



# Five years of President Bio's administration: Lawyer Francis Gabbidon gives judiciary a pass mark

## Local Court orders demolition of over 15 Houses in Kabala



A scene of the evicted victims

#### By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

should be honest with you that the Judiciary has transformed itself, it has redeemed its name and the image," remarked seasoned Lawyer Francis Gabbidon, but noted that the Judges need to do more in dealing with cases as quickly as possible.

The Judiciary is one of the three arms of government that is charged with the responsibility of interpreting the law.

What happened? After assuming office in 2018, President Bio appointed Justice Babatunde Edwards as the Chief Justice of Sierra Leone.

Under his leadership, Justice Babatunde has undertaken some physical and other reforms in terms of the delivery of justice to all and sundry.

In order to get the actual picture of what the judiciary has been like over the past five years, Concord Times conducted an exclusive interview with seasoned Lawyer, Francis Gabbaidon.



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### PONDER MY THOUGHTS

By Andrew Keili

ver since President Bio invited NGC's Dr. Kandeh Yumkella in Kambia to "come back home", to which he received the retort, "a hole word", the pursuit of the "bride" has been relentless. Publicized appearances of both gentlemen together have set tongues wagging. Emboldened by mandates from the National Executive Councils of both parties to explore a strategic alliance, the parties embarked on a dalliance that has resulted in the announcement last week that they were now "engaged". The real "marriage" has been slated for April 23, 2023 at a big "wedding ceremony".

The public has had some glimpses of the purpose of the proposed marriage. They propose to "pool resources to ensure victory in the election of June 24, 2023 through collaboration at all levels of the political/electoral landscape". They will also develop a joint manifesto. The goal is will "bring transformative development to Sierra Leone". Undoubtedly, the "marriage vows" will be read at the April In the final analysis, the most important necessarily put paid to Gento's ambition. 23" "wedding ceremony".

needs to delve into who exactly the second term the Alliance deems likeable northerner with strong roots in stakeholders are on the NGC side who inevitable. He will to a large extent Freetown, and a candidate backed by the will be affected by this marriage. There determine the nature and membership of SLPP hierarchy are good credentials for are those who are idealistic and believe the next government. Though he will going into the Mayoral race. Throw in the the NGC should "stay pure" as a third depend on advice from top players of the fact that he is married to Tuma Jabbie, a force party to continue playing its role as Alliance, including in particular his own Christian, and Mende (daughter of Dr. an effective opposition. They reckon that trusted advisers, he will have to decide Bubuakei (Injuction) Jabbie - as Mende even with the impossibility of a third whether he wants a transformational as they come!) and a mother who is a party winning now, the NGC project leadership with an eye on leaving behind a Christian Pentecostal pastor should earn should be a long term project-say over 10 commendable legacy, even if this means him more stripes. years, to break the dominance of our two major parties that have "wreaked so much politically and socially close or to preserve minefield?" The same reason why all of havoc on this country". If this means NGC the status quo. The success of the those I have listed at the start of this goes down fighting valiantly, so be it! Any alliance in their view will spell the death knell of NGC. There are others who parties will work together with their devout Catholic, Church organist and believe that NGC should be realistic and advisers to chart out the transformative father of a Catholic Priest in an practical and should form an alliance with one of the existing major political parties to participate in inclusive governance. It For now, there is talk that this is a Jesus Christ. Samura Kamara, married would seem the "purist go-it-alone people" and others who may be dissatisfied with the process leading to the formation of the Alliance have got their voices drowned out. These include well-meaning people who have either joined the party and may be made in Heaven - but then again, President Bio and his wife in speeches to given active support over time and others, so are thunder and lightning". who are on the sidelines but nevertheless Ponder my thoughts. want change. The "Alliance proponents" who supported moving towards APC lost out mainly because APC gave tepid support to the Coalition of Progressive Parties (COPP) idea which had a still birth.

merger in which NGC would be realize that negative statements on tribe, which NGC maintains its identity?

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Whatever the case, the "wedding" is on their unguarded moments. and it has left in its wake some They often do so with no realization there disenchanted members and well-wishers, may be moles in their midst or triggersome of whom accuse the NGC and happy phone cameras capturing the especially its Parliamentary Leader, proceedings. In the case of Gento, one Kandeh Yumkella of selling out. Some key political commentator's view was that officials had already bolted from the NGC, Gento wanted to demonize his presumed accusing the party of pursuing actions opponent Yvonne Aki-Sawyer who had "incompatible with the party's ethos", chosen a Christian Krio as her Running However, the number of people favouring Mate in an "unbalanced ticket". Since the alliance within the ranks of the NGC Gento could not muster the courage to say seems to have swelled and this includes so, he went on a long and tortured speech National Executive members and key about discrimination against Muslims in patrons of the party. There have been no employment that defied simple logic. notable dissenting views from the party's When he got criticized by SLAJ and other rank and file members. The real issue at groups, he went on the defensive. to promote an inclusive government that this stage seems to be better defining the Opposition detractors joined the frav and stake of the party in the Alliance.

person in the inclusive government debate A rich populist, with enough cash to fund To assess how this Alliance is viewed, one would seem to be President Bio during a community projects (SLPP's Jagaban), a ditching non performers, who are Why then did he walk into a "religion "marriage" to a large extent will also article did- "Foot-in-mouth disease". My depend on whether the leaders of both CKC mentor, Solomon Ekuma Berewa, a leadership that they now tout. Only time unguarded moment is said to have made will tell.

> "marriage made in heaven". The success to a Pujehun woman and schooled in Bo is depends on a 5-letter word-TRUST. The said to have made negative remarks about serene silence of the APC on this issue for South Easterners. Yvonne Aki-Sawyer now is worthy of note. An APC pundit with a father of Mende heritage made however observed wryly- "Yes, marriages unfortunate "Buwa Biswe" remarks.

swallowed up or a loose alliance of sorts in religion and gender are no-go areas, they still stumble into these areas, often in gratifying .....

**SLPP-NGC ALLIANCE:** 

IAGE MADE IN HE

he has been "roasted" on social media.

This episode should however not

an unfortunate slip in a remark about ardent supporters have been accused of making remarks that have been deemed

by some to border on the tribal. Abu Abu

opponents that got him temporarily

speech at our CKC sports event-and that was often. His speech was always the same and he would start with ---- "It is

Part of the problem is that leaders' remarks do not fade away after they are given. Rhetoric from national leaders also serves as a cue for local figures.Not all utterances are benign however. There are those from people who actually set out to cause trouble. Some politicians and their supporters shamelessly and actively legitimize all sorts of hateful rhetoric. Their violent rhetoric often demonizes their political opponents. More recently, this has been on the upsurge especially on social media. Hateful rhetoric can stir dangerous emotions amongst the populace.

There is a deceptively simple answer to the problem of incendiary rhetoric. Politicians should exercise restraint themselves and condemn their fellow leaders when they cross the line. There is a simple way however of avoiding political slips of the tongue. The handlers and advisers of politicians should advise them to stay clear of tribe, religion, and gender in their speeches, unless these are well thought through. When they make such mistakes, the last thing they should try to do is go on a "Bob Marley" type explanation as Gento did. There is however no better advice than that given by the Apostle James about the tongue in the Bible-James 3-verses 6 through 10.

<sup>6</sup> The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. " but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison." With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing.

It is good though to see that Gento has done some recanting of sorts. It is also good to see that Gento's handlers have come out with his manifesto which espouses what he will do, were he to climb that steep hill called "Mount YAS" and become Mayor.

cannot however end without commending groups like SLAJ and the Inter Religious Council who have come out with guns blazing, condemning the incendiary speech and warning other politicians who may be so inclined. I particularly like Rev. Dr. Jesse Forna's warning as Secretary General of the Inter Religious Council to places of worship not to allow politicians to use their venues for propagating any kind of divisive speech in this country.

SLPP's motivation has been simple. Politics is a numbers' game and "NGC renegades", many of whom were as green as grass should come back home and swell up their numbers to defeat the "APC devil incarnate". The real question then for them seems to be what sort of alliance should they have with these "renegades". and others. Even though politicians now

POLITICAL FOOT-IN-MOUTH gave a hardline speech about decapitating DISEASE: ET TU GENTO?

