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2023 elections: 9 political parties throw support for APC



ELECTION PREPAREDNESS NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE CONFERENCE!
A STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF ELECTION PREPAREDNESS

2023 elections: Electoral bodies assure effective preparedness



By Ishmael Dumbuya

The leaders and senior party members of nine (9) political parties, which are part of the Consortium of Progressive Political Parties (CoPP), have officially declared their

supports for the All People's Congress Party presidential contender, Dr. Samura Kamara and running mate Chernor Maju Bah at the Robert Hall, Robert Street, Freetown.

Cont. Page 3

Commonwealth Business Women Network-SL congratulates Sierra Leone

BSL schools journalists on national payment switch, financial inclusion

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Opinion

My plan to deal with Sierra Leone's colossal doing business problem

Sierra Leone has a major problem when it comes to attracting businesses, but Marda Mustapha, executive director of the new National Investment Board, says plans are afoot to boost growth.

Nicky Oppenheimer, the former chairman of the diamond giant De Beers, used to warm up audiences at corporate events with an anecdote from the many years his company was invested in my country, Sierra Leone. He would tell how his father Harry and other members of the Oppenheimer dynasty sent young Nicky to Sierra Leone to learn the diamond business in the 1960s.

"They did not send me to Sierra Leone because it was easy," Nicky would say. "They sent me there because it was hard – if I could do business in Sierra Leone, I could do business anywhere in the world."

Nicky went on to run De Beers for two decades so on the one level I should be proud that Sierra Leone was the finishing school for his success. But there is another level at which the story makes me anything but proud: the implication that doing business here might not be straightforward.

Yet the reality is an anecdote from six decades ago still resonates. The World Bank's 2020 index on Ease of Doing Business placed Sierra Leone 163rd out of the 190 nations assessed across the world. Closer analysis shows Sierra Leone has been stuck around the 160th position no matter that our brutal civil war ended two decades ago in 2002.

And the same poor performance globally is repeated regionally. Between 2013 and 2018 Sierra Leone's average annual foreign direct investment was less than 3% of the total invested in the West African region. Even in the sub-region, the Mano River Union, which links us to our neighbours, Guinea and Liberia, we came last.

If my three decades as a professional in the fields of international political economics and philosophy has taught me anything it is that you can only solve a problem if you properly identify a problem. Honesty, no matter how painful, is essential. So here is the key admission: in Sierra Leone we have a colossal problem when it comes to doing business.

The good news is that after four years of advocacy, policy analysis and legislative fine tuning I firmly believe we now have the solution.

That solution is the newly-minted National Investment Board (NIB), a single locus for stimulating, protecting and developing business in Sierra Leone, a supreme commercial oversight body forensically dissected in parliament and now fully empowered through its own bespoke legislation, The National Investment Board Act of 2022.

The NIB, which I have been appointed to run as Executive Director, does not seek to reinvent the wheel. On the contrary it seeks to redesign and reengineer the existing wheel, so it runs truer, faster and smoother than ever before.

At its heart we are motivated by the fight against two pernicious "C"s: Complexity and Corruption.

Anyone seeking to do business in Sierra Leone in recent years could be forgiven a sense of being lost in a maze as they tackled a multi-headed hydra of business-related bodies, all demanding attention, time, focus and resources. These included the Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency, the Public Private Partnership Unit, the Corporate Affairs Commission, as well as key government ministries, departments and agencies.

Each involved registration and fiscal tax responsibilities and that was only the national level. The local level involved another tier altogether of local councils, most notably the Freetown City Council, which covers our capital city, which were also enmeshed in a web of statutory and regulatory challenges.

Little wonder the World Bank survey found any business, from a global multinational to a local entrepreneur, faced an average of 857 working days just to jump through the procedural hoops required before they could say "we are open for business". Even the process of paying tax was a bureaucratic ordeal: the average time required to fill in all tax forms and make payment was an eye-watering 14 working days per year! Our new investment body sweeps away all of this duplicative bureaucracy. The alphabet soup of SLIEPE, PPPU, CAC, MDAs, LCs and FCC becomes instead a single omnipotent three-letter abbreviation, the NIB, under the chairmanship of President Julius Maada Bio himself, so completely is he invested in making the new body work.

Instead of complexity the NIB offers clarity. Our office, which is to be housed in two newly-built city centre offices in Freetown with its own staff, specially trained and recruited, will be a "One Stop Shop" so that any successor of Mr Oppenheimer will have to go to one office, indeed one desk with one professional adviser, to go through



the entire process of registering, licensing and launching their business.

No more driving around Freetown on wild-goose chases for bureaucrats who might be on leave. We even road tested the traffic conditions and found that journeys to agencies that should take 5 minutes actually took 55 minutes. The efficiency advantage from collocation is enormous.

But the NIB is more than an exercise in traffic jam avoidance. The act is compellingly clear on the powers the NIB will have. The NIB will not duplicate the Finance Ministry for example but it will provide a portal to that ministry so that the required processes are completed promptly and decisively. The act spells out how no ministry or agency can delay or obfuscate. In effect, the NIB will act like an adrenaline shot to the country's commercial oversight bureaucracy, streamlining registration procedures and stimulating activity.

As a professional who has experience with foreign investors in Sierra Leone I am all too aware of the other pernicious "C" that does so much damage to economic development: Corruption. The NIB is committed to drive out corruption through transparency, accountability and, if necessary, criminal sanction.

Corruption comes in many forms but a major block to investment in Sierra Leone is breach of confidentiality: a business seeking to position itself in the country is beaten to a tender because its offer details have been "sold" to a rival. The NIB's founding act makes clear anyone in the organisation, from a secretary privy to information picked up in canteen chatter, to me at the top of the pyramid, faces a

hefty fine and jail time for leaking sensitive secrets.

In this regard let Singapore be a model for Sierra Leone. In the 1950s Singapore was a malarial fishing community with average annual earnings of \$427. Today its average earnings are among the world's highest, at \$38,000. A cast-iron commitment to fight corruption in Singapore was in large part responsible for this transformation. Civil servants were paid well, on a par with the private sector, but with a clear and enforced rule – give in to corruption and you lose everything, steal a pencil from the department stationery cupboard and you go to jail.

The NIB I am heading does pay its officers well but with the exact same warning: do your job and you will be well remunerated, allow corruption to grow under you and you lose everything. It is chastening to know the latest International Monetary Fund figures report Sierra Leone's average annual earnings today are \$472, serendipitously similar to Singapore's before its transformation.

For too long private business has been stunted in Sierra Leone, its growth hampered by Complexity and Corruption. Modern economic history shows us that growth happens not when it is centrally planned and controlled, more when it is stimulated and supported.

