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ALSO INSIDE

Caritas, partners donate food, sanitary items to fire victims at Gloucester



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C4C Emmerson Lamina, two others declare for SLPP

Marampa Mines to launch first-of-its-kind CDA payment tomorrow

NP hobnobs with the media



By Jariatu S Bangura

The Leader of the Coalition for Change (C4C) in Parliament, Hon. Sahr Emerson Lamina of Constituency 30, together with two of his colleague Members of Parliament of the same

party, on Tuesday officially resigned from their previous party to join the Sierra Leone peoples Party.

According to Emmerson Lamina, over the years they have seen in President Bio the vision for which they formed the C4C party.

Cont. Page 2



CEO Kobi Walker and others displaying the maiden NP magazine

Chinese Embassy donates food items to Muslim Community

Corporal punishment banned in schools

Sierra Leone Commission on Arms and Ammunition Act, 2023 enacted

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DIPLOMATIC VIBES

By Amb. Wang Qing, Chinese
Ambassador to Sierra Leone

Peace, like sunshine, is hardly noticeable when we benefit from it. Facing the ever-changing era in this turbulent world, people of all countries have increasingly strong expectations for peace and tranquility. For a long term, China has always been a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development, and a defender of the international order, committed to taking responsibility for world peace and contributing Chinese wisdom and strength to global security.

In February, China issued the Global Security Initiative Concept Paper to further elaborate on the initiative's core ideas and principles as well as the 20 priorities of cooperation and 5 categories of platforms and mechanisms. They could be summarized as follows:

Upholding the UN's central role in security governance.

Promoting coordination and sound interactions among major countries.

Facilitating peaceful settlement of hotspot issues through dialogue.

Tackling traditional and non-traditional security challenges.

Strengthening the system and capacity for global security governance.

The Global Security Initiative (GSI) has been widely commended and warmly received by the international community, among which more than 80 countries and a number of international organizations have expressed appreciation and support.

On the occasion of the 1 year anniversary of the breaking of Ukraine Crisis, China released China's Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis, which takes into account the legitimate concerns of all parties and reflects the broadest common understanding of the international community on the crisis. It has been constructive in mitigating the spillovers of the crisis and facilitating its political settlement. During his visit to Russia in March, President Xi Jinping had an in-depth exchange of views with President Putin on the Ukraine issue. He emphasized that the more difficulties there are, the greater the need to keep space for peace. The more acute the problem is, the more important it is not to give up efforts for dialogue. On April 27th, President Xi Jinping spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the Phone. President Xi pointed out that the Ukraine crisis is evolving in complex ways with major impacts on the international landscape. On the Ukraine crisis, China always stands on the side of peace. Its core stance is to facilitate talks for peace. On

China will continue to make contributions to safeguarding world peace and development



Ukraine issue, China has no selfish political motives in this and will not engage in geopolitical manipulation. China is sincere in promoting peace talks and ending hostilities. This is part of China's commitment to living up to its responsibility as a major country.

China has actively engaged in mediation diplomacy and made unremitting efforts for resolving conflicts, calling for peace, and contributing to the realization of long-term peace and stability in the world with its practical actions. On March 10th, the Beijing dialogue between Saudi Arabia and Iran achieved major results and reached the Beijing Agreement, which clarified the roadmap and timetable for improving the two nations' relations. On April 6th, the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Iran successfully met in

Beijing and announced the restoration of diplomatic relations. Since then, there has been a wave of reconciliation in the Middle East: Saudi Arabia and Oman have pushed for a political settlement of the Yemen issue. Qatar and Bahrain decided to resume diplomatic relations. The Syrian foreign minister visited Egypt and Saudi Arabia for the first time after more than ten years. Nine Arab countries including Saudi Arabia met to discuss the return of Syria in League of Arab States. On April 12nd, China released China's Position on the Afghan Issue, which covers 11 aspects, including supporting moderate and prudent governance in Afghanistan, supporting peace and reconstruction of Afghanistan, supporting Afghanistan in countering terrorism resolutely and forcefully etc. China stands ready to help

Afghanistan embark on a path of stability and development at an early date.

This year also marked the 31st anniversary of China's participation in UN peacekeeping operations (UNPKOs) with its first formed military unit. Over the past 31 years, China has sent more than 50,000 peacekeepers to nearly 30 UNPKOs in over 20 countries and regions. A total of 25 Chinese peacekeepers have made the ultimate sacrifice. Being the largest troop contributor to peacekeeping operations among the five permanent members of the Security Council and the second largest contributor to UN peacekeeping assessments, China has become a key actor in UNPKOs.

Chinese civilization is characterized by peace, amity and harmony. China upholds that the whole world is one family and we should promote coordination and cooperation between all countries with solidarity and common development in harmony. As the biggest developing country, China always keeps in mind the greater good of the whole world. The Chinese path is a path toward development of China, through which more positive energy will be added to global peace and new opportunities created for global development. In the future, China will stand firm on the right side of history and the progressive side of humanity, continuing to work with all peace-loving sides in the world to jointly safeguard the peace and tranquility of mankind and build a community with a shared future for mankind.

