IPDS and look forward to opportunities to continue to strengthen synergy and collaboration."

In his statement, Minister Kai-Kai informed the audience that the primary objective of the visit was to officially introduce the UNFPA Country Representative in order to ensure that ongoing collaboration between UNFPA, the Institute and the Ministry can be further strengthened and scaled-up. He expressed that the visit was an opportunity to rekindle the triangular relationship in the interest of students,

the Institute, and the future of population and development studies and priorities in the country. He assured the administration and students of his personal commitment and that of his Ministry to the objectives and mission of IPDS. "We are ready to support the review of your programs and to strengthen our collaborative efforts on population and development data and research," he said.

The Minister also recognized and touched on the need to integrate new disciplines into the IPDS teaching program, connect the Institute with other institutions, strengthen research, and expand internship opportunities for students.

The chairman of the occasion marking the visit, Mr. Beresford Weekes, warmly welcomed Minister Kai-Kai and the UNFPA Representative. He acknowledged their inspirational remarks, noting that their presence meant a lot for the institute, as both of their agencies had played a critical role in building the school into what it is today. He stated that "the Institute has benefitted from the long-standing relationship with UNFPA since the early 1970s. Their joint support with MoPED has been timely in ensuring that demographers are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills to collect, analyze, and report population-level data for key policy and decision-making."

During his presentation, the Ag. Director of IPDS, Mr. Bartholomew Bockarie noted that "a lot has been done since the inception of the institute 50 years ago, from collaborating to train a number of demographers and statisticians, to

contributing to the development of policies in Sierra Leone". He highlighted key future plans of the institute, including a need to redesign the curriculum and incorporate marketable modules to meet contemporary standards and improve the skills of the demographers graduating from the Institute. He added that the Institute is striving to meet the educational needs of the students amidst recurring challenges, as they looked forward to furthering collaboration to enhance the faculty, staff capacity and research.

Responding to the statements made, the president of the IPDS student society expressed appreciation that the Ministry and UNFPA chose to visit the Institute. "With the help of internships, students will be well capacitated and gain a wealth of experience in our field of studies," he noted. Already, the UNFPA Representative and the Minister had facilitated revival of an internship program for students as a learning ground to build their careers. UNFPA is currently hosting interns from IPDS to enable them to gain practical work experience and contribute to the organization's activities in Sierra Leone. The visit highlighted the unique historical collaboration for the development and transformation of IPDS and provided a platform to discuss progress and challenges in the work of the Institute. These discussions will also inform future actions to enhance the Institute's contributions to the development of Sierra Leone, including through support for population and development research, policy and planning.

NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Gulf of Guinea: sailors of an oil tanker taken hostage by pirates



File photo from March 20, 2019: Nigerian Navy special forces patrol during an ... - Copyright © africanews Sunday Alamba/Copyright 2019 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

The Liberian-flagged Danish tanker attacked last weekend in the Gulf of Guinea has been located and rescued off the coast of Sao Tome and Principe, but part of the crew has been kidnapped, its owner announced on Friday.

The Monjasa Reformer was located Thursday by the French Navy, but only some of the 16 crew members were still on board, the Monjasa company said in a statement.

When the French soldiers arrived, "the pirates had abandoned the ship and taken some of the crew members with them", explained the Danish shipowner. "The other rescued crew members are in good health and a safe environment," he said.

The shipowner gave no details on the number of hostages and their nationality. Contacted by AFP, the company based in Fredericia in Denmark did not wish to give details.

"Our hearts go out to the crew members still missing and their families at this stressful time," Monjasa said in his statement, adding "to work closely with local authorities" to secure the sailors' return.

No damage was observed on the boat or on its cargo of fuel. The 135m-long ship had been attacked on Saturday evening about 140 nautical miles off the Congolese port of Pointe-Noire.

The announcement of the attack had only been made by the shipowner on Tuesday, after three days without news from the crew. The latter had had time to indicate that he had taken refuge in an anti-piracy "citadel" on the ship before contact was lost.

Research had since taken place in this sector of the eastern Gulf of Guinea. According to the Congolese authorities joined Tuesday by AFP, the attack was

committed by three men.