That is the transformation that NIB brings to Sierra Leone. Under this new framework which I am committed to deliver, the driving factor for the successors of Nicky Oppenheimer to come to Sierra Leone will not be because doing business here is a challenge. They will come here precisely because of the enormous potential for opportunity, growth and profit.



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LOCAL NEWS

By Jariatu S. Bangura

The electoral management bodies have assured the general public that the forth coming elections will be free and fair as effective planning have been put in place.

According to the Chairman of the Political Parties Regulations Commission (PPRC), Abdulai Bangura, they have been following the campaign processes and engagement have been done with paramount chiefs, district representative of all political parties participating in the coming elections and security sector.

He said the purpose was for everyone in that program to allow all political parties to have access in every locality in the country.

He said they will continue to engage their constituents to be tolerance in there utterances and to be moderate in what they do so that none of them would disenfranchise each other's right in the communities.

He noted that during the last bye elections, there were lot of challenges faced following the manner in which political parties conducted themselves. He said it behoves every citizens to come together and treat each other as his/her brother's keeper as it doesn't worth people killing themselves for politicians that are coming and leaving after their tenure.

Justice Komba Kamanda said the judiciary is oblivious of the challenges ahead and therefore they have significant efforts in other to mitigate those challenges and have positioned themselves well to confront those challenges.

He said the Chief Justice have assigned two judges each to sit on all electoral matters in every district in the country. He said they have moved from just staying in Freetown to deliberate on political cases but with the Chief Justice had assigned judges in the provinces to handle electoral matters.

He said engagement and capacity building trainings have been held with support from UNDP for the judiciary to properly handle electoral matters.

Chairman of Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL), Mohamed K. Konneh said the ECSL did launched an Electoral cycle strategic plan in 2020 and they have been able to so far complete 90% of their plans, adding that they are hopeful that they will complete it to 100% by the end of the June 24 elections.

He said the election is 95% funded by the government of Sierra Leone and all activity plans have been done so far by staff of the Commission.

He said they are bound to face challenges but with time they will overcome those challenges or maybe try

consortium in declaring their support for Samura Kamara as president in the June 24 election because they believed in his leadership and they are of the conviction that he can return and stabilize the economy of the country as it were over the past 7 years.

Femi Claudius Cole, Chairperson for the Unity Party, and Chairperson for the Consortium of Progressive Political Parties (CoPPP), gave a brief background on the CoPPP. She explained that the Consortium is composed of individual opposition parties that have agreed to work together to defend and fortify democracy in Sierra Leone and to this end shall collaborate in joint peaceful actions whenever there is a perceived or definite threat to their democratic rights.

She said CoPPP was also formed to represent their members or to function individually or collectively as political parties, adding that this is why they have unilaterally decided to support Samura Kamara in order that he can liberate Sierra Leone from dictatorship. Ms. Cole added that the SLPP government has committed a lot of human rights abuses, particularly after the August 10th protest, where innocent women were arrested and

2023 elections: Electoral bodies assure effective preparedness



to formulate a permanent voter register as long as there are resources.

He said they would give out soft copy of their voter registrants to political parties but eligible voter's contacts and residential addresses will not be shared to political parties for security reasons.

He said they have been working within the timeline of the provisions given to them by the Constitution so far and all procedures have been followed.

Keynote speaker, former chairman of the Electoral Commission from Cameroon,

Dr. Fonkam Azu'u said the mandate of

the election bodies is to ensure that there be free and fair elections before, during and after every election.

He said the organizers have done well for the people of Sierra Leone by creating ways to gather all the key players to have things in place so as to enhance peaceful elections.

He said most of the problem that Arise during elections are because of lack of information sharing or the timeliness of the information, adding that for a proper elections to take place, there is need for the political will for the democratic governance of the country.

2023 elections: 9 political parties throw support for APC

From Cover

In his address to the gathering in the hall, the flagbearer aspirant for the All People's Congress Party (APC) Dr. Samura Mathew Wilson Kamara, thanked and applauded CoPP and the political parties' leadership for declaring their support for the APC party in ensuring that they win the June 24th election, amidst the hardship orchestrated by the ruling Sierra Leone's Peoples Party (SLPP) government.

He went on to state that political parties within CoPPP have really demonstrated their patriotism, and are determined to see the brutal administration of Maada Bio voted out, adding that Sierra Leone has witnessed the worst economic system under the SLPP government.

Speaking on the importance of the Consortium, Dr. Samura explained that since its formation, the consortium is geared towards forming an alliance that will not only win the coming elections but to reinstate the lost values and the derailed direction the Bio-led government has taken.

Toni Songa, the Chairman for the Peoples Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC), stated that they as a party have decided to join the



detained for no just cause.

The Deputy Chairman of the APC party, Ambassador Foday Yansaneh, campaigned that if the people of Sierra Leone really need salvation they should support and vote Samura Kamara as President, adding that the economic liberation lies in the hands of Samura

Kamara and the APC party.

In attendance were representatives of all the 9 political parties, including Dr. Dennis Bright, former Chairman of the National Grand Coalition (NGC), who also threw his support for Dr. Samura Kamara.

LOCAL NEWS

USL collaborates with the Broad Institutes to train Postgraduate Medical Students.

The University of Sierra Leone is collaborating with the Broad Institutes - Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) - to roll out intensive one-week training for postgraduate students at the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS). Addressing the students and tutors at the start of the training at the Gallinness Paradise in Bo, Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) of COMAHS, Prof. Mohamed Samai who deputized for the Vice Chancellor and Principal (VC&P) of the USL, Brig. Gen. Prof. Foday Sahr said he is delighted to have collaborated with the Broad Institutes to support the University's medical school and by extension, the health sector in the country.

Prof. Samai noted that the University of Sierra Leone is looking beyond the training of students for academic purposes to include support for the ministry of health and by extension, the country's health sector. He said the training, which is the second phase is the precursor to the full-blown masters and PhD programmes in the medical and related fields that would start immediately, which he said would run for two years and a minimum of three years respectively.

The Course Coordinator, Haja Dr. Isata Wurie, Dean of the Faculty of the Medical Laboratory Sciences and Diagnostics at COMAHS said the background to the training should be traced to 2022 when the University of

Sierra Leone in line with the national agenda decided to improve on the capacity of faculty staff members. She pointed out that through the sustained efforts of the VC&P of USL and the DVC of COMAHS, postgraduate courses were instituted in Epidemiology, Laboratory Medicine and Pharmacy for Masters, MPhil and PhD students.

