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# CONCORD TIMES NEWSPAPER

Vol. 17, No 140250912

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Price: Le 2

## ALSO INSIDE

**Sierra Leone securing a seat at the UN Security Council shows the country is peaceful**  
-President Bio



# Minister Rahman Swaray propagates Bio's second term manifesto to Njala Students

## LRMG Supports community health, hands over three rehabilitated wards to Nixon Memorial Hospital



Minister Rado Swaray on Njala Campus

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Sierra Leone's Minister of Information and Communications, Mohamed Rahman Swaray, on Monday, 12th June, worked in place of his boss, Chief Minister Jacob Jusu Seffa, to propagate the 2023 Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) Big Five Manifesto among staff, and students of Njala University, Bo Campus. Speaking at the Main Hall of Towama Location, Sierra Leone's most esteemed and best information and communications minister and chairman of the public relations committee for the SLPP 2023 campaign, outlined the top priorities in President Bio's New Direction: Consolidating Gains and Accelerating Transformation manifesto in terms of agriculture, human capital development, investment in youth employment schemes, revamping the public sector, and accelerating the use of technology and infrastructure.



## Limkokwing University showcases innovative, creative skills

## EU, UNCDF to support job creation in Sierra Leone

**Sierra Leone moves from 16 to 74% on aviation safety and security report**  
-Minister Kambineh Kallon

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## PERSONAL GLIMPSES

By: Winstanley, R. Bankole, Johnson

Is it not distressing to all and sundry that even with all the technological cyber sophistication that the Police IG Fayia Sellu boasted as at their disposal, no one within the governing Sierra Leone Peoples' Party (SLPP) has been apprehended or publicly reprimanded for all the vitriolic, incendiary and inflammatory statements, as well as for openly and in some cases physically threatening and attacking members of the opposition APC in broad day light in the South-East?

### Complicit

Is it not also nauseating that notwithstanding several Pressers and Public Notices issued out by them jointly or severally discouraging the dissemination of such inflammatory materials which are clear threats to national cohesion and security, a number of Statutory regulatory and other Civil Society monitoring bodies (such as the National Political Parties Regulations Commission, (PPRC), the Electoral Commission Sierra Leone (ECSL), the Office of National Security (ONS), NSCoord, the Police, the National Elections Watch (NEW), the Center for Accountability and Rule of Law (CARL), Institute for governance Reforms (IGR), the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL), the Sierra Leone Bar Association (SLBA) and the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) that ought to have been vocal enough to ensure that the next elections are conducted freely, fairly, transparently and on a level playing field are by their deafening silence on all those aberrations feigning unawareness, and appearing as complicit with the sitting government's attempts to rig the 24<sup>th</sup> June elections?

In a majority of the instances wherein those breaches of law or peace have been threatened or actually occurred, police presence were either evident or that advance notices by the violators to them to breach peace were glaringly available on social media, but in all such instances, all of them have failed to have proactively nipped them in the bud. In the case of a video clip on that motely posse of unemployed hoodlums identifying themselves as natives of the same village in Pujehun District as where the Information Minister Rado Swarray hailed from, they were even audacious enough to have set up road blocks and threatening to unleash damage on the convoy of the main opposition leader and flag bearer Dr. Samura Kamara if they attempted to cross their paths.

Obviously with all their vaunted cyber sophistry one wasn't expecting it to require "Rocket Science" for the law enforcement agencies—particularly the Police and ONS - to have ascertained their precise locations and to have promptly reined them into order, more so as they were bold enough to have also identified themselves by their correct names. But not a word of that has been heard from the Security Sector since. The same holds good for the owners, operators and presenters of a notorious broadcasting outfit called "Justice Radio".

### Retribution

Even on dedicated APC Campaign days

(obviously agreed/cleared with the Police, the ONS, the NSCoord, PPRC and ECSL), APC campaign rallies have continued to be disrupted by patently riotous SLPP hoodlums at every step of the way from Bonthe, Moyamba, Bo and Pujehun in the South to Kenema and Kailahun in the East, resulting in unnecessary bloodletting within APC ranks. Where that didn't happen, peaceful APC campaign rallies would be disrupted by the unexpected arrival of convoys of the President or his VP at those same locations on dedicated APC Campaign Rally Days, ostensibly on some Official Trips/Ceremonies, but surreptitiously to wreak havoc, distract and/or disperse APC crowds because they do not wish the media to show APC popularity in those locations considered as their strongholds to the world. Peaceful citizens of those districts that have dared to openly associate with the opposition APC Party in exercise of the democratic and constitutional rights to freedoms of association are known to have been targeted for undue harassments, arrests and detention, intimidation and in a few instances, they have also either had their tenancy prematurely terminated or their homes vandalized in retribution.

