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Bio, Samura and the issues in the election



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UN Assistant Secretary-General for Africa Pays Courtesy Call on President Bio

The women of Sierra Leone have called on political parties to include in their 2023 election manifestos, the assurance in ensuring the full implementation of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Act, 2022, which has a 30% quota provision for elective and appointive positions.

The Women's Manifesto is a product of a collaborative approach adopted by the Campaign for Good Governance (CGG), the 50/50 Group and the Social Development Enterprise (SEN) Sierra Leone and their donor partners after series of consultations and engagements done with grassroots women across the country.

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Analysis Bio, Samura and the issues in the election

By Alfred Koroma

Possibly, no incumbent President has faced a stiffer challenge in an election as President Bio is likely to experience in June 24.

The retired brigadier is perhaps unlucky. He came to office in 2018 with elaborate an manifesto, but five years frantic moves for impactful delivery on those promises got crippled with the consequences of the blistering global crisis and its economic quagmire.

Explaining the crisis to the grassroots and to let them understand why the President should not be blamed for the country's present state of affairs is where the ruling party media team has a serious work to do if the President is again set to face Samura Kamara, the main opposition challenger he narrowly defeated in the 2018 elections.

For the past five years in opposition, Samura has maintained his supporters and public presence, while fighting litigations and nurturing sympathy from other voters. Crushing him in the next election, is a

real description of a tight race.

Both presidential candidates have been in politics and governances for years. Bio, a retired brigadier in the Sierra Leone Army led the country from 16 January to 29 March 1996 under the National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC) junta government. Prior to that he served as Information Minister in the same NPRC regime headed by Captain Valentine Strasser. Samura Kamara, the APC presidential candidate served as Financial Secretary in the NPRC regime headed by the current President, and subsequently served as cabinet Minister in the previous Ernest Bai Koroma administration.

Any of the two who loses in the next pool will make history. If Bio cannot secure second term, he becomes the first one term President and the first incumbent to lose reelection since the start of Multi-party election in Sierra Leone. If Samura fails to unseat him, he becomes the main opposition candidate to lose presidential elections twice in a row.

Other political parties are in the race, but with the traditional voting

pattern of Sierra Leone, if citizens don't want to see a government led by the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP), it will be the main opposition All Peoples Congress (APC) taking over.

Nonetheless, many citizens are not happy with the way things are going at the moment. Prices of food have increasingly soared in the last five years with rising inflation and an increasing draining of the Leones against the US Dollar, fueling violent protests at some points. These are issues that have armed the opposition with a campaign and that's likely to impact the outcome of June 24 election.

Again, it's quite very hard for a sitting President seeking re-election term to lose. The last two Presidents have won theirs in the first round of the ballot without even a run-off. Bio and his team are also campaigning strongly on a no run-off mantra. This is something that could as well work for them. They are in charge. They control the system and resources, and so defeating them will be an uphill battle.

Within the last five years of his administration, President Bio pressed through several electoral reforms opposed by the APC to clear his way for reelection. He has also been able to draw on his side, key men from the opposition, including one of



the former Vice Presidents and ministers in the previous administration and signed alliance with the National Grand Coalition, the party that came third in the last Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

But the main opposition candidate has the strong backing of former President Ernest Bai Koroma, who remains active and popular in the political discuss. President Koroma has secured 58 percent of votes cast in the 2012 election, the second highest a presidential candidate has pulled in an election after President Ahmad Tejan Kabba. He is still very popular and loved by his supporters.

He selected Samura Kamara to represent the APC in the last election as preferred successor and mounted strong campaign for him. This is a support Samura still enjoys as he heads to the poll next month.

So it's a set stage for a repeat match, a déjà vu between President Julius Maada Bio and Samura Kamara. The only difference, perhaps might be the results after June 24.

2023 elections: Women want GEWE Act fully implemented

From Cover

The Government of Sierra Leone is obliged by international conventions and protocols to ensure the protection and promotion of women's social, economic, and political rights, including ensuring that women are supported in national elections and appointed positions.

According to their recommendations, political parties should develop and implement gender policies and initiate processes to support a referendum to adopt a new constitution for Sierra Leone that is gender transformative in all aspects

"Political Parties should encourage and enforce gender-responsive budgeting across all sectors to allocate funds for gender mainstreaming programs and that they should expand and increase the availability of institutions such as the Family Support Unit and police and magistrates in rural communities," the demanded.

Women demanded that political parties should also include in their manifestos commitment to engage men and boys in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment through targeted programs and campaigns to change social norms and attitudes towards women and girls and commit to strategies for eliminating FGM in Sierra Leone.

They want an increase representation of women at decision making levels of the security sector, including Police, Military, Correctional Services and the Ministry of



Internal Affairs.

"They should also increase opportunities for women to lead peacekeeping operations and their role in peace building processes."

In the area of cyber security, women across the country demanded that political parties should commit plans to maintain a zero-tolerance policy for cyber bullying and intimidation of women on social media and a commitment for the review of the penal code for deferred sentences for pregnant women, lactating mothers and women with children under five," they called.

The women further highlighted issues of accessing quality health care services for women, access to water and electricity in health care services, sustainable forestry practices, indoors air pollution including the promotion of clean cooking technologies, commitment to a moratorium on logging, among others, that political parties should include in their 2023 manifestos.

APC to release manifesto soonest

By Yusufu S. Bangura

The National Secretary General of the main opposition All People's Congress (APC), Lansana Dumbuya, has promised that the party would release it manifesto as soon as possible.

He made the above pronouncement at the party's head office, Old Railway Line in Freetown, while receiving the Citizen's Manifesto from the Institute of Governance Reforms (IGR).

The 2023 Citizen's Manifesto is requesting six key demands which are to be fulfilled by the next government. Among them are youth employment and introduction of traffic light to reduce police officers on the street.

Dumbuya said the reason they were yet to release their manifesto was that they wanted to capture all the areas that citizens are currently yearning for.

He therefore pleaded with Sierra Leoneans to be patient with them because after completing the manifesto they will release it to the public.

He further said that he was happy to receiving the Citizens Manifesto from



IGR because they were developing their manifesto and that they would take a look at the document presented to them, adding that they would make sure that they work on the priority areas citizens demanded in the document.

Early, the Executive Director for National Elections Watch (NEW), Marcella Samba Sesay, on Wednesday during Radio Democracy 98.1fm 'Gud Morning Salone program' demanded that presidential candidates release their manifesto that will guide voters in the next five years.



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

UN Assistant Secretary-General for Africa Pays Courtesy Call on President Bio

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Her Excellency Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee with her delegation, accompanied by the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Sierra Leone, Dr. Babatunde A. Ahonsi, has paid a courtesy on His Excellency President Dr Julius Maada Bio citing the country's groundbreaking Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, GEWE, law and government's progressive Free Quality Education initiative.

The visit is part of her office's functions in the area of election support and confidence-building dialogue with stakeholders, as well as part of the process of supporting post-war peacebuilding ahead of the country's 24 June 2023 elections.

"Your Excellency, as part of my responsibilities, I am here in Sierra Leone to see what kind of support we can give to this country, which you have very much invested in and which we really want to support fully as the country's peacebuilding efforts continue, particularly at this time of the upcoming elections.

"I will be engaging stakeholders to listen and also understand how we as an organisation can continue to support them. I have to also convey the concern of the Secretary-General for the region broadly, and we note also for West Africa that this is a particularly critical year for elections with several election processes taking place. We are trying to accompany member states to provide support at the national level and at the regional level on how we can consolidate the peace and democratic gains across the region," she noted.

Her Excellency Pobee noted that regard, they really welcomed the fact that Sierra Leone had taken ownership and control of electoral processes, including financing every aspect of the election processes, adding that they also wanted to commend the President for signing into law the GEWE Act, as well as for implementing very progressive agenda in the education sector, in particular the radical inclusion policy."