But according to the Franco-British mission MDAT-GoG ("Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade Gulf of Guinea"), it was a skiff with five pirates that carried out the attack.

A crucial maritime route bordering countries rich in hydrocarbons, the Gulf of Guinea, which stretches 5,700 km between Senegal and Angola, was for several years the new black spot of global piracy.

But the attacks have dropped recently thanks to the joint efforts of coastal countries and European states. Denmark, a major merchant navy power via its giant Maersk, notably sent a frigate in the fall of 2021.

In 2022, only around twenty skirmishes were recorded in the Gulf of Guinea, according to the Maritime Information Cooperation & Awareness Center. There were 52 in 2021 and 115 in 2020, according to the maritime security expert body based in Brest in France. Since the beginning of the year, two attacks have been reported in the area, the last on March 2, according to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB).

The Monjasa Reformer affair shows that "piracy problems off the west coast of Africa are far from being resolved", the Danish Shipowners Association said on Tuesday.

The merchant marine organization is particularly concerned to see the attacks start to rise again, the Western armies refocusing on Europe with the war in Ukraine.

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

Vatican rejects 'Doctrine of Discovery' that justified colonialism

The Vatican on Thursday responded to Indigenous demands and formally repudiated the "Doctrine of Discovery," the theories backed by 15th-century "papal bulls" that legitimized the colonial-era seizure of Native lands and form the basis of some property law today.

A Vatican statement said the papal bulls, or decrees, "did not adequately reflect the equal dignity and rights of Indigenous peoples" and have never been considered expressions of the Catholic faith.

The statement, from the Vatican's development and education offices, marked a historic recognition of the Vatican's own complicity in colonial-era abuses committed by European kingdoms, and Indigenous leaders welcomed it.

It continued to take some distance from any actual Vatican culpability, however, saying the papal documents had been "manipulated" for political purposes by colonial powers "to justify immoral acts against Indigenous peoples that were carried out, at times, without opposition from ecclesial authorities." It said it was right to "recognize these errors," acknowledge the terrible effects of colonial-era assimilation policies on Indigenous peoples and ask for their forgiveness.

The statement was a response to decades of Indigenous demands for the Vatican to formally rescind the papal bulls that provided the Portuguese and Spanish kingdoms the religious backing to expand their territories in Africa and the Americas for the sake of spreading Christianity.

Those decrees underpin the "Doctrine of Discovery," a legal concept coined in a 1823 U.S. Supreme Court decision that has come to be understood as meaning

that ownership and sovereignty over land passed to Europeans because they "discovered" it.

It was cited as recently as a 2005 Supreme Court decision involving the Oneida Indian Nation written by the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

During Pope Francis' 2022 visit to Canada, where he apologized to Indigenous peoples for the residential school system that forcibly removed Native children from their homes, he was met with demands for a formal repudiation of the papal bulls.

Two Indigenous women unfurled a banner at the altar of the National Shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré on July 29 that read: "Rescind the Doctrine" in bright red and black letters.

The protesters were escorted away and the Mass proceeded without incident, though the women later marched the banner out of the basilica and draped it on the railing.

In the statement, the Vatican said: "In no uncertain terms, the church's magisterium upholds the respect due to every human being."

The Catholic Church therefore repudiates those concepts that fail to recognize the inherent human rights of Indigenous peoples, including what has become known as the legal and political 'doctrine of discovery.'

The Vatican offered no evidence that the three papal bulls (Dum Diversas in 1452, Romanus Pontifex in 1455 and Inter Caetera in 1493) had themselves been formally abrogated, rescinded or rejected, as Vatican officials have often said.

But it cited a subsequent bull, Sublimis Deus in 1537, that reaffirmed that Indigenous peoples shouldn't be deprived of their liberty or the possession of their

China's global influence looms over Harris trip to Africa



U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris after meeting with Tanzanian President Samia ... - Copyright © africanews Ericky Boniphace/AP

Vice president Kamala Harris will arrive in Lusaka, Zambia on Friday for the final stop of her weeklong trip across Africa.