### Unabated

Add to all above security lapses some derogatory and aspersive utterances attributed to both the Director of the ONS Mr. Kelly and a Police AIG Brima Jah against (particularly) the main opposition APC Party functionaries as "Agent Provocateurs", and you will be forgiven for concluding that the heads of both Security Sectors, some MDAs and Civil Society outfits are in fact the real threats to national cohesion and peaceful co-existence, justifying our suspicions and open condemnation of them for displaying such political biases and partisanship. After all in a democratic environment like ours where more than one political party is constitutionally allowed to be fielding candidates at every electoral cycle, the right of making choices should not be denied anyone. But the trend of the SLPP supporters consistently attempting to frustrate the opposition in the South-Eastern Regions purported to be their strongholds would seem to be continuing unabated. In Bonthe and Kailahun to be precise, nearly all APC Executives are in hiding in fear for their lives. It is on account of those same patently biased attitudes that recently caused the US Government, EU and Amnesty Internal to have cast serious aspersions and doubts on the integrity and professionalism of our Judiciary and the Security Sector, further justifying a huge loss of public confidence in them.

### Liberal

Contrast all above unsavoury attacks, chaos and provocations unleashed by SLPP hoodlums upon the APC on their campaign rally days in their South-Eastern strongholds with the quality of reception, hospitality and peaceful climate always accorded by the APC (including their own hoodlums) anytime and every time the SLPP arrived in their own North-Western strongholds on their campaign rally days, and honestly tell me whether by their statements the ONS

Director Kelly and AIG Brima Jah were objective and honest to their consciences and should still be on the national pay roll for describing the APC opposition party supporters as "Agent Provocateurs". Or for the Head of NSCoord Abdulai Caulker to have also wrongly identified and blamed the "Social Media" as the threat to our national peace and cohesion. As a matter of fact one die-hard SLPP supporter was so irked by unprovoked SLPP attacks on APC supporters in the South-East that he remarked: "*Makeni is politically liberal and there's no report of political intimidation directed to minority parties like the SLPP in that part of the country, unlike as in Kenema where reports of violence by the SLPP against the APC was recorded*"—Unquote

### Restraint

A few years ago we saw video clips of the SLPP leader urging his supporters "...not to remain calm....even though he as their leader he would remain calm...." So could it be that the violence unleashed upon APC in the South-East is on that authority from their leader? How would the Security Sector have felt and reacted if the unwanted violence meted out to APC by SLPP in the South-East were being retaliated in the North-West (by the APC on the SLPP) each time the latter are on their campaign trail? So for specific attention of the PPRC, ECSL, ONS, NSCoord, Police, NEW, CARL, IGR, HRCSL, SLBA and SLAJ the real threat to social and national cohesion and peace are not the APC agents and supporters, but they themselves as our Social Gatekeepers of law and order whose moral responsibility it is to have been holding all sectors to account to ensure rigid or regular compliances with their remits, but are failing in their obligations to do so.

What would be wrong if they as moral guarantors had requested the SLPP leader to have uttered a few words of restraints to reverse his earlier order for them "...not to remain calm...." So as to dissuade his supporters from attacking APC supporters and attempting to prohibit their entry each time they venture to campaign in their South-Eastern strongholds? Could their reluctance to do so be connected to some insidious portends for our national cohesion as a single country, having due regard to the fact that with the exception of the SLAJ, all the heads of the PPRC, ECSL, ONS, NSCoord, Police, NEW, CARL, IGR, HRCSL and SLBA share hegemonic affinity?"

### Demands

As we approach the polls the demands of the APC on the ECSL are all in accordance with extant laws and international best practices to wit:

- Production of the raw disaggregated Voter Registration Data in accordance with Sec.13 of the Public Elections Act of 2022
- Rectification of the botched voters registration processes that not only disenfranchised thousands of eligible potential voters in the North-West but that also "criminally enfranchised"

thousands of "Minors" in the South-East ultra-vires the law

- Adjustments to compensate for the inordinate delays by ECSL to have completed the Final Voters Registration processes months before the elections in accordance with Sec.18 of the PEA of 2022

If our votes are our rights and President Bio is purported to be "a" - not "the" - "Father of Democracy, then these inordinate delays by the ECSL to have complied with the extant laws governing the integrity of the voters ID Cards and timely releases of the disaggregated Final Voters Registers to all political parties contesting in the coming elections, should also be a matter of interest and concerns to the SLPP as well, unless of course they have ulterior motives. So the APC are not really asking the ECSL Mohammed Konneh for favours. And insofar as their demands fall within the ambit of our laws Mohammed Konneh is obligated to either comply or provide satisfactory responses to all questions posed by the opposition. And that is what all of them (PPRC, ECSL, ONS, NSCoord, Police, NEW, CARL, IGR, HRCSL, SLBA and SLAJ) should have been incessantly reminding the ECSL to comply with, instead of the police repeatedly issuing Pressers conveying veiled warnings and threats against the APC Executives not to breach peace, as if it is the APC that has been violating procedures.

All elections demand maximum evidence integrity and professionalism in their conduct for them to be transparent and credible. Otherwise there would be no need for it to proceed where potential voters cannot identify themselves by their Voters' ID Cards or do not know where to cast their ballots. So APC demands on the ECSL are legit and should be squarely addressed before we can be guaranteed that the ECSL are serious about conducting free, fair, transparent, credible, fully participatory and violence free elections. That was exactly the situation that convinced Mr. Bio the SLPP to have participated in the 2012 and 2018 elections despite repeated threats of their leader not to have done so. But I shall await directions from our Leader and Flag bearer as appropriate on 14<sup>th</sup> instant, having due regard for our anxieties to rid this country of this government by the ballot box pronto.