"We really commend the leadership, Your Excellency has shown in the education sector and we really hope that the GEWE Act will translate into a high number of women's representation in decision-making in parliament and in government, which is key to sustainable development. This is the example we think Sierra Leone offers for the entire world because of the leadership you have shown," he

noted.

The UN envoy also commended the effort of the government to ensure a level playing field for other actors in the political landscape, promoted inclusive dialogue to build consensus on critical issues, and urged a state of preparedness.

She welcomed Sierra Leone's eminent entry into the Security Council, pointing out that it was an important issue that further demonstrated how the country could strategically provide leadership and represent the region in that regard. She used the opportunity to congratulate the country on the gains made in the recent renewal and upgrading of its human rights status but also expressed her frustration at the misuse of social media for the spread of false and fake news that could undermine democracy, peace and national social cohesion.

President Julius Maada Bio, while formally welcoming and assuring the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Africa and team to Sierra Leone, said he, as President, and Sierra Leone as a member state of the United Nations, were very much committed to their obligations and to a rule-based international system.

"We have provided most of what we can to support the electoral process as an independent state. We think it is necessary to start to show that we can also start to take up challenging tasks under the circumstances. We are fully committed to peace, elections, democracy, and ensuring that we have very peaceful elections.

"We have had several transitions and democratic elections since 1996 when I handed over as a military officer to a democratically elected president. My commitment to peace is beyond reproach because I have not only fought for peace in this country, but I have also done that on that peace table, played a critical role in meeting with the rebel leader for the end of the war, and returned this country to democratic governance," President Bio revealed.

He stated that part of his present governance structure was to consolidate the peace by establishing the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion to make space for more dialogue on critical national issues. He added that his government had also opened up the political space by consolidating a liberal democracy with all the freedoms that came with it and by ensuring that people were free to speak up.

"I believe that critical issues can be resolved through dialogue with the



establishment of the peace accepted by everybody well ahead of commission. This is not by a mere verbal pronouncement but by our actions, not only to open up the space but also because I believe that the rules of the game must be clear and establishment of the peace accepted by everybody well ahead of elections. If there are any disagreements, we should resolve them so that the election results will be credible and accepted by all," the President reassured.

Local Government Minister highlights successes, debunks claims of stifling local councils

By Ishmael Dumbuya

The Minister of Local Government and Community Affairs, Tamba Lamina has highlighted the successes of his ministry over the past 5 years, especially as elections draw closer.

The minister also vehemently debunked claims made by the former Mayor of the Freetown City Council, Yvonne Aki-Sawyer that her administration was stifled by the central government.

Mayor Aki Sawyer has been making allegations that the ministry has been interfering into the operations of the local councils; especially the FCC which she claimed suffered discrimination with no support from the central government.

Minister Lamina acknowledged that it is their duty as ministry to supervise, execute and support those local councils and that since 2018 to now, government has disbursed 88.9 billion Leones to support devolved functions, providing free quality education materials, the national monthly cleaning exercise and property rates.

He added that during the COVID 19, when times were hard, government made an imprest of 9.9 billion Leones to support the FCC, but that the Mayor failed to mentioned all those in her claims.

He noted that there was never a discriminatory treatment in the allocation of funds to local councils, and that Freetown City Council received the highest support from government in the past five years.

Minister Lamina said as President Bio's tenure ends, the ministry has done a lot to ensure that they have a proper and functioning governance



structures far and wide across the nation.

He noted that it is the duty of the ministry is to ensure that the voices of the people are heard and setting the priorities in line with the aspirations of the masses.

He added that since President Bio was elected in 2018, he ensured that there was decentralization in the governance system and that it was as a result that in 2021 the Government of Sierra Leone developed a Decentralization Policy and also reviewed the 2004 Local Government Act in order to strengthen decentralization.

He narrated how the ministry embarked on a nationwide assessment of the 22 local councils across the country, to evaluate their activities in the absence of Mayors and Council Chairpersons.

He said majority of the councils have done tremendously well in terms of administration, inclusivity, and service delivery, even though there are global challenges.

He said the Local Government Ministry is committed to fulfilling the ambitions of the president through the chiefs and inclusivity at local level, noting that it's the ministry duty to provide funds to local councils as a way of invigorating them so that they could operate appropriately.



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LOCAL NEWS

By Mohamed J.Kargbo

Alhaji Conteh, a businessman, made an appearance before Magistrate Mark Ngeba of Court No:1 for fraud and was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment at the Male Correctional Centre in Freetown.

The accused was standing trial on six count charges of fraudulent conversion contrary to Section (20) (ii) (a) of the Larceny Act of 1916.

Businessman jailed 30 years for fraud

It was alleged that, on a date between 2020 to 2021 in Bo, the accused fraudulently converted to his own use and benefit, quantities of building materials, soft drinks, imported crates of water, mattresses, chair rugs and other valuable items to the total of one billion, seventy-seven million and eight thousand Leones for the purpose of sale and delivery.

The magistrate said to prove guilt of the accused, the prosecution called four witnesses, who testified in court. He said all the witnesses' testimonies corroborated, indicating that the complainant indeed handed over the said properties to the accused for sale.

Magistrate Ngeba said that he had looked into all the evidence before him and was convinced that the prosecution had proven the guilt of

the accused beyond reasonable doubt.

He added that the accused is guilty of the crime put against him.

The accused pleaded for mercy but he was unrepresented by any legal counsel, so no plea mitigation was made for him.

He was sentenced five years each on all six counts and the sentence should run concurrently.

PONDER MY THOUGHTS

By Andrew Keili

His Excellency the President of Sierra Leone
State House (or anywhere on the campaign trail)
Freetown Sierra Leone
Date-Immaterial

Your Excellency,
I am writing this letter whilst in hiding for fear of being hunted down by my human cousins. I escaped from the chimpanzee sanctuary in Tacagama, quite a while ago. I am a cousin of Bruno and we both escaped together to an undisclosed location. There were then lots of false reports about our motive for escaping. Later, we learnt that some people thought Bruno had died. Others lied that he had been sighted in one place or another. He was treated like a pariah-like a Foday Sankoh figure. Unfortunately, he is no more. I have now taken up leadership of our organisation.

Let me not digress however - I will get straight to the reason for writing you this letter. I would like to complain vehemently about our treatment by your government, which uses us for "papishow". I would particularly like to point the finger at your Chief Immigration Officer and Minister of Tourism. My complaint is about your government placing a portrait of a chimpanzee on your passport without taking permission from our High Council. I had seen the earlier version which was a silhouette that one could not easily discern. Because we did not complain the first time this happened, you now had the audacity to make it bolder in your new passport. Your government has even bestowed on us the title of "National animal" of Sierra Leone.

It is wrong, because we were not paid and we did not give you permission to use our picture on your passport. But this is the smaller point. A bigger issue is the hypocrisy of bestowing such an honour on a species related to you that you have treated so badly. I am certain, your Excellency (you are no Dominion slouch but an American University graduate) that you know you share 98 percent of your human genes with us chimpanzees-we are all apes! But our treatment shows you do not regard us as your cousins. Your government has

LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT: REBELLION!

hypocritically given us the title of "National animal"!

"National animal", my foot! Are your citizens not hunting down our relatives in all parts of our country? I say our country because it belongs to us as much as it does to you. In fact, most of your ancestors come from neighbouring countries and met us here. If it is not poachers hunting us down for our meat, it is farmers who shoot us to protect their crops.

"National animal", my foot! Are your citizen not cutting down the trees and forests we depend on and destroying our water sources, forcing us to migrate from place to place? You are constantly destroying our homes to build yours and cutting down trees for timber.

"National animal", my foot! Are your people not locking up my brothers and sisters in cages, treating us like objects to be viewed for pleasure?

"National animal", my a-s! Are your people not allowing areas specially designed for us to be destroyed by chopping down trees around these areas? Did the boss of my former reserve, Bala Amarasekaran not complain and threaten to shut down our sanctuary because of this?