C4C Emmerson Lamina, two others declare for SLPP

From Cover

The other two MPs are Hon. Rebecca Yei Sam of Constituency 29 and Hon. Musa Fofanah of Constituency 23 in Kono district, respectively.

Hon. Emmerson Lamina said during the five years in office, President Bio was able to correct several historical injustices in the country, particularly in Kono.

"I felt the pain of being a displaced and at the same time attended a displaced school. Today, if you go to our district, and in my constituency, the President has constructed edifices as university through the support of the Government of Sierra Leone.

He said that past leaders deceived the Kono people with a lot of unfulfilled promises.

He also disclosed that their district now has twenty-four-hour



electricity; a 78 kilometer road constructed between Koidu City to Conakry, a development he said will open space for businesses across the region.

He further explained that the construction of an ultra-modern

hospital is ongoing with funding from the government and Partners-In-Health (PIH), where people from other countries will access different types of technical post graduate causes.



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LOCAL NEWS

By Alfred Koroma

NP hobnobs with the media

The leading petroleum company in Sierra Leone, NP on Tuesday held a media lunch with prominent personnel in the media industry of Sierra Leone. The event, emblazoned with fun and laughter, also saw the launching of NP's new magazine meant to be updating the public on activities and services of the Company. Top NP executives, including Mr. Kobi Walker, Chief Executive Officer and others namely, Vandi Bockarie, Crispin Mackay, Desmond G. Williams, Gibril Saccoh and the Communications Director of the Company, Dr. Williette James graced the formidable occasion. Delivering a statement at the event, NP's CEO, Mr. Walker described the Company as the most supportive institution in terms of corporate social responsibility. He further informed the media guests about the launching of NP's first inter-secondary school squash

competition which commenced on Thursday and ends today.

In addition, Mr. Walker also said NP partnered with Leone OIL to build the first ever burns unit at Connaught Hospital.

NP believes so much in nation building, he emphasized, highlighting the many Squash Courts Sierra Leone's biggest petroleum company has built in various educational institutions, including Grammar school, Fourah Bay College, St Edwards School and the Bo School.

The National Petroleum is the only Sierra Leonean company outside Sierra Leone. The Company is in Liberia, Ivory Coast, Guinea and Gambia.

In Sierra Leone, the Company has 46 stations with strategic alliances and partnerships with over 200 retail outlets all over the country. Presently, NP is supplying petroleum products to over 80 percent of MDAs, Mr. Walker said.

For over forty years, he added; the Company have 'enjoyed over 60 percent market share, arguably the most capitalized institution in Sierra Leone that have recently invested over 30 million dollars to rehabilitate the finest, and most sophisticated terminal in this part of the world.



Corporal punishment banned in schools

By Jariatu S. Bangura

Lawmakers have abolished corporal punishment and all other forms of degrading punishment designed to cause or create fear or physical pain on school children in Sierra Leone. During the amendment and repeal of the Basic and Senior Secondary School Act, 2023, it was agreed by Members of Parliament that no person would construct a school without authorization from the Ministry and also no person would establish or operate a private school unless he satisfies the requirements and policy guidelines on school approvals established by the Ministry.

Also, government will support one year free compulsory pre-school education when a child reaches the age of 5 years and in the case of epidemics and pandemics, mass vaccination of pupils and other preventive measures may be instituted by the government in schools.

Learning environment should be conducive; physically and psychologically safe, free from all forms of violence and abuse and facilitates learning and a pupil should have a National Identification Number provided by the National Civil Registration Authority and a Unique Learner Identification Number issued by the Ministry, which shall be used to track pupils and provide other reliable information on them.

The lawmakers further agreed that schools, including private schools, should be inclusive and disability friendly, by making sure that all classrooms and facilities are accessible to all categories of learners and pregnant girls, parent learners, children from the poorest homes, rural areas and underserved communities shall be encouraged to access, stay in, complete school and enjoy all the facilities provided in the school.

Before the bill was enacted, Chairman Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Basic and Senior Secondary School Education, Hon. Mohamed Billow Shaw

commended the effort made by the ministry by bringing the amendment of the Education Act 2004.

He said President Bio did promise the people of Sierra Leone and the kids that his government will support the free quality education and that the bill is a manifestation of his agenda.

He said the world has changed significantly and that the bill seeks to address the existing gaps in the country's educational sector and also seeks to address the United Nations Transformational Education Agenda posted in Washington DC in September.

He stated that the UN transforming agenda highlighted five initiatives in New York which the bill seeks in addressing.

He informed the House that among the initiatives that were highlighted, includes gaps between children in urban areas and those in the rural communities, special needs children, inclusiveness of all forms and those with disabilities, provide platform where children will have their say on issues affecting them, among others.

Hon. Roland F. Kargbo charged that the free quality education is only on paper and that the opposition will not contend with what is being stated in the bill but will critic it when and where necessary.

He stated that the problem of government trying to regulate private schools is good as controlling the opening of those schools has been successful.

He stated that there are communities that are still battling with accessing and receiving the said free quality education as teachers and teaching materials are only available in the urban areas.