This government assumed power through multi-party democratic elections and have always known that after five years in office they would again be required to account for their stewardship by a democratic process. Tejan Kabbah and Ernest Bai Koroma won second terms on account of their stellar performances. As a matter of fact in the latter case Ernest Bai Koroma was bold enough to encourage the electorate not to re-elect him if they were not satisfied with his achievements. And he won at first ballot by 57% of votes. So I am at a serious loss for the gerrymandering tactics by the ECSL to keep SLPP in power against the wishes of the majority and the almost palpable level of intolerance by this SLPP regime for alternative views at this hour of reckoning.



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## LOCAL NEWS

By Ishmael Dumbuya

President Julius Maada Bio has in a Cocktail with international and development partners, organized by the Office of the First Lady explained that Sierra Leone securing a non-permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council shows that the country is very peaceful and democratic.

He made the remarks on 'Gud morning Salon' program yesterday 13th June 2023.

In his statement at the cocktail, President Julius Maada Bio started that Sierra Leone winning a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council is as a result of the leadership role demonstrated by him.

He added that the significant accomplishment reflects both the country's growing international stature and the leadership of his administration, which has been at the forefront of promoting Sierra Leone's

# Sierra Leone securing a seat at the UN Security Council shows the country is peaceful

**-President Bio**

candidacy and championing global peace and security.

He went on to state that Sierra Leone's election to the UN Security Council is a testament to the nation's progress and renewed standing in the international community. After emerging from a devastating civil war in the early 2000s, Sierra Leone has made remarkable strides in peacebuilding, democratic governance, and socio-economic development.

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mamadi Gobeh Kamara explained that President Bio's commitment to stability, good governance, and human rights has garnered admiration both domestically and internationally, noting that the country's election to



the Security Council reflects the trust placed in Sierra Leone to contribute meaningfully to international peace and security.

Dr. Babatunde Ahonsi, UN Resident Coordinator, highlighted that the election calls for a moment of celebration, as Sierra Leone has come a far way in ensuring that peace and stability is upheld.

The First Lady, Madam Fatima Bio, said that it's as a result of President Bio's hard work that made the country be elected to the UN Security Council. She noted that it was on that note that she organized the cocktail in commemoration for his husband's

hard work.

She ended that President Bio played a pivotal role in championing Sierra Leone's cause for a seat on the UN Security Council, adding that his diplomatic skills, leadership acumen, and commitment to global peace were instrumental in garnering support from member states.

It could be recalled that after 52 years, on June 6th Sierra Leone contested for the United Nations Security Council seat. The country got 188 votes out of the 192 votes, which automatically makes Sierra Leone a partner in discussing security on a global level.

## Sierra Leone moves from 16 to 74% on aviation safety and security report

By Ishmael Dumbuya

**-Minister Kambineh Kallon**

The Minister of Transport and Aviation, Kambineh Kallon, has stated that the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has presented a draft report on Aviation Safety and Security to the Ministry of Transport and Aviation. He said the report indicated that Sierra Leone has moved from 16 percent in 2014 to 74 percent in 2023.

In his statement on Radio Democracy, he explained that the International Civil Aviation Organization was hosted by the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority, in order to assess the security and safety state of the country's aviation system, noting that the audit has been part of them since 2018 when President Bio was elected president.

Minister Kallon concluded by thanking President Bio for reforming the country's aviation system and leading them into the right direction.

He added that after the final report that will be presented by ICAO, he hopes to see Sierra Leone moves over 90 percent. He added that the report pinpoints how best they as an institution have worked to highlight the effectiveness and efficiency of the aviation authority in the country.

He went on to state that the recommendations made by ICAO will be properly looked into and adopted to enhance the smooth running of the aviation authority.

In his own remarks, the Director General of Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority, Moses Tifa Bayoh, explained



that ICAO started the assessment of Sierra Leone's aviation system from May 12th to June 12th this year. He went on to state that the audit assessment covers five state institutions, namely; the Airport Authority, the State Metrological Agency, the National Disaster Management Agency, and Robert FYR that is based in Liberia.

He added that 74 percent is a big lead as compared to the previous years, noting that there is now a modernized airport. He therefore commended the efforts of all stakeholders at state level.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that coordinates the principles and techniques of international air navigation, and fosters the planning and development of international air transport to ensure safe and orderly growth.

## EU, UNCDF to support job creation in Sierra Leone

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

As access to finance for investments remains a major constraint to taking full benefit of the potential of the agriculture sector for the sustainable socio-economic development of Sierra Leone, the European Union and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) are strengthening their partnership aiming at enhancing access to financial services across agricultural value chains in the country.

According to a presser from the EU and UNCDF, the project which is part of the EU funded Jobs and Growth programme, "Salone Access to Finance" will promote financial inclusion, access to finance and risk management for agri-businesses.

