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Auditor General's tribunal reserved for ruling

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

LRMG Commissions construction of a modern clock tower in Magburaka



At the event: Resident Minister, North, Abu Koroma making statement while members of Leone Rock management look on

Judges for the Auditor General Tribunal have reserved the ruling for hearing into the substantive application of the tribunal against the former Auditor General, Mrs. Lara Taylor Pearce and her deputy, Tamba Momoh.

According to the judges, adjournment will be made known though notices to be sent.

The tribunal matter came up on Wednesday, 10th May 2023, at the National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT) Court in Freetown.

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Mrs. Lara Taylor Pearce



**SLPP North
America Young
Generation holds
successful
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LOCAL NEWS

LRMG Commissions construction of a modern clock tower in Magburaka

In what has been described as an unprecedented developmental leap, Leone Rock Metal Group, has handed over building materials to Tonkolili District Stakeholders in an effort to heed to H.E President, Julius Maada Bio's developmental strides in facilitating the construction of a New Modern Clock Tower in the Tonkolili District Head Quarter town of Magburaka Northern Province in Sierra Leone.

The presentation was made at a special ceremony held on Wednesday 10th May, 2023 at the Magburuka District Council, Tonkolili District and attracted a host of attendees including; The Manager Community Affairs Department; Mr Morris Manjanzhu, Deputy Manager Community Affairs Department LRMG; Mr Ansu Momoh, Resident Minister North- East Region; Mr Abu Abu Koroma, 19 Paramount Chiefs in Tonkolili District, Hon. Member of Parliament Constituency 050; Hassan Sesay, LUC Magburuka; Superintendent Ibrahim Sorie Sesay, Youth Representative, and LRMG Staff among many others.

LRMG ineffaceable is a leading Mining company in implementing its corporate social responsibility across Sierra Leone. The company's commitments to build a modern clock tower is an indication of the significance and value it places on township and its residents as it serves as the administrative headquarter of its operational district.

Speaking during the Presentation, the Deputy Manager Community Affairs; Mr Ansu Momoh, outlined the purpose and intent of the ceremony stating that they were delighted to be in Magburuka to present the building materials and to commit resources to the construction of the new modernise clock tower. He added, the presentation was to formally hand over building materials, to primarily assess the structure and set the timeline with regards the stipulated completion date which he said would span for one month. He then reaffirmed residents of LRMG's commitments to



At the event: Resident Minister, North, Abu Abu Koroma making statement while members of Leone Rock management look on



compliment Government's effort in ensuring they revive developmental drive and beautify Tonkolili District. "This project cost of building a modern clock tower summed up to has been taken up at a cost of Four Hundred and Forty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy Leones (NLE447,570). Stakeholders should ensure that the project is completed within the stipulated timeframe and without compromising the quality. They should also ensure that the roadside vendors and other public road users would not be affected due to the construction work," Mr. Ansu Momoh Concluded.

Resident Minister North -East Region Abu Abu Koroma showered praises on LRMG for taking the sole

responsibility to construct the Magburuka Modern clock tower, noting that this move of straight forwardness and display of attention by the company to the people of Tonkolili is truly unmatched. The Minister told dignitaries and the people of the Tonkolili District at the handing over ceremony that if not for LRMG's intervention, after several requests made to various Institutions this initiative would not have been accomplished

Speaking on behalf of the Paramount Chiefs; PC Kholifa Rowalla Chiefdom; Alhaji Masakama Kanamanka 111 welcomed the initiative, noting that the project is timely. He furthered that the exemplary community relations the company has

demonstrates, to the people of Tonkolili is first of its kind and rare to see such developmental drive.

"We admire LRMG development strides and the cooperation with the people of Tonkolili District. Indeed, LRMG is a force to reckon with" he concluded.

The handing over ceremony was climaxed with the official turning of the Sod by the Manager Community Affairs LRMG, Deputy Manager Community Affairs LRMG, Staff, Paramount chiefs, MP's and other dignitaries present.

This project is a testament to modern design and a move by LRMG in a positive direction which would be embodied in this beautiful structure when completed.





Employment Promotion Programme (EPP IV)

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Service Providers to support 190 SMEs with media service delivery and specialized training.

PN: 3010339

1. Background of Employment Promotion Programme (EPP IV)

The Employment Promotion Programme (EPP IV) co-funded by European Union (EU) and the Federal Republic of Germany. The programme is being implemented by German International Cooperation Sierra Leone (GIZ-SL) has as its overall goal ***"promotion of youth employment through local economic development and vocational training"*** In order to achieve this goal, EPP IV works through the private sector and in particular Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) across the country. Agriculture and Finance Consultants (AFC) is a third-party consulting firm supporting GIZ in the implementation of EPP IV. The programme is to be implemented from June 2021 to January 2024 for AFC Interventions.

2. Districts / Areas of implementation

The programme is being implemented with a key focus on three Districts where GIZ-SL operates, namely: Koinadugu/Falaba, Kailahun and Kono. The interventions for the Facility for Growth and Facility for Innovation are extended to other Districts as deemed necessary by the programme. Consequently, interested Service Providers should be prepared to work in other Districts not mentioned in this Expression of Interest (EOI).

3. Our strategy / approach

The Private Sector Department (PSD) is one of the work areas within EPP IV and is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that 190 SMEs are capacitated with in-kind support, such as branding, labelling, jingle creation and broadcasting, designing of logos, signboards, and specialized training within the life cycle of the current programme using a methodology known as ***"Facility for Innovation (F4I) and Facility for Growth F4G"*** in Sierra Leone.

4. Purpose of consultancy

AFC is requesting Service Providers to build the capacity of 190 SME's who need business skills improvement in order to operate profitably. This is done through specialize training, development of jingles, branding and labelling, erection of signboards, basic business entrepreneurial training, coaching to develop and sustainably operate their businesses.

5. Specific objectives

- a) To conduct assessment of the current status of business needs for selected SMEs in the selected geographical areas
- b) To develop individualized concepts and brands for jingles, branding, labelling and logos
- c) To provide specialized trainings for the selected SMEs owners.

- d) To support beneficiaries in formalizing their businesses

- e) To report on tangible results achieved by MSMEs as a result of the in-kind support and specialized training / coaching and its contribution to the accomplishment of the objectives for F4I and F4G, of EPP IV.

- f) To set targets and monitor progress along the achievements of the In-kind support and specialized training of the 190 selected grantees.

There are geographical zones of implementation under this offer. Each zone covers a District of EPP IV: **Zone 1:** Kailahun; **Zone 2:** Kono and **Zone 3:** Koinadugu and Falaba: **Zone 4:** Makeni, Bo and Kenema Districts. Interested Service Providers (SPs) applying for the assignment will be given the task to service all assigned beneficiaries.

6. Timeframe

The assignment delivery will be in batches of SME's from June 30th until 31st October 2023.

Eligibility / Expertise / Documents to be submitted.

- a) The Service Provider gives poof of good standing, commercial qualification, payment of taxes and social benefits: **Clearance certificate of NRA and NASSIT**
- b) The Service Provider is based and registered in Sierra Leone: **Certificate of Business Registration.**
- c) The Service Provider should have minimum of three (3) years' experience in the tasks outlined for the assignment and should have experience in working in the targeted areas in Sierra Leone and show a wide understanding of the assignment.
- d) **A brief company profile that details the experience in delivering similar tasks**

Submission of Expressions of Interest

Service Providers should submit their "Expression of Interest" in a plain sealed envelope in the Tender Box situated at the GIZ Country Office Reception -37 Fraser Street, Freetown **not later than 15th May 2023, 5:00 PM** local time, **clearly marked with "EOI FACILITY FOR INNOVATION (F4I) AND FACILITY FOR GROWTH (F4G) NUMBER- 83434060"**

Only shortlisted SPs will be contacted with detailed Terms of Reference and tender documentation for submission of technical and financial bids

LOCAL NEWS

Rokel Bank MD listed among Africa's top 25 financial leaders

The African Leadership Magazine (ALM) has listed the Managing Director of Rokel Commercial Bank, Dr. Walton Ekundayoh Gilpin among the 25 Top Financial Leaders in Africa for 2023.

During a courtesy call at the Rokel Commercial Bank Head Office past Thursday, 11th May 2023, Dr. Walton Gilpin, who emerged 17th on the list of 25 eminent personalities across the continent was presented with a "Certificate of Emergence" by a team from the Magazine's headquarters based in the UK.

In an official release signed by ALM's Kingsley Okeke, "the listing is a special recognition for the outstanding contributions of Africa's topmost finance leaders for providing the leadership and innovative policies and programmes and actions that helped stabilizing many challenged national economies Africa."

The List of Top 25 African Finance Leaders was unveiled on the 13th of April during the African Finance Leaders Networking Conference held in

Washington DC, USA and on the sidelines of the Annual World Bank Group/IMF 2023 Spring Meetings.

The release also said those listed were selected and ranked through a rigorous two-step points-based selection process that included nominations by a pool of global financial experts and writers using hard evidence as well as a voting system to arrive at their final decisions of listing the 25 individuals whose contributions to the continent's financial industry continues to impact lives.

Accepting the Certificate of Emergence, the Rokel Commercial Bank Managing Director said he was humbled and filled with pride to see a Sierra Leonean like himself being recognized by a credible outfit like the African Leadership Magazine and expressed hope that the recognition would motivate other professionals in the financial sector to work hard and bring more laurels home.

"The successes at Rokel Commercial Bank have not come through me alone. On the back of all these achievements, there is also a dedicated team of bankers across



the country, there is a Board with a clear vision, there are supervising entities with a passion for excellence and there are customers that are dependable. I am grateful to God and I feel extremely blessed to be part of a family that has completely changed the story of RCBank..." he said.