Associate Professor Wurie noted that after the approval of the course, some 11 PhD and 15 Masters Students have started their courses through collaborative efforts between USL and the Broad Institutes, adding that the training is part of the USL's long-term strategy to prepare masters and PhD students in public health and other medical-related disciplines.

On her part, the Project Manager at the Broad Institutes, Dr. Marietou Faye Paye pointed out that they are happy to have the opportunity to collaborate with the University of Sierra Leone through the teaching of courses to Masters and PhD students. She said they are passionate about supporting education in the country, especially in the public health field, adding that they are happy to secure the opportunity to collaborate with the University. She pointed out that part of the project package is to teach masters and PhD students on general public health topics, epidemiology, understanding how research design works and how to



implement them.

In terms of the next steps, the project director expressed hope for the continuation of the collaboration and to develop the medical workforce in the country.

Dr. Faye Paye noted that as part of their strategic outcome, they are not just focusing on research but also on the detection of pathogens to support public health and to also connect people and the different levels of government so that they can easily detect outbreaks of epidemic and to respond. She furthered that they are focusing on empowering the people in terms of building the workforce and connecting the different leadership so as to take their own actions rather than depending on outsiders to respond to their public

health emergencies.

The tutors for this intensive one-week training in Bo, the second of such engagements in the country comprises staff from Harvard University who are teaching gratis through a memorandum of understanding among USL, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in addition to a team of local staff at COMAHS, including Dr. Donald Grant, Dr. Momoh Gbetuwa and with Haja Associate Prof. Isata Wurie as the course coordinator.

It is important to note that other strategic partners are onboard this postgraduate academic and professional enterprise including but not limited to the West African Health Organisation.

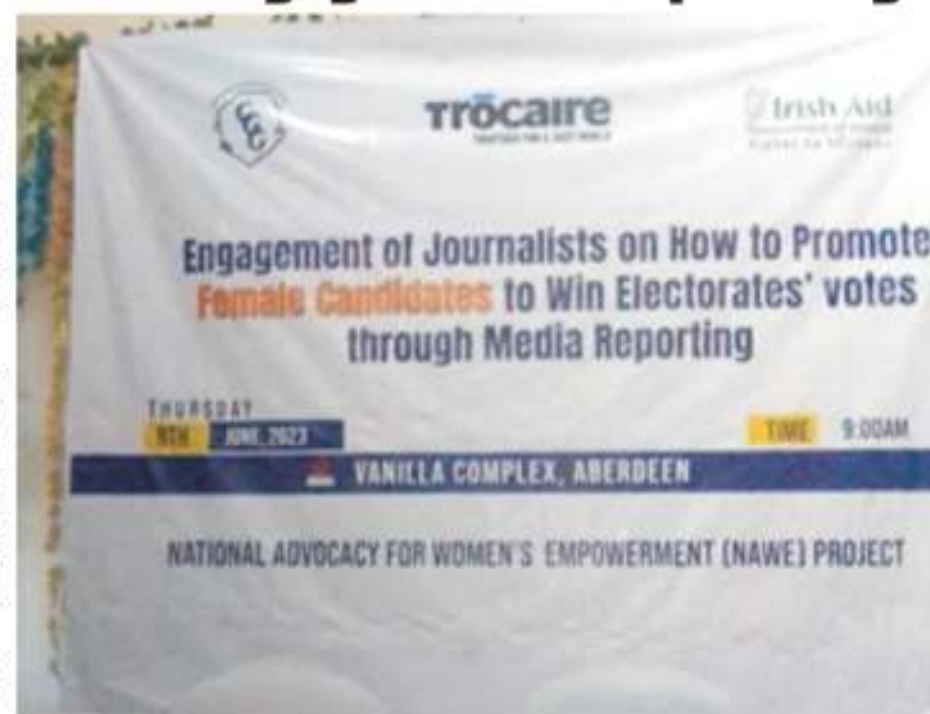
CGG, Irish Aid, Trocaire engage media on profiling female candidates

By Mohamed J Kargbo

Campaign for Good governance in partnership with Trocaire and Irish Aid has on Thursday, June 8, 2023, engaged Journalist on how to profile female candidates on the upcoming elections, and how to balance their report on gender based violence stories following a lot discriminations and abuse in the previous elections. Delivering her keynote statement on the issue, the Prime Minister of Sierra Leone Association of Women in Journalism, Aminata F Massaquoi, said that they have fought a big fight in ensuring that the gender equality bill is enacted, noting that it has given them power as it is a step forward for what they have fighting for. She explained that their key mandate as an association is to empower women equal representation.

"You can all maximize your potential if you are fully empowered and the contribution of women can impact on society is significant but the media has a key role to play in ensuring that it comes to reality", she stated.

She went on to state that there are women in politics and by profiling them they can be known, adding that the media should encourage them to believe in themselves when profiling them.



She urged the media not to look at their weakness but their strength and bring it out as well as imbibe confidence in them.

In her conclusion she urged the media to engage more of the women than the male candidates and also be informing female journalists to vote for female candidates in any position, not for the sake of political parties, but that of promoting women's rights and

empowerment.

The President of WIMSAL, Madam Eastina Taylor said that she is happy to be at this kind of training, adding that there are a lot of challenges when elections approach as many female candidates are discriminated during the process.

She highlighted that the media should promote female candidates during elections period, noting that gender

equality and women empowerment should be at the center for female Journalists, and female Journalists should play a pivotal role in improving exclusive bias reporting issues.

She ended on the note that the media has a great role to play in promoting female contestants by profiling them well for people to be aware.

Maurice Pewa representative from Trocaire said that he believed that Journalists have the role of promoting the right of women in Sierra Leone, adding that we can't have a just world if the right of women is not protected.

"we have seen so many women rights been trampled upon when it comes to elections because the male think that it is not their place in politics, for a very long time now we have seen the space for women in politics being narrowed", he emphasized.

He noted that woman have been harassed and discriminated before and after elections and this has shied them away from politics, stating that their organization has been working with other organizations to give women a level playing field in politics.

He ended by stating that the media has a vital role to promoting gender equality at all level not only for the elections, but in all other aspects.



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LOCAL NEWS

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL), has yesterday Thursday June 8, engaged journalists ON the importance of the national switch and financial inclusion. They Bank also called on journalists to help the public know the impact of the process in the lives of Sierra Leoneans and the country's economy as whole.

President Julius Maada Bio, in May officially launched the National Payment Switch which is a gateway system to payment solutions in Sierra Leone.

The National Payment Switch is a technology that facilitates bulk cashless payment in the fastest possible time and also promotes financial inclusion.

Speaking at a one day workshop for training of media practitioners on the 'Salon' payment switch, Deputy Governor of Bank of Sierra Leone Alhaji Yayah Sesay said digital transformation in the financial services simply means the changes on how financial services are delivered and access globally.