As stated by EU Ambassador Manuel Müller: "Agriculture constitutes the backbone of Sierra Leone's economy. It is also a key sector in the partnership between the EU and Sierra Leone to promote food and nutrition security for the population of Salone" "Salone Access to Finance" is composed of four mutually reinforcing pillars:

investments, insurance, digital and business environment.

Salone Access to Finance is an innovative approach that combines technical and financial assistance for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the form of grants with loans obtained from local financial institutions. It will be combined with a digital platform to facilitate service delivery, reporting and credit scoring of MSMEs active in the agricultural sector.

The project is expected to support more than 250 MSMEs, leveraging more than 10 million New Leones of private sector investment and generating more than 500 jobs in the agricultural sector over the next 5 years.

Finally, as declared by Wycliffe Ngwabe, UNCDF Country Lead in Sierra Leone, "Salone Access to Finance" will pioneer the implementation of an agriculture insurance scheme targeting low income rural households that are vulnerable to climate risk and natural disasters".

These services will be delivered through digital means such as mobile phones to ease their access by women and youth.

# LOCAL NEWS

## LRMG Supports community health, hands over three rehabilitated wards to Nixon Memorial Hospital



In a momentous event celebrated by the local community, Leone Rock Metal Group (LRMG) handed over three refurbished wards to Nixon Memorial Hospital in the Segbwema community of Kailahun District on Friday, June 9th 2023. The joyous occasion was attended by prominent figures, healthcare professionals, LRMG representatives, and enthusiastic residents eager to witness the transformation of their healthcare facility. The collaborative project, which included the rehabilitation of the Maternity Ward, Labour Ward, and Children's Ward, was initiated by Leone Rock Metal Group. Its aim was to upgrade the hospital's infrastructure and contribute to the provision of better healthcare services to women and children in the community. Through this effort, the company sought to fulfil its responsibility as a corporate entity and positively impact the lives of the local population. Alhaji Mohamed Turay, Community and Security Manager of LRMG, explained the purpose and intent of the event. He thanked

Nixon Memorial Hospital for their support and trust in the company's endeavors. He expressed his pride in the successful completion of the rehabilitation project and emphasized the company's long-standing commitment to supporting local communities. He conveyed his confidence that the upgraded wards would positively impact the health and well-being of the Segbwema community for years to come. Speaking on behalf of the Segbwema community, Honorable Member of Parliament Bernadette Wuyatta Songa expressed her heartfelt appreciation for the company's involvement in improving healthcare services. She emphasized the positive impact this collaboration would have on the lives of community members especially women and girls, ensuring access to quality healthcare closer to home. During the ceremony, Minister of Health, NJADO Representatives, Deputy Minister of Education, Nixon Hospital Administrator, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Mines, and Healthcare Authorities expressed their gratitude to LRMG for their commitments and to the

community for their patience and support throughout the renovation process. They highlighted, "This exemplary partnership underscores the importance of corporate social responsibility and sets a positive precedent for sustainable community development". With the completion of this rehabilitation project, initiated by LRMG, Nixon Memorial Hospital solidifies its position as a vital healthcare provider in the region. It

reflects LRMG's dedication to fostering community well-being and enhancing healthcare access in the region. The handover ceremony concluded with a tour of the renovated wards, allowing community members, government officials, and attendees to witness the tangible improvements made possible through the collaboration between Leone Rock Metal Group and Nixon Memorial Hospital.





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## LOCAL NEWS

# Limkokwing University showcases innovative, creative skills

In showcasing the innovative and creative projects of their diligent students, Limkokwing University of Creative Technology has opened another exhibition.

The exhibition which attracted industry experts and partners was opened yesterday at the Hill Station Campus of the University.

In her opening remarks, Limkokwing University Campus Director, Madam Agnes Mugo, said the event provides excellent opportunity for their students to demonstrate their skills, talents, and abilities to the wider community.

She furthered that throughout the semester, their students have poured their hearts and souls into their respective projects, tirelessly pushing the boundaries of their imagination and honing their skills.

She added that the exhibition serves as a platform for them to share their creations, which encompass a wide array of disciplines, from art and design to technology and innovation, and it is a testament to their dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

"I am truly impressed by the diversity and ingenuity displayed in each project. From stunning visual artworks that evoke emotions and tell stories, to ground-breaking technological advancements that shape the future, our students have unleashed their creativity to create works that inspire, challenge, and captivate. Today, we have the privilege of experiencing the fruits of their labour first-hand," Madam Mugo said.

She further described the work of the students as one that make her to admire



and proud as their dedication, resilience, and relentless pursuit of their passions have led them to this moment.

"You have worked diligently to bring your ideas to life, I want to commend you for your remarkable achievements. As you present your projects, I encourage you to embrace this opportunity to showcase your skills, engage with the audience, and celebrate your unique talents," she admonished. Senior Academic Manager, Bashir Mohammed Idris disclosed that the semester started in March and it will end in June.

He said that they are trying to bridge the industry and academia.