The African Leadership Magazine's list for African Finance Leaders also include

political leaders (in charge of financial portfolios) and financial experts in bilateral organizations and the private sector. Some notable names include: the Ethiopian Minister of Finance, Ahmed Shide, Madagascar Minister of Finance, Rinda Rabarinirinarison, President of African Development Bank, Dr Akinwumi Adesina and Heirs Holding Chairman, Tony O Elumelu.

Auditor General's tribunal reserved for ruling

From Cover

Lawyer Roland Wright, Counsel representing the first Respondent, Lara Taylor Pearce, apart from adopting his earlier written preliminary objections dated 20th February 2023, made oral objections and submissions about the State Notice of Motion dated 28th November, 2022.

According to Lawyer Roland Wright, the tribunal ought not to entertain the said application, so far as there was no valid affidavit in support of the application filed and served him by the Law Officers Department.

That, he said it is mandatory and a requirement for any application, and that the heading referred to in the case file number to wit "M Jo.4/2022, was not the heading of the affidavit to the notice of motion, most significantly.

He argued that the affidavit from the state remains undated and submitted that the application must be discountenanced.

He submitted that in the first order sought in the notice of motion, the State Applicants were seeking permission to question the respondents as a means of proceeding with the tribunal.

He argued that even the State Applicants have accepted that both respondents are subject matter. Counsel submitted that the application ought to be refused by the tribunal court, as it is in contravention of the Practice Directions.

For the Applicants to use both respondents as witnesses, Roland Wright argued that the submission was premature as they have to comply with "E" of the Court Practice Directions. He further submitted that even the tribunal made a distinction between witnesses and respondents.

In response to the objections, the State



counsel, Joseph Andrew Khalil Sesay said assuming without conceding that counsel for the first respondent was served with an undated affidavit in support or without a case number of the tribunal as per the Practice Directions, it is insufficient to use the unsworn affidavit in a defective form.

"This tribunal has the authority and provides room for flexibility", Lawyer Joseph Andrew Khalil Sesay emphasised. On the second objection, about order and direction, the State counsel argued that the prayers were self-explanatory.

"The rules are there to guide us and cannot circumvent orders," State Counsel submitted.

In the absence of the second respondent, Tamba Momoh, who according to his legal representative, Mohamed Pa Momoh Fofana, went on medical, one of the Judges, Justice Ansumana Ivan Sesay, raised the issue of the continuous absence of the second respondent from the tribunal.

"Your client is not treating the court fairly, and as per the practice directions he ought to be in court at every adjourned date, except otherwise which is not the case," Justice Ivan Sesay reminded Lawyer Fofana.

CFN presents position paper to ChildFund on child rights

By Ishmael Dumbuya

The Children's Forum Network (CFN) has on Thursday 11th May 2023 presented its position paper to the Country Director ChildFund, at the ChildFund headquarters on Hill Station, Freetown.

The position paper speaks to issues including Child Participation in decision making, ending violence against children, right to education, parents role in supporting learning journey, emphasis on the school feeding program, rights to health, media technology and online safety, access to justice and the right to a clean environment (Climate Change).

In his statement to the press, the Vice President of CFN, Foday Bangura noted that over the past months, he has been on a journey representing the children's populace in two big continental platforms, one of which was the inaugural African Charter Summit.

He added that the summit was child-led from the idea stage, noting that it was children in Kenya that brought the idea and amplified by Mtoto News, Kenya.

He further states that it was part of the children's committee representing Sierra Leone that planned and coordinated the summit.

"As a result of the successful outcome of the summit and my input in the processes and engagement during the summit, gave me the opportunity to be selected amongst my peers to further represent children of the continent, which is the 41st Ordinary Session of the African Committee of Experts on the



Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) in the Kingdom of Lesotho," he explained.

He went on to state that the committee is the supervisory body set up by the African Union as enshrined in Article 38 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child with the mandate to promote and protect the rights enshrined in the Charter, monitor the implementation and ensure protection of the rights enshrined in the Charter and interpret the provisions of the present Charter at the request of a state party.

He appreciated and thanked partners and sponsors of the African Children's Summit. Organizations such as ChildFund for providing the financial support for the Summit, GIZ, UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision, Kenya Airways, and a host of other organizations.

The Children's Forum Network (CFN) is the umbrella child-led advocacy organization that was formed in 2000 and supervised by the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs (MGCA).



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Market Watch

Traders at Congo Market lament slow sales of foodstuff

By Elizabeth J. Kamara



Some foodstuff at Congo Market

Market Watch is a column that looks at the prices of basic commodities in various markets across the city of Freetown. It seeks the views of traders as well as customers on sales of their goods and prices at which the last consumer buys.

Ahead of the June 24th 2023 elections, traders have expressed frustration and disappointment over the low sales and hike in the prices of foodstuff and beverages in the country.

In this edition of market watch, Concord Times Elizabeth J. Kamara interviewed some traders and customers dealing in foodstuff and beverages in Freetown to know the changes that have taken place as it remains few weeks to election.

Speaking to this medium, Joseph Conteh is a petty trader at the Congo Market who deals in assorted cold drinks.

He observed that increase in the prices of foodstuff is becoming alarming as most foodstuff prices have double since last month making business very difficult for them.

He noted that local foodstuff should not be expensive than imported ones if only local farmers are provided with the needed support by the government.

He therefore pleaded with government to pay more attention to local foodstuff by

Below are the current prices of foodstuff at Congo Market.

Long grain parboiled rice	50kg	NLe 640.00
Long grain parboiled rice	25kg	NLe 320.00
Big joe rice	50kg	NLe 500.00
Big joe rice	25kg	NLe 350.00
Rice	cup	NLe 4.00
JPB broken rice	50kg	NLe 840.00
JPB broken rice	25kg	NLe 420.00
Thai Jasmine	50kg	NLe 850.00
Sierra rice	5kg	NLe 70.00
pepper	Per bag	NLe 1000.00
pepper	Per cup	NLe 7.00
Paddi groundnut oil	20lit	NLe 640.00
Paddi groundnut oil	10lit	NLe 350.00
Canola oil	8lit	NLe 150,000
Bama mayonnaise	Big bottle	NLe 120.00
Jago mayonnaise		NLe 45.00
Paddi maggie	1packet	NLe 30.00
onga	1 packet	NLe 60.00

87% voter registration cards distributed -ECSL

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

The Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL) has said that 2,952,680 of voter registration cards, representing 87% of the total number of registered voters, have been distributed.

The ECSL boss made the disclosure while updating the Multi-Stakeholders Election Steering Committee Meeting (MESC) held on May 10th at the Bintumani Hotel at Aberdeen, Freetown.

The Multi-Stakeholders Election Steering Committee (MESC) meets at least once a month so as to address issues of controversies around the June 24 elections. The latest was the 8th MESC Meeting.

The Commissioner mentioned that consolidation of data from card distribution is currently ongoing at the ECSL Data Centre at Wellington, which he said include adding photos to photoless registrants, correction of misplaced registrants.

In the area of nomination of candidates for Local Council Elections (LEC), he said candidates from two Political

Parties (APC & SLPP) were provisionally nominated for all LCE in all 16 districts.

He went on to state that 37.7% of councilors nominated were female and that nomination for Presidential and members of Parliament were concluded on May 9th.

"Candidates for 13 Political Parties have been provisionally nominated for Presidential elections (APC, SLPP, UDM, PDP, PLP, ReNIP, NDA, RUFP, UNPP, NURP, CDP, ADP and PMDC). One female Presidential candidate was nominated," he said.

For result management, the Commissioner said the commission has commenced plans to set up Regional Result Management Centres in Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Port Loko and Bombali to tally and transmit results for Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Council elections.

The Ministry of Finance provided detail on information on Election Financing and the Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) ensured among others.

Mercy Ships to treat 7,000 patients in Sierra Leone

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

In August this year, Mercy Ships will be coming to Sierra Leone to treat 7,000 Sierra Leoneans of different surgical illness.

Mercy Ships has a long-lasting history tracing back to more than 20 years with the West African nation including Sierra Leone.

The head of Patient Selection at Mercy Ship, Eric Diatta, disclosed that the medical charity ship, Mercy Ships, will dock in Sierra Leone this August and embarks on surgical operations in all regions of the country and will last for ten month.

He said upon invitation by the Government of Sierra Leone, they have signed a communique with the Ministry of Health through the District Medical Officers (DMOs) of four districts in all regions of the country, where they will embark on surgical operations when they arrive in the country in late August. He added that they have already started registration in different parts of the country which will come to an end on the 19th May, 2023, and the registration and the surgery will be free.

He further states that four Hospitals or Community Health Centres (CHC) locations will be made available in Freetown, one



Staff from Mercy Ships and the MoHS

each in Kambia, Makeni, Bo and Kenema.

He said they will be doing Paediatric Orthopaedic surgery, Plastic reconstructive surgery, eye surgery, maxilla facial surgery, and other face diseases.

He said they were encouraging all Sierra Leoneans to come and register to the various hospital locations across the country before the 19th May, 2023, noting that they needed more people for the eyes surgery.

For over 25 years, Mercy Ships have been offering pro bono service to patients in Sierra Leone, Liberia, The Gambia, Senegal, Cameroon, Madagascar, Benin, Ghana, South Africa, and Togo – conducting life-saving surgeries in the process.

"All services by Mercy Ships are provided free of charge to the participant, thanks to donors around the world and their support of the volunteer professionals onboard their hospital ships."



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LOCAL NEWS

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), Regional Chief Operating Officer for Anglophone West Africa, Eric Monchu Intong, has stated that within three years' period, inclusive 2022, 2023 and 2024, the bank will be willing to spend over one billion United States Dollars to promote the private sector and boost the economy of the country.

He said the Bank together with its partner, Oakwood Green Africa, encouraged agricultural and production companies to take advantage of the opportunity to ensure that as Africans they are able to produce what they eat and also help to boost the Africa economy.