The presumed SLPP Mayoral candidate's "decapitated" from his Ministerial now infamous speech in a Mosque is not a position. Kandeh Yumkella made a unique or even rare event. Gento Kamara blunder with his famous "one hundred has joined a long list of distinguished dollar supporters" statement.

politicians whose unguarded utterances Normally, politicians have a lot to say and have widely been viewed as bigoted or not much time to say it, and in their haste the message often gets lost on its way from divisive. This list includes Solomon the brain to the mouth resulting in them Berewa, Samura Kamara, Kandeh making funny, embarrassing, and Yumkella, Yvonne Aki-Sawyer (YAS), memorable statements. There are very Maada Bio, Fatima Bio, Abu Abu Koroma few politicians who do not stumble in this way. That's why Minister R-K never stumbled when called upon to deliver a

Let us all learn during this tense election period to watch our tongues and preserve the unity of this country. Ponder my thoughts

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#### Local Court orders demolition of over 15 Houses in Kabala LOCAL NEWS

ver 15 houses have been demolished in Kabala with hundreds left homeless on the eve of the rainy season after a ruling by the local court authorities in Wara Wara Yagala Court No:1, Koinadugu District. The ruling by the Wara Wara Yagala Chiefdom Court at Gbawuria- Kabala in the Koinadugu District, has sent tongues wagging about the justice system in the country, which to many is a means to undermine government's efforts to transforming the justice system in the country.

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One of the victims alleged that the decision to demolish their houses initially came after a judgement made against them by Mr. Ibrahim Bah, the Acting Local Court Supervisor in Koinadugu and Falaba.

The action was not only limited to the demolition exercise in that part of the country, but also saw an acting court supervisor presiding over a court matter and making judgement. The victims also accused the court chairman, Mr. Lansana Gberie Kamara of being partial.

The question here is how both Kamara and Bah manipulated the status of a local court into being Supreme Court to the extent that their decision must be final and cannot be challenged. Despite the advice from the Paramount Chief, PC Gbawuru Mansaray III in the Wara Wara Yagala Chiefdom not to carry out any demolition considering the economic situation in the country and for a peaceful coexistence, the Order was executed.

The victims further alleged that Bah and Kamara led the plaintiff to contact the AIG in Makeni to provide with police support for the demolition exercise, since the Customary Law Office in Koinadugu and Falaba refused to sign thereby granting them police support from Kabala. During the demolition exercise, the community people were left with shock seeing houses that were built over 20 years destroyed in minutes.

"Bah and Kamara have killed me and left my family displaced", one of the victims cried! The victim, who is a veteran in the Sierra Leone Armed Forces and served for over 20 years expressed his disappointment in the local court justice system, specifically in Kamara and Bah's court. He further told this medium that it was his entire

retirement benefit that he used to put Kamara and Bah's court is exemplified his four bed-room structure to shelter by the recent Ejectment Summons his family who depended on him.

not only lose their houses but other Authority to give up the possession of a properties worth millions of Leones disputed property situated at the including their kids' uniforms, books, Kabala Center, Although the matter has and other items. Most of them are now been appealed and was on hold for wondering on how to get back their kids review by the State Council and to school after the Second Term Recess. Customary Law officer in the district. They concluded that the action of "Kamara and Bah who serve the court Kamara and Bah has put the future of ignored the appeal made by the their kids in jeopardy.

and arrogant; the reason they want the Mansarav III stated in an interview. Judiciary and an impartial body to But Mr.Ibrahim denied the allegations poor state.

Notice that they issued to the Wara Other victims expressed that they did Wara Yagala Chiefdom Council Chiefdom Council Authorities as well as The community accused the Court the two invitations by the State Counsel authorities of being allegedly corrupt to review their decision", PC Gbawuru

intervene and rescue them from their when contacted by this medium.He stated that the allegations were false

The level of injustice perpetuated in and misleading.

#### Judge slams injunction on C4C interim elections committee By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

ustice Simeon Alieu has granted an interim injunction restraining the Transitional Interim National Officers' Elections Committee {TINEOC} and servants or agents of the Coalition for Change {C4C}party from conducting any party activity or elections for the appointment of executive members and from conducting any national conference.

The injunction is contained in a five point order dated 14th April 2023 and is pending hearing and determination of the

The originating motion filed by Gevao and seen by many to have brought sanity Judiciary effective in serving as the Partners on behalf of Sylvanus Tamba to the court system, especially the conduit of justice to encourage more Saidu and Mohamed Yero Bah0 is seeking main Law Courts Building on Siaka investors come to establish for the annulment of all decisions and the issue raised and for the Political conduct of the Transitional Interim Parties Regulatory Commission He said although things are very National Officers Elections Committee difficult with some judges not having (TINEOC) and agents of the Coalition for



appointing or conducting any party executive officers elections or conducting any party activity until the final resolve of (PPRC) be compelled to supervise all the affairs of the Coalition for Change party. In a 23 point affidavit in support of the motion, one of the Petitioners, Sylvanus Tamba Saidu who said he was the C4C's Chairman for Kailahun district and Constituency 010 Parliamentary Nominee for the 2018 elections, alleged that as a result of the activities, conducts and decisions of the party's Transitional Interim National Officers Elections Committee {TINEOC}, it has deprived other potential members the benefit of contesting and actively participating in the affairs of the party.

### Five years of President Bio's administration: Lawyer Francis Gabbidon gives judiciary a pass mark

#### From Cover

What Gabbidon says? As one of the oldest lawyers in the country with over 30 years' experience, Lawyer Gabbidon who is also a consultant at the Legal Aid Board, explained the successes, challenges and the way forward in the development of judiciary of the country.

According to Lawyer Gabbidon, Justice Edwards has done significantly well in the area of physical reforms, pointing out the distinct separation of the High Court from the Magistrate Courts leading to the transfer of all Magistrate Courts to Pademba Road.

Steven Street in Freetown, which businesses in the country.



Lawyer Francis Gabbidon

been courts to try cases.

"This ongoing decentralization Lawyer Gabiddon believes that there application on 26th April 2023. process of the justice system has been is more to be done in making the

hosts the High Courts," he observed.

He cited the renovation of the High official vehicles and large area of the Change (C4C) party for failure to comply Court in recent times after being country not having court sittings, but with provisions of the party's 2017 abandoned for years, with some that things are much better as constitution. rooms already been transformed into compared to previous years. courtrooms while some are used for Lawyer Gabiddon also expressed the court to declare null and void and other official purposes.

Having been a consultancy at the tojustice for all and sundry. Legal Aid Board for over five years. He said what was in Sierra Leone the C4C. Francis Gabbidon said he was able to when he came in 1972 as a lawyer has The Plaintiffs in their ten point notice of travel all over the country to look at changed significantly, expressing motion dated 13th April 2023 requested the courts that the Chief Justice has hope for improvement of the judiciary. that the court grants an interlocutory set up in places where there has never

The claimants are also seeking for the need to recruit more judges and illegitimate all executive members elected magistrates in order to expand access from all elections conducted and or selected or appointed by the TINEOC of

injunction against the defendants from

#### Njala University establishes new Campus in Bonthe District LOCAL NEWS

The Chancellor of Njala University, Professor Sahr Moses Gevao has on Saturday, 15th April 2023 inaugurated the Njala University Bonthe Campus.

The ceremony which took place at the Grounds of the former Bonthe Technical Training College, Monument Lane, Shebro Island, Bonthe, was graced by administrative and academic staff of Njala University, the Deputy Minister of Technical and Higher Education, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, the former Mayor of Bonthe Municipality, Bonthe District Officer, traditional leaders, students and residents of Bonthe.

In his welcome address, Chancellor noted that Njala University is a vibrant, progressive institution, constantly exploring opportunities for growth and sustainability.

Professor Gevao explained that the establishment of a third campus in Bonthe is part of the University's restructuring strategy, designed to unlock economic potential, generate untapped industries and put Njala University on the international stage as a recognised education and research provider, specifically in the global maritime world and the sustainable tourism industry. He added that the University is committed to the achievement of its goals, and rely on support from stakeholders in realising what hew referred to as "this ambitious project."

Professor Bashiru Mohamed Koroma, Vice-Chancellor and Principal stated in his inaugural speech that the University's plans to



Newly admitted students at the Bonthe Campus

establish two Schools and Institutes which include the Schools of Maritime Studies, Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Management, Institute of Technical Entrepreneurship and Vocational Studies, and the Institute of Teacher Education.