Enough of my complaints. Let me mention a few other things that really irk me. By the way, how much money are you making from your new passport, which I understand you now sell for one hundred dollars? Could you not put one percent of this amount to a "Protection Fund" for us, representing your "National animal".

Oh my God (I am not religious, but my folks tell me we have the same God), your people in the tourism sector go all over the place advertising Sierra Leone as an attractive destination for Eco-tourism. How I wish they could leave the "Eco" out. I have read a lot of the stuff they put out. By the way I am literate and read voraciously. My question for you, your Excellency is this-Why use us to rebrand your country without rebranding our living conditions? All we need is food and shelter. We don't even wear clothes, or

ride in vehicles.

Ok, I also note you had other good intentions to protect us because we, Western Chimpanzees are considered endangered. At least you have not been as bad to us as they have been in Burkina Faso, Benin, Gambia and Togo, where our relatives have virtually been wiped out. You may not want to emulate them but you are getting close. My grandparents, who were close friends with Dr. Sama Banya aka Puawui, who cares so passionately about our state and condition, used to tell me that they had a rich forest cover fifty years ago. Now only a miserly 5% remains. You definitely need to do something. I see you are making some attempts to stop people smuggling us and you have even involved your judiciary in the initiative, "Action for Chimpanzee". But to be honest with you, your Excellency, I hope they do not judge our cases the way I hear they do human cases -I will not elaborate as I do not wish to implicate anybody. I am only bothered about our own case!

I also heard your Environment people recently went to COP 27. Why did they not think of taking any of us along? Do they really care about us? We do not even know which of your many agencies looks after our needs. We do however know that they themselves are hampered in many ways including the general lawlessness of your people. They use all kinds of big words at their conferences- ecology, biodiversity, sustainability, climate Change-I have lost count.

But let us get back to where we started- the passport issue. I heard that you now have a new airport and tourists may soon start flocking in. I hope some would come purely to see us. Congratulations to your government for this development and for the new passport.

I have learnt from being with Bruno that we won't get what we want by reasoning with your people, because they think we are stupid apes. I therefore officially inform you that we have formed a rebel group called the

Movement for the Protection of Sierra Leone Chimpanzees (MPSLC). It is large in number (numerical strength undisclosed for strategic reasons). We will prowl the countryside and wreak havoc to unimaginable levels, making life uncomfortable for your people. We are bush guerillas and will not brave it to the city but we will make your countryside ungovernable and make your government unpopular. Here are our demands which we want met before elections or else we will initiate a war of unimaginable proportions that will make Foday Sankoh look like a Boy Scout.

1. We urge your government to unite all stakeholders to protect the only sanctuary we have-Tacagama in the country from deforestation and human activities for future generations and help fund its operations.
2. We demand that the Immigration Department pays us for the use of our profile on your passport. The fees and payment conditions can be negotiated.
3. We ask that your Tourism Ministry stops using our name in vain, unless they are ready to help in the fight to protect us.
4. If it is not too late, your Excellency, ECSL can register us to vote in the June 24th Election. I don't want to promise you in public but I assure you we will be well disposed to vote for our colour-nature (code for green-wink, wink!). After all, most of the pictures taken by ECSL of your humans on voting cards resemble us (dark and lovely). It won't make much of a difference!

I have written this letter to you directly because people say you are a "Tok and do" President. I very much hope your government can adopt a "Hands off our Chimpanzee" programme in the same way your dear wife has successfully championed the "Hands off our Girls" campaign. Some of our members are even willing to appear on Tic Tok!

I await your response and will send you details of how I can be contacted.

Your obedient subject (for now)

Grino (cousin of Bruno)



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LOCAL NEWS

By Ishmael Dumbuya

Afrimoney signs MOU with SL Commercial Tricycle Riders Union

As they continue to sign partnership with different institutions across the country, Afrimoney has on the 12th May 2023 signed an agreement with Sierra Leone Commercial Tricycle Riders Union at their Wilberforce headquarters in Freetown.

The partnership is geared towards enhancing the digitalization of the Union's activities and operations by using the Afrimoney platform.

In his statement, Afrimoney Managing Director, Martison obeng-Agyei, explained that as the world is gradually moving towards digitalization, the MOU signed with the Union would be a stepping stone for the advancement of mobile banking in the country.

He added that the MOU will allow tricycle (Kekeh) riders to be doing most of their transactions and operations via Afrimoney. "The world has moved towards mobile banking, and it's good for Sierra Leone to follow that trend", he mentioned.

He climaxed by stating that mobile banking allows consumers to be able to access money from anywhere.

Businesses and business owners are now able to save time by making use of mobile applications to process their payments or even receive funds from clients directly to their phone numbers using Afrimoney.

The interim President Sierra Leone Commercial Tricycle Riders Union, Ibrahim Serry applauded Africell and Afrimoney for embarking on such an agreement with the Union. He added that the MOU is very much significant for them as Kekeh riders in the country. "Afrimoney has made it very much easier and safer to be doing their operations using mobile banking and transaction, the partnership is a step in the right direction", he emphasized.

He went on to state that the Afrimoney platform will allow them as riders to be time efficient, to effectively manage funds, transfer money. He noted that it also allows them to have 24/7 access to their accounts including the possibility to check balance and reminders about



bills payment. He ended that passengers using Afrimoney can now transfer transport fare through the platform if they don't have physical

cash in their possession. The partnership attracted the Union's executive members, and Members of the Fourth Estate.

Market Watch With: Elizabeth J. Kamara



Beverages Abacha street market

Market Watch is a column that looks at the prices of commodities and foodstuff in various markets across 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 snail pace at which their produces are being sold.

In this edition of market watch, Concord Times Elizabeth J.

Kamara interviewed some shop owners and customers dealing in beverages in Freetown, to know the changes that have taken place as it remains few weeks to election.

Speaking to this medium, Isata Kamara is a shop owner at Abacha Street Market who deals in assorted drinks.

She observed that increase in the prices of beverages is becoming alarming as the prices of most beverages have doubled since last month, making business very slow for them.

Below are the current prices of beverages at Abacha Street market.

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|------------|--|
| Vody | Per crate | NLe650.00 | |
| Maltina Can | Per crate | NLe 250.00 | |
| Maltina Bottle | Per crate | NLe 225.00 | |
| Mega malt | Per dozen | NLe 80.00 | |
| Guinness Stout | Per crate | NLe 340.00 | |
| Star beer | Big bottle per crate | NLe 215.00 | |
| Star beer | Small bottle per crate | NLe 275.00 | |
| Coca cola Battle | Per crate | NLe 200.00 | |
| Amstel bottle | Per crate | NLe 415.00 | |
| Muzik bottle | Per crate | NLe 335.00 | |
| Onions | Per bag | NLe680.00 | |
| Sugar | Big bag | NLe1080.00 | |
| Sugar | Small bag | NLe600.00 | |
| Supreme milk | Per boundle | NLe 150.00 | |
| Salt | Per bag | NLe90.00 | |
| Leo oil | Big gallon | NLe680.00 | |
| Cheese Balls | Per boundle | NLe48.00 | |
| Gulf | Big bottle | NLe40.00 | |

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

France: an illegal African immigration network dismantled



"Border Police (PAF) officers in south-west France on 13 November 2020 - Copyright © africanews RAYMOND ROIG/AFP or licensors

They brought illegal immigrants into the territory with real French passports: the border police (PAF) at Roissy Charles-de-Gaulle airport this week dismantled an illegal immigration network from sub-Saharan Africa, AFP learned Thursday from a police source.

The case begins in November 2022 when border guards intercept a passenger from Mali with a real passport, but which turns out not to be his. "He tells us that he paid 7,000 euros to do a Bamako-Paris with an authentic French document," said the police source.

The police officers of the PAF then discovered the existence of a network that provided foreign nationals with French identity documents allowing them to enter the national territory through the front door, with control reduced to the strict minimum when passing through the border.