"Last year roadshow gave us the opportunity to originate transactions amounting to about three hundred million United States Dollars which are various stages of credit approval and we thought that this year's will also give us another opportunity of at least another three hundred and fifty million United States Dollars, so that between last year, this year and next year we will should be targeting at total amount of one billion United States Dollars to be considered in disbursement to support economic development through trade finance and trade enabling transactions," he said.

He was speaking on Wednesday, May 10, during a presser at the Freetown City Council Auditorium in Freetown, with the theme 'Sustaining Intra-Africa Trade Drive: Navigating the Last Mile' noting that at the end of a two-day roadshow conference they will be able to identify potential customers.

He said the bank is providing the funds to support trade and trade promotion in member countries, noting that the bank is a 30-year-old financial institution that was established in 1993 and was created to promote, facilitate and finance intra and extra-Africa trade.

He said the bank has programs and facilities that are made available to member countries' government owned institutions, parastatals, private sector like the commercial banks, cooperate, SMEs.

He said because some of the facilities the bank is providing can be quite technical, they decided to partner with Oakwood who can translate and breakdown the requirement into simple and understanding manner for their customers.

He said the second roadshow event they were having in the country was to re-energise their partners to understand the benefits the bank is providing to promote and finance

AFREXIMBANK affirms willingness to invest over \$1billion in Salone



their businesses, to create employment, fight poverty and to support economic development and transformation in the country.

He said the two-day roadshow event gives people the opportunity to ask questions about the bank and the facilities it provides, stating that on the second day of the event they had one-on-one discussions with potential customers with the aim of having a list of businesses they can go with and fight for approval.

He said the second edition of the roadshow in Sierra Leone was organised with the purpose of benefiting from the gains they recorded at the first edition of the roadshow in 2022 and re-energised their potential clients to understand the benefit that Afreximbank can provide for them to promote and finance their businesses to create employment, to fight poverty and to support economic development and transformation.

He reiterated that the focus is that between last year, this year and next year they should be able to target investment approval of about one billion United States Dollars to support economic development in the country.

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Oakwood Green Africa Limited, Gabriel Edgal, said they partner with the bank because they have a vision to enable greatness and the vision to solve problems and

encourage Africa countries to be able to fix their problems.

He disclosed that the bank is a \$40 billion bank that has the capacity to finance businesses in Africa, noting that trade has always been one of the sectors that boost the economy of Africa and trade has been a major factor that unites Africa and that was the reason the Africa Free Trade Chapter was created.

Speaking at the opening event, Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr. Edward Hinga Sandi, said trade is a foundational catalyst for development and countries that are opened in international trade tend to grow faster, be more innovative, attract more investment, and create formal, well-paying employment opportunities for their citizens, noting that in the history of development, few countries have reached middle-income levels without effectively utilizing trade.

He said as Sierra Leone continues to make progress towards achieving national development, the aspiration to attain a middle-income level by 2035 remains paramount and trade is a key driver in reaching that milestone.

He said the existential barriers to trade, typical of a developing economy, coupled with the challenges posed by global trade competitions and a breakthrough, can only be achieved by crafting a deliberate strategy that will re-engineer the

business environment through key policy reforms, harness sub regional and regional trade integration opportunities, and attract investment in trade and industry.

"This is exactly what the Ministry of Trade and Industry has as its intended purpose. Therefore, the ministry is partnering with African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and Oakwood Green Africa Limited (Oakwood Green) in repositioning Trade for the Intra Africa Trade opportunities. This strategy lays the basis for Sierra Leone to have greater participation in the following agreement, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), African Union, World Trade Organization (WTO) multilateral negotiations; preferential trade arrangements with the United States of America – African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA); the European Union – "Everything but Arms" initiative; and China – Duty-Free Quota-Free (DFQF) scheme for least developed countries.

The Roadshow, in addition to promoting Afreximbank's mandate in Sierra Leone by fostering a deeper understanding of the Bank's products to the Banking and Business Communities, will also serve to reinforce and activate various initiatives aimed at driving Sierra Leone's participation in Intra Africa trade 2023 in Egypt.

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LOCAL NEWS

The Young Generation wing of the Sierra Leone People's Party of North America (SLPPNA), under the leadership of the Regional Young Generation Council (YGC), Hindolo Barnet, organized a classy and inclusive fundraising dinner over the weekend (May 6th, 2023) in Vineland, New Jersey, with a youth-focused ceremony, highlighting the importance of young people in Leadership and President Bio's commitment towards empowering young people in Sierra Leone. The event further showcased the YGC's unrivaled commitment and support of President Bio and his New Direction Government. "When President Maada Bio passionately told all SLPP supporters that his re-election campaign would go on if members of the party will put their resources together to facilitate the entire campaign process, as he would not use a dime of the state resources for that, we listened and did our assignment well," they noted

SLPP North America Young Generation holds successful fundraising dinner to re-elect President Bio



Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, David Sengh, who served as the Keynote speaker of the event, highlighted three important areas in achieving



effective service delivery, underscoring some key unique leadership styles of President Bio.

He said the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education has been an amiable ministry because of the unprecedented progress in terms of quality and education both nationally and internationally. The dinner was inclusive as members of the National Grand Coalition (NGC) were in full

attendance to support the agenda of President Bio's re-election campaign. "That was a show of strength for the recently signed and sealed progress alliance between the two parties – to guide Sierra Leone further to inclusive and sustainable national development."

At the end of the event, Delaware Valley (DVC) chapter presented to the chairman of the SLPPNA region, Desmond Pessima, a boldly printed copy of a forty-five thousand United States Dollars (\$45,000) cheque, plus an extra two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) towards the campaign for the re-election of President Bio.

Face to Face with China: Ambassador Wang highlights successes of China – Sierra Leone relation

By Mohamed J Kargbo

The Chinese Embassy has on May 10th 2023 held their second session of face to face with china at China House, Old Railway Line, Freetown. The session was held in order to highlight the successes of China on the global stage and that of the successes China has made in Sierra Leone.

In his opening remarks, the Chinese Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Ambassador Wang Qing, said it was his first visit at China House, Home of the Sierra Leone-China Friendship Society, and has witnessed the development of China-Sierra Leone Friendship, adding that the friendship is geared towards promoting cultural exchanges between the two countries.

He further noted that everyone present at the occasion has their own role to play in promoting the China-Sierra Leone relations and have keen interest in what is going on in China.

He went on to state that this year's sessions were held in March and the first session was the session of National People Congress (NPC), and that of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

"At the NPC session, the new state

leaders were elected wherein Xi Jinping was unanimously re-elected President of the People's Republic of China, reflecting the common will of the Chinese people. President Xi Jinping will continue to steer the ship for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, ensuring the continuity and stability of China's policy," he explained.

He continued that China has adjusted its policies on the prevention and control of the Covid-19 pandemic, injecting new energy into China and bringing new opportunities to the world, adding that the measures included canceling entry, PCR testing and quarantine, and orderly resuming outbound and inbound tourism which returned people's lives to normalcy.

He mentioned that programs such as the May Day holiday in China is an indication that normalcy has returned to the country.

"According to relevant data, a total of 274 million domestic trips were made during the May Day holiday, generating 148 billion yuan of tourism revenues, up by 70% and 128% year-on-year respectively. Outbound travel bookings of Chinese tourists soared by nearly seven times year-on-year," he said.

Ambassador Wang also said that Sierra Leone and China are good



Ambassador Wang delivering his speech and stakeholders

friends, good brothers and good partners, adding that the China-Sierra Leone relations has thrive for over decades.

"Sierra Leone China Friendship Association, Sierra Leone China Foundation, Sino-Sierra Leone Alumni Association and the media have made important contributions to maintaining the traditional friendship between China and Sierra Leone, enhancing mutual understanding and promoting cooperation between the two sides," he explained

He concluded on the note that over 100 Sierra Leonean students have gone to China for studies, noting that China has dispatched expert teams to help the development of Sierra Leone agriculture, infrastructure and other fields, and three medical teams are about to complete a new round of rotation to

actively help Sierra Leone's health system.

Delivering his keynote address, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Edward Hinga Sandi said that he is a product of China, and that he studied there for six years and later returned.

He noted that China House is part of the territory of China in Sierra Leone and that China is Sierra Leone's biggest trading partner.

"Any sector of works you go you will find Chinese People and they also have the largest mining company in Sierra Leone, Leone Rock Mining Company.

He further stated that the Chinese Government has helped Sierra Leone in many ways, in areas like the rehabilitation of the National Stadium, Youyi Building, China-Sierra Leone Hospital and many more.



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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Senegal: President gets involved in land dispute causing tensions in Dakar



Senegalese President Macky Sall during a press conference at the ... - Copyright © africanews Johanna Geron/AP

The Senegalese president Macky Sall intervened personally, according to his services, to try to settle this week a land dispute between a traditional community of Dakar and the State, source of violent clashes.

The Lebous' protest against a project to build a gendarmerie in the district of Ngor has hardened in recent days and has caused violent confrontations which culminated on Tuesday between part of the population and the gendarmes.

According to images released Wednesday by the presidency, Macky Sall met late Tuesday night with representatives of Ngor and Lebous. He decided to share "equally" the land between the gendarmerie and the population and announced the construction of a high school, she said.

Images circulating on social networks had previously shown groups of young people clashing with stones and incendiary devices against a large force of law enforcement officials responding with tear gas. Witnesses

described a neighborhood cordoned off by gendarmes and made almost inaccessible.

Mamadou Ndiaye, president of the "Ngor Debout" movement, was quoted in the press as saying that two people died in the clashes, including a young girl, and many others were injured.

No human toll has been officially reported. The gendarmerie did not respond to AFP. The Ministry of the Interior reported Wednesday in a statement the discovery of the body of a teenager of about 15 years on the beach of Ngor but said she had "probably" been killed by the propeller of a boat.