She is expected to see the new airport that's doubled in size.

Rather than a symbol of promising local development, it's a reminder of China's deep influence there. Beijing financed the project, one of many that has expanded its footprint on a booming continent that's rich in natural resources.

The global rivalry between the United States and China has been a recurring backdrop for Harris' journey, and nowhere has that been more apparent than Zambia and her previous stop in Tanzania.

Besides the airport, China built a 60,000-seat stadium in Lusaka, plus roads and bridges around the country. Zambia is on the hook for all of the development with billions of dollars in debt. Tanzania is a major trading partner with China.

The developments have alarmed Washington, and President Joe Biden's administration is worried that Africa is slipping further into Beijing's sphere of influence.

Harris has played down the issue on her trip, preferring to focus on building partnerships independent of geopolitical competition. However, she acknowledged there's limited time for the U.S. to make inroads on the continent.

"I do think there's a window, and we have made a concerted, intentional effort to demonstrate our commitment and our willingness to invest in a relationship," she told reporters earlier in the trip. "I do believe the window is definitely open now, and I do believe that based on what we do now, the window will continue to be open. But it will be a function of the investments that we make starting now to create the momentum that is necessary for this approach to endure."

China's roots in both Tanzania and Zambia run deep. In the 1970s, Beijing built the Tazara Railway from landlocked Zambia to Tanzania's Dar es Salaam port, allowing copper exports to circumvent white-minority-ruled Rhodesia and apartheid, South Africa.

Today, China is Africa's largest two-way trading partner with \$254 billion of business in 2021, according to the United States Institute of Peace. That's four times the amount of trade between the U.S. and Africa. In addition, dealing with Beijing features less admonishments about democracy than with Washington.

"Most African countries are rightly unapologetic about their close ties to China," Nigeria's vice president, Yemi Osinbajo, tweeted on Thursday. "China shows up where and when the West will not and are reluctant."

Sen. Chris Coons, a Delaware Democrat who has worked on Africa issues in Congress, expressed frustration over China's growing influence here.

"We switched from being the No. 1 trade partner or

property, and were not to be enslaved.

Cardinal Michael Czerny, the Canadian Jesuit whose office co-authored the statement, stressed that the original bulls had long ago been abrogated and that the use of the term "doctrine" — which in this case is a legal term, not a religious one — had led to centuries of confusion about the church's role.

The original bulls, he said, "are being treated as if they were teaching, magisterial or doctrinal documents, and they are an ad hoc political move. And I think to solemnly repudiate an ad hoc political move is to generate more confusion than clarity."

the No. 1 investment partner in two dozen countries to China being the No. 1 trade and investment partner," he told reporters aboard Air Force 2 on the flight to Ghana at the beginning of Harris' trip. "I think our challenge for this decade is to address that."

Biden has been taking steps toward that, such as hosting a summit for African leaders in December, where he announced that he wants to commit \$55 billion to the continent in the coming years.

Harris has made announcements as well during her trip, including more than \$1 billion in public and private money for economic development, \$100 million for security assistance in West Africa and \$500 million to facilitate trade with Tanzania.

However, there's skepticism about whether the U.S. will follow through on its promises, and Harris has been faced with not-so-subtle hints that Africa expects more.

For example, the presidents of Ghana and Tanzania bluntly said they hope Biden chooses to visit their countries during his expected trip to Africa later this year, which would be his first to the continent as president.

Edem Selormey, who conducts public opinion research at the Ghana Center for Democratic Development, said the feeling is often mutual.

"China's influence in Africa is largely seen as positive," she said. "And the U.S. trails China in that regard."

The difference, she said, is often about "what citizens see on the ground," such as infrastructure projects, and "the U.S. has been missing from this picture for a while."

John Kirby, a White House national security spokesman, said the debt that comes from China's involvement is ultimately corrosive. He said African leaders are "beginning to realize that China is not really their friend."

"China's interests in the region are purely selfish, as opposed to the United States," he said.

It's a sentiment that draws scoffs in some corners of Africa.