"Your presence is highly important today because you're part of the ecosystem," he stated.

He expressed hope that such gathering will open doors for more collaboration as Sierra Leoneans can create and their students are examples.

Deputy Campus Manager, Richard Yanka in his closing remarks said yesterday exhibition serves as a testament to the transformative power of education and the remarkable potential of their students.

"Each piece of work showcased here represents countless hours of dedication, creativity, and hard work. It is a reflection of the knowledge and

skills they have acquired through our comprehensive curriculum," he said.

He went on to say the outcomes of their learning programs go far beyond the classroom walls, the education they provide is not just about theoretical knowledge; it is about fostering critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and a deep

understanding of the world they live in. "As we celebrate their accomplishments today, let us also acknowledge the valuable support of our faculties, staff, and the wider community. Together, we have created an environment that encourages curiosity, embraces diversity, and fosters excellence. It is this collaborative spirit that ensures our students are well-prepared to tackle the challenges that lie ahead," he said.

Head of Academic Quality Assurance, Francis Sami said at Limkokwing University they put premium on their semester planning as their objectives and learning outcome is actually resolute.

Fatimeh Zayat, semester five student studying Interior Architecture explained that the project given to them was the purpose of space and the most used space they featured was a mosque located at the mudslide area of the mountain town of Regent on the outskirts of Sierra Leone's capital Freetown.

Eco Lodge housing presentation, Fatimeh narrated what it takes to manage a space and how friendly the environment could be when such structure is erected.

She thanked the University for such explosive knowledge and for showing them the best in modern Architecture designs.

## Minister Rahman Swaray propagates Bio's second term manifesto to Njala Students

From Cover



"This manifesto is the result of a wide-ranging interaction that was led by the Chief Minister, who also serves as the Chairman of the Manifesto Committee. Since this is a manifesto with the interests of the people at its core, we engaged with traditional leaders, the student community, and other stakeholders. This document accurately captures all of those sentiments," remarked Minister Swaray.

The president's vision for Sierra Leone, according to Mohamed Rahman Swaray, is a progressive, peaceful, and united country where every Sierra Leonean can live and fulfil their full potential. He added that every Sierra Leonean should identify with this broad national vision.

Stating the reason for taking the manifesto to Universities, the Minister hinted that the president had asked them to visit Njala University because of its special place in his heart and the knowledge that the students and staff there know the issues.

He listed a few of President Bio's accomplishments from his first term and said that his second term would be dedicated to consolidating and expanding the progress already made by his Administration.

"This government has invested in

education more than any other government before us. More students than ever before are enrolled in schools and universities. There are more universities here than you can imagine. The reason for this, stressed Rado Swaray, is that our president allots 22% of the nation's budget each year to support education," Minister Rado Swaray mentioned. "Does this not convince you to vote for President Bio on June 24?" he asked.

Since food imports make up more than half of the country's total imports, food production is, according to Mr. Minister, Sierra Leone's biggest challenge. He points out that the government spends a staggering \$250 million on rice imports alone. He claims that the excessive spending on rice imports has increased the demand for foreign currency. "Over 50% of our foreign exchange is used to import foodstuffs," he continued.

The greatest approach to ease this burden, he continued, is to invest in agriculture, which will lower demand for foreign currency. He describes how Njala University's contribution will make Feed Salone a success.

The Minister also discussed the other Big Five Manifesto priority areas and later entertained questions from staff and students.

## Native Consortium appeals to citizens to maintain peace during elections

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

"Fellow Sierra Leoneans, peace is supreme and we should do everything that we could to prevent any form of violence that will lead to the loss of lives or destruction of properties. Therefore, we are calling on all of us to conduct ourselves peacefully by going to the polls to vote come June 24 to express our democratic right".

In a press release issued on Monday, June 12, Edmond Abu Jr, the Native Consortium boss state that, "If the international Community, Religious Leaders, CSOs, the Media, and Political Actors, keep loud silence to prevent violence before, during, and after the upcoming elections, but wait until any

blood is shed before making bogus press releases like August 10, then they are equally guilty'.

Edmond Abu acknowledged the US Embassy and other international moral Guarantors, Political parties, well-meaning CSOs and other non-state actors who have openly denounced violence and preached peace messages.

He boasted that no activist has ever been consistently involved in more public interest peaceful protests like the Native Consortium has done over the last 3 decades. Therefore, any attempt to provoke violent protest before the election is silly, senseless, untimely and in fact suicidal.



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# Talking Drum Studio Sierra Leone Completes Lower Lever Issue-based Debates



**T**alking Drum Studio has completed issue-based debates across the country for political aspirants contesting positions for Parliamentary and Local council seats. Funded by Irish Aid and a US based philanthropic organization, the debates provided a platform for politicians to put forward their political agenda and how they will address citizens needs and priorities. Politicians sparred against each other on some many issues related to women's economic and political empowerment, social services, health care, inclusive governance and other social economic needs. Political parties represented include the All Peoples Congress, Sierra Leone Peoples Party, National Grand Coalition, Peoples Movement for Democratic Change and many more.