Professor Bashiru Koroma said the three Departments under the School of Maritime Studies will include the Marine Engineering and Navigation, Maritime Management and Logistics, and the Department of Marine Sciences and Coastal Agriculture. He also added that the School of Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Management will host the Departments of Tourism and Travel Management, Hospitality Management and Catering Science, and the Department of Cultural Heritage Studies.

"Recognised as a pioneer of initiatives that support sustainable economic growth, the University is now embarking on an exciting Campus establishment in the Sherbro Island that stands to generate enormous benefits at local and national levels," Professor Koroma averred.

According to VC&P, the School of Maritime Studies will address the significant human capacity gaps in Sierra Leone's blue economy industries. "This economic concept," he went



on, "promotes the sustainable utilisation of ocean resources for economic growth, food security, employment creation, energy generation, water transportation and protection of the marine environment for future generations."

out its mission.

Technical and Higher Education, the Deputy competitiveness. Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara said that he felt frustrated of the apparent neglect of the historical injustice to Bonthe Island over the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Honourable because of President Bio's desire for education

The Deputy Minister noted that the Government to support the establishment. transformation is because of the Government's Former Mayor Layemin Joe Sandi of Bonthe huge investment in education and expressed Municipality committed his fullest support to that Bonthe is lucky to take only thirty-four the Campus and noted that they have longed (34) years to be a constituent Campus of Njala for this moment long ago because of direction University. He added that His Excellency's the college was about to take due to its emphasis on human capital development and the investment of 22% in education has seen more people going to school, higher pass rate of tape and unveiling signage symbolising the in public examination and increased in the official opening of the Njala University number of students admitted in public Bonthe Campus.

Universities.

The Minister assured that the transformation and expansion at Njala University is significant because of the population growth rate in the country especially the youth. He noted that Njala's Expansion to Bonthe Campus will mean that Njala will be serving about 24% of the population in the Southern province, noting that the expansion is deliberate and purposeful by the Government of President Bio.

Minister Sarjor Aziz-Kamara furthered that He called on the government, partners, and the expansion is in line with MTHE's emphasis donors to support the new campus in carrying on technical and vocational education across the sixteen Districts to empower the middle Speaking in the stead of the Minister of man power for self-employment and global

> He thanked the Administration for considering significant programmes and courses for the new Campus.

years, noting that this is addressed today Philip Segepoh Thomas affirmed his commitment and support to the new Campus and called on natives, friends, donors and the

numerous challenges.

The Ceremony was climaxed with the cutting

#### **10**<sup>th</sup> Seven takeaways from the August 8, 9 reports

#### By Alhaji Haruna Sani

n Thursday 13th of April, 2023, President Bio officially received the 15-member Special Investigations Committee (SCI) report on the 2022 August 8th to 10th protest that took place in various parts of the country.

What happened? On the 10th of August 2022, protests sprouted from various parts of Sierra Leone. The protest began with a sit-at-home on the 8th and the 9th and then on the 10th of August angry protesters took to the streets of various towns in the northern region and the East end of Freetown.

An attempt by police to quell down the protest resulted into violence crash between the police and the civilians, thereby disturbing the peace and stability of the State and subsequently causing death of a number of civilians as well as police officers.

What people said about the protest? Some citizens believe that it was the police unprofessional method in handling the issue that led to the escalation of what w believed to be an initial peaceful protest. Following the ugly development, President Bio thereafter appointed a Special Investigation Committee (SIC) on 24th August 2022, to investigate the incident

were held in Lungi, Port Loko, Lunsar and Kamakewie, Makeni, Binkolo, Magburaka and the There was no evidence that the leadership of the Western Area; and in selected locations where the main opposition All People's Congress (APC) protests did not take place- Kono, Kenema and Bo.

The committee points out that the information gathered from the investigation informed their analysis of, and conclusion on, the August 8th -10th 2022 occurrences, as well as proffering recommendations to address the underlying causes,

Key takeaways from the report: Here are seven key takeaways from the much anticipated report which observers have already predicted the outcome base on the selection of the committee.

Youth unemployment, marginalization, substance abuse, economic hardship and food insecurity are on the increase: Firstly, the Committee's findings were that there were incessant complaints of youth violence perpetrated in the country.

Leone.

supported the insurrection: According to the report, at the national level, there was no evidence that the leadership of the main opposition All People's Congress (APC) supported the insurrection based on their public condemnation of the incidents, but at the subnational level it was found that the ringleaders of the insurrection were all active members of the APC. It was also alleged that senior members of the party were also seen publicly associating with rioters who were arrested and detained at various police stations, and some even provided free legal services for them. The insurrection was well-planned, financed, and

well-orchestrated: According to the report, the insurrection was well-planned, financed, wellunemployment and marginalization, substance abuse, orchestrated, timed and geared towards destroying economic hardship and food insecurity. Although the public property and undermining the peace and aforementioned were burning issues, the report stated stability of the state by removing the legitimate and shields by the adult rioters. Some children who were that those issues were not a justification for the level of democratically elected President of the Republic of arrested in Freetown reported that they were recruited Sierra Leone, President Julius Maada Bio, from from Makeni and Portloko and brought to Freetown to "The issue of cost of living may have genuinely political power which they said was exemplified in participate in the riot,

extra-judicial killings especially during curfew hours following the insurrection should further be looked into

The Security Sector was not proactive enough to forestall the infamous incidents: According to the report, the Security Sector was relatively prepared but was not proactive enough to forestall the infamous incidents. This could be attributed to a myriad of factors key amongst which was command and control both within the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) and the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) during the period of the incidents.

Furthermore, the Committee found out that the intelligence provided by the security sector was inadequate to effectively support the preparedness of the sector for operations during that critical period.

Children were used as human shields by the adult rioters: The report also revealed that over 24 children who directly participated in the riot were arrested by the police from different parts of the country, particularly in Freetown, Waterloo, Lungi, and Makeni. Apparently, children were used as human

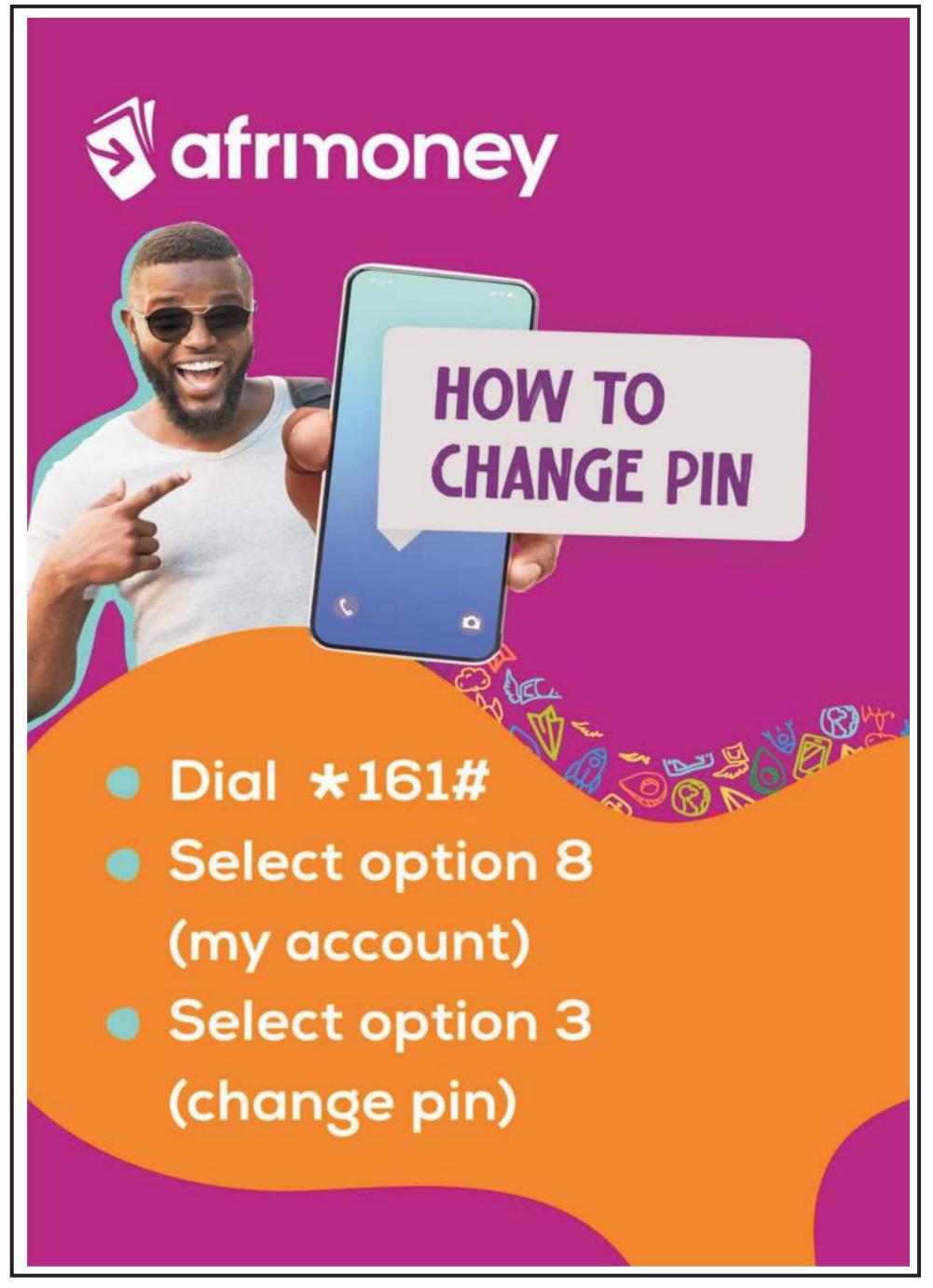
Some critics opposed President Bio's appointment of a committee that comprises various heads of government institutions and a few professional bodies to investigate who were the organizers, planners and funders of the protests. They were also to identify the root causes and make recommendations to the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) on what needs to be done to prevent a re-occurrence of such incidents. According to the report of the committee, meetings