The Lebous are a traditional fishing group living on the Dakar peninsula and on the west coast of Senegal. They have been opposing for weeks the erection of the gendarmerie post on a parcel of land of more than 6,000 square meters which they claim to own. They denounce the lack of infrastructure for the use of the population in a very popular neighborhood.

They regularly rise up against the monopolization of their ancestral lands in a rapidly expanding city subject to significant land and real estate pressure.

The government, for its part, claimed to have bought the plot from its owner.

The fever in Ngor coincided with, but was not linked to, tensions caused by the possible exclusion of opposition politician Ousmane Sonko from the presidential race in 2024. The threat of ineligibility weighing on him makes fear a violent reaction of his supporters.

On social networks Tuesday night, Mr. Sonko has erected the neighborhood as a symbol of resistance against an "arbitrary and deliberately violent regime. He called on the outlying neighborhoods to show solidarity.

Government spokesman Abdou Karim Fofana said he saw in these remarks confirmation that Mr. Sonko "is capable of walking on corpses to achieve his ends.

Namibia bans tattoos on prison officers - report

Namibian prison authorities have banned recruitment of persons with visible tattoos as part of efforts to protect prisons' image, a local newspaper reports.

This measure is being taken to safeguard the image of the prisons, as there have been concerns that certain tattoos worn by prison officers may be linked to criminal gangs, according to the Namibian Sun.

The Namibia Correctional Services (NCS) commissioner-general, Raphael Hamunyela, said visible tattoos were not a good reflection of the service. He said the country's recruitment policy and the code of conduct would be amended to ensure that in future no person with visible tattoos is recruited into the NCS. "New tattoos constitute a disciplinary offence," Mr



A detainee shows his tattoos at the Bamako Central Prison in Bamako ... - Copyright © africanews MICHELE CATTANI/AFP or licensors

Hamunyela was quoted as saying. The names of correctional officers bearing tattoos will subsequently also be taken for record-keeping.

16.5 million displacements recorded across sub-saharan Africa in 2022- report

A "perfect storm" of overlapping crises forced tens of millions to flee within their own country last year, sending the number of internally displaced people to a record high, monitors said on Thursday.

An unprecedented 71.1 million internally displaced people (IDPs) were registered in 2022 - up 20 percent from a year earlier - amid mass displacement for Russia's war in Ukraine, as well as by the monsoon floods that drenched Pakistan.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, it was around 16.5 million displacements - more than half of them due to conflict, especially in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Ethiopia.

A full 60.9 million new internal displacements were meanwhile reported in 2022, with some people forced to flee multiple times during the year, according to a joint report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

That marks an all-time high for new internal displacements, and an increase of 60 percent compared to the some 38 million fresh displacements seen in 2021. That number is "extremely high", IDMC chief Alexandra Bilak told AFP.

"Much of the increase is caused, of course, by the war in Ukraine, but also by floods in Pakistan, by new and ongoing conflicts across the world, and by a number of sudden and slow onset disasters that we've seen from the Americas all the way to the Pacific."

- "Very volatile" -

Last year, new internal displacements from conflict surged to 28.3 million - nearly doubling from a year earlier and three times higher than the annual average over the past decade.

Beyond the 17 million displacements inside Ukraine last year, eight million were forced from their homes by Pakistan's monster floods.

The global internal displacement figures are only expected to grow this year, driven in part by fresh conflicts like the

violence ravaging Sudan forcing hundreds of thousands to flee.

More than 700,000 people have already become internally displaced by the fighting that erupted on April 15, while another 150,000 people have fled the country, according to UN numbers.

"Since the start of the... most recent conflict in April, we've already recorded the same number of displacements as we did for the whole year in 2022," Bilak said.

"Clearly, it's a very volatile situation on the ground," she said, pointing out that those being newly displaced by the fighting were joining the ranks of more than three million people already displaced across Sudan.

- "Food security crisis" -

While internal displacement is a global phenomenon, nearly three quarters of the world's IDPs live in just 10 countries: Syria, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ukraine, Colombia, Ethiopia, Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan.

Many of them remain displaced due to unresolved conflicts that have dragged on for years and continued to force people to flee their homes last year.

And even as conflict-related displacement surged, natural disasters continued to account for most new internal displacement, spurring 32.6 million such movements in 2022 - up 40 percent from a year earlier.

NRC chief Jan Egeland described the overlapping crises spurring ever more displacement around the world as a "perfect storm".

"Conflict and disasters combined last year to aggravate people's pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities, triggering displacement on a scale never seen before," he said in a statement.

"The war in Ukraine also fuelled a global food security crisis that hit the internally displaced hardest," he said. "This perfect storm has undermined years of progress made in reducing global hunger and malnutrition."

Mystery illness kills nine, leaves 80 ill in Kenya



Medical staff talk in front of a treatment tent which accommodates patient with diarrhea at ... - Copyright © africanews YASUYOSHI CHIBA/AFP or licensors

At least nine people have died, and over 80 others are seriously ill in Kargi Location, Marsabit County, following an outbreak of an unknown disease.

Moses Galoro, the senior chief of the area has appealed for an urgent intervention to prevent further fatalities.

Preliminary tests indicated the possibility of a violent malaria outbreak, according to local media reports.

According to Chief Galoro, six adults, and three children aged between one and three years have died from the disease.

The affected persons had a travel history out of Marsabit County, having come from satellite camps in Archers Post and Merille areas. Out of the 27 patients screened, only five tested positive for malaria.

Symptoms exhibited by most of the affected persons include flu-like symptoms, yellow eyes, and severe headaches. However, the latest victim, who died at Kargi Health Centre, exhibited flu-like symptoms, swollen spleen, severe headache, and yellowish eyes, which is similar to Kala-azar.

Medics however say visceral leishmaniasis - also known as kala-azar disease - cannot be ruled out.

Visceral leishmaniasis is characterized by irregular bouts of fever, weight loss, enlargement of the spleen and liver, and anaemia. It can be fatal if left untreated in over 95% of cases, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The disease was first reported two weeks ago and has continued to cause havoc in the region. Urgent virology tests and mass screening of residents have been called for by Chief Galoro to establish the exact cause of the deaths and to avert further fatalities.

The outbreak comes two months after the Kenya Medical Research Institute detected an invasive mosquito species in Laikipia and Saku areas of Marsabit County.

Guinea: Release of three civil society figures in prison for months



Guinean police patrol in Conakry on January 14, 2020, on the second day of ... - Copyright © africanews CELLOU BINANI/AFP or licensors

Three civil society figures in Guinea who have been imprisoned for several months were released Wednesday in Conakry, the same day seven people were killed during a demonstration organized to demand, among other things, their release.

The leaders of the National Front for the Defense of the Constitution (FNDC) Oumar Sylla, alias Fonié Mangué, Ibrahima Diallo and Mamadou Billo Bah, "came out of prison at 22:30 (GMT and local). They are completely free," Abdoulaye Oumou Sow, head of communications for the FNDC, a group that challenges the ruling junta in Guinea, told AFP.

The collective of lawyers defending Mr. Sylla, Mr. Diallo and Mr. Bah "has just learned of the release of our clients without procedure, without condition," said one of its members, Mr. Saifou Bèavogui, in a statement sent to AFP.

Mr. Bèavogui denounced that for several months "citizens have been deprived of their freedom without trial", and "regrets that all the time that this arbitrary detention lasted, all the requests regularly introduced (by their defense) were systematically rejected without the least examination on their relevance".

Fonié Mangué and Ibrahima Diallo have been detained since July 2022, and Mamadou Billo Bah since January 2023. It was not immediately possible to know the reasons given by the courts for their release.

- Seven killed in protest -

The three detainees were released from prison on the same day that a collective of which the FNDC is a member - which has been dissolved by the junta - organized demonstrations in Conakry and the provinces to demand

their release and that of other detainees, among other demands.

According to a report by the opposition Forces Vives de Guinée, seven people were killed and 32 wounded by bullets in the capital during the demonstration.

The Guinean authorities, contacted by AFP on Wednesday evening to confirm or deny this toll, could not be reached.

The release of the three men as well as all prisoners described as political by the opposition is one of the main demands of the Forces Vives de Guinée.

They are also demanding the opening of a dialogue for the rapid return of civilians to power, as well as the lifting of the ban on all demonstrations introduced by the junta in 2022.

- Religious mediation -

The three detainees had refused on Monday to be released in exchange for their commitment to renounce militancy, according to the lawyers' collective that defends them. And this while religious leaders have been working for weeks to renew the threads of dialogue between the junta and the opposition.

The religious mediation team met with government representatives on Monday and assured them that, even in the absence of the opposition, "the lines (had) moved" and that the authorities were ready to release the three prisoners, according to one of the members of the delegation, Anglican bishop Jacques Boston.

The mediation team then went to the Conakry prison.

It "conveyed the message that the government had agreed to the request for release under judicial supervision of the detainees in exchange for a guarantee, from now on, that they would not continue their civil struggle, in particular the organization of peaceful demonstrations," the lawyers' collective reported in a statement received by AFP on Tuesday.

But the prisoners "reject any offer of release under judicial supervision and any commitment to renounce their civil struggle," it said. "They demand the immediate opening of their trial (...) failing that, their release."

Guinea has been ruled since 2021 by a junta that took power in a coup. Under international pressure, the military agreed to hand over power to elected civilians by the end of 2024.

Several opposition leaders were arrested or prosecuted under the junta.

Ghana: Nine pupils confirmed dead as boat ferrying them capsizes



A dead pupil in the arms of two men - Copyright © africanews @Ghadatainsights

Nine pupils have been confirmed dead in Ghana's Greater Accra region on Wednesday after a boat transporting them to school capsized.

The school children were said to be traveling from Faana to Kelee in the Ga South Municipality of the Greater Accra Region.