Conducted in English and in the local languages, the debates were pre-recorded in agreed locations with no more than 5 supporters of each candidate in attendance. The European Union Observer mission, Elections Management Bodies and other stakeholders

were also in attendance. In coming weeks, the recorded debates will be screened in open spaces so that more citizens will have the opportunity to watch the debates and inform their voting choices on polling day.

Ahead of high stake multi-tier elections, the National Director of Talking Drum Studio, Mr. Alpha Kamara opined that **“In the place of road roadshow campaigns which are mostly loaded with invectives, alcohol and drugs, Talking Drum Studio will be organizing lower level issue-based debates for political candidates across all political parties. We hope these debates will be used by citizens to assess candidate's political agenda in responding to their needs and influence their voting choices.”**

Encouragingly, more women are contesting positions and this will relatedly increase their representation and advocacy for more women-focussed policies and affirmative action.



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## NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

## Nigerian markets regulator ends local Binance operations



An illustration shows gold plated souvenir cryptocurrency, Bitcoin and Ethereum coins arranged beside a screen displaying a trading chart, London, May 8, 2022. - Copyright © africanews JUSTIN TALLIS/AFP or licensors

“Binance Nigeria Limited is hereby directed to immediately stop soliciting Nigerian investors in any form whatsoever,” stated the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on Friday. The statement added that the company was not registered or regulated, rendering its operations in the country, illegal.

Nigeria's markets regulator has ordered the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange Binance to halt its operations in the country, saying a local unit that courted Nigerian investors through a website was illegal.

Last year, Nigeria's SEC published a set of regulations for digital assets, signaling Africa's greatest demographic power was trying to find a middle ground between an outright ban on crypto assets and their unregulated use.

That was after Nigeria's central bank in 2021 banned banks and financial institutions from dealing in or facilitating transactions in digital currencies.

Last week, the United States' Securities and Exchange Commission sued Binance and Coinbase for allegedly breaching its rule, detailing a list of 13 charges against Binance, as well as its US subsidiary and its CEO, Changpeng Zhao.

This comes after US federal authorities had expressed in February their will to bring order to the cryptocurrency market, following the momentous bankruptcy of FTX, a platform that had long fallen through the regulatory cracks.

Africa: fastest growing crypto market?

According to the crypto exchange platform Coinbase, roughly 50% of African citizens don't have banking access, making Bitcoin an attractive alternative.

To fill the banking gap, cellular companies have built a patchwork system around mobile wallets and payments tied to phone numbers — but most of these systems aren't interoperable, and sending or receiving money from abroad often means high fees or running into government currency controls.

These points are some of the reasons why Sub-Saharan Africa is among the fastest growing crypto markets on earth, according to Coinbase, “with 6 % of all transactions being peer-to-peer, more than double the share of the next closest region.” Another big reason: inflation.

Many countries, including Nigeria, Ghana, Sudan, and Ethiopia struggle with high currency inflation, making crypto a viable alternative.

In Zimbabwe, cryptocurrency is flourishing to battle currency volatility and inflation. Despite the IMF's warning, the reserve Bank of Zimbabwe has sold 14 billion Zimbabwean dollars' worth of gold backed digital tokens, worth around 39 million dollars.

The gold backed crypto tokens introduced in April are sold at a minimum price of \$10 for individuals and \$5,000 for corporations and other entities. According to Coinbase, Africa has emerged as an epicenter for crypto adoption as entrepreneurs in Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa are leading the charge.

A need for better regulations? According to Chainalysis, Africa is one of the fastest-growing crypto markets in the world, but remains the smallest, with crypto transactions peaking at a mere \$20 billion per month in mid-2021.

Anglophone Africa has the highest number of users in the region, as many people use crypto assets for commercial payments, but their volatility makes them unsuitable as a store of value.

“Policymakers are worried that cryptocurrencies can be used to transfer funds illegally out of the region and to circumvent local rules to prevent capital outflows,” denotes the IMF article.

Indeed, about 20% of sub-Saharan African countries have banned crypto assets.

It also denotes that widespread use of crypto could also undermine the effectiveness of monetary policy, creating risks for financial and macroeconomic stability.

The Central African Republic is the first country in Africa and the second in the world after El Salvador to designate Bitcoin as a legal tender. This measure has put the country at odds with the Bank of Central African States (BEAC) and violates the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) Treaty, which it is a member of. Central Africa's Banking Commission has banned the use of crypto for financial transactions in the CEMAC region, according to the October 2022 Regional Economic Outlook.

## Libya: UN “concerned by inhuman treatment” of migrants

The United Nations Mission of Support in Libya (Manul) expressed its concern on Monday at the arbitrary detention of migrants and asylum seekers, calling on the Libyan authorities to treat them with “dignity”.

The UN is “concerned about the massive arbitrary detentions of migrants and asylum seekers across the country”, where the authorities have arrested “thousands of men, women and children in the streets, in their homes or during raids on so-called camps and hideouts of traffickers”, according to a statement issued by its mission on Monday.

Manul denounced the detention of “pregnant women and children” in “overcrowded and unsanitary” conditions and the “collective expulsion” of thousands of foreigners, even those who had entered the country legally.