contributed to the August 8th to 10th incidents but rogue politicians exploited the reality to their political advantage," the report revealed.

Social media was awash with hate messages and tribal bigotry: Social media was awash with hate messages and tribal bigotry perpetrated by one Will Kamara, alias Adebayor, and his cohorts under the umbrella of the People's Power in Politics (PPP). Therefore, from the evidence gathered, the SIC will not attribute the activities of 8th to 10th August 2022 solely to socio-economic problems confronting Sierra

words like "Maada Bio must go!". The bigger picture: a lot of incidences of violence that The claims of extra-judicial killings following the involves loss of lives have been happening in the August 10th protests could not be ascertained The country. But it is seldom to see reports on those issues, claims of extra-judicial killings following the August Despites the large controversies around the report, it 10th protests, according to the report, could not be seems good to have report on serious issues that ascertained based on evidence collected from involveskilling,

engagements with various stakeholders, including the And what next? Will the outcome of this report avert security sector in all the areas visited by the SIC. It is future occurrence of such nature? What is going to be stated that here was no information provided on either government's next line of action after this report?. missing persons or summary executions despite Those on the fence are watching to see what happened repeated enquiries. However, public allegations of next.



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# HOLDING OUR ELECTORAL PROCESSES TO ACCOUNT (2)

t these defining moments in our nation's history, if there's one thing processes surrounding their printing and distribution is shambolic and ought to be thoroughly investigated/audited and forensically too.

We cannot – and should not – afford to be trivialized of tainted with levity, it is the integrity surrounding everything pertaining to the June 24<sup>th</sup> multi-tier elections. I mean everything that has to do with the quality of information disseminated by the Electoral Commission Sierra Leone (ECSL), the body charged with responsibility for the impeccable conduct of those elections to ensure that they are free, fair, credible, transparent, devoid of violence, fully participatory and inclusive of all registered eligible voters and political parties. Furthermore in disseminating those information, quality and sincerity are key to avoid ambiguities. And that is very important especially in a society as divided as ours both along political party and ethnoregional lines.

Regrettably in disseminating updates recently on the printing of our Personal Voters' Identity Cards (PVIC) over the AYV TV, the sincerity of the Lead Communicator from the ECSL Mr. Albert Massaquoi left a lot more to be desired, and rather opened up the integrity of the entire procurement processes leading to the printing of those cards to a vagary of suspicions.

In that interview Mr. Massaquoi exposed the ECSL as not having been transparent in those procurement arrangements. For starters, even as he admitted that there were two successful bidders, he disingenuously used superlative of "the Most successful bidder" instead of "the More successful bidder". He also did not explain why there having been just two bidders, the process was closed instead of them re-opening it to have ensured that a minimum of three bidders are shortlisted/selected from to arrive at the "most successful" and in compliance with existing procurement guidelines.

#### Blunder

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The ECSL's next blunder was in Mr. Massaqoui's responses on the names and particulars of the actual suppliers of the printed PVICs. He admitted that (and according to him) even though the most successful bidders were in Greece, they had agents in Romania as well as local representatives here in Freetown. What Mr. Massaquoi never clarified was:

1. How those specific government orders to suppliers in Greece to print

our PVICs ended up in the hands their partners in Romania. Did the ECSL ever scrutinized that relationship before starting to work with who or what were actually third parties in Romania? Was provision for that made in the contract documents but which Mr. Massaquoi chose not to have explained in the programme?

- 2. Who are the actual printers of those PVICs? In which specific country were they printed and by whom?
- Of what relevance were Mr. Massaquoi's references to the local Sierra Leone partners of the Greek suppliers to the printing and or

In that forensic audit opposition parties through their representatives of the Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC) working with the ECSL should insist that clear answers be provided on:

- The actual Trade Names of the original Greek, Romanian and Sierra Leonean local partners as evidenced by their separate Business Registration documents
- 2. The relationship between and among the Romanian and local partners of the original Greek contractors and how those relations are defined
- 3. The actual Owners, Directors and Shareholders of the local firm

representing the Greek/ Romanian Principal companies. This is important to identify if any evidence of conflicts of interests

- 4. In support of (2) above tangible documentary evidences of Powers of
  - Attorney where they exist should be availed for scrutiny together with further evidences that they were actually "Notarized" or "Registered" locally before the implementation stages.

#### Integrity

In a previous piece under this same caption I stated clearly that the quality of the Voters ID Cards distributed opens up the integrity of the ECSL Chair whose remit includes supervising their printing/production and distribution to questions and suspicions. I also recommended that the only way for the ECSL Chair to convince us the electorate that his actions to date are above board and that those Voter ID Cards were indeed printed in Greece (not by a local proxy), are fraud-proof and of a quality commensurate to value of moneys expended for them, he must produce for inspection by all the representatives of the Political Parties' Liaison Committee working with ECSL hard copy evidences of-:

- A copy of the Letter of Credit or copy of the direct wire transfers effecting payments to the Greece Service Providers
  - Evidences of the (a). Bill of Lading (b) Final Invoices (c). Packing Lists

That is the only way the ECSL can dispel rumours that our PVI Cards were not printed locally and by an enterprise with strong human-animal political connections. Because if that was so then the entire enterprise is suspect, hinged on nepotism and violates all safeguards against conflicts of interests, and for all of which reasons they are to be nullified/cancelled. Anything to the contrary, and opposition parties should call for the immediate resignation of Mohammed K. Konneh.

Even if my recommendations for a forensic audit would mean the postponement of the elections beyond a month or two then so be it. I am

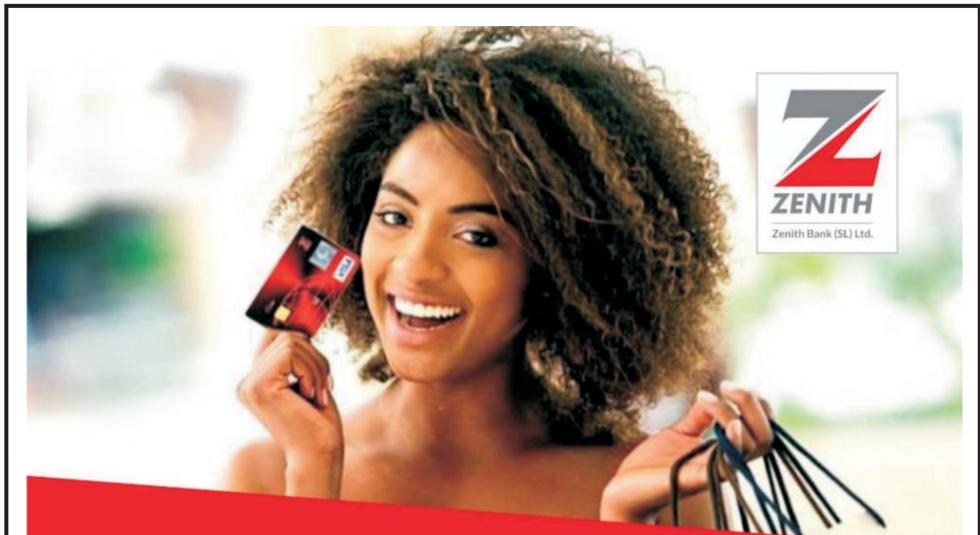
distribution of those cards? Who are they and what roles if any did they play in their printing and distribution locally?