Hon. Nenneh Lebbie said learning in schools without corporal punishment has not been an easy task, therefore abolishing it will be damning.

She said the only thing she would request for the ministry and her colleagues to do is to redefine when teachers should give punishment for defaulting children.

Marampa Mines to launch first-of-its-kind CDA payment tomorrow

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

Marampa Mines Limited (MML) is set to launch its Community Development Fund (CDF) on Saturday, 29th 2023.

The launch is pursuant to its Community Development Agreement (CDA) as required by the Mines and Mineral Act, to support local development initiatives in their primary host communities of Marampa and Maforki Chiefdoms in Port Loko District.

The CDF represents Marampa Mines Limited (MML) commitment in its Mining Lease Agreement to give 1% of its Free onboard revenue generated to its primary host communities for eligible development projects, including but not limited to, education, health, environment and economic development.

The company noted in a press release that the CDF is a testament to the commitment of Marampa Mines Limited to support the growth and development of the communities around the company mining operations.

The Company hopes their CDF, the largest single donation from any mining company in Sierra Leone's history, inspires positive change and creates more vibrant and sustainable communities.

"We are excited and thrilled to officially launch this fund after our first full year of production of high grade iron ore concentrate, Marampa Blue, to support the growth and development of our community, and we believe that empowering our communities through investing in local initiatives, can help create a brighter future for everyone living in our concession areas", said Craig Dean, CEO of MML.

It is further noted in the release that the CDF will be administered by the Community Development Committee (CDC) which includes representatives from various groups in the Maforki and Marampa Chiefdom, adding that the CDC and its Steering Committee has autonomy on project decisions and they will decide on what project to undertake or not.

MML seats on the Steering Committee of the CDC and will support and recommend that projects undertaken by the CDC have a clear impact on the community- a sustainable plan for long-term success, and promote collaboration and partnership among stakeholders.

The main aim for the CDF, according to the release, is to aid local initiatives and projects that aim to improve the quality of life for residents of the communities around their mining concession who play host to the company.

LOCAL NEWS

Chinese Embassy donates food items to Muslim Community

The Chinese Embassy in Sierra Leone has on Eid Celebration (Pray Day), presented about 600 bags of rice, cooking oil and bags of sugar to the Ministry of Social Welfare at New England Ville in Freetown.

The presentation has been an annual ceremony by the Chinese Embassy through the Ministry, to support the Muslim Community during the holy month of Ramadan.

Welcoming the Chinese Ambassador and his team, the Minister of Social Welfare, Baidu Dassama- Kamara started by thanking the delegation for such a support.

She said even though the gesture came at the end of Ramadan, it will go long way to support the Muslim community. The Minister said China and Sierra Leone have been friends for ages now, with the hope of continuing such a vital relationship for the benefit of both countries.

During the handing-over ceremony, the Chinese Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Wang Qing said "Today is the traditional Muslim festival of Eid-al-Fitr which means the end of Ramadan. For Muslims, Ramadan is the holiest and most auspicious month of the year. It is a time for discipline, both spiritual and physical, a time for reflection, and a time for sharing, blessing and being together with family and loved ones. Just like you, more than 23 million Muslim brothers and sisters in China are honoring the Ramadan traditions of fasting, praying and doing charities, carrying forward the spirit of unity and generosity. So first of all, I wish to

convey the warm greetings and best wishes from 23 million Chinese Muslims to their Muslim brothers and sisters in SL."

As usual, he said, as a friendly gesture to support their Muslim brothers and sisters in Sierra Leone, the Chinese Embassy donates some food to the Muslim community through the major Muslim and Islamic organizations. Here are the items: 30 tons of rice (600 bags, 50kg per bag), 600 litre cooking oil (30 cartons, 20 litres per carton), 1.5 tons of sugar (30bags, 50kg per bag).

"I wish this donation will help the religious organizations here in providing support to the less privileged persons and communities. Since over 70% of Sierra Leone's population are Muslims, I also hope this can help to further strengthen the friendship between our two peoples and consolidate the foundation of the China-Sierra Leone relationship."

According to the Ambassador, China and Sierra Leone are long-standing good friends.

"Since the establishment of diplomatic relations 52 years ago, China-Sierra Leone relations have been constantly enhanced on the basis of sincere friendship, equality, mutual trust, mutual support and mutual benefit."

He said in recent years, under the strong leadership of H.E. President Xi Jinping and H.E. President Julius Maada Bio, cooperation between the two



Ambassador Wang doing a symbolic handing over to the Minister of Social Welfare, Baidu Dassama

sides has yielded countless tangible results.

"As the new Chinese Ambassador, in the past three months I have visited many Chinese-aided projects. The National Stadium, Youyi Building, China-Sierra Leone Friendship Hospital, Wilberforce Barracks and the Fixed Biosafety Laboratory have become landmark projects of China-Sierra Leone friendship," he noted. Representing the Muslim Community, Secretary General of the Supreme Islamic Council, Sheik Ibrahim Barrie

expressed his delight for such a support.

Barrie underscored that this is not the first time Chinese Embassy in Sierra Leone is supporting the Muslim community.