"America is like playing the role of a big Uncle Sam in trying to defend African countries against what they think is the encroachment of China into the liberty of African countries through these loans," said Tanzania-based analyst Mohamed Issa Hemed.

However, he added, "China is ahead of the U.S. in many, many ways."

Daniel Russel, a former State Department official who is now at the Asia Society Policy Institute, summed up the African perspective as "enough with the lectures" about China. "They've got something we want. And they've got it right here."

When it comes to U.S. hopes for Africa, he said, "you can't beat something with nothing."

Credit: africanews with AP

He stressed that the statement wasn't just about setting the historical record straight, but "to discover, identify, analyze and try to overcome what we can only call the enduring effects of colonialism today."

It was significant that the repudiation of the "Doctrine of Discovery" came during the pontificate of history's first Latin American pope.

Even before the Canadian trip, the Argentine pope had apologized to Native peoples in Bolivia in 2015 for the crimes of the colonial-era conquest of the Americas.

It was issued while he was in the hospital Thursday with a respiratory infection.



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

7th Floor Youyi Building West Wing, Brookfield's, Freetown

Invitation for Bids (IFB) National Competitive Bidding (NCB)

Supply of 12,000 Pairs of License Plates for Artisanal Canoes for the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

Date of First Issued: 17th March, 2023

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) has received funds from the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) through the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry intends to utilize the funds for the supply of 12,000 pairs of License Plates for Artisanal Canoes for the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and want to hire a credible Supplier with proven experience for the supply of the aforementioned goods, therefore, sealed bids are invited from eligible bidders for the following:

No.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	PROCUREMENT NUMBER
1	Supply of 12,000 pairs of License Plates for Artisanal Canoes for the MFMR.	MFMR/ART/NCB/2023/002

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the address below between 10:00am to 3:00pm from Mondays to Fridays before the bid closing date. The bidding documents may be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Leones (Le300.00) for the supply of 12,000 pairs of License Plates for Artisanal Canoes at the Account office of the MFMR and a copy of the receipt submitted to the Procurement Unit at the address below for issuance of the bidding document. All bids must be accompanied with:

- Ø Bid security of Fifteen Thousand Leones (Le15, 000.00) for the supply of 12,000 pairs of License Plates for Artisanal Canoes for MFMR from a reputable Commercial Bank operating in Sierra Leone.
- Ø A copy of a valid business registration certificate
- Ø A copy of a valid tax clearance certificate from the National Revenue Authority (NRA).
- Ø A copy of a valid NASSIT clearance certificate,
- Ø A copy of a valid local council License
- Ø Bank Statement for 2 years from a reputable commercial Bank or 2 years Audited financial statements
- Ø A completed sign integrity pact
- Ø A completed sign Eligibility and Qualification Form.

Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below on or before Wednesday 16th April, 2023 at 1200 Hours GMT. Electronic bidding will not be permitted; late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders

Bids will be opened publicly on Monday 17th April, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. in the presence of bidders or representatives of bidders who choose to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders.

The Procurement Unit,
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)
7th Floor West Wing Youyi Building, Brookfields, Freetown.
Contact No: +232-76-544-429

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PRESS RELEASE
INCREASE IN COST OF RADIO COMMERCIALS
Mile 91 Town, 25th March 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

FREETOWN

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

PROVINCIAL

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

SILBA regrets any inconvenience this may cause.

END

Signed:

Daniel M. Amara
Secretary General

Approved By:

Stanley Bangura Jr
Chairman



Guild of Editors - Sierra Leone

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

Public Notice Increase in Advert Pricing for Newspapers

24th March, 2023.

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

Black & White

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

Coloured

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

The cover price remains the same.

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

Your cooperation is highly solicited.

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

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

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INT'L SPORT

Sir Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger inducted into Premier League Hall of Fame

Former Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson and ex-Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger have been inducted into the Premier League Hall of Fame.

Ferguson, 81, is the most successful manager in Premier League history with a record 13 titles.

Wenger won three league titles during his 22-year spell in charge of the Gunners.

The Frenchman led Arsenal's "Invincibles" to an unbeaten league-winning season in 2003-04.