#### Bogus

Why the interviewer failed to have seen through the ambivalences of Mr. Massaquoi and not to have pinned him down with follow-up questions that could have exposed the deceptiveness or duplicity of the ECSL only the AYV TV would know. But if indeed any parallels could be drawn from the King Duncan's quote in the Shakespearean Play of Macbeth cited by Mr. Massaquoi that "..... there is no art to find the mind's construction in the face ....." it is to the very duplicitous and deceptive acts or intents of the ECSL that would seem to have succeeded in hoodwinking an entire nation into accepting hook, line and sinker a bogus procurement arrangement for something as sensitive as the printing of our Personal Voter Identification Cards by shadow or proxy suppliers. And this is all the more reason why I believe the entire procurement

therefore passionately appealing to the international funders of our June 24<sup>m</sup> elections processes (the EU, US, UK German and Irish governments) to please take heed and to prevail on the government and ECSL to subject themselves to a forensic scrutiny of the entire processes leading up to the printing and distribution of our PVIC to ensure that the processes are above board and that no chance exists for blurred/darkened/faceless Voters ID Cards that have been duplicated to be used across our borders by the thousands of those who were ferry-bussed across to come from Guinea and Liberia to register as citizens.

It will be very stupid of us to sit by and allow the very people that have ruined this country over the last five years to lead us into the next elections with the deliberate intent of stealing them because as things stand, it is not even in God's interests for the SLPP to continue in office for a single any more than the very night the results are announced.



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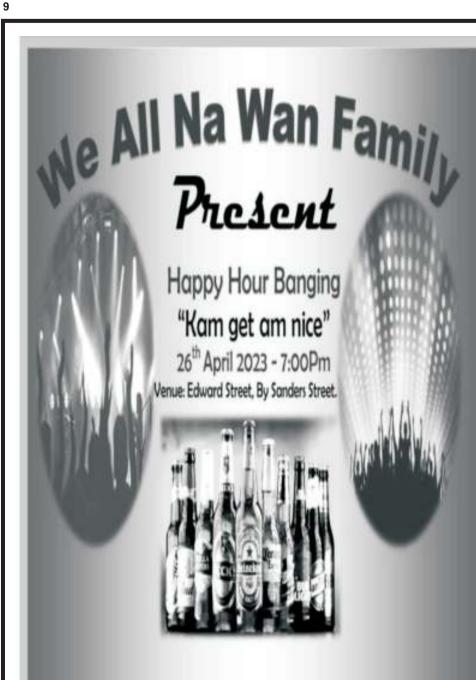
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- Check Bank Account
- Buy EDSA Top up
- Buy Airtime
- Cheque Confirmation

- 54 Tikonko Road Bo
- WELLINGTON 282 Bai Bureh Road. Wellington Industrial Estate

- Stop Cheque Order
- MAKENI CASH CENTER Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology Makeni Campus

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY



Rev Joseph blessed Jonjo

## Missing FBC Lecturer's corpse found in a shrine at Waterloo

By Yusufu S. Bangura

missing lecturer at the Geology/Geo graphy Department, Fourah Bay College, Kabba Santigie Bangura, has been allegedly found buried in a shallow grave inside the shrine of a famous 'witch doctor' (occultist) Ibrahim Kalokoh.

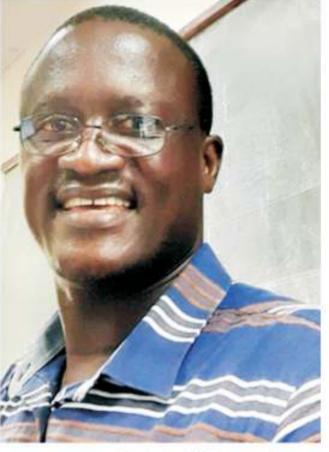
What happened?: On the 6th March, the pictures of the said lecturer went virial on social media that the he had got missing and a week ago, the Cyber Unit of the Waterloo Police Division

arrested two men in connection to the mysterious disappearance of lecturer Bangura.

What ASP Jalloh said on the interview: In an interview on Radio Democracy (FM 98.1) 'Gud Morning Salone program', Spokesperson for the Waterloo Police Division, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Alieu Jalloh said that the corpse found at the shrine of the said occultist was the body of the late Kabba Santigie Bangura.

He added that on Saturday 15th April in the afternoon hours, they received intelligence from Sherbro Town community, 4 Mile at Waterloo that there is a certain smell coming from a comprising four men and two women particular house owned by one witch doctor and that they were not satisfied with.

He said upon receipt of the intelligence himself together with The bigger picture: The issue of other police personnel went to the Africans visiting witch doctors to



The missing FBC lecture whose body was found in the shrine of an occultist (Ibrahim Kalokoh)

Bangura, who went missing on the 6th of March 2023. However, some personal belongings of the said lecturer, including his T-shirts, trousers, among others, were also found inside the said shrine," he said.

He said armed police officers have been deployed in and around the vicinity of the shrine to safeguard the corpse waiting for the government's pathologist to exhume the corpse and conduct autopsy to know what killed the said lecture.

He said 6 people have been arrested; and one the women was the wife of the occultist. He concluded that all of them are now helping the Police with investigations.

scene and upon their arrival the said provide them with good luck or avert house which was inhabited by a witch dangerous happening around them is

t's another birthday jubilee which revolves once in a year. Every day in your life needs to be celebrated but today brings an astounding day of God's invention in your life. You're the zenith of God creation, navigating the earth with endless success.

Sir, your personality shines like a star and your leadership and mentorship is completely symmetric and well structure. With each incoming era in your life, you grow smarter, better looking and cheerful. May this Kairos deliver you with more opportunities in life.

The fatherhood and sonship between us in your ministry is like a glue but it only get cemented with age, as a true son remembers his father natal day not his epoch.

Today is all about honoring a spiritual rabbi who keeps his sons and daughters therapy bill.

May your golden age be feels with nothing but, greatness, happiness and fullness of joy.

Happy Birthday Anniversary Rev Joseph Blessed Jonjo

doctor was identified to them.

ASP Jalloh further said the house was University Lecturer is strange. already abandoned by the fugitive

occultist, so they entered the house and discovered a heap that was grave like. He said the heap was dug in the presence of community members and they discovered a corpse.

"After the discovery of the corpse on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April, a group of people from Freetown have identified the said corpse as Kabba Santigie

not a phenomenon, but this tragic event especially when it involves a

And what next? Will similar incidence continue to happen in Waterloo unabated, when the community is frequently on the spotlight for ritual killings and other heinous crime? Will this tragic incident be the last as it is never the first? Observers are curiously waiting to see what would be police actions to curb such occurrences in waterloo.

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# arrested after the death of 34 migrants



This photo released by the French Gendarmerie on 19 October 2009 shows ... Copyright @ africanews AFP/AFP

couple of Malagasy smugglers wanted after the sinking last month of a ship carrying around 60 migrants to the French island of Mayotte, in which 34 of them perished, were arrested on Friday, it was reported, learned Sunday from the gendarmerie.

This man and this woman in their forties are respectively the captain and the owner of the boat, overloaded, which capsized off the northern tip of Madagascar on March 11. They were wanted for "illegal boarding and clandestine transport, involuntary homicide of passengers to Mayotte". They were arrested in the rural town of Tsarabaria, in the district of Vohémar, in the north of the island, after having been spotted thanks to the geolocation of their telephone. Lieutenant-Colonel Jules Toyoson Andriatsiriniaina told AFP.

Their wanted notices were posted in all the police and gendarmerie stations in the region. Their trial before the court of Diego Suarez should take place in the week. further specified by the gendarme.