He said in Sierra Leone, the effort to invest in and make technology the driver

of financial inclusion and delivery is very much in progress and it involves various forms of technology.

He said knowledge about how digital technology works, and its role in society is essential in order to guard to the public participation, development of innovative product and increase financial inclusion, noting that as the Bank of Sierra Leone aim to bring in new Intech products, seeks to extend media leadership in changing the culture, attitude and practices of the people.

He said one of the objectives of the national strategy of the financial inclusion is to promote and leverage innovative technologies solutions and expand access to finance.

Acting Bank Governor of Bank of Sierra Leone, Dr. Ibrahim Stevens said the National Switch is a critical infrastructure that entails a lot on how it is to be used, stating that they want to bring technology, enhance interoperability with the aim of improving financial inclusion in the country, noting that just last week they have received World Bank approval to

BSL schools journalists on national payment switch, financial inclusion



Journalists from across the country at the workshop

invest further in the financial, noting that the second financial project is about to start and it will complement the national switch and support technical infrastructure and also small businesses.

In his presentation on the overview of the National Switch, Director of Banking Department at the Bank of Sierra Leone, Alfred Samah said the deployment of the National Switch of Sierra Leone is being executed under the Sierra Leone Financial Inclusion Project which the Government of Sierra Leone, implementing through a loan from IDA/World Bank and the Project intends to increase the interoperability of digital payments and access to financial services, and it comprises three components.

He said the components including ensuring interoperability of digital payments; finances the hardware software, and consulting services required to implement a switch successfully, ensuring the viability of the payments system through increasing

usage thereof by financing access points for the switch, including Point of Sale (POS) terminals, mobile wallets, and government payments with particular emphasis on rural areas and ensuring support for project implementation by financing a project coordinator and oversight mechanisms for the project to ensure private sector stakeholder involvement.

He said The National Switch is expected to play a critical role in the socio-economic development of the country through promotion of digital financial services, implementation of this Strategy is therefore essential to increase visibility, public awareness and status of the switch among members of the general public and other key stakeholders in order to maintain stakeholders' confidence in the switch platform and financial sector and the process is further expected to drive volume, customer needs and overall national interest in the uptake of digital financial services.

Commonwealth Business Women Network-SL congratulates Sierra Leone



On behalf of the Commonwealth Business Women's Network Africa Sierra Leone Chapter, I Sia Jarieu Bayoh Morsay extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to His Excellency President Maada Bio, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the entire government and people of Sierra Leone on the re-admission of Sierra Leone into the UN Security Council.

This is a testament that the Land that will love will once again rise to new heights even in the League of Nations.

Long Live Sierra Leone - Land that we



The Commonwealth Business Women Network, Sierra Leone Chapter has extended congratulatory wishes to Sierra Leone on its re-admission into the UN Security Council.

Chairperson, Sia Jarieu Morsay said: "This is a testament that the Land that will love will once again rise to new heights even in the League of Nations".

She further revealed that the Commonwealth Business Women

Network Lesotho and co-organisers: CWN-A and CBW-A has started registration for its upcoming August Summit.

"Lesotho welcomes delegates from all over the world. The Commonwealth Women's Network (CWN) is a strong voice for the advancement of women, and has continuously lobbied at the Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting, Partners Forum and other key spaces, for the greater involvement of women in Politics and Leadership."

On its election as non-permanent member at the UN Security Council:

Health Ministry deliberates ways to help expand health related matters

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

Minister of Health and Sanitation, Austin Demby, has engaged delegation from the Harvard Broad Institute to discuss how they can collaborate to help eradicate fatal health Occurrences in the country.

During the meeting, Minister Demby expressed his joy in reconnecting with old friends and engaged in fruitful discussions on topics such as enhanced surveillance and laboratory systems management. These discussions are expected to have a significant impact the country's health sector, aligning will.

The Minister said he has also finalized plans with Johns Hopkins University to bolster the country's healthcare resources and training under this collaboration, Johns Hopkins University will provide material resources and training assistance to Sierra Leone's health sector. During the announcement, Minister Demby highlighted a specific initiative with Johns Hopkins University. The government hospital in Bo, Sierra Leone, will receive a sustainable energy solution in the form of a 250 KVA solar system.



This initiative aims to ensure reliable-and-uninterrupted power supply to the hospital. "Assistance includes training solar techs in the US. Also discussed plans for anaesthesiology training for Sierra Leone staff nationally," he stated.

In addition to the solar energy project, discussions were also held regarding anaesthesiology training for Sierra Leonean healthcare staff on a national scale. This training program, planned in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University, aims to enhance the skills and capabilities of healthcare professionals in Sierra Leone, ultimately improving the quality of anesthesia services provided throughout the country.



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Youth must play active role in promoting peace

By Yusufu S. Bangura

-SLAJ president

The President of Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, (SLAJ), Ahmed Sahid Nasralla said young people must play active role in promoting peace and non-violence in the upcoming elections.

He made this statement on Wednesday 7th June during a one day election sensitization symposium organized by Equals Sierra Leone at Peace Mesum, Special Court in Freetown.

The topic for the symposium was 'Promoting the culture of peace and non-violence elections in 2023'

"I want young people to know that they have a vital role to play in promoting peace and non-violence before, during and after the June 24th general elections because over the years, youths are the main people that perpetrate violence in the country, so am encouraging them not to engage in any violence activity that will destroy their future," he said.

President Nasralla highlight the significance of peaceful and non-violent elections in fostering democratic values and ensuring social harmony in the country because young people have a vital roles and contributions they can make to upheld the peace of the country.

He said the entire society including political leaders, citizens, civil society organizations, and media have a role to play in promoting a culture of peace

during elections.

He added that youths can actively participate in the electoral process by registering to vote, volunteer as election observers or assist in voter education initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of peaceful election.

He emphasize that non-violent elections allow for the free expression of diverse opinions, fostering political participation and inclusivity because peaceful transitions of power through elections strengthen democratic institutions can inspire trust in the electoral process.

He mentioned that there are so many roles young people can play to maintain a peace and stability in the country which are active participation and engagement, awareness raising, promoting inclusive participation, harnessing technology for positive change, role models and change agents among others.

"Young people have a powerful voice and can advocate for peaceful elections through various channels, such as social media, community gatherings, or public events. They can also use their creativity to develop campaigns, slogans, and visual materials that promote peace, tolerance, and non-violence during elections," he said.

While speaking on harnessing technology for positive change, he said young people



Youths listening to SLAJ president while advising them

are often at the forefront of utilizing technology for social change because they can leverage digital platforms to spread messages of peace, non-violence, and civic responsibility.