To do this, the sector based in the Paris region recruits French people with an immigrant background so that they "lend", against a few hundred euros, their identity

document.

They send their passport to Africa by post or have a new one redone at the town hall by providing a photo of a different person.

The organization provided its services to clients residing in Mali, Ivory Coast, or Cameroon, often found through social networks. Investigators estimate that "at least" 250 people may have used this system.

"We are well beyond the small sector that passes 20 people, there it was going well," commented the police source.

After several months of investigation, the border police arrested Tuesday morning across Ile-de-France seven people of Malian origin, three men and four women aged 24 to 55, identified as the operational network. The defendants must be referred Thursday evening to the court of Bobigny. The investigation will now focus on identifying passport lenders in order to initiate proceedings against them.

Somalia floods cause devastation and displacement



The Horn of Africa has seen almost three years of some of worst drought conditions in history - Copyright © africanews AP/Copyright 2020 The AP. All rights reserved.

Flash flooding from heavy rains killed dozens and affected 300,000 people in Ethiopia and Somalia in March 2023. The damaging flooding came after the region has experienced almost three years of extreme drought.

In the first 25 days of March, parts of Ethiopia received 5 to 10 centimeters (2 to 4 inches) more rain than is usual for the period, according to a report from Crop Monitor.

"Normally, the long rains begin in Kenya and move north to Ethiopia and Somalia," said Caroline Wainwright, a climate scientist at Cardiff University in the United Kingdom. "But this year, the rains started concurrently, and the last two weeks of March were incredibly wet in all three countries."

Moderate to heavy rains in the Ethiopian highlands overtopped banks of the Shabelle and Juba rivers. Homes, schools, and health facilities were destroyed along the banks of the two rivers, in southern Somalia and eastern Ethiopia, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA).

Flooding along the Shabelle River in the Somali region of Ethiopia can be seen in the image (right) above, acquired by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on NASA's Terra satellite. The Horn of Africa has seen almost three years of some

of worst drought conditions in history. Ethiopia and Somalia have had five failed rainy seasons since late 2020, which have displaced 1.4 million Somalis and killed 3.8 million livestock.

During this time the Shabelle-Juba river basins saw their lowest rainfall totals since 1981.

"This flooding doesn't just undo three years of drought," Wainwright said. Her recent research into the drivers and impacts of rainfall variability in East Africa found that from the mid-1980s to 2010, the long rains have been getting drier. In fact, the research team's analysis of climate projections found that the short rains could deliver more rainfall than the long rains by 2030-2040.

More than 1,000 hectares of cropland have been swamped by recent rains, challenging the agricultural economies in Ethiopia and Somalia. Agriculture employs 67 and 80 percent of people in these countries, respectively, and much of the farmland in the region is rain-fed. Although rainfall can provide some relief, intense rainfall following extensive drought can wash away crops and topsoil. Most of the farms in the area also lack the infrastructure to store water for future use.

Even with the unexpectedly early and heavy rains in March, climate models project that the long rains this year will be drier than normal and drought conditions are likely to continue.

Mali power cuts squeeze businesses, households

Every night or almost every night, it is the same ritual. Mamadou Haidara and his wife spend long hours chatting in their darkened living room in Bamako, a capital city that is subject, like all other cities in Mali, to incessant power cuts.

No fan to cool down, no battery for the cell phones... the stifling evenings follow one another, and they have to improvise solutions.

"I bought a lot of fans. I share them with some of my children and with our cleaning ladies," explains Mamadou Haidara, an executive in the private sector, while waving his new acquisition.

To shorten the ordeal in the cozy house in the Baco Djicoroni neighborhood, the Haidara family goes to bed early, but the children struggle to find sleep.

The blackouts last at least two hours in this central neighborhood, and sometimes all night. The Haidara family is among the 50% of Malians who have access to electricity, out of a population of 21.9 million, according to World Bank figures.

Infrastructure is struggling to keep up with population growth, which is growing at about 3% a year, according to the World Bank, in one of the world's poorest countries, much of which is plagued by jihadism and insecurity.

Fed up

At home and at work, the hours seem long when the temperature exceeds 40 degrees during the hot season.

"We spend the whole day together doing nothing, just chatting. It's a discouraging situation. So we are forced to sit around" because of the lack of electricity, laments Ibrahim Konate, head welder in a metal workshop in Bamako.

"It's hard for a worker who leaves home and sees load shedding at work. It's as if we came and went empty-handed," he says.

These blackouts are taking a toll on the economy. "In this hot weather, people need fresh produce. When products are not fresh, customers refuse to buy them. We are the ones who suffer the consequences," said

Issa Dicko, manager of a food store.

"People don't have the same temperament. Some customers get angry," said Oumar Yattare, a cashier in a restaurant in the capital.

In the regions of Segou, Sikasso, and Mopti, the inhabitants of several localities have demonstrated in recent months. In Gao, in the north, power outages have lasted several days in a row.

Villages in rural areas often rely on local generators or companies, but in the cities, the national company is the focus of criticism.

The Energy Company of Mali (EDM), nicknamed "Energy of Evil" by some users, is unable to meet the demand for electricity, which is growing by an average of 10% per year, according to the Ministry of Energy.

This is due in part to the fact that the thermal power plants are outdated and consume a lot of fossil fuels.

Untapped potential

A report by the Ministry of Energy in 2019 points to "a very high production cost due to thermal production, which currently leads to a deficit of nearly 50 Fcfa (0.75 euros) on the average selling price per kWh."

Selling its electricity at a loss, the company has accumulated a colossal debt. On March 28, the West African Development Bank (BOAD) agreed to set up a repayment program worth 45 billion CFA francs (about 68 million euros).

The aim is to "ensure the continuity of electricity supply to the Malian population and to support the country's economic and social development", according to the BOAD.

Ultimately, the authorities hope to take advantage of Mali's energy potential, whose hydroelectric and photovoltaic resources are largely untapped.

Users like Mamadou Haidara are taking their time: "There are advertisements, we are shown convoys of generators, we are told that such and such a power plant is being finished... We are still waiting".

Ethiopia issues mobile money transfer licence to Kenya's Safaricom



A general view of Safaricom's mobile money service M-Pesa logo, ... - Copyright © africanews WIKUS DE WET/AFP or licensors

The Central Bank of Ethiopia on Thursday granted Kenyan telecoms operator Safaricom the first mobile money transfer licence to a foreign operator in the country's 100 percent Ethiopian banking sector, the institution and the company announced.

Safaricom Ethiopia has been awarded the second mobile phone licence in Ethiopia in 2021, alongside the incumbent and 100% state-owned operator Ethio Telecom. The operator has been gradually rolling out its network since 2022 in Africa's second most populous country (120 million inhabitants).

In a press release, the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) announced that it had "today issued the mobile money transfer services licence to Safaricom M-Pesa Mobile Financial Service Plc".

The latter is a newly created subsidiary of Safaricom Ethiopia, a consortium led by Safaricom and including South African operator Vodacom and the Japanese group Sumimoto.

"This is the first mobile money transfer licence granted to a foreign investor in Ethiopia," the NBE added.

At the launch of its services in Addis Ababa in October, Safaricom Ethiopia announced that it had reached an agreement with the Ethiopian government to obtain the mobile money licence.

"Before issuing the licence, the NBE amended the national Payment Systems legislation to establish the

necessary regulatory framework for foreign telecom operators to provide Mobile Financial Services (MFS) in Ethiopia," Safaricom Ethiopia said in a statement.

Safaricom Ethiopia added that it plans to launch its mobile financial services in the second half of 2023.

Safaricom's M-Pesa service, which is widely used in Kenya in particular, allows users to send and receive money, pay bills, or make purchases, even without a bank account.

Safaricom claims that it is used by 51 million people in seven African countries. In its latest financial report, Safaricom estimates that M-Pesa contributes almost 40% of its profits.