Fifteen other people, all suspected of having participated in the organization of the crossing, had already been

placed in preventive detention after their appearance on March 20. "This umpteenth shipwreck has brought to light the migration crisis that Madagascar is currently going through," said Roger Charles Evina, of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Mayotte is attracting more and more Madagascans, but it is currently difficult to quantify the phenomenon. Capsizes of kwassa kwassa, small motorized fishing boats used by smugglers, occur regularly on the sea route linking Comoros, or Madagascar, to Mayotte.

Many African and Comorian migrants try every year clandestinely to reach Mayotte, half of whose population is foreign. The Comorian island of Anjouan has located only 70 km from Mayotte

Since 2019, the French State has considerably increased its means of combating this illegal immigration, in particular the continuous presence at sea of Interceptor boats and aerial surveillance.

France plans at the end of April a vast operation of the expulsion of foreigners in irregular situations and the destruction of slums in Mayotte.

## NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN 42 SOLDIELS AND SOLDIELS' ADDES KILLED Madagascar: 2 suspected smugglers in two more attacks in Burkina Faso



Burkinabe soldiers carry a coffin during the burial of 27 soldiers killed while .... Copyright @ africanews OLYMPIA DE MAISMONT/AFP or licensors

Ten soldiers and 32 civilian auxiliaries of Burkina have also been "evacuated for treatment" Faso's army were killed on Seturday and Sunday in two According to a security source contacted by AFP, the attacks in the north of the country, which this week

declared a "general mobilisation" against recurring jihadist violence. On Saturday, a "military detachment and Volunteers for the Defence of the Fatherland (VDP, civilian auxiliaries to the

army) was the target of an attack by unidentified armed men" at around 4pm, near Aorema, some 15km from Oushigouva, according to a statement from the governorate of the northern region, published on Sunday. The army said that "the death toll is forty fighters" ("eight soldiers and thirty-two VDP") and added that "at least 50 terrorists" had been "neutralised" in a "response", notably from the air.

On Sunday, "early in the morning", "another attack targeted the military detachment of Kongoussi (Bam province, Centre-North region)\*, the same source said, reporting that "two soldiers" were killed and "some twenty terrorists neutralised\*.

The governorate of the North region said in its statement that "33 wounded" from the first attack were "in a stable condition" and "being treated at the regional university hospital of Ouahigouya", capital of the North region. The army writes that "two wounded" from the second attack

detachment targeted by Saturday's attack was "providing security for the Ouahigouya airfield which was targeted". "Violent fighting did take place yesterday (Saturday) evening" for "nearly two hours", said a resident of the town. He also said that "several air strikes targeted positions of suspected jihadists" on Friday -General mobilisation-

On Thursday, the transitional authorities in Burkina Faso who came to power in a coup in September, the second in eight months - declared a "general mobilisation" and a "warning" to "give the state all the necessary means" to deal with the jihadist attacks that have hit the country. With these measures, they will have in particular "the right to request people, goods and services" but also "the right to call for defence employment, individually or collectively".

On Tuesday, the Ministry of Defence launched an operation called "Empty Granaries", calling on all the country's military personnel, active or retired, to donate their uniforms for the soldiers currently on the ground.

Burkina Faso has been caught since 2015 in a spiral of jihadist violence that began in Mali and Niger a few years

#### Senegal music icon Baaba Maal named UNCCD Goodwill Ambassador



Baaba Maal, recording artist/UNCCD Goodwill Ambassador - Copyright @ africanews 2023

enegalese singer-songwriter Baaba Maal was amed a UNCCD Goodwill Ambassador Monday (17 April 2023). He previously served as a UNCCD (United Nations

Convention to Combat Desertification) Land Ambassador alongside fellow musicians Inna Modja and Ricky Kej.

Maal has long been an activist on climate change and refugees. Since 2003, he has been committed to various development challenges in Africa, working with different UN family organizations.

His NANN-K Trust recently opened a solar-powered irrigation project in Senegal to fight desertification, which is one of the main drivers of people leaving the country to dangerous migration routes. The project will train people to start similar schemes in their own communities. Maal is a believer in putting power in the hands of young people and women.

"We are tackling climate change impact, but also fighting

people who don't get more opportunities to do agriculture fishing and many more will have to run away from their places, go to the big cities where nothing is planned for them there, and then later on some of the young ones will ust take the boats to go to Snain or some of these places or just try to cross the desert and it's really dangerous. We did lose a lot of lives," Maal told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

Maal was brought up in the small town of Podor in north

Senegal, which has a fishing community at its heart. Maal was born into a fisherman caste and was expected to follow that career path, but he befriended storyteller and musician Mansour Seck, and has spent his life performing traveling and raising awareness about the issues his homeland faces.

'Our role is first to give news about what's going on, because sometimes the local people, they don't know what's happening to them; they don't know what happening to them is the impact of climate change. They don't know how to stand up against that. But at the same time, when they know about it, they will say what to do. So what to do is to give them, to create new projects, agriculture projects or other projects where they can go and work, especially the woman who can't go to be immigrants - most of the time they have to stay there, stay in the families, and they need to work," said Maal.

The veteran musician released his first album in seven years, "Being," on March 31st and will headline the Barbican in London for the first time in 20 years on 30th May

## Kenya: Police officer accused of killing two teenagers pleads not guilty



Families of victims of extrajudicial killings by the police and members of ... Copyright © africanews TONY KARUMBA/AFP or licensors

eenagers in cold blood in 2017 pleaded not guilty on Monday to murder charges in a case that has become emblematic of extrajudicial killings in the East African country.

The scene was filmed on 31 March 2017, before making

Kenyan police officer accused of killing two killings by Kenyan and international human rights organisations

In particular, they have been accused of running hit souads targeting people, including lawyers, investigating alleged human rights violations by the security services. According to the NGO Missing Voices. 1,349 people have ed at the hands of the se

11

rtification on the African continu ent, especially in my region where we are just not far away from the desert and we see it coming to us. And it had an impact because

### Asylum seekers revive football team in small French village

when it was lucky enough to have a group of asylum seekers join the team.

With just 610 residents, the local team was down to just six was in third place in its league. players at the end of winter last year, and it looked like the 102-year-old club would have to be mothballed.

But then one of the players suggested bringing over a few of his friends, most of whom were living in an asylum forget all their problems. seekers' reception centre in Buzancais, a little over six kilometres from the village and who were struggling to find a permanent place to play.

were a team without players and they were players who like a little family." he said. were looking for a team. So it worked right away," said the club president, Jean-Marie Biaunier.

he football club in the little town of Argy in eastern administrative process of issuing licenses for them to play. central France was on the verse of shutting down. The club had to request authorisations from the federations of each country to sign players. US Argy was forced to start the season a week late, but a months later, it

Feeling part of the community

Telly is a welding and boiler making apprentice from Guinea Conakry. He said when they play football, they

"When we first arrived, we did not have problems integrating, or communicating with the players. Many had left. But with those who are here, it was really nice. We got "They wanted to have a team and get better at football. We along well and now we communicate and we have fun. It's

The new additions to the team are from countries including The Gambia, Mail, Salvador, and Haiti.

He said it was complicated in the beginning sorting out the "It's a fine example of integration," said Mayor Bernadette

nickname of "killer cop". It showed Ahmed Rashid, in civilian clothes, executing two young people lying on the ground in the Eastleigh district, on the outskirts of the Kenyan capital Nairobi, in broad daylight, in front of passers-by.

In November 2022, the Independent Police Oversight Authority (IPOA) recommended legal action against Ahmed Rashid after it conducted an investigation and found that the deaths "were caused by police action". Ahmed Rashid denied the charges, telling a Nairobi court

that he was a law-abiding police officer who was only doing his duty.

The court granted him bail in return for 200,000 shillings (about €1,350).

The Kerwan police are regularly accused of extrajudicial

spectators on a Sunday.

In the beginning, language differences was a bit of a problem, especially when communicating on the field. They speak in all languages," said the captain Jérémy them all together.

collecting data in 2007. Few investigations into these disappearances have resulted in convictions.

In October 2022, police officers were prosecuted for "crimes against humanity", including the killing of a baby, in the 2017 post-election violence. According to the Kenyan NGO National Human Rights Commission, 94 people were killed, 201 were sexually abused and more than 300 were injured. The violence was mainly attributed to the police.

Kenyan President William Ruto, elected in August, announced on 16 October the dismantling of the dreaded Special Services Unit (SSU), a police unit created 20 years ago and under fire after cases of enforced disappearances and killings. The head of state also promised an overhaul of the police.