He further said young people needs to develop innovative apps, websites, or social media campaigns messages that provide accurate and reliable information about elections, candidates, and voting procedures before going to the polls.

In the area of role models and change agents, SLAJ president said young people can serve as role models by embodying the values of peace, tolerance, and non-violence in their own lives and interactions, adding that they can also demonstrate peaceful and respectful behaviour to inspire others.

"I want to encourage young leaders to make good use of their platforms by sharing stories of successful peace building initiatives, highlighting the positive outcomes of non-violent elections coming 24 June. By actively engaging in these roles, they can contribute significantly to the promotion of peace and non-violent elections, ensuring a brighter future for their societies," he encouraged them.

He concluded by calling for collective action and commitment from all stakeholders to ensure that elections are conducted in a peaceful and inclusive manner because peaceful elections cannot only benefit individual nations, but it can contribute to global peace and stability.



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Public Notice

Increase in Advert Pricing for Newspapers

24th March, 2023.

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

Black & White

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

Coloured

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

The cover price remains the same.

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

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Societe Generale bank sells its subsidiaries in 4 African countries



The Société Générale bank logo is pictured in the La Défense business... - Copyright © africanews Michel Euler/AP

Societe Generale has announced the conclusion of agreements with two African banking groups to sell four of its subsidiaries to them. They are found in Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania and Chad. Societe Generale announced on Friday the conclusion of agreements with two African banking groups to sell them four of its subsidiaries. Two will be in Congo and Equatorial Guinea at the Vista group, the others in Mauritania and Chad at the Coris group. The two groups "would take over all the activities operated by Societe Generale in Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania and Chad, as well as all the client portfolios and all the employees within these entities", explains a press release of the bank, which also announces the opening of a strategic reflection on its subsidiary in Tunisia.

The Societe Generale group, which has a long-standing presence in Africa, "intends to concentrate its resources on markets where it can position itself among the leading banks, in synergy with the group's other businesses". These operations could be carried out "by the end of the year" and provide for the total sale of the group's shares in its local African subsidiaries: Societe Generale Congo, Societe Generale de Banques en Guinée Equatoriale, Societe Generale Mauritania and Societe Generale Chad. , currently held respectively at 93.5%, 57.2%, 95.5% and 67.8% by Société Générale. The banking group also holds 52.34% of the capital of Union Internationale de Banques (UIB), a subsidiary of Societe Generale in Tunisia. It announces that it has also "opened a strategic reflection on its participation" in the entity.

UN official urges "responsible" withdrawal from the DRC

A top UN official said on Wednesday that peacekeepers should withdraw from the DRC as "quickly as possible" yet responsibly. Speaking in the capital, Kinshasa, during a visit to the DRC, the UN official added that the Congolese state should step up its own response to the armed groups that plague the east of the country. "We're obviously going to continue this work, and at the same time work with the Congolese authorities so that, as I said, the process of the Congolese state becoming more powerful will enable us to gradually reduce Monusco's presence, but to do so responsibly. Once again, I would like to stress that there must be no security vacuum, which would be fatal to these populations", said Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN

Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations. The UN official also acknowledged the frustration with the peacekeepers as the levels of insecurity remain alarmingly high in the country, particularly in the east. "Everyone has been concerned by the violence that occurred during recent demonstrations. Many of our interlocutors are concerned about hate speech, xenophobic rhetoric, misogynistic rhetoric and discourse based on ethnic confrontation, and of course it is essential to put an end to such rhetoric", concluded the UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations. The UN peacekeeping force in the Democratic Republic of Congo, known as MONUSCO, is one of the largest and costliest in the world, with an annual budget of around \$1 billion. It has been present in the country since 1999.

Unique school in the heart of Mali's capital accessible by boat only

With her bag slung over her shoulder and an orange sweater tied tightly around her waist, 10-year-old Rokia Koumaré heads for the banks of the Niger River in Bamako, Mali. Every morning, at around 7:00 am, she and dozens of her classmates take to their school on Dialogun Island, a small pirogue with a straw roof. Located in the Malian capital, this island school educates 218 children from the banks and islands of the River Niger. It was granted public school status in June 2022. It was built to guarantee a place of study for young people not attending school," explains Marie Garnier, the school's coordinator. According to UNICEF, over two million Malian children do not attend school. Rokia settles on the long benches of the boat. Some of the pupils are having breakfast, while others are playing checkerboard or talking on the phone. The engine starts up and the pirogue pulls out onto the calm waters of the River Niger.

"I'm not afraid of crossing the river by pirogue, as I'm already used to it," says Rokia. Lack of means The pirogue touches down. Adults unload the water cans, then the children disembark. They head for their school. In the morning, pupils form a circle in the center of which the national flag is slowly hoisted by two young girls. Then they sing the national anthem, hand on heart. Classes begin. Mastan begins to write the date in chalk on the blackboard. Behind her, other girls look on, sitting at their desks on wooden benches. A few classrooms, protected by small walls or in tents, are set up in the middle of a wooded area. Some classes are also held outdoors, to the sound of insects. Desks are placed on the sand. "I'm in charge of the management and two classes, which means there's a teacher problem. There are also problems with tables. Sometimes, we're obliged to carry out outdoor activities so that everyone has a space to work," explains Broulaye Konaté, the school principal.

France: the right calls for denouncing the migration agreement with Algeria

After the revision advocated by Edouard Philippe, the Republicans in the Assembly are calling for the unilateral denunciation of the Franco-Algerian agreement on immigration, and have tabled a motion for a resolution to this effect, we learned from the group on Wednesday. This proposal calls "for the denunciation, by the French authorities, of the Franco-Algerian agreement of December 27, 1968", which creates a special status for Algerian nationals in terms of movement, residence and employment in France, has we said from the same source, confirming information from RMC and JDD. Under the terms of this agreement, the Algerians benefit from advantages on certain points compared to other foreign nationals (in particular as regards family reunification), on others they are losers (in particular for the students). "These derogations form what could almost be described as an automatic right to immigration", affirms the motion for a resolution, which considers that "no reason henceforth justifies that Algerian nationals benefit from such a legal status". The

authors of the resolution also deplore that the Algerian authorities have "not demonstrated their willingness to cooperate effectively" with France on the expulsions "by issuing consular passes". Judging that "the hypothesis of a simple renegotiation does not seem possible today", the text written by the president of LR Eric Ciotti, its general secretary Annie Genevard and the boss of the deputies Olivier Marleix calls on the authorities "to denounce" this agreement unilaterally. Already on Wednesday morning, Senate President LR Gérard Larcher had advocated "re-examining" the agreement concluded in the wake of the end of the Algerian war, saying on France Inter that "55 years later, the conditions have changed". The idea of a revision, sea serpent on the right, was revived by former Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, himself an ex-LR. "Maintaining such a system today with a country with which we have complicated relations no longer seems justified to me," he said in an interview with L'Express published on Monday.