They were between the ages of 8 and 15, 3news.com reported on Thursday.

Bodies of eight of the kids found earlier were sent to the Korle Teaching Hospital morgue.

The body of the 9th child was retrieved on Thursday morning after a desperate search by youth in the

community.

The Municipal Director of the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), Christian Afiadenyo, told local media that three pupils survived the disaster.

He said one boy among the pupils was operating the boat before the incident occurred though he is not sure about this information.

Mr Afiadenyo said the boy may have been one of the three survivors.

The town is said to have been thrown into a state of mourning since the incident occurred.

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BUDGET ADVOCACY NETWORK

Terms of Reference (ToR) to Conduct a Study on the Current Macro Economic Policies and Tax Regime/Laws, and their Implications for Women's Inclusion into the Macroeconomic Space and Business Opportunities in Sierra Leone.

1. INTRODUCTION

Budget Advocacy Network (BAN) and Christian Aid Sierra Leone are implementing a project titled: "Fostering Gender Just Recoveries in Sierra Leone," which is funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. This project seeks to contribute to Christian Aids' long-term economic justice vision in which economies are transformed at the local, national, regional, and global levels to serve and be shaped by the voices of marginalised communities. The overall aim is to build a new social contract that fulfills human rights, value care, are sustainable, and heal the earth, in ways that are rooted in restorative justice.

Over the years, the government of Sierra Leone has made significant progress in promulgating laws and policies that are geared toward improving the macroeconomic space and gender empowerment for greater inclusion. Recent among them include the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy (2021) and the GEWE Act, 2023. Before this recent development, the 3 Gender Acts enacted in 2007 i.e., the Domestic Violence Act, the Devolution of Estates Act, and the Registration of Customary Marriage and Divorce Act, were the ice breaker in terms of gender empowerment in Sierra Leone, but these documents failed to capture women's economic empowerment issues, which has now been captured in the GEWE Act, 2023. Adding to the fact that the government also did honor the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, made a clear statement towards gender empowerment. These Acts and policies ensure more consensual marriage practices, allowing female inheritance of property, a minimum quota for women in elected positions, and more. While these are major steps forward, women's rights in Sierra Leone still do not have protection in the country's constitution and need amending. For instance—discrimination against women in our society is a major gap that the Act does not cover. Even now, some landlords discriminate against women and won't rent property to them. The legal system has separate rules for sureties who are women. To make up for decades of prejudice and create the capability required to fill the numerous jobs for women, affirmative action must be used when awarding scholarships, awards, and bursaries to students. The Government is not required to allot sufficient funds for women's empowerment. The removal of discrimination based on marital status, access to healthcare, and reproductive health are other areas that should have been covered in the GEWE Act, of 2023.

The macroeconomic impact in our society is said to adversely affect women more than men. The Sierra Leone socio-economic space is characterized by a large agrarian sector, which accounts for about 80-85% of the rural employment and at least 75% of the total population. Most of the people in this sector are self-employed and unpaid family workers which constitute the macro of the female population compared to the male. (Bank of Sierra Leone Newsletter July-August, 2012). According to the National Micro-Finance Policy, 2003, 70% of the urban labour workforce, which results from the labour surplus generated in the cities, is constituted by the urban informal sector of which women account for 65%. By way of description, the key features of the informal sector include the dominance of self-employed individuals, mostly women (such as petty traders, street vendors, tailors, etc.). The sector largely relies on labour services provided by owners and families and occasionally on paid labour without formal employment contracts.

On the other hand, tax regimes and policies can either promote or hinder women's economic participation and women's business opportunities. Women in Sierra Leone face challenges such as limited access to finance, limited access to markets, and cultural barriers. Tax laws can either exacerbate these challenges or help overcome them.

Taxation policies can also impact women's ability to participate in the formal sector. In Sierra Leone, women are overrepresented in the informal sector where they may have limited access to social protection and labour rights. Properly designed tax policies that encourage women to move into the formal economy can help address these gaps and promote women's economic empowerment.

Therefore, studying and analysing tax laws in Sierra Leone and their impact on women in business is crucial in identifying policies that can create an enabling environment for women's empowerment and economic participation. Closing gender disparities at work and empowering women in the economy are crucial components of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, which are the pillars of the SDGs.

Against this backdrop, Budget Advocacy Network is seeking the services of a suitably qualified Sierra Leonean in the field of Law, Economics, or related fields to undertake a research assignment that will identify the gendered implications of current macroeconomic policies, tax regime/laws and how they can be improved to promote women's economic empowerment and business opportunities.

1.2 SCOPE

The role will be required to conduct the study in Freetown within 4 weeks, commencing the date of signing the contract. This role will generate evidence of the gender disparity for women's inclusion into the macroeconomic space; the legal framework around taxation and its implications on business opportunities in Sierra Leone, and determine how these can be improved to promote women's economic empowerment.

1.3 Aim and objective of the research

This research aims to examine the extent to which the macroeconomic policies have impacted the level of women's inclusion in the macroeconomic space of Sierra Leone so that there can be increased awareness among citizens about the need to support women's economic empowerment and inclusion in the macroeconomic space. It also aims at providing a comprehensive analysis of the tax regime/ laws in Sierra Leone and how they impact women's business opportunities. Specifically, the analysis should:

- Identify the specific tax laws and policies that negatively affect women in business;
- Explore the reasons behind these gender disparities in tax laws and assess their prevalence across different sectors;
- Assess the impact of these gender biases on women's business activities, including their ability to access finance, grow their businesses, and contribute to the country's economic development;
- Make policy recommendations to improve the gender sensitivity of tax laws to promote women's business in Sierra Leone.
- Identify the broader macroeconomic policies that are affecting women's economic empowerment both negatively and positively.
- Identify the barriers that are limiting women's inclusion in the macroeconomic space
- Identify possible macroeconomic policies that will provide opportunities for women's empowerment.

The analysis should be conducted in line with the principles of good governance, transparency, and accountability, and should consider the opinions and perspectives of women in business.

1.4 Methodology

The consultant will provide a detailed sampling strategy that will be used for selecting respondents, stakeholders, and or communities, including sample size calculation. The consultant will submit an inception report including a work plan based on their review of the ToR and outlining their proposed methodology for the study. A sampling strategy must be developed to ensure a 95% confidence interval level with a 5% margin of error.

The Christian Aid and BAN team will review and decide whether to approve the sampling strategy or if any further modifications or changes are needed. Triangulation of information gathered during the quantitative and qualitative data collection is crucial in this study, with reflection on how the findings relate to the secondary documentation.

The Methodology Should Include:

1. Secondary documentation/desk review: The consultant will identify secondary data for review for this assessment (policies, strategies, and previous similar research(es)).

2. Primary Data Collection: Following the desk review, the consultant will design the research tools and collect primary data as applicable. The study should employ both qualitative (FGDs & KIIs) and quantitative (digital tools only) approaches.
3. In-depth interviews: Qualitative data will be as important as quantitative data as this helps provide the 'story' behind the quantitative data. Focus group discussions (FGD) and key informant interviews (KII) must be conducted. Best practices of holding interviews and focus group discussions with target respondents should be exercised.

4. **Disaggregation of data: All data, qualitative and quantitative collected through this exercise must be disaggregated by sex, age, location, and disability status.**

1.4.1 Data Management:

Ensuring data quality and management is a primary responsibility of the consultant ranging from data collection, storage, and disposal. We require a participatory approach where the consultant engages relevant key stakeholders.

As part of the data cleaning process, consistency and validity checks are required and frequency runs on all variables to check for any existing inconsistencies and outliers. All the necessary data corrections must be done accordingly, and data analysis done following an analysis plan. Data analysis basically will involve univariate and bivariate analysis of selected variables of interest with graphs and tables.

1.5 Ethics and Safeguarding:

Christian Aid and Budget Advocacy Network are committed to complying with privacy and data protection laws including the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Christian Aid's Data Protection Policy sets out the principles that Christian Aid applies when handling individual personal information. Any consultant offered a contract with Christian Aid is expected to be GDPR compliant when handling individuals' personal information as well. Ethical data collection including confidentiality, consent, thinking about gender and power relations (who is collecting data from whom), respectful work, health, and safety/security is a requirement.

In addition, Christian Aid has a Safeguarding Framework that includes a Safeguarding and Accountability policy, a Staff Code of Conduct, and a Child Protection Policy which has been developed to ensure the maximum protection of programme participants and to clarify the responsibilities of CA staff, visitors to the programme and partner organization, and the standards of behaviour expected of them. We have the responsibility to ensure that any persons hired, used, or consulted during the process are made familiar with the policies and commit to abide by them during the execution of this work. Consultants and teams (including enumerators) offered a contract with Christian Aid will be expected to sign the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies as an appendix to their contract. By doing so, consultants acknowledge that they have understood the contents of policies and agree to conduct themselves by the provisions of these documents.

1.6 Quality Assurance:

The consultant is responsible to ensure data validity, consistency, and accuracy and to submit reports written in good Standard English. If these standards are not met, the consultant will, at his/her own expense, make the necessary amendments to bring the reports to the required standards.

1.7 The consultant should possess the following qualities:

- Ability to apply strong ethical standards in engaging with stakeholders' sensitive information.
- Demonstrated experience in conducting both quantitative and qualitative data gathering, documentation, and analysis
- Strong analytical skills and ability to present findings, draw practical conclusions, and prepare well-written reports promptly.
- An ability to engage diverse groups of women and youths.