Ferguson and Wenger are the first two managers to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame launched in 2021 with David Beckham, Dennis Bergkamp, Eric Cantona, Thierry Henry, Roy Keane, Frank Lampard, Steven Gerrard and Alan Shearer the inaugural inductees.

Last year, Sergio Aguero, Didier Drogba, Vincent Kompany, Wayne Rooney, Peter Schmeichel, Paul Scholes, Patrick Vieira and Ian Wright were added.

Ferguson, who managed Manchester United from 1986 until 2013, won three league titles in a row on two separate occasions.

"It's an honour when you receive recognition like this," he said. "However, it's not just about me as a



person.

"It's about the job at Manchester United and the bond we had over many years, so I'm also proud for the club, the staff and my players.

"My job was to send the fans home happy. United's history and my own expectations were the things that drove me."

Wenger, 73, arrived as one of the Premier League's first foreign managers in 1996 and won the league in his first full season at Arsenal.

"I'd like to be known as someone who loved Arsenal, who respected the values of the club and left it in a position where it can grow and become even bigger," Wenger said.

"To share this with Sir Alex is a great honour for me. It's like two boxers, you fight like mad and go the distance together.

"At the end of the day, you have respect and it will be a great opportunity to meet with him, share a good bottle of wine and memories of our old battles."

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football>

Manager-less Tottenham in disarray as managing director Fabio Paratici is banned WORLDWIDE

Tottenham managing director Fabio Paratici will likely have to step away from his role after FIFA extended worldwide a ban imposed on him by the Italian FA for 'financial malpractice'.

When Juventus were docked 15 points in January following the 'Prisma' investigation after they were found guilty of false accounting in relation to transfer dealings, several current and former executives of the club received bans.

Paratici's 30-month ban - which was the longest suspension handed to the 12 individuals sanctioned - applied only to Italian football but the global governing body have now confirmed this will be extended across the world, giving Spurs another major problem.

In a statement they said: 'FIFA can confirm that following a request by the Italian FA (FIGC), the chairperson of FIFA disciplinary committee has decided to extend the sanctions imposed by FIGC on several football officials to have worldwide



effect.'

Paratici and Juventus deny any wrongdoing and have appealed the decision, along with the 15-point deduction.

Juventus are accused of false corporate communications, false communications to the stock market and obstruction of a supervisory authority but said their accounting is

in line with industry standards.

The news regarding Paratici comes as a huge blow to Spurs, with the Italian set to head up their search for a new manager after Antonio Conte left the club by mutual consent on Sunday.

Paratici's ban being extended came less than 24 hours after Spurs tweeted a video of an interview with the Italian, where he covered a

number of topics including the dismissal of Conte and the search for his replacement.

He said parting ways with Conte was the 'right decision for everyone' as he backed the 'experienced' Cristian Stellini to take the crisis-ridden club forward.

Paratici spent 11 years with Juventus from 2010 to 2021, which included a significant spell as sporting director, before he joined Spurs that summer.

Following the Prisma investigation, the other executives banned included former president Andrea Agnelli and CEO Maurizio Arrivabene who were sanctioned for two years.

Elsewhere, vice-president and former player Pavel Nedved received an eight-month suspension.

An appeal against the sanctions implemented by the Italian FA - which includes the the points deduction and banning of individuals - is set to be heard by the Italian Olympic Committee on April 19.

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

Bake some festive treats this Christmas!

Padi
You Padi na kitchen

Ready, Steady, Bake!

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You Padi na kitchen

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"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!

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ARE YOU

TEAM KETCHUP OR TEAM MAYO

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Enriched with / Enrichi Vitamin A & D

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Padi, sharing is caring 😊

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Mama Mia!

Padi Spaghetti, strands of deliciousness!

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Daddy you are my best Padi!

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Spread the love!