"They did it during the Ebola, the corona and even last year Ramadan," he emphasized.

He averred that the items will reach their intended beneficiaries, noting that, "we remained grateful to the government and people of China".

Caritas, partners donate food, sanitary items to fire victims at Gloucester

By Ishmael Dumbuya

Caritas Sierra Leone in collaboration with Tzu Chi Foundation and Healey has on April 26, donated food and sanitary items to fire victims at Loko Town, Gloucester Community in the Mountain Rural District.

It could be recalled that on March 30th 2023, the Loko Town at Gloucester village was engulfed by an inferno, leaving at least 36 households, 288 individuals homeless with their property destroyed.

As a result, the Tzu Chi Foundation, partnering to serve humanity, has provided relief for the affected persons. This came after 14 days of serving hot meal to the victims.

Among the items donated were; Tzu Chi specially made blankets, multi grain powder, a high protein porridge, and 50 kilograms of rice per family. Twenty under five children received baby food, diapers and baby milk formula while 186 women and girls received dignity kits comprising sanitary pads, laundry soap, lappa, slippers, underwear, toothpaste, tooth

brush, towels and three sets of used clothing each.

Receiving the items, a beneficiary, Fatu Kanu expressed appreciation, noting that the donation came at the right time as they were in desperate need of assistance. She went on to state that her educational pursuit has procrastinated as a result of the inferno.

"We don't have anywhere to reside presently, and it's having devastating effect on us. I am supposed to attempt my West Africa Senior School Certificate Examinations (WASSCE), but the inferno has delayed her academic endeavor," she stated.

Frederick Hanciles, the Headman for the Gloucester community appreciated and thanked Caritas and partners for their goodwill donation to the inferno victims. He pleaded with philanthropic organizations and the government to provide more supports to the victims as a lot of them were traumatized and need psychological counselling.

The Project Manager Caritas S/L, Idriss Gibson Mansaray explained that the donations were given by their partners and implemented by Caritas. He also



disclosed that they were updated by the National Disaster Management Agency NDMA, that fire has destroyed 36 households and 288 individuals.

He said on that grounds, Caritas and its development partners provided hot meals for 14 days to the victims. Mansaray further stated that the cause of the inferno is still unknown as it occurred at around 2am.

Tzu Chi Country Representative,

Magaret Bassie indicated that the relief items, which they were giving as an exit support is a demonstration of great love. She admonished the beneficiaries' to utilize these items and not to sell them, as they are very much useful to them in this current state, adding that the support they donated was approved by Dharma Master Cheng Yen, the founder of Tzu Chi Foundation.



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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLIERS

FCDO awarded Mott MacDonald to lead the implementation of the Sierra Leone Secondary Education Improvement Programme (SSEIP) 2, which builds on the work of the first phase: Sierra Leone Secondary Education Improvement Programme (SSEIP), also called Leh Wi Lan (Krio for "Let's Learn").

The programme will support the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) to improve learning outcomes for boys and girls at secondary level and to increase the enrolment, retention and well-being of girls and children with disabilities in school.

Mott MacDonald (S) Limited wishes to solicit applications from interested and eligible organisations and businesses to submit Expression of Interests (EOI) in the following business categories:

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4. Security Services
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11. Provisions and general supplies
12. Building and construction materials
13. Fire, Health & Safety - supplies & services
14. Online services
15. Professional Advisers - Financial management
16. Media
17. Insurance

The Expression of Interest must include the following information:

- ü Tax Identification
- ü Certificate of Incorporation (for companies)
- ü Certificate of Registration
- ü Tax Clearance
- ü Business License
- ü Active Email Address
- ü Contact Person
- ü Contact Number
- ü Business Address
- ü References
- ü Insurance - where applicable

Upon assessment of the EIOs, only shortlisted eligible organisations/businesses will be contacted to submit their proposals. Late submission will not be entertained. Please submit your interest by email with Subject: "Expression of interest for MMSL SSEIP2" latest by 11th May 2023 to MMSL.Procurement@mottmac.com.

Sierra Leone Commission on Arms and Ammunition Act, 2023 enacted

By Jariatu S Bangura

Members of Parliament have debated and repealed the Sierra Leone Commission on Arms and Ammunition Act, 2023, to regulate and provide for the manufacture, trade and use of Arms and Ammunitions.

According to the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Lahai Lawrence Leema, the Act seeks to repeal the 2010 and 2012 Arms and Ammunition Acts respectively, on the basis to regulate small arms and ammunitions and for the establishment of an institution which mandate was limited to only regulate small arms and light weapons in the country.

He explained that through the commission, the country signed and ratified the Arms Trade Treaty of 2013, which is the first global international document to represent the international instrument to transfer it to a conventional Act.

He said the commission did receive funding for the full implementation

of the Arms Trade Treaty, but as it stands the commission could not go beyond the scope of small arms unless the law be repealed.

He said based on that, a proposal was sent to cabinet and was approved and the document was prepared for Parliament to pass into law the Arms and Ammunition law so as to increase the scope of the small arms, marks ammunition brought by certain institutions and also regulates traders in conventional weapons.