Orphanage in Khartoum evacuated after deaths

An orphanage in Sudan's capital has been evacuated following the deaths of more than 70 infants, toddlers and older children from hunger and illness over the past couple of months, the U.N. children's agency and a local charity said Wednesday. The tragedy at the Al-Mayqoma orphanage made headlines late last month as fighting raged outside between Sudan's military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. The deaths have highlighted the heavy toll inflicted on civilians since mid-April when the clashes erupted between forces loyal to Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and RSF forces led by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo. About 300 children at the Al-Mayqoma orphanage in Khartoum were transferred to a "safer location"

elsewhere in the north-eastern African nation, said Ricardo Pires, a spokesman for the U.N. children's agency, UNICEF. Sudan's ministries of social development and health have taken charge of the children, while UNICEF has provided humanitarian support including medical care, food, educational activities and play, Pires said in an email to The Associated Press. He said the children had received medical checks following their long journey to their new location, adding that "any child requiring hospitalization will have access to healthcare." The International Committee of The Red Cross, which helped the evacuation, said 70 caretakers had also been transferred with the children to the new facility.

Nigerian leader defends end to fuel subsidy as hardship bites harder

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu on Wednesday defended the West African nation's decision to stop subsidizing fuel, a move that already is adding to economic hardships by pushing up prices for transportation and commodities. The money saved by ending the decadeslong subsidy last week will help the government's efforts to fight poverty and its initiatives, Tinubu told governors in a meeting in the capital city of Abuja. He appealed for patience even though hardship is biting harder on millions of citizens. "We can see the effects of poverty on the faces of our people. Poverty is not hereditary, it is from society. Our position is to eliminate poverty," a statement from the Nigerian presidency quoted Tinubu as saying.



FILE- Bola Tinubu, of the All Progressives Congress, meets with supporters... - Copyright © africanews Ben Curtis/Copyright 2023 The AP. All rights reserved

The governors supported the subsidy removal and promised to work together in implementing it, the presidency's statement said. Though Nigeria is an oil-producing nation, it depends on imported refined petroleum products and the government has been subsidizing the cost for decades. But with oil revenues dwindling amid chronic theft and decreasing foreign investment, the government said the fuel subsidies are no longer economically sustainable. It budgeted 4.4 trillion naira (\$9.5 billion) for the subsidies in 2022, far more than for education, health care and infrastructure combined. Analysts, however, faulted the government's decision to withdraw the subsidy without incentives in place, especially at a time when many Nigerians already struggle to cope with record high unemployment and poverty. Inflation is at an 18-year high. Unions have threatened strike in protest of the subsidy decision. Nigeria's states have begun to adopt various measures seeking to assist citizens, especially workers commuting to work daily. Edo and Kwara states this week cut the work week from five days

to three. Other states said Wednesday they are considering such measures as increasing the minimum wage of 30,000 naira (\$65). In Abuja and other parts of Nigeria, The Associated Press found businesses struggling after the subsidy end as they are forced to spend more money on fuel for generators. As many as 46% of Nigeria's people do not have access to electricity, the World Bank says. In Kano state, the economic hub of northern Nigeria, Mahmud Mudi, a taxi driver, said he had to halt his transport business because he was losing money with higher expenditure on gasoline. "The situation is unbearable," Mudi said. "As a family man, the already unfriendly economy has been worsened by this removal of fuel subsidy. I have had to suspend my taxi operations and rely on divine intervention." Rafi'atu Audi, a government employee in the state, said it is difficult to commute to work daily because of the sharp increase in transportation costs. "Transport fares have shot up, but our salaries remain the same," said Audi. "It's painful (and) I cannot bear the costs anymore." Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

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Call for Applications for a National Consultant

Mapping of blended finance to support financial intermediaries and FINTECHs firms in Sierra Leone

Deadline: 20th June 2023

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) with financial support from the European Union (EU) is implementing a four-year project "Supporting Informal Enterprises Transition Towards Sustainable Growth and Formalization in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Regions". The project aims to unlock the potential of the informal economy for inclusive growth and transformation by developing and supporting the implementation of favourable regulatory conditions and relevant incentives for businesses to formalize. UNDP Sierra Leone is seeking the services of an experienced expert to undertake investment intelligence and identify and map out sources of finance to support financial intermediaries and FINTECHs firms targeting the informal enterprise sector in Sierra Leone.

The assignment will be executed in 18 working days. The consultant will work closely and coordinate with the Sierra Leone UNDP Sierra Leone Country Office and Project Management Unit (PMU) team based in Pretoria. During the execution of the assignment, consultations will be done with key project partners, the European Delegation to Sierra Leone, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Who Is Eligible to Apply?

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- **Must be a Sierra Leonean National**
- **Possess a minimum of a master's degree in banking and finance, microfinance, development finance, development economics, business management, or a related field**
- **Have 10 or more years of professional experience in the financial sector of an African country**
- **Have practical consulting experience in the development of financial products**
- **Work experience with financial institutions such**

as banks, microfinance, and insurance companies.

Only one submission per person is allowed. Once the application is complete and submitted, revised versions of the application will not be accepted.

The deadline for applications is **5:00 pm on Tuesday, 20th June 2023**. Proposal should be submitted directly in the portal no later than indicated deadline.

Any request for clarification must be sent in writing via messaging functionality in the portal. UNDP will respond in writing including an explanation of the query without identifying the source of inquiry.

Bidders can download the bid documents from the UNDP Procurement website at: <https://procurement-notices.undp.org/>

Offers must be submitted directly in the system following this link: <http://supplier.quantum.partneragencies.org> using the profile you may have in the portal. In case you have never registered before, you can register a profile using the registration link shared via the procurement notice and following the instructions in guides available in UNDP website: <https://www.undp.org/procurement/business/resources-for-bidders>. Do not create a new profile if you already have one. Use the forgotten password feature in case you do not remember the password or the username from previous registration.

If you already have a supplier profile, please login to the Supplier Portal, then search for the negotiation using the reference number **UNDP-SLE-00033**, following the instructions in the user guide.

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**CALL FOR PRINCIPAL RECIPIENTS
 FOR THE GLOBAL FUND GRANT CYCLE 7 (GC 7)
 IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: FROM JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30TH 2027**

Background:

In December 2022, the Global Fund (GF) informed the Country Coordinating Mechanism Sierra Leone (CCM SL) of the Country allocation of US \$ 126,444,674 for HIV, Tuberculosis (TB), Malaria (M) and Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health (RSSH) programs covering the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027.