Ethio Telecom offers a mobile money transfer service in Ethiopia called Telebirr, named after the Ethiopian national currency, the birr.

"We strongly support the spread of digital payment systems as a substitute for cash transactions," says the NBE, as Ethiopia announced last year its intention to open its banking sector to foreign players.

When he came to power in 2018, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced a vast series of reforms to modernize the economy, which is still highly state-run and not very open to foreign investment. But the country's economy has deteriorated sharply in recent years and the drive for reform has stalled.

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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.

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Invitation for Bids
Ministry of Health and Sanitation
National Competitive Bidding (NCB)

Procurement Number MoHS/ENV/NCB/2023/002

Date of First Issue 18th April, 2023

The Government of Sierra Leone has allocated funds to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation part of the funds are now intended to be used for the Cleaning Services for Tertiary hospitals in the country with procurement number: MoHS/ENV/NCB/2023/002.

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Cleaning Services for all Tertiary Hospitals in the Country.

The items are categorised into Twelve (12) Lots for the various hospitals as listed below:

| Lot No. | Description | Location |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Connaught Hospital | Freetown |
| 2 | Princess Christian Maternity Hospital | Freetown |
| 3 | Ola During Children's Hospital | Freetown |
| 4 | Lakka Government Hospital | Freetown |
| 5 | Bo Government Hospital General | Bo |
| 6 | Makeni Regional Hospital General | Makeni |
| 7 | Kenema Government Hospital General | Kenema |
| 8 | Sierra Leone Psychiatric Hospital | Freetown |
| 9 | Jui Hospital | Freetown |
| 10 | Port Loko General | Port Loko |
| 11 | Kingharman Road Hospital | Freetown |
| 12 | Rokupa Government Hospital | Freetown |

Interested bidders can bid for as not more than one (1) Lot from (Lots 1-12) and partial lot bidding is not accepted and may lead to disqualification.

Bidding is open to all suppliers who can demonstrate professionalism in the supply of the above goods.

The required documentary evidence to be submitted by the bidder to confirm eligibility to bid for Lots 1-12 is as follows:

Evidence of similar Cleaning Services (Cleaning) to the Ministry or other MDA's for the past two (2) years and the bidder must have completed at least one successful contract as a contractor involved in similar contract and proof of evidence.

A Certified True Copy of a Valid Business Registration Certificate

A Certified True Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate from the National Revenue Authority (NRA) (Valid up to the time of bid opening)

A Valid NASSIT Clearance Certificate

A Valid City Council Certificate

A Bid Security of NLE 20,000 (Twenty Thousand Leones) from a reputable Commercial Bank

Similar experience with outstanding track record backed by evidence will be an added advantage.

Line of Credit from a Reputable Commercial Bank Please note that suppliers will be required to sign an Anti-Corruption Commission's Integrity Pact with the Ministry.

Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the Ministry of Health and Sanitation between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays. The bidding document may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Nle 1,000.00 (One Thousand Leones only).

Bank: **Bank of Sierra Leone**
Account Number: **NPPA—Revenue from the sale of**

Bidding Documents

Account Number: **0111003981**
BBAN: **000001011100398165**

Bank: **Sierra Leone Commercial Bank**
Account Name: **NPPA—Revenue from the sale of Bidding Documents**
Account Number: **0111003981**
BBAN: **003001081791112183**

Bank: **Union Trust Bank**
Account Name: **NPPA—Revenue from the sale of Bidding Documents**
Account Number: **0111003981**
BBAN: **002001002101242863**

Bank: **Rokel Commercial Bank**
Account Name: **NPPA—Revenue from the sale of Bidding Documents**
Account Number: **0111003981**
BBAN: **002001002101242863**

Bank: **Rokel Commercial Bank**
Account Name: **NPPA—Revenue from the sale of Bidding Documents**
Account Number: **0111003981**
BBAN: **002001002101242863**

Sealed bids must be delivered to the Procurement Unit, Ministry of Health and Sanitation, 4th Floor Youyi Building, Freetown, between the hours of 9:00am to 12:00pm on **18th May, 2023**.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **Thursday 18th May, 2023** by 12:00noon in the presence of bidders's or their representatives who may choose to attend

Bids will be publicly opened on **Thursday 18th 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 Conference Room
Ministry of Health and Sanitation
4th Floor, Youyi Building,
Freetown
Contact Name: The Assistant Director of Procurement/Head of Unit
Email: procurement@mohs.gov.sl
+23278957533 / +23231957533 / +23230437107



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

PROVISION OF AIR TICKETS ON FRAMEWORK CONTRACT FOR FY 2023

Procurement Number: **MoHS/CMO/NCB/2023/001**

Date of First Issue: **19th April, 2023**

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) is inviting sealed bids from bidders duly registered and licensed businesses for the supply of:

| No. | Contract Description |
|----------|--|
| 1 | AIR TICKETS ON FRAMEWORK CONTRACT FOR FY 2023 |

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation has received funds *through the Government of Sierra Leone* for the procurement for Air Tickets for overseas Travelling. and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of:

Bidding is open to all suppliers who can demonstrate the following: -

Pre-finance the Air Ticket for Travelling

Provide evidence of similar contracts for the past two (2) years

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address below between 9:00am to 4:00 pm from Mondays to Fridays. Bidding is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Bidding document.

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address below between 9:00am to 4:00pm from Mondays to Fridays before the bid closing date. Bidding documents for Goods may be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Le 1,000.00 (One Thousand Leones) at the designated Account Number held at the **Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL)** as follows:

Account Name: NPPA Revenue from Sale of Bidding Document

Account Number: 0111003981

BBAN: 0000011100398165

Upon payment at the BSL, a copy of **Receipt/ Payment Slip** should be submitted to the Accounts Department for issuance of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation's Official Receipt and for onward transmission to the Procurement Unit for the issuance of Bidding Documents.

All bids must be accompanied by:

A Valid Bid security for **Le 50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand Leones)** from a reputable bank

A Line of Credit from a reputable Bank

A Copy of a valid Business Registration Certificates

A Copy of a valid Tax Clearance Certificate from the National Revenue Authority (NRA);

A Copy of valid NASSIT Clearance Certificate,

A valid Local Council Certificate

IATA Certificate

Civil Aviation Certificate

National Tourist Board Certificate

Bid Security

Sixty days Pre Finance Ability

Able to deliver Air Ticket within 24 hours

A signed Integrity Pact; [see attached]

Evidence of similar supplies done in the last **two (2) years**

Bids will be opened on **Friday 19th May, 2023** in the presence of bidders or their representatives' who chooses to attend, at the **Ministry's Conference Room, 4th Floor Youyi, Building Freetown**

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before bid closing date on **Friday 19th May, 2023 at 12:00 pm**. In the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend...Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders. Bids shall be submitted to the following address below: -

The Assistant Director of Procurement/Head of Unit

Ministry of Health and Sanitation

4th Floor Youyi Building, Brookfields

Freetown



National Youth Commission
Invitation for Bids

Procurement of Supply and Delivery of:

- Office Equipment-Lot 1
- Office Furniture-Lot 2
- Office Stationery-Lot 3
- Sewing Machines-Lot 4
- Tricycle -Lot 5
- Agricultural items and Tools - Lot 6
- Mechanical Tools – Lot 7
- Electrical Tools – Lot 8
- Building Materials – Lot 9
- Catering Service- Lot 10

Procurement Numbers:

- NAYCOM/UNDP/NCB/FRW/2023/001-Lot1
- NAYCOM/UNDP/NCB/FRW/2023/002-Lot2
- NAYCOM/UNDP/NCB/FRW/2023/003-Lot3
- NAYCOM/UNDP/NCB/FRW/2023/004-Lot 4
- NAYCOM/UNDP/NCB/FRW/2023/005-Lot 5
- NAYCOM/UNDP/NCB/FRW/2023/006-Lot 6
- NAYCOM/UNDP/NCB/FRW/2023/007-Lot 7
- NAYCOM/UNDP/NCB/FRW/2023/008-Lot 8
- NAYCOM/UNDP/NCB/FRW/2023/009-Lot 9
- NAYCOM/UNDP/NCB/FRW/2023/010-Lot 10