Hon. Alusine Kanneh said the amendment of the bill has nothing to do with government aiming to acquire weapons as it was basically to strengthen the commission to regulate traders and for the country to implement the Arms Trade Treaty.

Hon. Sulaiman Marray Conteh argued that the bill is not for the acquisition of weapons, but to ensure and help sanitizes, regulates the supervision of how those weapons are to be used.

He said if the country is a signatory to the Arms Trade Treaty; it is but wise for the country to domesticate it through the amendment of the law.



ELECTORAL COMMISSION SIERRA LEONE (ECSL)
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VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT Regional Tally Centre Coordinators

The Electoral Commission Sierra Leone (ECSL) has administrative independence and aims to achieve high levels of effectiveness, accountability, neutrality and efficiency necessary to ensure autonomy as mandated by law. In light of this, the Commission therefore, advertises vacancy for five (5) Regional Tally Centre Coordinators.

These are for five (5) regions for the tally of the 2023 multi-tier election results.

The Commission requests the services of suitable qualified Sierra Leonean to serve as Regional Tally Centre Coordinators (1 per region) for the period of three months (1st May to 3rd July) to assist in the organization of the Tally Centres.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Coordinate the establishment and organization of the Regional Tally Centre
2. Coordinate the recruitment of Regional Tally Centre Staff
3. Coordinate and assist in training Regional Tally Centre Staff
4. Plan and control activities like parking space allocation, visitors, waste disposal, and facility security
5. Supervise all facility staff (Cleaners, Generator Attendant and Security Personnel)
6. Coordinate the welfare of Regional Tally Centre Staff
7. Liaise with Regional Data Management Officer on all Technical issues.
8. Liaise with the District Elections Manager on administrative matters.
9. Report all Technical related issues to the Regional Data Management Officer.
10. Maintain safekeeping of all sensitive and non-sensitive materials at Tally Centre
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- Interpersonal skills, integrity, and ability to adapt to situations.
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Closing date for receipt of applications is 1st May, 2023.

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.



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3. Njala University would not give warranty or bear any responsibility for items bought and found not to be in good working condition.
4. The Bid Application Form can be obtained from the office of the Procurement Officer, Room 7 Secretariat, Njala Campus upon receipt of a non-refundable fee of NLe250 (Two Hundred and Fifty New Leone) to the below mentioned accounts:

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

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

5. Bids for each item must be addressed and delivered to the Procurement Unit, Room 7, Secretariat, Njala Campus on or before Tuesday 4th May, 2023 at 12:00 noon.
6. The bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 12:00 noon on the 4th May, 2023:
 The Senate Room
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A. MOTOR VEHICLES

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1	AJL 383	Land Rover Discovery	Njala Campus
2	AEM 039	Nissan Pathfinder	Njala Campus
3	AEQ 742	BMC Water Bowser	Njala Campus
4	AFY 883	Mitsubishi	Njala Campus
5	ANM 985	Toyota Land Cruiser	Njala Campus
6	ANM 379	Land Cruiser	Njala Campus
7	ADF 422	Land Rover	Bo Campus
8	ADF 430	Land Rover	Bo Campus
9	AEF 377	Hyundai Aero Tow Bus	Bo Campus
10	ABS 162	Nissan Patrol	Njala Campus
11	AEK 966	Ford Ranger	Njala Campus
12	AHU 200	Hino Truck	Njala Campus
13	AGD 598	Toyota Land Cruiser V8	Njala Campus

B. MOTOR BIKES

SN	REGISTRATION NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
1	AHA 737	Kengo Motor Bike	Njala Campus

C. GENERATORS

SN	DESCRIPTION OF ASSETS	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
1	45 KVA	Perkins	Njala Campus
2	400 KVA	Detroit	Njala Campus
3	175 KVA	Caulmoh	Njala Campus
4	350 KVA	Perkins	Njala Campus
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Head Office: 2 Howe Street, Freetown,
PMB 1237, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Mobile: 077 713533, 077630832, 088 635750

Ecobank Transnational Incorporated

35th Annual General Meeting and an Extraordinary General Meeting

Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the thirty-fifth Annual General Meeting and an Extraordinary General Meeting of Ecobank Transnational Incorporated (ETI) will be held at **the Conference Centre, Ecobank Pan African Centre, 2365 Boulevard du Mono, Lomé, Togo, on Wednesday May 17, 2023, at 10.30 am GMT**, to transact the following business:

I – Annual General Meeting

1. Approval of the Accounts
2. Appropriation of the Profits
3. Re-election of Directors
4. Ratification of the co-option of a Director

II – Extraordinary General Meeting

1. Fund raising

Any shareholder may attend and vote at the meetings or appoint a proxy to do so on his/her behalf.

From the date of this notice, all documents relevant to the meetings shall be available to all shareholders at the Registered Office of the Company at the address above as well as on the Company's website (www.ecobank.com).

Shareholders may submit questions in advance of the General Meetings by sending an email to AGM@ecobank.com.