In addition, Sierra Leone is qualified for other opportunities for funding from The Global Fund beyond the allocation amount including the Matching Fund of US\$9,000,000 for RSSH Innovation and US\$800,000 for scaling up programs to remove human rights and gender related barriers

CCM SL will submit funding applications to the Global Fund and will oversee grants implementation on behalf of the country. As part of this role, the CCM nominates organizations to implement the programs Global Fund support through grants. These organizations are known as Principal Recipients (PRs).

This funding available through GF can be received by one or more PRs to implement grant activities including disbursement of funds to other organizations, who serve as sub-recipients (SRs) or sub-sub-recipients (SSRs) or Service Providers (SPs) in line with Grant Agreements with The Global Fund. The purpose of this, is for financing to effectively cascade to smaller organizations, and for programs to be carried out to reach those populations or groups which may not be otherwise easily reached by government entities.

The primary responsibility of a PR is to ensure positive impact in the fight against HIV, TB, Malaria and the building of systems for health by establishing/maintaining systems in place. The PR is expected to:

- Receive and manage the funds from GF
- Implement the program and manage grant funds prudently to effectively achieve goals and objectives of the proposal
- Enter into a Grant Agreement with each SR with terms and conditions that will enable the PR to meet the requirements of the Grant Agreement signed between the Global Fund and the PR
- Make efficient and effective arrangements for contracting and disbursing funds to SRs and put in place a system to manage the SRs, including the on-going monitoring, evaluation and supervision of sub-recipients.
- Arrange for Procurement and Supply Chain management in compliance with applicable laws of Sierra Leone and GF policies
- Monitor, evaluate and report on the progress made on program objectives to GF and the CCM and request for additional disbursement of funds
- Support CCM SL processes by facilitating communication, interaction and synergies among implementing partners

Implementation Arrangement:

The Global Fund recognizes that comprehensive national programs that are implemented through a multi-sectorial approach (e.g. involving government, non-governmental organizations and In-Country Partners) will increase opportunities to:

- Map high or low burden districts of HIV/TB and Malaria
- Scale-up existing service delivery to a broader range of population groups and high burden districts of HIV/TB and Malaria;
- Raise awareness of service availability, including primary prevention and treatment services at the community levels;
- Move quickly towards the provision of access to prevention, treatment, care, and support to all persons in need, including key populations and people who may not already be included in national disease programming;
- Contribute to sustainability of programmatic interventions over the longer term, through the increased capacity that comes from a broader range of implementing partners.

The CCM SL will take into consideration lessons learnt from Ebola and the COVID-19 epidemics, which shows that there is urgent need to strengthen the Health system through multi-sector engagement by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

Principal Recipient (PR) - 1:

A 'PR-1' will be responsible to implement the following interventions under Malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and RSSH

- Planning, Policy and Monitoring of the GC7 Grant Implementation with respect to and not limited to Testing, Treatment and Prevention in the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.
- Ensure implementation of GC7 Interventions in District Hospitals, PHUs, Clinics and Private Hospitals and Schools,
- Responsible for Procurement and Supply Management (PSM) & Last Mile Distribution of medicines and health products..
- Responsible for Laboratory Services, Health Transportation, Ambulance Services and referral systems
- Ensure Implementation of Health workforce and CHWs interventions
- Implementation of Health Management Information System (HMIS).
- Implementation of Supervisions of National Health Programs, Directorates and DHMTs
- Selection of SPs and SRs/SSRs

Principal Recipient (PR) - 2:

A PR-2 will implement the following interventions under Malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS, and RSSH

- HIV, TB and Malaria programs targeting key and vulnerable population
- HIV and TB active case findings
- Prevention, care services, KPs condom promotion and distribution
- Nutritional Support
- Human Rights & Gender based Prevention activities
- Mitigate barrier to services for KPs
- Legal Services to KPs
- Demand creation for uptake of TB, Malaria and HIV testing Services
- Strengthening Community Systems and support to CHWs
- Strengthening Behavioral Change Platforms at community level
- Behavioral Change Community and Mass media outreach (Print and Electronic)
- Community Led Monitoring and Advocacy at community and National Level.
- Monitoring and Capacity building of CBOs and SRs
- Selection of SPs and SRs/SSRs

Before grant signing, the Global Fund through its Local Fund Agent (LFA), will assess the proposed grant implementation arrangements, the implementers' capacity and compliance with applicable Global Fund

minimum standards, track record and the effectiveness of internal controls and systems. This assessment may include the review of the implementer's budget, work plans, and other grant related documents. More information on GF PR's capacity assessment is available here (https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/12961/lfa_capacity-assessment_guidelines_en.pdf).

PR Selection Criteria and Evaluation Marks:

1. Financial Management and Systems (20%)

Controls and System (10%)

- Accounting and Financial Reporting including Integrated financial management systems;
- Systems in place to mitigate and manage financial fraud, corruption and theft.
- Safeguards GF or other donor funds and assets
- Provide space for acceptable auditing arrangements and provide certified financial audited account.

Proven experience (10%)

- Provide robust financial management and delivery track records;
- Capacity to disburse funds to SRs and suppliers in a timely, transparent and accountable manner;
- Capacity to work and collaborate with District Health Management Teams (DHMT), partners and other donors
- Capacity to manage and improve financial management of Civil Society SRs

2. Governance and Leadership (20%)

Legal status and organizational structure (10%)

- Legal status in Sierra Leone to enter into the grant agreement with the GF (Certificate of registration);
- Effective organizational leadership, management, transparent decision making and accountability systems;
- Internal controls, risk identification, mitigation, and implementation of controls;
- Adequate infrastructure and information systems to support proposal implementation, including the monitoring of performance of SRs and outsourced entities in a timely and accountable manner;
- Adequate Human Resource policies and procedures and clear demonstration on timely recruitment and maintaining qualified staff for effective grant implementation.