Date of First Issue: 5th May, 2023

The National Youth Commission has set aside funds from UNDP for the procurement of Supply and Delivery **Office Equipment-Lot 1, Office Furniture-Lot 2, Office Stationery-Lot 3 and Sewing Machines-Lot 4, Tricycle -Lot 5, Agricultural items and Tools - Lot 6, Mechanical Tools – Lot 7, Electrical Tools – Lot 8, Building Materials – Lot 9 & Catering Service- Lot 10.**

It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be used to cover eligible payments under a **Framework Contract** for the procurement of the Descriptions above. The Commission **now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of following:**

| No | Lots | Qty | Description of Items | Delivery period |
|----|--------|---------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Lot 1 | Various | Office Equipment | Framework contract |
| 2 | Lot 2 | Various | Office Furniture | Framework contract |
| 3 | Lot 3 | Various | Office Stationery | Framework contract |
| 4 | Lot 4 | Various | Sewing Machines | Framework contract |
| 5 | Lot 5 | Various | Tricycle | Framework contract |
| 6 | Lot 6 | Various | Agricultural items and Tools | Framework contract |
| 7 | Lot 7 | Various | Mechanical Tools | Framework contract |
| 8 | Lot 8 | Various | Electrical Tools | Framework contract |
| 9 | Lot 9 | Various | Building Materials | Framework contract |
| 10 | Lot 10 | Various | Catering Service | Framework contract |

Bidding is open to all suppliers who can demonstrate to provide criteria for eligibility such as a valid Business registration certificate, Bid Security of NLe20, 000 from a reputable Commercial Bank for each lot, valid tax clearance certificate, valid NASSIT clearance certificate, signed Integrity Pact. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures in accordance with the Sierra Leone Public Procurement Act, 2016. Bidding is open to all suppliers who can demonstrate the ability and financial capability to provide the required services.

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address below between 10am and 3pm Mondays to Friday. Bidding documents may be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of NLe500. Payment should be deposited in to the following National Procurement Authority (NPPA) accounts with details as shown: With the pay in submitted to the Procurement Unit, National Youth Commission.

Bank Name: Bank of Sierra Leone
Account Name: NPPA-Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents
Account Number: 0111003981
BBAN: 000001011100398165

Bank Name: Union Trust Bank
Account Name: Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents
Account Number: 210113253-01
BBAN: 004001113253120144

Bank Name: Sierra Leone Commercial Bank
Account Name: Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents
Account Number: 003001081791112183

Bank Name: Rokel Commercial Bank
Account Name: Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents
Account Number: 02-011012428
BBAN: 002001002101242863

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before Friday 5th May, 2023 at 11am and time of bid closing is Friday 5th May, 2023 at 11am. All bids must be accompanied by:

- q A valid Business registration certificate
- q Bid Security of Twenty Thousand Leones (NLe20,000) from a reputable Commercial Bank for each lot
- q A valid tax clearance certificate;
- q A valid NASSIT clearance certificate;
- q Assigned Integrity Pact; [see attached]
- q Evidence of similar contract performed within the last three (3) years

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before Friday 19th May, 2023 at 11am and time of bid closing is Friday 19th May, 2023 at 11am. Bids will be publicly opened on Friday 19th May, 2023 at 11am, 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.

Procurement Unit,
National Youth Commission
Ministry of Works and Assets
4th Floor, New England Ville,
Freetown.
Tell: +2327785589/+23276814372



ELECTORAL COMMISSION SIERRA LEONE (ECSL)
O.A. U. Drive, Tower Hill
Freetown



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
11. Coordinate safe retrieval of ECSL equipment from Tally Centre to the ECSL District Office.
12. Provide detailed report on all activities undertaken at the regional Tally Centre
13. Perform any other duties that may be assigned to you by your supervisor from time to time.

Qualifications and Relevant Experience

- Bachelor's degree in information systems or related field
- Proven experience in the management of Microsoft Windows Server and MS SQL Server
- Experience in the management of the Voter Verification Kit (VVK) and Voter Identification Unit (VIU)
- Well-versed in Information Technology operations management
- Knowledge of basic computer programming
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent organizational and leadership skills
- Good analytical/critical thinking

Skills and Competencies:

- Proficiency in the use of MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Ability to deal with people from different backgrounds
- Ability and patience to teach and train both technical and not-technical staff.
- Ability to work well under pressure, resolve conflicts, and balance trade-offs.
- Ability to work in a team.
- Interpersonal skills, integrity, and ability to adapt to situations.
- Ability to multitask.

Equal Opportunity Employer

- All positions in the omission are advertised on an equal opportunity.
- Women and Persons with Disabilities that have the requisite qualification and experience are highly encouraged to apply. All applicants will be required to take a test and attend interview when shortlisted.

Interested and qualified applicants should visit the ECSL online application portal <https://jobportal.ec.gov.sl/> and complete an application. For additional questions or concerns, please email us at info@ec.gov.sl

Closing date for receipt of applications is 1st May, 2023.

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.



The World Bank
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Sierra Leone Country Office
3 & 3A Spur Road
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Tel. No.: (232-78) 874600
No.: (232-76) 102171

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
VEHICLE DONATION - WORLD BANK OFFICE, SIERRA LEONE**

The World Bank Group (WBG) invites Expressions of Interest from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) registered to operate in Sierra Leone as a potential recipients in its vehicle donation process.

According to the WBG definition, an NGO is a government-certified, private organization with a charitable purpose; it is not a government entity or a for-profit business.

We have, therefore, set the following criteria as a mandatory requirement to shortlist the potential beneficiary in the vehicle donation process.

To submit your Expression of Interest, kindly address to the World Bank Asset-Disposal Committee, 3-3a Spur Road, Freetown, by **May 31, 2023, 17:00 Hours**, and send us the following documents to support our selection process.

1. A letter from your organization requesting to be shortlisted for the vehicle donation.
2. Copy of your current/valid Certificate of Registration.
3. Audited Financial Statements for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021.
4. Indicate if your organization has previously benefited from a transfer or donation, of a vehicle from the World Bank or UN agency.
5. A short description of your organization’s mission here in Sierra Leone and how the donation will support your organization’s mission and vision.

We look forward to hearing from you by the deadline of May 31, 2023.



INT'L NEWS

Jurgen Klopp admits he waited TOO LONG to change 'big things' at Liverpool this season

Jurgen Klopp has conceded that he might have left it too late to change 'big things' at Liverpool following their struggles this season.

The Reds' top four hopes look dead and buried, as they were 12 points off Newcastle and Manchester United following their 2-2 draw with Arsenal last month.

Since then they have had six wins on the bounce, and though they are now just one point off the top four, Man United who occupy that fourth and final spot also hold a game-in-hand.

It means that Klopp's side now have to rely on Newcastle and the Red Devils to drop points if they are to miraculously salvage a Champions League spot - even if they win their remaining three games.

Ahead of their trip to Leicester on Monday, when asked about his side's improvement in form, Klopp said: 'I spoke about that quite frequently, we tried to give ourselves a chance for a fresh start, we tried different football things.'

'We had 8 or 9 days for training between games, we wanted to almost start the new season already, it was a breath of fresh air for all of us.'

'We want to control the game differently, protect it differently, build up differently, it's really good fun for us, to create something new. Then the results came in and it's not a

complete coincidence.

'Sometimes you have to change big things, most of the time only little things but sometimes you do have to change big things, that is clear.'

'We had a good reason to change things, imagine we changed it after we nearly won four trophies last season.'

Klopp then went on to make an admission about the changes as he added: 'We maybe started it this season a bit late.'