Credit: africanews with AP

Villemont, "Thanks to them, we have never seen so many Logie, "During free kicks or when some players don't agree with each other. I don't always understand everything. But it doesn't matter

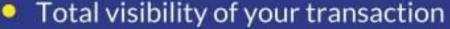
At the end of the day, he said, it is the football that brings

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### WALCA REINSURANCE CORPORATION PLC WAICA REINSURANCE CORPORATION PLC VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: ASSISTANT MANAGER, LIFE DEPARTMENT

#### Introduction of the Corporation

WAICA Re is one of the fastest growing reinsurance companies in Africa. WAICA Re is headquartered in Freetown (Sierra Leone) and operates through four (4) Regional Offices across Africa namely Lagos (Nigeria), Accra (Ghana), Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), Tunis (Tunisia) and Dubai (United Arab Emirates). It also has four (4) Subsidiary Companies namely, WAICA Re Zimbabwe Limited in Harare (Zimbabwe), WAICA Re Kenya in Nairobi (Kenya), an investments company namely WAICA Re Capital, Accra (Ghana) and WAICA Re (United Kingdom).

WAICA Re announces the vacancy of the position of Assistant Manager, Life to be based in Nigeria.

#### Job purpose

The Assistant Manager, Life role is responsible for assisting with the coordination of the operations of life technical department including, marketing, claim administration, and retro activities of the entire life portfolio to ensure the organisation reaps good returns from the life business. The role further includes exploring new markets to enable growth, client relationship management, product development and provision of operational processes that support efficient service delivery. Working with the Head Life, the role will ensure the growth in market share in the company in a profitable manner.

#### Job duties and responsibilities

- Assisting the Head Life to maximize profits with prudent underwriting measures through developing sales strategies that matches customer requirements and promoting life assurance Reassurance products and services.
- Liaising with the Head Life to identify new production opportunities through research of new and existing markets and product design.
- Identify Life training underwriting needs, claim administration and reassurance and technical support for cedants.
- Conduct life trainings in all our regions of operation and beyond.
- Responsible for the design of life promotional activities in our operational countries.
- Responsible for new and renewal premium in the company on assigned life accounts.
- Data Management of life schemes.
- Assist in the formulation of life underwriting manual for underwriting and claim administration.
- Evaluating and analyzing the risks involved in reassuring lives and establishing pricing for accepted
  assurable life risks to determine the likelihood and magnitude of mortality and morbidity risks for all
  the reassuring schemes.
- Verification of all life reassurance underwriting documentation with a standard premium obtainable by best practice.
- Implementation of all work processes within the specified time frame.
- Reassurance premium quotation on standard, or sub-standard lives with relevant loadings on mortality related risks.
- Rendition of statutory retro returns as at when due.
- Ensuring the attainment of the collection KPI for assigned accounts.
- Liaising with the Finance department to ensure that claims processing is done accurately and settled in a timely manner.
- Formulates all necessary reports as requested by Head Life to aide decision making.
- Command of the Life Reinsurance system including but not limited to keeping records of business offered, declined and accepted in the Life software.

#### **Candidate** Profile

- Qualifications
  - A Degree in Insurance or related field

Professional qualifications

- · CII
- Experience
  - At least 8 years' experience in Life insurance of which 4 years are at Managerial level. Knowledge of Life Underwriting is a must.

84 Regent Road Hill Station, Freetown-Sierra Leone PMB 910 (025) 237-722 www.ChildFund.org

### ChaldFund.

#### 1. Overview of ChildFund:

ChildFund International is a child-focused international development organization that works throughout Asia, Africa and the Americas to connect children with the people, resources and institutions they need to grow up safe, healthy, educated and skilled, wherever they are. Delivered through over 250 local implementing partner organizations, ChildFund's programs address the underlying conditions that prevent any child or youth from achieving their full potential. We place a special emphasis on child protection throughout our approach because violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect can reverse developmental gains in an instant. Last year, we reached 13.6 million children and family members in 24 countries.

ChildFund has had a presence in Sierra Leone since 1" July 1985. Key program interventions in 1985 were in primary education and school infrastructure. This was later diversified to include health, youth programs, food security and income-generating projects with associated small loans for investment in small business development.

#### Project Summary:

With funding from Korea International Cooperation Agency and in partnership with ChildFund Korea, ChildFund Sierra Leone will be implementing a project Titled: Increase access to secondary education for Out-of-school girls in the Western area of Sierra Leone from 1<sup>er</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>er</sup> December 2025 in six schools in western urban and rural districts of Sierra Leone.

#### **Project Impact**

 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDGs 4)

#### Project outcome:

 Increase access to secondary education for out-of-school girls in the Western area of Sierra Leone

#### Output:

- Out-of-school girls have access to the inclusive and safe learning environment
- Out-of-school girls are supported to continue their education
- Community is meaningfully engaged in the protection of marginalized children and enrolling them in schools

ChildFund Sierra Leone is seeking an expression of interest from suitable service providers for the following services:

- Contents of construction per school (2 schools in total)

   Two blocks of three (3) classrooms
   one (1) Teacher's office
  - .

store

- 1 ramp and 1 railing
- Fabrication of classroom furniture (Table and chair)
   -70 sets \* 6 classrooms
- 3. Construction of Toilets: Contents of construction per school
- 2 sets of sex-separated VIP latrines with menstrual hygiene for girls and urinal for boys (3 drop holes per set) i.e. one set of two sex-separated latrines per school
- 4. Construction of hand wash facilities:
- 2 Water Tanks: 10,000 litres water tanks (1 per school)
- 5. Boreholes:
- Two Mechanized solar-powered boreholes with elevated towers and six taps

<ul> <li>Experience of data management and producing Management Information relative to both Life information using a software.</li> </ul>	for each borehole with water piped to the toilets ChildFund invites prospective service providers to reply to this Expression of Interest	
<ul> <li>Experience with a Reinsurance company in the Life department is an added advantage.</li> <li>Ability to speak both French and English shall be an added advantage.</li> <li>Fair Medical examination and interpretation of medical report.</li> </ul>	(EOI) and submit their offers no later than 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2023. Interested and qualified service providers are invited to ChildFund Sierra Leone Office at 84 Regent Road, Hill Station, Freetown, Sierra Leone to collect the full bid document.	
Competencies Good analytical skills	contractors/ service providers can also request further clarifications by email through SierraLeoneProcurement@ChildFund.org	
<ul> <li>Excellent interpersonal skills</li> <li>Working knowledge of MS Office</li> <li>Excellent oral and written communication skills</li> </ul>	Submission of Bids must be by one of the following methods. Hard copy submission in the tender box on or before 21" April 2023 by 4:30 pm a	
Ability to work under minimal supervision     Ability to work and meet deadlines     Proactive and result oriented	ChildFund Sierra Leone office at the above-stated address. or via email to <u>SierraLeoneProcurement@ChildFund.org</u> on or before 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	
Application Procedure Interested Candidates for this role shall be required send an Application letter and a CV to vacancies@waicare.com	by 4:30 pm Please follow the submission instruction as per the bid document.	
Closing date for application: 25 April 2023	NOTE: LATE TENDERS WILL BE REJECTED	



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## **BUDGET ADVOCACY NETWORK Terms of Reference – External Audit**

#### **Background summary**

The Budget Advocacy Network (BAN) is a Network of Civil Society Organisations in Sierra Leone committed to work on budgets and budget policies to enhance policy making and implementation for sustainable and equitable development. BAN was established in 2006. The Budget Advocacy Network is organised around the three principle of the budget i.e. participation, transparency and accountability. The purpose is to ensure a greater inclusiveness in the budget process, increase access to information and improved responsiveness geared towards achieving pro-poor budgeting and programmes and effective service delivery. BAN draw it strengthen from its membership which are Transparency International (TISL) Campaign for Good Governance (CGG) Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD), Western Area Budget Education Network (WABEAN), Actionaid International Sierra Leone (AASISL), Search for Common Ground (SFCG), and Christian Aid (CA).

annual financial audit of the operation of the organization. It is bounded by law as per the BAN governance document and also the Corporate Affairs project. Commission law to submit its annual audited financial statement.

It is on this bases that BAN is seeking an external registered auditor to carry out a comprehensive audit of all BAN activities for a period of three (3) \* Review and vet invoices for fees and reimbursable expenses by BAN years (2022-2024 BAN financial year).