1.3 Specific Tasks for the Consultant

The consultant will conduct the following tasks:

- Participate in online meetings related to this research when required.
- Produce a detailed inception report
- Submit the final inception report
- Conduct training for enumerators inclusive of pre-testing of tools
- Supervise the field data collection process (including on weekends)
- Conduct data cleaning, analysis, and sharing of the first draft report
- Take on board draft report feedback
- Submit a second draft report addressing comments on the first draft
- Address comments and share final baseline reports (i.e. full report, summary report, raw data, and PowerPoint presentation of the summary report)
- Undertake a stakeholder analysis to understand the perspectives of key stakeholders on the impact of macroeconomic policies on women's economic empowerment.
- Identify barriers to women's economic inclusion in the macroeconomic space in Sierra Leone.
- Conduct a comparative analysis of policies and practices in other countries that promote women's inclusion in the macroeconomic space.
- Develop recommendations for policy improvements that promote women's economic empowerment in Sierra Leone.
- Identify the gender biases in tax laws and policies that negatively impact women's business opportunities, including areas such as registration, compliance, tax rates, exemptions, and penalties.
- Assess the impact of gender-biased tax laws on women entrepreneurs, in particular their impact on access to finance, market opportunities, business growth, and competitiveness.
- Investigate the best practices and successful strategies in other countries to promote gender-sensitive tax policies that foster women's entrepreneurship.
- Proffer policy recommendations for relevant stakeholders to promote the gender sensitivity of tax laws and policies in Sierra Leone.

1.5 Timeline and Deliverables

The research is expected to last for 11 months starting from the date of signing the contract. The expected deliverables for this assignment include the following:

- Inception report
- Draft report
- Final report
- Policy Brief
- PowerPoint presentation of the summarized report

1.6 Qualification and Experience of the Consultant

The successful candidate for this research should have:

- A minimum of a master's degree in economics, development study, social science, or a related field.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in conducting economic analysis and policy research, gender, and tax laws/policies.
- Demonstrated experience in gender-responsive economic analysis and gender mainstreaming.
- Knowledge of macroeconomic policies, tax laws/regimes, and practices in Sierra Leone and the economic context in the region.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and meet deadlines.
- Very good written and communication skills, with examples of published works.
- Experience in conducting similar assignments, either in Sierra Leone or elsewhere.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested persons should send in their Expression of Interest (EOI) to info@ban-sl.org no later than 19th, May 2023. Please include your CV and copies of your certificate.

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO PAPER APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Women are strongly advised to apply.



GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE

**Government of Sierra Leone
Sierra Leone Compact Development Unit
GPN 2.0**

May 4, 2023

The United States Government through the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Government of Sierra Leone have entered into an **Eleven Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy-Five U.S. Dollars (\$11,970,375)** Compact Development Funding Agreement to support the development of the **Increasing Access to Reliable and Affordable Power in Sierra Leone Activity** project. This grant funding may be used to develop strategies and proposed interventions that may include improving grid infrastructure, supporting the increased supply of clean and low-cost electricity (on- and off-grid), institutional strengthening, and increasing productive use of electricity.

The Government of Sierra Leone acting through the Sierra Leone Compact Development Unit intends to apply parts of the proceeds of the funds to payment of contracts for goods and services.

MCC's funding is appropriated by the U.S. Congress and obligated to the development of projects up-front, with no incremental or partial funding. When a contract is signed with an MCA Entity, money is already available to the MCA Entity and, for most contracts, invoices are paid directly to Contractors/Consultants/Suppliers by the US Treasury.

In furtherance of this development process, during the next eight months starting from May, 2023, the Government, supported by MCC, plans to begin procedures to procure the following services:

Procurements for the period 1st May 2023 to 31st December 2023	
Procurement of Goods	
Desktop Computer	
Procurement of Consultant Services	
Fiscal Agent Services	
Procurement Agent Services	
Architecture/Interior Design Consultant	
Technical Evaluation Panel Members	

All Contracts for Goods, Works and Services will be implemented according to the principles, rules and procedures set out in the MCC Program Procurement Guidelines which can be found at the MCC's [website](#).

Procurements are open to all bidders from all eligible countries as defined in the MCC Program Procurement Guidelines. Specific procurement notices for contracts to be tendered will be announced, as they become available, on United Nations Development Business (<http://www.devbusiness.com/>), dgMarket: <http://www.dgmarket.com/>, and other media outlets.

Interested eligible contractors and consultants who wish to be included on the mailing list to receive a copy of advertisements for specific procurements, or those requiring additional information, should contact the Interim Procurement Agent for the Compact Development Team Pernille Darville pernille.darville@crowagents.co.uk with copy to Zenobia Maddy, zenobia.maddy@crowagents.co.uk

Request for Proposals UNICEF

Sierra Leone Admin Services

The United Nations Children's Fund invites individual tenders for the services listed below through a Long-Term Agreement for an initial period of 24 months with possible extension for another 12 months.

Please visit the United Nations Global Market (UNGM) Website and download the tender documents. Please note the dates for the Bid Conference (where applicable) and submission deadline for each tender as stated in the UNGM.

Thank you.

1. Provision of Air Conditioners Maintenance Services for UNICEF Offices in Freetown and Kenema and the Warehouse at Ferry Junction, Freetown.
2. Servicing of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) for Freetown CO, Ferry Junction Warehouse and Kenema Field Office and Biometrics for Freetown Country Office.
3. Provision of Cleaning Services For UNICEF Offices in Freetown and Kenema and the Warehouse at Ferry Junction, Freetown.
4. Servicing of Fire extinguishers for Freetown Country Office, Warehouse at Ferry Junction, Freetown, and Kenema Field Office.

UNICEF Public Notice for Sale of Used Items May 2023

UNICEF intends to dispose of two used Toyota Land Cruisers (Hard Tops). Sealed bids are invited from interested persons.

Conditions

1. **The 2 vehicles** can be inspected at the UNICEF Country Office within the Central Medical Stores Compound, New England, Freetown, on the dates and times stated below.
 - I. Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th May from 2pm- 4pm.
 - II. Monday 15th – Thursday 18th May from 2pm-4pm
2. The items will be sold to the bidder with the **highest acceptable bid** on an "as is where is basis".
3. After inspection interested persons may collect **BID FORMS** from UNICEF Offices at Central Medical Stores - Freetown, Caritas/Pastoral Centre, Teko Road – Makeni or 51 Maxwell Kobi Street – Kenema.
4. **An advance payment of 10% of the offer price is required (in the form of a certified cheque in the name of UNICEF Sierra Leone) when sending sealed bids. The certified cheque should be enclosed in the sealed bid. Bank certified checks are bank checks guaranteed by the bank that funds stated on the check are available for payment to UNICEF. This advance is non-refundable for all successful bidders.** The successful bidder will be required to make payment of the remaining 90% within five working days after the offer is given by UNICEF; and to take possession of the items won for immediate removal from the office premises. Unsuccessful bidders will have their cheques returned to them.

5. UNICEF agrees to sign the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority (SLRSA) Vehicle Transfer Form for transfer of ownership of the vehicle from UNICEF to the successful bidders.
6. UNICEF was exempted from taxes on these vehicles, successful bidders will now be required to pay the applicable taxes to the government through the National Revenue Authority. The taxes will be determined by the National Revenue Authority based on the value and physical condition of the vehicle.
7. Items once sold will not be returned to UNICEF under any circumstances.
8. Sealed bids containing the completed BID FORM and cheque, clearly marked "BID FOR USED UNICEF ITEMS May 2023" on the envelopes' front side and addressed to:

The Secretary, Property Survey Board,
UNICEF Freetown Office,
Central Medical Stores Compound,
New England Freetown

should be dropped in the bid box at the above address not later than 10 am on Monday 22nd May 2023. Bidders in the provinces can drop their sealed bids at the offices in Kenema or Makeni observing the same deadline above.

9. Bidders are responsible for the accuracy of their bids and for meeting all conditions set out in the advertisement, including enclosing the 10% certified cheque in the required format. Non-compliance with any element of the guidelines in the advert for preparation and submission of bids may be grounds for disqualification and declaration of bids as invalid.
10. UNICEF reserves the right to accept or reject any bid AT ITS SOLE DISCRETION.