Among the changes has seen Trent Alexander-Arnold play a hybrid midfield role, coming into central positions when the Reds have the ball. It has been a frustrating season for the Reds who have at times thrown hints that they could return to form, before hitting another bad run of games.

Their 7-0 victory over Manchester United in March, was followed off by defeats to Bournemouth and Man City, as well as draws to Chelsea and Arsenal.

Since they have won six games, scoring 17 goals in the process and are back in the hunt for the top four - though a lot will need to go their way. Should they win their final three games, they will need Manchester



United to drop points in two of their remaining four.

Otherwise, they would need Newcastle to suffer two defeats and a draw in their final four matches.

Liverpool looked unlikely to make the top four two seasons ago, but a good end to the season, with big moments like Alisson's winning header against West Brom, helped catapult them to third by the end of the season.

Klopp in reference to Alisson's goal

said: 'Miracles happen. Again though, it was in our hands.'

'Now we have to win but maybe nothing changes. Weeks ago, Champions League was completely out of sight but we have got closer.'

'But if Newcastle and Manchester United finish the season above us, they deserve it. It's just about us winning. That's it.'

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

Pep Guardiola blames EUROVISION as he once again hits out at the fixture schedule

Pep Guardiola was left cursing Eurovision as Manchester City are afforded just two days' rest ahead of next week's titanic reunion with Real Madrid.

Liverpool's M&S Bank Arena is staging the European song contest on Saturday and Merseyside Police are unable to staff both that and City's crunch Premier League trip to Everton on the same day.

The Goodison Park clash was always scheduled for the Sunday but could not be moved forward, even once Guardiola's team progressed to the Champions League semi-finals.

'We play Sunday, thank you so much,' Guardiola said sarcastically. 'I don't understand it, but I don't want to fight for that anymore.'

'How many times can we comment on that? I don't understand it, but we have to adapt to it so... it doesn't matter, I don't fight the

schedules: UEFA's, Premier League's and so on.

'We can't play Saturday because of Eurovision and we don't have enough police to handle two important events at the same time. OK, we have to adapt. What can I do? We'd prefer to play Saturday so we can prepare more, definitely.'

'I'm pretty sure the Premier League wants to help the teams in the Premier League - I don't think they [purposefully] make it uncomfortable. The problem is the schedule, the amount of competitions and games.'

'France and Germany play Friday, here is the opposite. The Premier League is more important, the schedule is the schedule. Since day one I felt it, it's not going to change.'

Real face Getafe on Saturday and are expected to rest their entire preferred starting XI before travelling to the Etihad Stadium,



Guardiola does not have that luxury as they attempt to retain their title by fighting off Arsenal, who the City boss expects to win each of their remaining three league fixtures.

The Catalan suggested that he will not be making a raft of changes despite the tie with Real left finely

balanced at 1-1 from the first leg at the Bernabeu.

'In a positive way, we have one more day to recover for the Everton game, I take it in this way,' Guardiola added.

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



HALF-TIME/FULL-TIME



Friday 12/05 & Saturday 13/05

Set 18151

(*) All bets subject to Mercury International rules. In case of discrepancy terminal data prevails. Canceled fixtures pay 1:1. Bets placed after kickoff are void. Single bets permitted.