Management (10%)

- Adequate human resource capacity including health expertise in one or all areas (Malaria, TB, HIV and RSSH) and cross-functional expertise (finance, procurement, legal, Monitoring & Evaluation);
- Track record for achieving timely implementation and program results in Sierra Leone or in similar complexity environment in region.
- Existing PRs, current grant performance and mitigating measure to be submitted.
- Provide mechanisms to effectively interact with the CCM, national institutions, organizations, directorates, and programs relevant to GF Grants.
- Have minimum overhead costs on regional support to the Country Office in Sierra Leone.
- Experience working /managing GF grants in Sierra Leone or the Region.
- Mechanisms and systems to effectively respond to any issues arising during the grant implementation e.g. those related to performance or management actions linked to audits

3. Procurement and Supply Management Systems (20%)

- System to ensure timely procurement and distribute of health products in accordance with GF procurement policies. See GF Website: www.theglobalfund.org. If the service to be outsourced, provide clear presentation on how the outsourcing would be done and manage.
- Effective procurement procedures, manual and system for timely and transparent procurement of products and services.
- Provide available Procurement Plan for any current program as a reference document.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements (20%)

- Collect and record programmatic data with appropriate quality control measures.
- Mechanism for use of national reporting systems
- Support the preparation of regular reliable programmatic reports.
- Make data available for the purpose of evaluations and other studies.

KEY DATES, TIMELINES AND APPLICATION METHOD

Call Posted: Friday 26th May 2023 @ 12 mid-day Sierra Leone Time

Call Closed: Monday 12th June 2023 @ 4pm Sierra Leone Time

Apply to: ccmsierraleonesecretariat@yahoo.com

Documents Required with Application:

- Letter of Expression of Interest (EOI)
- Organizational profile
- Past experience implementing Global Fund Grants or any other donors with similar volume of funds.
- Indicate Interested Intervention areas (HIV, TB, Malaria or RSSH) and Location (s)
- Performance in terms of successes and challenges in the implementation of Malaria

TB and HIV in Sierra Leone or any other African Countries.

Note:

- The Global Fund provides various guidelines for successful implementation of the grants such as:
 - 2023-2028 Global Fund Strategy
 - Applicant Handbook
 - Global Fund Information Notes on: HIV; TB; Malaria; Building Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health
 - Global Fund Modular Framework Handbook
 - Global Fund Technical Briefs
 - Guidelines for Grant Budgeting
 - Review Criteria of the Technical Review Panel
 - TRP Observations on the 2020-2022 Allocation Period
 - Operational Policy Note on the Design and Review of Funding Requests
 - Code of Conduct for Recipients of Global Fund Resources
 - Fiduciary Arrangements for Grant Recipients
 - Grant Regulations
 - Guide to Global Fund Policies on Procurement and Supply Management of Health Products
 - Guidelines on Implementers of Global Fund Grants
 - Standard Terms and Conditions for Grants
 - Operational Policy Manual

Further documentation on how GF funds are managed by PR is available online on Global Fund website <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/funding-model/implementation/>

NOTE: This advert can also be acquired by visiting the website of the Country Coordinating Mechanism Sierra Leone at www.ccm.sierraleone.org

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Invitation for Bids



NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING SIERRA LEONE ROADS AUTHORITY

Procurement Number: SLRA/DUR/NCB/2023/010-12

Date of First Issue: 9th May, 2023

The Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA) has secured funds from the Road Maintenance Fund Administration (RMFA) for the following activities:

- Concrete Works along hilly sections from Blama to Njala Komboya in Bo District (Lot1);
- Reinstate Embankment Slope along Lumley Aberdeen Beach Road (Lot2),
- Dredging Works at Jeremiah Street and Culvert at Regent Junction (Lot 3)

SLRA invites sealed bids from eligible bidders who can demonstrate technical and financial capabilities for the procurement of the said works. The table below shows a summary information on the bids.

Lot No.	Name of Project	Location	Road Length (km)	Procurement Number	Bid Security (Le) New Leones	Source of Fund
1	Concrete Works along Hilly sections from Blama to Njala Komboya in Bo District (Lot1)	Bo Districts	2.9	SLRA/DUR/NCB/2023/010	40,000.00	RMFA
2	Reinstate Embankment Slope along Lumley Aberdeen Beach Road (Lot2)	Car Park Opposite Kallon Building/Diamond Casino Freetown Urban District	85m	SLRA/DUR/NCB/2023/011	15,000.00	RMFA
3	Dredging Works at Jeremiah Street and Culvert at Regent Junction (Lot 3)	Freetown Urban Districts		SLRA/DUR/NCB/2023/012	10,000.00	RMFA

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document between 09:00 – 16:00 hours Mondays - Fridays at the address below. Bidding documents may be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Le 1000 (One Thousand Leone) New Leones per Lot. Payment for the Bidding document must be deposited into the following accounts shown below:

- 1) Bank of Sierra Leone
Account Name: NPPA-Revenue
Account Number: 0111003981
BBAN: 000001011100398165
- 2) Sierra Leone Commercial Bank Limited
Account Name: Revenue from sales of Bidding Document Sub Treasury
Account Number: 003001081791112183
Currency: Leones
- 3) Rokel Commercial Bank (SL) Limited
Account Name: Revenue from sales of Bidding Document Sub Treasury
Account Number: 02-011012428
BBAN: 002001002101242863
SWIFT CODE: RCBKSLFR

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **Wednesday 14th June, 2023 at 11:00 am**. All bids must be accompanied by:

- q A valid Business registration certificate

- q Bid Security from a reputable Commercial Bank
- q A valid tax clearance certificate;
- q A valid NASSIT clearance certificate;
- q A signed Integrity Pact; [find attached in bid document]
- q A valid Ministry of Works Certificate (Class I&II)
- q A valid Sierra Leone Roads Authority Certificate
- q A signed Integrity pact

A bidder may bid for all the lots, but will not be awarded more than one (1) lot, except if the bidder demonstrates the ability to deploy equipment and personnel on more than one lot at the same time.

Bidders are encouraged to visit the sites independently.

Further information regarding this notice can be obtained from the Director of Maintenance, SLRA between 9:00 – 16:00 hours Mondays - Fridays.

Bids will be publicly opened on Wednesday, 14th June, 2023 at 11:15 am at the SLRA Conference Room, Kissy, Freetown, in the presence of all bidders or their designated representatives and anyone who may choose to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders.

Director of Procurement
Procurement Department
Sierra Leone Roads Authority
P. O. Box Number 1324
Kissy, Freetown.
Tel: 232226565/076-898-740
Fax: 232 22 222346
Website: www.slra-gov.org
Email: saloneroads@gmail.com/saloneroads@slra-gov.org

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 Tel: +232 76838022/+232 76694943/ +232 76640162/+232 76646565
 Email: sierr Leonebroadcasters22@gmail.com



PRESS RELEASE

INCREASE IN COST OF RADIO COMMERCIALS

Mile 91 Town, 25th March 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

FREETOWN

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

PROVINCIAL

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

SiLBA regrets any inconvenience this may cause.

END

Signed:

Daniel M. Amara
 Secretary General

Approved By:

Stanley Bangura Jr
 Chairman

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