Dated this 20th day of April 2023.
By Order of the Board of Directors



Madibinet Cisse
Group General Counsel and Company Secretary

ecobank.com

Ecobank
The Pan African Bank

SWIAG Account

- Savings Account targeted at student at tertiary levels from 18 years and above
- Sum saved can be used to pay exam fees, purchase reading materials or start small scale businesses
- Free SMS alert, Internet banking network of your choice
- Customer has the authority to order his/her priority



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

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

Date of First Issue: 30th March, 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- q A valid Business registration certificate;

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

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

The address for bids submission:

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

The place for bids opening is:

The Senate Room,
 Njala University
 University Secretariat
 Njala Campus
 Moyamba District.

NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Ethiopian gov't and Oromo rebel group begin talks in Zanzibar



A fighter loyal to the Tigray People's Liberation Front mans a guard post on ... - Copyright © africanews Ben Curtis/Copyright 2021 The AP. All rights reserved

Ethiopia's federal government and a rebel group from the country's Oromia region opened peace talks on Tuesday in the Tanzanian island archipelago of Zanzibar, according to a spokesperson for the militants. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced the talks with the Oromo Liberation Army, or OLA, on Sunday at an event to celebrate a cease-fire, signed in November, with another rebel group from the northern Tigray region. Odaa Tarbi, the OLA's spokesperson, told The Associated Press that the Oromia talks began on Tuesday morning and are expected to last until Thursday. "I want to clarify these are preliminary talks meant to pave the way for comprehensive negotiations in the very near future," Odaa said. "The focus, for now, is confidence building and clarifying positions." This week's talks are being mediated by Norway and Kenya, according to Odaa. He said the European Union, the United States and a regional bloc known as IGAD are expected to be "part of the process going forward" if they are successful. A spokesperson for Ethiopia's federal government didn't respond to a request for comment.

The government's negotiating team in Zanzibar includes Justice Minister Gedion Timotheos and Redwan Hussein, the prime minister's national security adviser, according to the Oromo Legacy Leadership and Advocacy Association, a U.S.-based civic group. Redwan led the negotiating team that agreed on the cease-fire with the Tigray rebels. Abiy announced the formation of a "committee" to open talks with the OLA while addressing parliament late last month. The OLA is listed as a terrorist group by Ethiopia's parliament and has been accused of widespread atrocities, including a massacre of hundreds of villagers in June. It denies the allegations and says it is fighting for greater autonomy for the Oromo people, Ethiopia's biggest group, who claim a historical sense of marginalization within the country's federal system. Ethiopia's federal military, regional Oromia forces and rival ethnic militias from the neighbouring Amhara region have also been accused of human rights abuses during the Oromia conflict.

Basketball Africa League returns this week with the Nile Conference



The Cape Town Tigers are amongst the favourites at the Nile Conference. - Copyright © africanewsThe BAL

One month after the Sahara Conference's success in Dakar, the Basketball Africa League (BAL) is returning this week with the Nile Conference. Six teams will face each other in Cairo in the hope of being among the top four teams playing in the final phase of the tournament which will take place, as usual, in Kigali, Rwanda. Amongst 2023's new recruits, two new teams have made an appearance: Egypt's Al Ahly and Uganda's City Oilers, both of which will participate in their first BAL alongside Petro de Luanda (Angola), SLAC (Guinea), Ferroviário de Beira (Mozambique) and Cape Town Tigers (South Africa). A finalist in last year's BAL (beaten by Monastir 83-72), Petro de Luanda are going into their third year strengthened by the recruitment of two key players from their Tunisian rival: the Sudanese Ater Majok, winner of the League's Dikembe Mutombo Defensive Player of the Year award, and the experienced Ivorian point guard, Souleymane Diabaté, the sole winning player from the first two editions of the BAL (with Zamalek in 2021 and USM in 2022). The Angolan's partnership with Carlos Morais, Childe Dandão and Aboubakar Gaikou gives the appearance of a

dream team to the five major players that will be difficult to beat. Cape Town Tigers is also worthy of attention with the team's roster bolstered by the arrival of two former NBA players: Josh Hall, who played 21 matches in 2010 to 2011 with Oklahoma City's Thunder and the Nigerian Michael Gbinije, who made 9 appearances for the Detroit Pistons in 2016 to 2017 and was the winner of AfroBasket in 2016. They will be led by Rasheed Hazzard, experienced former assistant coach for the NBA's Knicks and the Lakers. Zaire Wade, the son of the legendary NBA player, Dwyane Wade, will also make his debut on the continent, after being recruited in Salt Lake City for the G League. Al-Ahly will be watched closely too, after replacing their key rival Zamalek. The Cairo team will build on the backbone of the Egyptian national team who have just qualified for the World Cup. Amongst their players, Dramane "Ladji" Camara is another one to follow. The young player is the product of the NBA Academy Africa and will return to the United States next year. Al-Ahly will open the Nile Conference this Wednesday against Ferroviário de Beira.