| Fix No. | Sales Close | Competition | Home Team | Home Team | Home Team | Away Team | 1 / 1 (1) | 1 / X (2) | 1 / 2 (3) | X / 1 (4) | X / X (5) | X / 2 (6) | 2 / 1 (7) | 2 / X (8) | 2 / 2 (9) | |
|---------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | 5/12/2023 14:25 | Romania | FC VOLUNTARI | 3 | v | 5 | FC BOTOSANI | 3.10 | 15.00 | 50.00 | 4.60 | 4.30 | 7.80 | 30.00 | 16.00 | 6.40 |
| 2 | 5/12/2023 15:55 | Poland | PIAST GLIWICE | 5 | v | 12 | KORONA KIELCE | 2.55 | 17.00 | 60.00 | 4.10 | 4.80 | 9.60 | 28.00 | 17.00 | 8.20 |
| 3 | 5/12/2023 15:55 | Croatia | SLAVEN | 7 | v | 8 | LOKOMOTIVA ZAGREB | 4.40 | 14.00 | 30.00 | 6.20 | 4.60 | 5.60 | 35.00 | 14.00 | 3.90 |
| 4 | 5/12/2023 15:55 | Cyprus | PARALIMNI | 6 | v | 7 | OLYMPIAKOS NICOSIA | 3.05 | 16.00 | 50.00 | 4.40 | 4.30 | 7.80 | 30.00 | 17.00 | 6.60 |
| 5 | 5/12/2023 15:55 | Cyprus | KARMIOISSA FC | 3 | v | 2 | NEA SALAMINA | 3.25 | 14.00 | 35.00 | 5.20 | 4.90 | 7.20 | 28.00 | 14.00 | 5.20 |
| 6 | 5/12/2023 16:10 | Bulgaria | BEROE STARA | 2 | v | 5 | FK SEPTEMVRI SOFIA | 3.00 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 4.60 | 4.50 | 7.80 | 30.00 | 16.00 | 6.40 |
| 7 | 5/12/2023 16:25 | Bundesliga 2 | SANDHAUSEN | 18 | v | 15 | HANSA ROSTOCK | 4.50 | 15.00 | 35.00 | 6.00 | 4.50 | 5.40 | 35.00 | 15.00 | 3.95 |
| 8 | 5/12/2023 16:25 | Bundesliga 2 | MAGDEBURG | 11 | v | 14 | NUREMBERG | 3.30 | 14.00 | 30.00 | 5.40 | 5.60 | 7.00 | 26.00 | 14.00 | 4.70 |
| 9 | 5/12/2023 16:25 | Slovakia | Z. MORAVCE-VRABLE | 5 | v | 3 | TRENCIN | 3.50 | 12.00 | 29.00 | 5.40 | 4.60 | 6.00 | 27.00 | 12.00 | 4.10 |
| 10 | 5/12/2023 16:55 | Portugal 2 | CD TROFENSE | 17 | v | 3 | ESTRELA AMADORA | 4.80 | 15.00 | 29.00 | 6.60 | 4.90 | 5.20 | 35.00 | 14.00 | 3.55 |
| 11 | 5/12/2023 16:55 | Norway | ODDS | 3 | v | 4 | LILLESTROM | 4.30 | 14.00 | 29.00 | 6.40 | 5.00 | 5.80 | 30.00 | 14.00 | 3.75 |
| 12 | 5/12/2023 17:25 | Switzerland 2 | AC BELLINZONA | 9 | v | 2 | FC WIL | 7.00 | 16.00 | 24.00 | 9.40 | 5.80 | 4.40 | 45.00 | 15.00 | 2.49 |
| 13 | 5/12/2023 17:25 | Switzerland 2 | SCHAFFHAUSEN | 7 | v | 4 | LAUSANNE OUCHY | 4.20 | 13.00 | 26.00 | 6.80 | 5.80 | 6.00 | 29.00 | 13.00 | 3.50 |
| 14 | 5/12/2023 17:25 | Romania | FC RAPID | 5 | v | 6 | SEPSI SFANTU GHEORGHE | 3.25 | 14.00 | 40.00 | 5.00 | 4.70 | 7.20 | 29.00 | 15.00 | 5.40 |
| 15 | 5/12/2023 17:25 | Austria | TIROL | 3 | v | 6 | RIED | 3.10 | 14.00 | 35.00 | 5.20 | 5.20 | 7.60 | 26.00 | 14.00 | 5.20 |
| 16 | 5/12/2023 17:55 | Holland | TWENTE | 5 | v | 10 | NUMEGEN | 2.08 | 19.00 | 70.00 | 4.20 | 7.00 | 14.00 | 23.00 | 19.00 | 10.00 |
| 17 | 5/12/2023 17:55 | Holland 2 | ADO DEN HAAG | 12 | v | 18 | DORDRECHT | 1.96 | 18.00 | 60.00 | 4.10 | 7.20 | 14.00 | 22.00 | 18.00 | 10.00 |
| 18 | 5/12/2023 17:55 | Holland 2 | JONG AJAX | 13 | v | 11 | JONG AZ ALKMAAR | 3.05 | 13.00 | 29.00 | 5.80 | 6.40 | 7.60 | 23.00 | 13.00 | 4.50 |
| 19 | 5/12/2023 17:55 | Holland 2 | DEN BOSCH | 17 | v | 3 | ALMERE CITY | 8.20 | 17.00 | 22.00 | 12.00 | 6.60 | 4.30 | 50.00 | 16.00 | 2.17 |
| 20 | 5/12/2023 17:55 | Holland 2 | FC EINDHOVEN | 6 | v | 16 | HELMOND | 2.10 | 17.00 | 60.00 | 4.10 | 6.20 | 12.00 | 23.00 | 18.00 | 9.60 |
| 21 | 5/12/2023 17:55 | Holland 2 | MAASTRICHT | 7 | v | 9 | TELSTAR | 3.75 | 13.00 | 28.00 | 6.40 | 5.60 | 6.60 | 27.00 | 13.00 | 3.95 |
| 22 | 5/12/2023 17:55 | Holland 2 | BREDA | 5 | v | 1 | HERACLES | 5.40 | 14.00 | 23.00 | 8.40 | 6.00 | 5.20 | 35.00 | 14.00 | 2.75 |
| 23 | 5/12/2023 17:55 | Holland 2 | TOP OSS | 19 | v | 14 | JONG PSV | 4.30 | 13.00 | 24.00 | 7.20 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 28.00 | 13.00 | 3.30 |
| 24 | 5/12/2023 17:55 | Holland 2 | ZWOLLE | 2 | v | 15 | RODA | 1.66 | 22.00 | 90.00 | 3.95 | 9.20 | 20.00 | 21.00 | 21.00 | 13.00 |
| 25 | 5/12/2023 17:55 | Holland 2 | VENLO | 8 | v | 10 | GRAAFSCHAP | 4.30 | 13.00 | 24.00 | 7.00 | 6.20 | 5.80 | 29.00 | 13.00 | 3.30 |
| 26 | 5/12/2023 17:55 | Holland 2 | WILLEM II | 4 | v | 20 | JONG UTRECHT | 1.52 | 27.00 | 99.00 | 3.75 | 10.00 | 27.00 | 22.00 | 26.00 | 19.00 |
| 27 | 5/12/2023 18:10 | Switzerland 2 | LAUSANNE | 3 | v | 10 | XAMAX | 1.96 | 18.00 | 70.00 | 4.10 | 7.00 | 14.00 | 22.00 | 18.00 | 10.00 |
| 28 | 5/12/2023 18:25 | Poland | LEGIA WARSZAWA | 2 | v | 10 | JAGIELLONIA | 2.28 | 16.00 | 50.00 | 4.30 | 6.00 | 11.00 | 23.00 | 16.00 | 8.20 |
| 29 | 5/12/2023 18:25 | Poland 2 | WISLA KRAKOW | 5 | v | 3 | TERMALICA BB | 2.65 | 13.00 | 40.00 | 4.40 | 4.70 | 7.60 | 24.00 | 14.00 | 5.80 |
| 30 | 5/12/2023 18:25 | Bundesliga | FC COLOGNE | 11 | v | 18 | HERTHA BERLIN | 2.75 | 16.00 | 45.00 | 4.70 | 5.60 | 9.00 | 26.00 | 16.00 | 6.80 |
| 31 | 5/12/2023 18:25 | Austria 2 | ST POLTEN | 1 | v | 2 | BW LINZ | 5.80 | 15.00 | 27.00 | 7.40 | 5.00 | 4.80 | 40.00 | 15.00 | 3.05 |
| 32 | 5/12/2023 18:40 | Serie A | LAZIO | 3 | v | 16 | LECCE | 2.50 | 18.00 | 70.00 | 4.10 | 4.80 | 11.00 | 30.00 | 19.00 | 9.40 |
| 33 | 5/12/2023 18:40 | Ireland | BOHEMIANS DUBLIN | 1 | v | 3 | DERRY CITY | 4.70 | 15.00 | 35.00 | 6.20 | 4.40 | 5.20 | 40.00 | 15.00 | 3.85 |
| 34 | 5/12/2023 18:40 | Ireland | DUNDALK | 4 | v | 9 | CORK CITY FC | 2.85 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 4.50 | 4.90 | 8.20 | 27.00 | 16.00 | 6.60 |
| 35 | 5/12/2023 18:40 | Ireland | SAINT PATRICKS ATHLETIC | 6 | v | 8 | DROGHEDA UNITED | 2.65 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 4.40 | 5.20 | 8.80 | 26.00 | 16.00 | 6.80 |
| 36 | 5/12/2023 18:55 | France League 1 | LENS | 2 | v | 10 | REIMS | 2.23 | 18.00 | 60.00 | 4.20 | 6.40 | 12.00 | 24.00 | 18.00 | 9.20 |
| 37 | 5/12/2023 18:55 | La Liga | MALLORCA | 12 | v | 15 | CADIZ CF | 3.35 | 17.00 | 60.00 | 4.70 | 3.85 | 7.80 | 40.00 | 17.00 | 7.00 |
| 38 | 5/12/2023 18:55 | Segunda | BURGOS CF | 9 | v | 14 | LEGANES | 3.75 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 5.00 | 3.90 | 6.40 | 35.00 | 16.00 | 5.40 |
| 39 | 5/12/2023 18:55 | England League 1 | PETERBOROUGH | 0 | v | 0 | SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY | 4.20 | 14.00 | 35.00 | 6.00 | 4.60 | 5.80 | 35.00 | 14.00 | 4.10 |
| 40 | 5/12/2023 19:10 | Portugal | GIL VICENTE | 14 | v | 10 | BOAVISTA | 3.35 | 15.00 | 40.00 | 5.00 | 4.80 | 6.80 | 29.00 | 15.00 | 5.20 |

Leone Stars skipper doubtful for Super Eagles clash

Sierra Leone captain, Steven Caulker, is a major doubt for the country's African Cup of Nations qualifiers against Super Eagles of Nigeria in June.

Championship season against Rotherham United this week could be racing against time for the Super Eagles clash.

The 31-year-old is set to be sidelined for four to six weeks after he successfully underwent surgery on his knee on Thursday.

The Africa Cup of Nations match day five qualifier is a must-win game for John Keister's team if they are to revive hopes of reaching Ivory Coast 2023.

It's a 50-50 that the former Tottenham and Liverpool defender could captain Leone Stars against Nigeria.

Sierra Leone revamped their hopes of reaching 2023 AFCIN in Ivory Coast with a comfortable 2-0 victory over their Central African opponent Sao Tome and Principe, on March 26 in Morocco.



Sierra Leone presently sits third in Group A behind Super Eagles on nine points and Guinea Bissau on seven respectively.

The Super Eagles, who are aiming for a third consecutive Africa Cup of Nations appearance, suffered a defeat to Guinea-Bissau at home but regained the top spot by defeating Bissau in March.

Kondeh sets for African Weightlifting Championship in Tunisia



Sierra Leone's youngest weightlifter, Francis Kondeh is the country's lone lifter to compete in this year's African Weightlifting Championship that will take place in Tunisia.

The 33rd edition of the African Weightlifting Championship is scheduled to take place from May 11 to May 20, 2023, with the lifters taking the stage on 14 May.

Sierra Leone is among the 21 countries that will take part in the championship that will also serve as qualifiers for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

And with support from the National Olympics Committee/Commonwealth Games Association of Sierra Leone (NOC/CGA-SLE), Kondeh was able to make the trip to Tunisia and he is expected to lift in the 55kg category.