LONG LIST

Friday 12/05 & Saturday 13/05

Set 17334

Fix	Sales	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?	Both Teams Score?	Draw No Bet
No.	Close				1 (1) X (1) Z (2)	1 (4) X (6) Z (5)	1 (7) X (9) Z (8)	1 (10) X (12) Z (11)	1 (13) X (15) Z (14)	1 (16) Z (17)	1 (18) Z (19)	1 (20) Z (21)	1 (22) X (24) Z (23)	O. (25) Ev. (26)	Yes (27) No (28)	1 (29) Z (30)
1	5/12/2023 14:25	Romania	FC VOLUNTARI	FC BOTOSANI	1.91 2.93 3.57	3.55 3.40 1.66	1.20 4.40 8.20	2.65 1.97 4.40	2.35 2.35 3.90	2.55 1.36 1.52 2.11	1.18 3.60 3.00 3.00	2.10 1.80 1.72 1.91 1.67 2.39				
2	5/12/2023 14:55	Russia 2	KAMAZ	SHINNIK YAROSLAV	2.16 2.93 2.88	4.20 3.60 1.51	1.29 4.10 6.20	2.95 2.00 3.70	2.60 2.39 3.30	2.70 1.31 1.59 2.00	1.21 3.30 3.00 3.00	2.10 1.80 1.72 1.79 1.78 1.53 2.01				
3	5/12/2023 14:55	Slovenia 2	NR BRINJE GROSUPLE	NR BLUE	1.61 3.42 3.66	2.70 3.50 1.91	1.17 4.90 8.00	2.18 2.16 4.20	1.94 2.55 3.80	3.15 1.16 1.84 1.57 1.32 2.36	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.56 1.86 1.26 2.60					
4	5/12/2023 14:55	Norway 2	SANDNES	KRISTIANSTUND	2.98 3.47 1.92	5.60 4.50 1.28	1.65 3.80 3.25	3.55 2.32 2.55	3.25 2.75 2.28	3.95 1.14 2.15 1.50 1.47 2.22	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.47 2.27 2.16 1.46					
5	5/12/2023 14:55	Lithuania	HEGELMANN LITAUEN	FA SAULIAI	2.34 2.93 2.40	4.90 3.75 1.41	1.39 3.80 5.00	3.10 1.92 3.15	2.70 2.29 2.75	2.50 1.28 1.53 1.89 1.18 3.00	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.70 1.69 1.67 1.72					
6	5/12/2023 14:55	Latvia	VALMIERA FC	FK AUDA RIGA	1.66 3.32 3.52	2.90 3.40 1.85	1.19 4.70 8.00	2.27 2.09 4.10	2.00 2.50 3.70	2.90 1.20 1.74 1.66 1.27 2.55	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.62 1.78 1.28 2.49					
7	5/12/2023 14:55	Latvia	FK LIERAKA	RIGA FC	5.67 3.91 1.32	13.00 5.80 1.07	2.60 3.40 2.00	5.80 2.28 1.81 5.40 2.70 1.62	3.20 1.15 1.89 1.54 1.34 2.29	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.72 1.67 3.70 1.10						
8	5/12/2023 14:55	Lithuania 2	KEDARNAI NEVIZIS	FK BARRUNGAS PLUNIGE	1.79 3.13 3.27	3.15 3.55 1.71	1.22 4.60 7.00	2.38 2.08 3.85	2.12 2.45 3.45	2.95 1.19 1.74 1.65 1.28 2.50	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.57 1.84 1.34 2.29					
9	5/12/2023 15:25	Czech Rep. 2	HUBRAM	OPAVA	1.88 3.03 3.13	3.50 3.50 1.44	1.24 4.40 6.80	2.55 2.00 3.80	2.23 2.37 3.35	2.70 1.23 1.62 1.77 1.22 2.75	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.64 1.75 1.39 2.17					
10	5/12/2023 15:25	Finland 2	KAPA KAPYIAN PALLO	SALPA	2.64 3.18 2.20	5.20 4.10 1.35	1.49 3.80 4.00	3.35 2.16 2.90	3.00 2.60 2.60	3.35 1.20 1.86 1.69 1.33 2.65	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.58 2.05 1.90 1.61					
11	5/12/2023 15:55	Poland	PIAST GLIWICE	KORONA KIELCE	1.62 3.27 4.40	2.80 3.25 1.95	1.14 4.90 10.00	2.32 2.06 5.20	2.04 2.47 4.60	2.70 1.32 1.59 1.99 1.20 3.35	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.95 1.64 1.23 2.95					
12	5/12/2023 15:55	Poland 2	SKRA	GORNIK LEGNA	2.54 2.88 2.26	5.40 3.90 1.35	1.44 3.70 4.70	3.30 1.90 3.00	2.90 2.27 2.60	2.45 1.30 1.50 1.94 1.16 3.10	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.73 1.66 1.79 1.61					
13	5/12/2023 15:55	Croatia	SLAVEN	LOKOMOTIVA ZAGREB	2.59 3.03 2.34	5.20 3.95 1.36	1.44 3.80 4.50	3.35 2.05 3.10	3.00 2.44 2.75	2.90 1.28 1.66 1.89 1.24 3.10	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.71 1.86 1.83 1.66					
14	5/12/2023 15:55	Slovenia 2	ALUMINIJ	PRIMORJE AIDOVSCINA	1.28 4.20 6.06	1.87 3.55 2.75	1.07 6.00 13.00	1.74 2.39 6.00	1.56 2.85 5.60	3.50 1.12 2.06 1.44 1.43 2.09	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.65 1.74 1.09 3.85					
15	5/12/2023 15:55	Estonia	KALUJ	HARJU JK LAAGRI	1.19 5.08 8.79	1.62 3.65 3.50	-	6.40 17.00	1.64 2.65 8.00	4.10 1.13 2.27 1.45 1.52 2.12	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.89 1.69 1.05 5.00					
16	5/12/2023 15:55	Cyprus	PARALIMNI	DYMOTRIOS NICOSIA	1.87 3.03 3.57	3.55 3.30 1.69	1.20 4.40 8.40	2.70 1.93 4.60	2.32 2.33 4.00	2.43 1.39 1.48 2.20 1.15 3.80	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 2.00 1.61 1.35 2.43					
17	5/12/2023 15:55	Cyprus	KARMOTISSA FC	NEA SALAMINA	2.02 3.13 3.03	3.65 3.65 1.58	1.27 4.30 6.20	2.70 2.11 3.75	2.42 2.50 3.35	3.10 1.24 1.76 1.78 1.28 2.85	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.66 1.93 1.47 2.12					
18	5/12/2023 16:05	Austria 2	VORWARTS STEYR	AUSTRIA WIEN II	2.10 3.27 2.74	3.65 3.90 1.54	1.32 4.30 5.20	2.70 2.27 3.35	2.45 2.70 3.05	3.80 1.15 2.07 1.55 1.44 2.31	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.48 2.25 1.55 1.97					
19	5/12/2023 16:05	Austria 2	LAFMIZ	AMSTETTEN	1.68 3.57 3.66	2.75 3.55 1.87	1.19 4.80 7.60	2.30 2.27 4.30	2.05 2.75 3.90	3.55 1.18 1.98 1.60 1.38 2.45	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.60 2.02 1.30 2.60					
20	5/12/2023 16:05	Austria 2	HORN	KAPFERBERGER	1.87 3.37 3.18	3.10 3.75 1.69	1.25 4.60 6.20	2.45 2.30 3.70	2.22 2.75 3.40	3.85 1.15 2.10 1.53 1.45 2.27	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.49 2.22 1.41 2.28					
21	5/12/2023 16:05	Austria 2	FIRST VIENNA FC	STURM GRAZ II	2.27 3.22 2.54	4.10 3.95 1.46	1.37 4.20 4.80	2.90 2.23 3.15	2.60 2.65 2.85	3.65 1.17 1.99 1.59 1.40 2.41	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.51 2.19 1.65 1.84					
22	5/12/2023 16:10	Bulgaria	BORDE STARA	FK SEPTENTRION SOFIA	1.87 3.08 3.52	3.45 3.40 1.69	1.21 4.40 8.00	2.60 2.01 4.40	2.30 2.41 3.85	2.65 1.33 1.57 2.02 1.20 3.40	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.87 1.71 1.36 2.40					
23	5/12/2023 16:25	Bundesliga 2	SANDHAUSEN	HANSA ROSTOCK	2.59 3.03 2.32	5.40 3.90 1.36	1.44 3.70 4.60	3.45 2.00 3.15	3.00 2.41 2.75	2.70 1.31 1.60 1.98 1.21 3.30	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.78 1.79 1.83 1.65					
24	5/12/2023 16:25	Bundesliga 2	MAGDEBURG	NUREMBERG	2.05 3.32 2.78	3.65 3.75 1.32	4.30 5.40 2.70	2.21 3.45 2.43	2.65 3.10 3.50	1.18 1.95 1.62 1.37 2.49	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.55 2.11 1.53 2.01					
25	5/12/2023 16:25	Slovakia	Z. MORAVCE VRABLE	TRENCIN	2.21 2.98 2.54	4.20 3.90 1.46	1.36 4.10 5.00	2.80 2.07 3.10	2.50 2.41 2.80	2.95 1.19 1.74 1.65 1.28 2.50	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.52 1.91 1.60 1.80					
26	5/12/2023 16:55	Portugal 2	CD TROFENSE	ESTRELA AMADORA	2.74 3.13 2.15	5.60 4.10 1.32	1.51 3.70 4.00	3.55 2.08 2.90	3.15 2.50 2.55	3.00 1.26 1.72 1.83 1.26 2.95	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.69 1.90 1.96 1.56					
27	5/12/2023 16:55	Sweden 2	JONKOPING	APC SKOVSTUNA	1.82 3.22 3.52	3.15 3.50 1.73	1.21 4.60 7.60	2.49 2.12 4.20	2.21 2.55 3.80	3.05 1.24 1.74 1.80 1.28 2.90	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.71 1.87 1.35 2.45					
28	5/12/2023 16:55	Norway	ODOS	ILLESTROM	2.59 3.13 2.29	5.00 4.10 1.36	1.45 3.90 4.30	3.25 2.15 2.95	2.90 2.55 2.65	3.25 1.21 1.83 1.71 1.32 2.70	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.59 2.03 1.84 1.65					
29	5/12/2023 17:25	Switzerland 2	AC BELLINZONA	FC WIL	4.01 3.57 1.63	8.40 5.00 1.16	1.94 3.50 2.65	4.50 2.25 2.24	4.20 2.70 2.00	3.45 1.19 1.93 1.64 1.36 2.55	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.65 1.95 2.80 1.26					
30	5/12/2023 17:25	Switzerland 2	SCHAFFHAUSEN	LAUSANNE ODIER	2.59 3.32 2.19	4.70 4.30 1.37	1.50 4.00 3.80	3.15 2.32 2.80	2.85 2.75 2.55	4.00 1.14 2.17 1.49 1.49 2.19	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.44 2.35 1.87 1.62					
31	5/12/2023 17:25	France National	AVRANCHES	BASTIA BORGO	1.43 3.81 5.47	2.26 3.20 2.35	1.09 5.40 13.00	2.05 2.19 6.00	1.79 2.85 5.60	2.95 1.26 1.72 1.82 1.26 3.00	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.98 1.63 1.14 3.65					
32	5/12/2023 17:25	France National	BOURG EN BRESSE	DUNKERQUE	2.19 3.03 2.78	4.40 3.55 1.49	1.31 3.95 6.00	3.05 1.95 3.70	2.65 2.37 3.20	2.55 1.35 1.53 2.09 1.18 3.55	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.87 1.71 1.57 1.95					
33	5/12/2023 17:25	France National	LE PUY AUVERGNE	CONCARNEAU	5.08 3.42 1.52	12.00 5.20 1.11	2.11 3.25 2.50	5.60 2.12 2.17	5.00 2.55 1.92	2.85 1.29 1.65 1.91 1.23 3.15	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.95 1.65 3.30 1.18					
34	5/12/2023 17:25	France National	HANES LA ATHLETIC	VERSAILLES 78	3.03 2.98 2.07	6.80 4.10 1.27	1.55 3.50 4.00	3.95 1.96 2.90	3.45 2.36 2.50	2.55 1.35 1.53 2.10 1.18 3.55	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.88 1.70 2.10 1.48					
35	5/12/2023 17:25	France National	RED STAR	CHOLET	1.51 3.42 5.08	2.50 3.20 2.13	1.10 5.20 12.00	2.17 2.09 5.80	1.92 2.50 5.20	2.70 1.32 1.60 1.99 1.20 3.35	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 2.04 1.59 1.17 3.40					
36	5/12/2023 17:25	France National	CS SEDAN-ARDENNES	CHATELAIN	2.54 3.03 2.59	4.70 3.70 1.43	1.36 3.85 5.40	3.20 1.97 3.45	2.80 2.39 3.00	2.65 1.33 1.56 2.04 1.19 3.45	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.83 1.75 1.67 1.82					
37	5/12/2023 17:25	France National	VILLEFRANCHE	STADE BRIOCHIN	2.03 3.03 3.08	3.85 3.50 1.58	1.26 4.20 6.80	2.85 1.98 3.95	2.47 2.39 3.50	2.65 1.33 1.56 2.04 1.19 3.45	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.85 1.73 1.46 2.14					
38	5/12/2023 17:25	Romania	FC RAPID	SEPSI SPANTU GHEORGHE	2.01 3.08 3.08	3.70 3.60 1.59	1.26 4.30 6.60	2.75 2.07 3.85	2.42 2.47 3.40	2.95 1.27 1.68 1.87 1.25 3.05	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.72 1.86 1.46 2.15					
39	5/12/2023 17:25	Austria	FRIEDL	RED	1.95 3.22 3.08	3.40 3.70 1.62	1.26 4.40 6.20	2.60 2.20 3.70	2.33 2.60 3.35	3.40 1.19 1.90 1.66 1.35 2.55	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.58 2.06 1.45 2.18					
40	5/12/2023 17:55	Holland	TWENTE	NIMEGEN	1.42 4.30 5.67	2.14 3.60 2.50	1.10 6.40 13.00	1.96 2.46 5.80	1.75 3.00 5.40	4.10 1.17 2.15 1.57 1.46 2.41	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.74 1.94 1.14 3.75					
41	5/12/2023 17:55	Holland 2	ADO DEN HAAG	DORDRECHT	1.37 4.20 5.67	1.98 3.60 2.50	1.08 5.80 11.00	1.87 2.50 5.60	1.68 3.00 5.40	4.10 1.13 2.25 1.46 1.51 2.13	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.63 1.97 1.13 3.80					
42	5/12/2023 17:55	Holland 2	JONG AJAX	JONG AZ ALKMAAR	1.99 3.47 2.78	3.30 4.00 1.60	1.31 4.60 5.00	2.50 2.45 3.25	2.32 2.85 3.05	4.60 1.09 2.49 1.37 1.65 1.91	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.36 2.60 1.51 2.05					
43	5/12/2023 17:55	Holland 2	DEN BOSCH	ALMERE CITY	4.69 3.91 1.48	9.40 5.40 1.12	2.21 3.60 2.23	4.90 2.44 2.01	4.70 2.90 1.81	4.10 1.13 2.22 1.47 1.50 2.16	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.80 1.72 1.57 2.07 3.25 1.19					
44	5/12/2023 17:55	Holland 2	FC Eindhoven	HELMOND	1.43 3.91 5.28	2.17 3.45 2.33	1.10 5.60 11.00	1.98 2.35 5.60	1.77 2.85 5.20	3.55 1.18 1.98 1.60 1.39 2.45	3.00 3.00 2.10 1.8					