Record tourist arrivals in Morocco in first quarter of 2023

Morocco has recorded a record number of arrivals in the first quarter of 2023, with the latest figures from the tourism ministry showing it attracted 2.9 million tourists in the three-month period. "Tourism in Morocco continues its rise to levels never seen before, as evidenced by the exceptional figures recorded at the end of March 2023," the tourism ministry said in its statement. The figures represent an increase of 17 per cent compared to the first quarter of pre-Covid 2019. Almost two million people visited Morocco in February alone, a whopping 464 per cent rise over the same period in 2022. Data compiled by the Ministry of Tourism, Handicraft, and Social and Solidarity Economy attributes the upward trend

to the growth in outbound tourism markets, including in Spain, Britain, Italy, and the United States. The ministry has plans to boost tourism with a new roadmap, launched on 17 March, which it hopes will attract 17.5 million tourists and create 200,000 new jobs by 2026. Building on various initiatives it has carried out with the National Tourism Office (ONMT) to boost tourism, the ministry has vowed to redouble efforts towards improving marketing and reinforcing air connectivity throughout 2023. ONMT seeks to position Morocco among the world's Top 10 destinations through its newly developed 2023-2026 action plan called "Light in Action".

South Africa remains participant in ICC - Presidency

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa sowed confusion on the side-lines of the visit to South Africa of Finland's leader. On Tuesday (Apr. 25), Ramaphosa told reporters that: "The governing party, the ANC, had taken the decision that it was prudent that South Africa should pull out of the ICC." Hours later, the presidency put forward an error by the ruling ANC, and said Pretoria remained a participant in the Court. The African powerhouse is due to host a summit of a group of countries including Russia - in August. However, the Hague-based ICC issued an arrest warrant in March for President Vladimir Putin. As a member of the ICC, South Africa is theoretically supposed to arrest the Russian leader if he enters its territory. The presidency said South Africa is considering a legislative amendment that would domesticate and reflect all the articles of the Rome statute, which is the ICC's founding document. Accusations of partiality South Africa had previously sought to withdraw from the ICC in 2016 after a visit by former Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. Pretoria had refused to arrest the latter, who was also the subject of an arrest warrant from the court. But Pretoria's withdrawal was thwarted by the country's judiciary, which ruled that such a decision would be unconstitutional. Many voices on the African continent have by the past criticized the record of the International Criminal Court, accusing the jurisdiction of double standard. "South Africa remains a signatory to the ICC in line with a resolution of the 55th National Conference of the ANC - held in December 2022 - to rescind an earlier decision to withdraw from the ICC," the presidency stated. A December resolution was backed on again at a

meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the ANC (21-24 Apr. 2023). In a statement posted Wednesday (Apr. 26) on Twitter, the ruling African National Congress clarified that: "The NEC discussions highlighted the need to revitalize the Malabo protocol which would establish a continental criminal court that would complement the ICC as a court of last resort. The NEC also discussed options to amend national legislation that would domesticate the Rome statute in manner reflects all the articles of the Rome Statute. This includes provision of article 9B of the statute that requires a waiver of immunities for persons charged by the ICC from third-party countries where there is no referral by the United Nations Security Council." The potential withdrawal from the ICC was presented by the party and South Africa's presidency as "an option that would arise as a measure of last resort in the absence of legal options that would result in fairness and consistency in the administration of international law". While hosting Namibia's President Hage Geingob on April 20th, President Ramaphosa said South Africa was in discussion with relevant parties as they await BRICS [Editor's Note: group including Brazil, China, India, Russia and South Africa] leaders to confirm their attendance to the summit. So far, South Africa has chosen to remain neutral regarding the invasion of Ukraine, saying it prefers "dialogue to end the war." The conflict which has alienated Moscow from Western capitals had - as of 18 April 2023 - made 22,904 civilian casualties including 8534 deaths (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights).

Credit: africanews with AP

Fears over food and security mount as fragile ceasefire holds in Sudan



pharmacy and shops are pictured in the south of Khartoum on April 24, 2023 as battles rage in the Sudanese capital between the army and paramilitaries - Copyright © africanews -AFP or licensors

The violence in Sudan has impacted the free flow of goods in the country leading to an insufficient food supply amidst a worsening battle between two army generals. The United Nations recently warned of dire shortages of food, water, medicine and fuels especially in Khartoum and the neighboring surroundings. Thousands of residents have fled the chaos but the

remaining majority are now facing inadequate food supply with prices skyrocketing in a country that was already in dire situation before the violence began. "We say to Hemedti, oh brother, war is a loss for the Sudanese people. Everything has become expensive. And to our brother Burhan, stop this war and find us a radical solution to this war, or else Sudan will completely collapse, and all Sudanese

will be displaced. Everyone left and fled. There was no need for all of these problems. We were all countrymen living together. There was no need," said Barir Hammad, a construction worker. The fighting has killed at least 459 people and wounded more than 4,000, according to UN agencies. A total of 14 hospitals have been shelled since fighting erupted, as the remaining people scramble for the few resources. "We are worried about the prices and worried about

where to go. The problem is that the danger comes to us. It is we, civilians who are suffering, we're living in these conditions, and we can barely make a living. Anything we sell, we're living off of it. No one is stealing, no one is looting, we just want to work to feed our children," said Akj Waw Akwani, a construction worker from South Sudan. The fighting between the rival generals, which has involved air strikes and artillery exchanges, has killed hundreds of people and left some neighborhoods of greater Khartoum in ruins.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

Press Release

PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES FOR PUPILS IN PRE-PRIMARY, PRIMARY, JUNIOR AND SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT-ASSISTED SCHOOLS FOR THE SECOND TERM OF THE 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR

The Ministry of Finance (MoF), in collaboration with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE), announces for the attention of the General Public that Government has paid NLe60,691,310 as school fees for 2,448,003 pupils in Pre-Primary, Primary, Junior and Senior Secondary Schools in Government and Government -Assisted schools for the second term of 2022/2023 school year.