The Libyan authorities must “put an end to these actions and treat migrants with dignity and humanity”, in compliance with their international commitments, and grant UN agencies and NGOs “unhindered access to detainees in need of urgent protection”, according to Manul.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Libya is home to more than 600,000 migrants. Apart from a few visa-exempt nationalities, most of them have entered the country illegally, often from sub-Saharan Africa, through the porous borders of the vast desert south.

Plunged into chaos since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi's regime in 2011, Libya has become a hub for thousands of would-be emigrants heading for Europe via the Mediterranean.

Hundreds of migrants are regularly intercepted by the navy in international waters and forcibly returned to Libya, where they are placed in detention centers.



A picture from the Libyan Red Crescent on February 15, 2023, shows workers handling bodies of some migrants thought to have died after their boat sunk off the coast of Libya. - Copyright © africanews -AFP or licensors

Rival authorities in the west and east frequently raid neighborhoods where migrants are concentrated in, such as the suburbs of the capital Tripoli (west) and Tobruk (east), 120 kilometers from the Egyptian border.

In early June, local media relayed unauthenticated videos showing almost a thousand Egyptians being expelled by the authorities in eastern Libya and forced to march towards the border.

More than 7,000 migrants have been intercepted at sea and returned to Libya since the beginning of the year, 368 are missing and more than 600 have drowned off the Libyan coast, according to the IOM. According to the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), since the beginning of 2023, more than 54,000 migrants have landed on the Italian coast, including more than 22,000 from Libya.

## Eritrea rejoins east Africa trade and security bloc IGAD after 16 years

Eritrea says it is ready to work toward “peace, stability and regional integration” after it rejoined the East African bloc, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) on Monday.

It comes nearly 16 years after the politically isolated state pulled out of the bloc.

Information Minister Yemane Meskel said Eritrea resumed its activity in IGAD and took its seat at a summit organized by the seven-nation bloc in Djibouti on Monday.

The east African nation led by 77 year old Isaias

Afwerki who has ruled for three decades, had suspended its IGAD membership in 2007 after a string of disagreements. One of them was the bloc's decision to ask Kenya to oversee the resolution of a border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Eritrea broke away from Ethiopia its neighbor in 1993 and fought a two-year border war that prolonged into tense and bitter relations until 2018 when a peace agreement was signed with Abiy Ahmed, Ethiopia's prime minister.

## Congo president says Africa cannot stay silent on Russia-Ukraine war

Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso says he believes that Africa cannot “remain silent” in the face of the conflict in Ukraine.

President Sassou Nguesso said this in Abidjan on Monday during the beginning of a three-day state visit aimed at strengthening cooperation ties between his country, The Republic of Congo and Ivory Coast. About 13 agreements will be signed in the fields of fishing, agriculture, livestock breeding and tourism during the state visit.

“We are all suffering the effects of these wars directly on our peoples. Inflation is rising everywhere, and we believe that Africa cannot remain silent or indifferent in the face of such a tragedy,” Denis Sassou Nguesso, said. The remark comes just a few days before several

of the continent's heads of state, including Sassou Nguesso, are set to meet in Kiev and Moscow to mediate. It also comes as concerns grow about Russia quitting the Ukraine deal allowing the safe wartime export of grain and fertilizers from three Ukrainian Black Sea ports.

“It was agreed that a few heads of state, in fact one head of state per Central African sub-region plus the current President of the African Union, and that 5 or 6 heads of state could travel to Ukraine and Russia to bring a message of peace,” Nguesso added.

At the end of the meeting, the Ivorian president Alassane Ouattara praised his Congolese counterpart's role as mediator on the continent. A role which, according to him, has borne fruit in the Ivory Coast by trying to reconcile past Presidents Henri Konan Bédié, Laurent Gbagbo and himself.

## Tunisia: Washington backs IMF aid

On Monday, the head of US diplomacy Antony Blinken called on Tunisia, a country strangled by debt and grappling with migration issues, to accept an IMF reform plan in order to avoid economic collapse.

“It is clear that Tunisia needs more help if it is to avoid plunging into an economic abyss”, Mr Blinken told the press alongside his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani.

The United States would “welcome the Tunisian government presenting a revised reform plan to the IMF and the IMF being able to act on that plan,” he told a press conference.

“The stability of Tunisia and the stability of Libya is crucial for the stability of the Mediterranean region”, said Mr. Tajani, whose country is at the forefront of this issue.

Tunisia is holding difficult talks with the international organization to obtain a new loan of two billion dollars, but President Kais Saied is refusing to accept the reforms advocated, which include restructuring more than 100 heavily indebted public companies and lifting state subsidies on certain basic products.



Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks to the media in the State Department Treaty Room in Washington on 12 June 2023. - Copyright © africanews Mandel Ngan/AP

For its part, on Sunday the European Union offered Tunisia a “strengthened partnership” accompanied by promises of financial aid, at the end of a visit to Tunis by the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and the Prime Ministers of Italy, Giorgia Meloni, and the Netherlands, Mark Rutte.