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

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Truly Natural & Healthy

Good Morning Padi Premium Black Tea Finest Ceylon Blend

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Sierra Leone Paralympic president gets AfPC West Africa Zone 'A' appointment



WADA to conduct mandatory anti-doping E-learning for participating Paris 2024 athletes



world anti-doping agency

Athletes competing in all Paris 2024 Olympic Qualification competitions must conclude the WADA e-learning "International Level Athletes Education Program" hosted on the World Anti-Doping Agency's education platform, ADEL. The e-learning covers essential anti-doping education and helps to support the fight for clean sport. The ADEL platform is available in multiple languages and UIPM will recognise submissions in all languages. Completion certificates must be uploaded to the UIPM portal and confirmed by UIPM prior to the athlete's participation in any Paris 2024 Olympic Qualification event. Click here to view the list of competitions in English or French. UIPM requires athletes to engage in this process under Article 17 of the UIPM 2021 Anti-Doping Rules (see extract below):

UIPM shall plan, implement, evaluate and promote Education in line with the requirements of Article 18.2 of the Code and the International Standard for Education. UIPM may decide to request that Athletes complete Educational activities before and/or during their participation in select Events (e.g: Youth World Championships) as a condition of such participation. The list of Events for which Athletes will be required to complete Educational activities as a condition of participation will be published on UIPM's website. Failure by the Athlete to complete educational activities as requested by UIPM may result in the imposition of sanction under UIPM's disciplinary rules, unless the Athlete provides to UIPM a justification for such failure, which shall be assessed by UIPM on a case by case basis.

President of the National Paralympic Committee Sierra Leone (NPC-SLE), Unisa Deen Kargbo (UDK), has been officially appointed as the Head of West Africa Paralympic Committee Zone A. In a letter written to the NPC-SLE's President, UDK was required to accept the compliments of the African Paralympic Committee (AfPC) in Accra, Ghana. "Your track record, excellent experience and technical expertise in sports administration, management, service delivery and related fields globally inspire your appointment. Per this appointment, you are to oversee and coordinate the activities of the NPCs within the Zone; facilitate the development and promotion of para-sports, effective, efficient administration and management of our NPCs within the Zone as well as liaise and work closely with the IPC-APC Project Committee to ensure effective planning, implementation, and management of projects," the letter reads. The West Africa Zone A membership includes; Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, and Sierra Leone with Doumbouya Seydou, and Seiney Camara as Chair and Chief Operating Officer respectively.

"Your rich experience, knowledge and expertise would be brought to bear on the development, increased participation in Para-sports and improved performance of the Paralympic Movement in Africa." The mandate of appointees expires on 30th September 2024. Reaching his appointment, UDK was quick to dedicate his new task to the members of the Sierra Leone Sports family especially for-father, Henry Moore, Dr.Patrick Coker, Pamela Williams, Joseph Oriely-Campbell, Joseph Nyande and Prince Sualley who gave him the platform to showcase his ability to lead and manage sports. He was also very grateful to the President of the African Paralympic Committee, Samson Deen and the board of the AfPC for the trust. He said: "My priority will be to provide the necessary guide for my zone to get more qualified athletes for the Paris 2024 Paralympics Games." UDK is currently serving a second term as President of the Committee and was recently elected Treasurer of the National Olympic Committee of Sierra Leone (NOC-SLE). He has been Sierra Leone's longest-serving Chef De Mission who served both the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Mogbewemo Queens win inaugural Women's League title



Mogbewemo Queens have won the inaugural Sierra Leone Women's League title 2022/23 league season, with title contender Kahunla Queens ending as runners-up.

Coach Adama 'Pele' side were awarded the title last Friday after her side secured a 1-0 win over Correctional Center in their final league match which saw them finish

with 55 points, 6 points above title contender Kahunla Queens who were shocked with a 1-2 defeat by Ram FC on the final day fixtures. The league season had been a drama and a tough finish for both Queen; Mogbewemo and Kahunla as it was only three points between the two sides before final say kick-off, but it was the Rutile-based queens who overpowered the former for the big crown.

With the title already in the bag, the Queens have also secured a ticket to continental football all thanks to their price assets, Rashidatu Kamara whose classic dreekick handed them their first ever silverware. As the first Sierra Leone Women's premier league champions, Mogbewemo Queens will also become Sierra Leone's first female team to compete in the CAF Women's Champions League.