This payment also includes an outstanding amount of NLe2,665,590 for 369 schools, with 104,898 pupils omitted in the third term of the 2021/2022 school year. These payments have been made directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary schools based on the approved school list and enrolment data submitted by the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE).

The table below provides Summary of payment made by school categories:

S/N	School Category	No. of Schools	Enrolment	Amount Paid (NLe)
1	Pre Primary	456	47,747	477,470
2	Primary	5,598	1,575,706	15,757,060
3	JSS	1,445	501,622	25,081,100
4	SSS	633	322,928	19,375,680
Total		8,132	2,448,003	60,691,310

The Government is aware of the role of tuition fees in the effective functioning of schools and its impact on the quality of education. Therefore, to facilitate timely payment of tuition fees, school authorities are advised to be submitting credible enrolment data. As demonstration of Government's commitment to the implementation of the Free Quality Education Programme, a total amount of NLe587,165,583 (or Le587.17 billion old Leones) has so far been disbursed to schools for just the payment of school fees from September 2018 to April 2023.

Accordingly, Commercial Banks are advised to credit the respective schools accounts without further delay.



26th April 2023

For more information: Contact:
+232 78 584 006 or ascsay@mofsl.gov.sl



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

SIERRA LEONE BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

Motto: Victory in Solidarity

48 Jenner Wright Road Uggun Freetown

Tel: +232 76638022/+232 76648943/ +232 76640162/+232 76648545

Email: sierralibroadcasters22@gmail.com



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 1,250.00 (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



LONG LIST

Wednesday 26/04 & Thursday 27/04

Set 17314

Fix No.	Sales Close	Competition	Home Team	Away Team	Normal		Handicap [0:1]			Handicap [1:0]			First Half Result		Second Half Result		Wire 1.5		Wire 2.5		Wire 3.5		Half With Most Goals			Odd or Even?		Each Team Score?		Draw No Bet				
					1 (1)	X (3)	2 (2)	1 (4)	X (6)	2 (5)	1 (7)	X (9)	2 (8)	1 (10)	X (12)	2 (11)	1 (13)	X (15)	2 (14)	1 (16)	2 (17)	1 (18)	2 (19)	1 (20)	2 (21)	1 (22)	X (24)	2 (23)	O (25)	E (26)	Yes (27)	No (28)	1 (29)	2 (30)
1	4/26/2023 11:25	Georgia	SAMDURAU TSKAURUBO	FC GARBA	1.71	3.03	3.27	3.35	3.50	1.69	1.22	4.50	7.40	2.46	2.01	3.90	2.17	2.37	3.45	2.70	1.24	1.62	1.78	1.22	2.80	3.00	3.00	2.10	1.80	1.72	1.66	1.73	1.35	2.27

(*) All bets subject to Mercury International rules. In case of discrepancy terminal data prevails. Canceled fixtures pay LL. Bets placed after kickoff are void. Minimum 2 selections per bet.



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CARE INTERNATIONAL **MTHIE** **ACTIONAID**
GTB **SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS** **NASSIT** **SIERRA LEONE POLICE** **SLRA**
EPA **SIERRA LEONE BREWERY** **SITC**
RMF **MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS** **NJALA UNIVERSITY** **MMCET CHAI**
SOS CHILDREN VILLAGE **ACC** **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**
TRANSFAPAY **STAR TIMES**
CRS **ACTION AGAINST HUNGER** **WORLD VISION** **UBA**
MINISTRY OF FINANCE **ADB** **DSTV** **AUDIT SERVICES**
SEI **MINISTRY OF ENERGY** **NRA** **SLAJ**
SIERRA BAY HOTEL **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE** **NEMS**
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NMA **ZENITH BANK** **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**
NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD **KENEMA CITY COUNCIL** **EUROPEAN UNION** **SMEDA**
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NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES **PLAN INTERNATIONAL**
PRA **FAWAZ BUILDING MATERIALS** **ECOMED** **PARTNERS IN HEALTH**
PEE CEE & SONS **SMALL ARMS** **MOTT MACDONALDS** **SLWREC**
KINGHO MINING COMPANY **PPRC**
NEC **NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD** **NPPA** **EBK UNIVERSITY** **JUDICIARY OF SIERRA LEONE**

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Editor: Alusine Sesay +232 78 385923; opinion@slconcordtimes.com Advertisement: +232 79 355725, +232 76 694 292 advert@slconcordtimes.com

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