INT'L SPORT Lionel Messi's move to Saudi Arabia is a 'DONE DEAL'

Lionel Messi's father has shutdown claims his son has agreed to leave Paris Saint-Germain this summer and sign a big-money deal with a Saudi Arabia club.

Messi's father, Jorge, released a statement after reports earlier in the day said that the forward would sign a massive contract worth £522million at Saudi side Al-Hilal.

Jorge took to social media to say: 'There is absolutely nothing with any club for next year. The decision will never be made before Lionel finished the league with PSG.'

'Once the season is over it will be time to analyse and see what is there, and then make a decision. There are always rumors and many use the name of Lionel to gain notoriety but the truth is only one and we can assure that there is nothing with anyone. Neither verbal, nor signed, nor agreed, and there will not be until the end of the season.'

'It seems to me a lack of respect towards the media where they respond, that there are those who consciously and deliberately deceive, without providing any proof of their claims, and wanting to turn any malicious rumor into news or that is directed by someone in favor of their interests.'

'They would have to explain why they don't contrast the information... They don't want a truth to ruin their "news".'

Jorge released the statement after a Saudi source told AFP that the 35-year-old would be 'paying in Saudi next season' and that the move was a 'done deal'.

However, Messi's entourage told GetFootballNewsFrance that no agreement had been reached with the Saudi outfit and Jorge has now shutdown

claims entirely.

Meanwhile, Paris Saint-Germain refused to comment on a deal with the Saudi side and simply reiterated the fact Messi's contract lasts until June 30 this summer. It was reported earlier on Tuesday that his wife Antonela 'could not imagine' moving their family to Saudi Arabia, in what remains a potential stumbling block to the move.

She is reportedly reluctant for the couple, along with their three young sons - Thiago, 10, Mateo, 7, and Ciro, 5 - to relocate to the Middle East and she would prefer to stay in Europe.

It is also said that Messi himself would prefer to stay in Europe, with the star reportedly keeping an eye on the financial situation at former club Barcelona.

Barcelona - where Messi played for most of his legendary career - must find around £175m to be able to register recruited players or players already on the books who they sign to new contract extensions.

Messi, an ambassador for Saudi Arabia's joint bid for the 2030 World Cup, is strongly expected to leave PSG when his contract ends on June 30. Similar to Ronaldo, Saudi Arabia see Messi as a star of the game.

They believe that the prospect of him moving to the country is a 'unique opportunity which is impossible to pass up'.

It's claimed that Riyadh has been preparing its strategy for months and has 'left nothing to chance'.

Talk of a move to Saudi heightened after he took an unauthorised trip to the country, where he holds a £25m-a-year tourism ambassadorial role. Messi's trip went down very badly with the French



© Getty Images

giants, who suspended him for two weeks.

PSG players had a scheduled day off on the Monday but following their 3-1 defeat to Lorient the previous day, boss Christophe Galtier ordered them in for extra training.

But Messi was already in transit to Saudi Arabia and wasn't able to turn back.

The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner issued a grovelling apology via social media in which he said: 'Hello. Well, I wanted to make this video after everything that's going on.'

'First of all, I apologise again to my teammates at the club. I honestly thought that we were going to have the day off after the game as we had done before.'

'I had organised this trip to Saudi Arabia, which I had previously cancelled and I couldn't go. Once again, I apologise for what I did. So here I am, waiting to see what the club wants to do, nothing more. A hug.'

Spanish outlet El Chiringuito reported Messi could be joined at Al-Hilal by his former Barcelona team-mate Sergio Busquets, who will accept a two-season deal, and potentially also Jordi Alba.

Al-Hilal are currently fourth in the Saudi Pro League, the top tier in Saudi football, with Ronaldo's Al-Nassr in second, five points behind Al-Ittihad with four games left this season.

Ramon Diaz's side, who play at the 68,752-capacity King Fahd International Stadium, won the league title last season but are lagging behind the leaders this campaign - potentially greasing the wheels of a stellar move for Messi.

Al-Hilal boast the likes of Argentine forward Luciano Vietto, Peruvian winger Andre Carrillo, and strikers Odion Ighalo - formerly of Manchester United - and Moussa Marega.

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

Neymar 'wants to leave PSG in the summer'



ICER/SIPA/Shutterstock

Neymar wants to leave Paris Saint-Germain this summer, according to reports.

The Brazilian superstar has suffered an injury-hit season in the French capital, only making 20 Ligue 1 appearances.

And amid Financial Fair Play concerns, PSG are said to be keen to cash in on the forward to get his giant £44million-a-season salary off their wage bill.

As reported by Brazilian outlet UOL, the French giants are so keen to get him off their books, they would be willing to make a 'significantly reduced' deal with an interested club.

Indeed, UOL add that PSG has made it clear behind the scenes in recent days they want to sell Neymar in the summer transfer window.

The 31-year-old is said to be aware of their decision and is himself pushing for an exit to grant him a fresh start amid fans calling for him to leave.

Premier League sides Manchester United, Chelsea and Newcastle are among the sides to have been credited with interest in the former Barcelona star.

Christophe Galtier's side made the

124-cap international the most expensive player of all time when they bought him for £198m from Barca in 2017.

Despite that, they are said to be willing to make a substantial loss as part of the squad overhaul initiated by President Nasser Al-Khelaifi.

Argentine Lionel Messi, 35, may leave this summer too, with manager Galtier also potentially on the chopping block.

Mail Sport reported on Monday that Messi will consider a £320m-a-year megadeal from Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal.

But any desire Lionel Messi might have in moving to Saudi could be impacted by his wife Antonella, who is reportedly hesitant about the family moving to the Gulf state.

Messi is prepared to wait until the end of the season to make his decision - one that could be influenced by his wife Antonela Rocuzzo. French publication L'Equipe have reported that Antonela 'can't imagine' their family moving to Saudi Arabia.

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