#### Audit Objective

The objective of the audit of the Financial Statements is to enable the auditor to express a professional opinion on the financial position of BAN at the end of the reporting period and of the funds received and expenditures for the reporting period, and in particular to confirm that the reported expenditure has, in all material respects, been used in conformity with the provisions the intended purpose.

To also confirm that the Financial Statements agree with the Project accounts (books of account) which provide the basis for preparation of the Deliverables Financial Statements and are established to reflect the financial transactions in respect of all the Projects,

To also confirm that the Financial Statements agree or reconcile with any other information reported on.

#### Scope

The audit will be carried out in accordance with international standards of auditing. It will include such tests and controls as the auditor considers necessary. This exercise is required to give full and satisfactory audit discharge to all project expenditure. Specific focus will be:

conditions and locations.

Whether the systems, procedures and controls, contractual or otherwise, adopted BAN are efficient, effective and transparent.

Whether improvements to BAN systems, procedures and controls can be made as a result of the findings of this audit.

Whether the funds in BAN account were deposited, transferred and expensed properly in compliance with BAN guidelines and other relevant financial policies and procedures

#### Methodology

The approach should include but not be limited to:

Hold separate pre-engagement meetings with the BAN to present an outline of the planned approach for conducting the exercise.

BAN is an accountable institution and as such it is accountable to its citizen, \* Request and hold formal interviews with BAN projects and financial the board and the government. One tools its accountable process is the management team and with a view to forming an understanding on the effectiveness of the internal control system in the management of the

Examination of the financial transactions of all BAN expenses.

Review the procurement process and procedures for all short term contracts for the period under review

Review the assets register to ensure it is up to date and confirm that.

Prepare a project expenditure reports showing receipts and expenditure summaries

Audited financial report (hard and soft copies) for the period noted.

A management letter, which should highlight observed weaknesses in the system of internal control and the recommendations for managing the identified issues over the life of the programme.

#### **Audit Duration**

Three years. Each year audit work shall be completed within two weeks from the date of commencement of the audit. 1st year-1st January to 31st December 2022

2nd year-1st January to 31st December 2023 3rd year - 1st January to 31st December 2024

To establish that the funds have been recorded and funds have been expended in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contracts.

Items and services have been procured in accordance with BAN procurement policy

Necessary supporting documents, records and accounts have been kept in respect of programme expenditure.

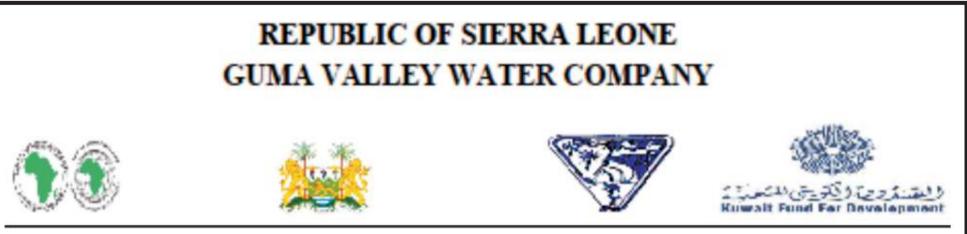
To establish the physical existence of assets per the asset register, their

#### Qualification

The audit firms based in Sierra Leone will be eligible to apply.

#### Application

Interested audit firm should send their Expression of Interest stating their proposed professional fees per year and all other cost associated in conducting the audit to the Chairman of BAN on abu.brima@nmjdsl.org on or before 1st May 2023 and copy the BAN Coordinator on abkamara@ban-sl.org. The selected audit firm should be ready to negotiate with the Executive Committee of BAN for the appropriate fees per annum.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR records, and arranging for periodic site meetings. CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF THE DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTS FOR vi. Supervision of the arrangement for and the progress of the THE CONSTRUCTION OF MORTEM AND MONGEBAWEIRS contractor's operation and maintenance training programme. AND ASSOCIATED RAW WATER TRANSMISSION PIPELINES; EXPANSION /REHABILITATION OF vii. Provision of post construction professional advice during the ALLENTOWN WATER TREATMENT PLANT; Defects Liability period. REHABILITATION OF TWO BOOSTER STATIONS, RISING MAINS AND FIVE RESERVOIRS; AND CONSTRUCTION OF DISTRIBUTION NETWORK EXTENSION.

#### FREETOWN WASH AND AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT REVAMPING PROJECT

Date Issued: 12 April 2023 Sector: Water Supply and Sanitation Project ID No .: P-SL-E00-004 Financing Agreement Reference: 6540654001532

1. The Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone has received a grant and a loan from the African Development Fund and loans from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, and the OPEC Fund for International Development to co-finance the Freetown WASH & Aquatic Environment Revamping Project. In addition, the Government has applied for co-financing from the Netherlands Enterprise Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Islamic Development Bank, the Saudi Fund, the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development and the Green Climate Fund toward co-financing of the project. It is intended to apply part of the financing of the OPEC Fund for International Development to eligible payments under the contract for of ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan); (v) Work in Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision of the Design- Sub-Saharan Africa; (vi) Work on projects funded by multilateral or Build Contracts for the Construction of Mortem and Mongeba bilateral donor agencies. Experience on projects funded by the African Weirs and Associated Raw Water Transmission Pipelines; Development Bank and the OPEC Fund for International Development Expansion /Rehabilitation of Allentown Water Treatment Plant; (OFID) will be an added advantage. Consultants may constitute joint Rehabilitation of Two Booster Stations, Rising Mains and Six ventures to enhance their chances of qualification. Reservoirs; and Construction of Distribution Network Extension.

2. Services to be provided include but are not limited to the following:

 Checking and approving survey data, designs, drawings, programs, and other documentation required to be submitted by the contractor and advising on design adjustments whenever such adjustments become necessary.

ii. Supervision of the site works for compliance with the approved program, specifications, and any other obligation of the contractor/supplier (including implementation of ESMP and other Environmental Safeguards)

viii. Preparing and delivering on schedule mandated reports.

3. GVWC now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified and experienced to perform the services.

The following core expertise will be required: Water supply project management; Design of water supply infrastructure (weir, intake, treatment, transmission, storage, distribution); Supervision of construction/rehabilitation of water supply infrastructure including pumping stations and reservoirs; Quantity surveying/works measurement and valuation, ensuring compliance with ESMP and other Environmental Safeguards.

Minimum qualification criteria include verifiable track record in the following: (i) Detailed engineering design for rehabilitation/expansion/new construction of urban water supply systems; (ii) Supervision of works and contract management of designbuild water supply works contract; (iv) Preparation and implementation

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "Procurement Policy and Methodology for Bank Group Funded Operations (BMP)" dated October 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at http://www.afdb.org.

5. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours: 08:00-16:00 Hours Sierra Leone time.

iii. Inspection, testing, and witnessing of tests on materials, and (OFID)". witnessing completion and acceptance tests for the works or parts of the works.

#### Attention:

iv. Certifying contractor's invoices or claims, dealing with variation Procurement Manager, Guma Valley Water Company 7th Floor, 12/14 Lamina Sankoh Street orders, ordering works, maintaining cost control in the administration of the contracts, and monitoring cash flow to ensure that there is no Freetown, SIERRALEONE Email: gumaprocurement@yahoo.com, with copy to j.atim@afdb.org unjustifiable cost over-run.

v. Monitoring progress of work, preparing and keeping daily field and washaerpprocurement@yahoo.com

6. Expressions of interest must be delivered by email or hand copy to the address below not later than Wednesday 26 April 2023 at 16:00 Hrs. and labelled "Consultancy Services for Works Supervision

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Tuesday, April 18, 2023 . Concord Times



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Tuesday, April 18, 2023 . Concord Times

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**Guild of Editors - Sierra Leone** C/O MRCG 145 Circular Road, Freetown. Email: editorsguild94@gmail.com Mob:+23276653596

### **Public Notice Increase in Advert Pricing for Newspapers**

24th March, 2023.

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

Black & White

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

Motio: Victory in Solidarity Motio: Victory in Solidarity 48 January Wright Road Upgun Freetown 19022/4232 7664943/ 4232 76640162/4232 76646565 mill: Seripenadoosta accession



PRESS RELEASE INCREASE IN COST OF RADIO COMMERCIALS Mile 91 Town, 25" 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 annound

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" 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)