Mrs. von der Leyen spoke of “macro-financial assistance of up to €900 million”, which would complement the IMF's \$2 billion loan.

## Former ANC secretary-general Ace Magashule expelled from the party

South Africa's ruling party, ANC, announced on Monday that former secretary-general Ace Magashule had been expelled from the party.

Magashule faces accusations of misconduct and other breaches of party rules while also facing charges of corruption in a criminal case.

In 2021, Magashule was suspended from his position as secretary-general of the ANC after being charged with multiple counts of corruption, money laundering and fraud.

The former ANC official responded by suspending South African president, Cyril Ramaphosa from his duties.

Magashule is also seen as close to Ramaphosa's political rival, former President Jacob Zuma, but his suspension led to him being side-lined from the ANC's conference in December, when Ramaphosa was re-elected as party leader.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

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Environment Protection Agency  
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change  
92 Dundas Street Freetown



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

### Local Consultant to Support Valuation of Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Liability for Large Scale Mining in Sierra Leone

Procurement Number: EPASL/NRM/RFP/007/2023

Date of First Issue: 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2023

The Environment Protection Agency –Sierra Leone has allocated some funds and is therefore hiring the services of an individual Local Consultant to support the Conduct of Valuation of Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Liability for all Large Scale Mining projects in Sierra Leone.

One of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) criteria for mining projects is that mining companies must submit a mine rehabilitation and closure plan as part of their Environmental Management Plan. The rehabilitation and closure plan must be costed based on the anticipated liability (in terms of a new project) or current environmental footprint for existing projects.

Mine rehabilitation and closure bond systems have been provided for in the Mines and Minerals Act of 2009 and the Environmental (Mines and Minerals) Regulation 2013. The bond is a financial agreement or arrangement between a mining company and the Environment Protection Agency to provide financial surety in the form of money or other acceptable forms of security against the potential environmental impacts and land disturbance that result from mining activities. To activate the bond, an understanding of an estimate of the rehabilitation and closure liabilities is needed. This is because the Agency utilizes liability estimates to decide on the amount or nature of bank guarantee, insurance bond, or cash deposit that should be presented to the Agency. This is done to guarantee that in case the mining company fails to fulfil its obligations for closure, sufficient funds are accessible to the Agency for the purpose of site rehabilitation and closure. Also, the methodology for computing the quantum of financial provision for closure assumes that the Government will employ a third party to undertake the necessary rehabilitation and remedial work should the mining operation close prematurely. According to World Bank (2008), it is an increasingly common requirement for the closure plan to contain details of the estimated cost of rehabilitation and for a financial surety to be established at the same time. It further states that, the purpose of the financial surety is to ensure that there will be sufficient funds available to pay for site rehabilitation and post-closure monitoring and maintenance at any stage in the life of the project, including early or temporary closure.

The estimates of liability for mine rehabilitation and closure, which can be used as a financial assurance, are generally required by the EPA at the start-up of mining operations. However, this has not been in practice, given that the framework has not been set to allow the operationalization of the mine rehabilitation bond scheme.

#### SCOPE OF WORK

For this assessment, twenty-three large-scale mining companies in active operations will be targeted.

Recognizing that there is a high prospect of new mining companies being established and the potential expansion of existing mining operations, it is imperative to establish appropriate provisions to accommodate these circumstances, such as developing a rehabilitation and closure cost estimation model that can be utilized when necessary. Also, the involvement of a local/National consultant is aimed at building their capacity for future assessments as required by the Local Content Policy and Legislation.

The Local Consultant will provide the following technical support to the international Consultant:

- Ø Support the review of all the updated/existing mine rehabilitation and closure plans to assess their completeness and feasibility.
- Ø Participate in the physical site visits to all the large-scale mining concessions to inspect the current condition of the mine site and associated facilities.
- Ø Take part in assessing the environmental risks and impacts associated with the mining project and evaluate the potential remediation costs.
- Ø Provide support in all other tasks assigned to the International Consultant accordingly or as may be necessary.

#### DELIVERABLES

The Local Consultant will provide full time support to the International Consultant in delivering the following:

1. A comprehensive report outlining the findings of the valuation, including a detailed breakdown of the estimated costs of mine rehabilitation and closure liability for the Twenty-Three Large-Scale mining companies.
2. A financial model that accurately estimates the total cost of mine rehabilitation and closure liability.

#### QUALIFICATION

The National/Local Consultant will have the following qualifications:

1. A degree in either mining Engineering, Environmental Sciences, or a related field.
2. At least two years of experience in Environmental and Social Impact assessment processes.
3. Experience in mine rehabilitation and closure planning.
4. Strong communication skills, both written and verbal.
5. Knowledge of relevant local Mining and Environmental Regulations and Guidelines.

#### Evaluation method and criteria

Technical Criteria weight 70%

Financial Criteria weight 30%

Only consultant obtaining a minimum of 70% of the total technical points (49 points) would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

1. Technical Capacity and Related Qualifications of the Lead Consultant		Points
1.	A degree in either mining Engineering, Environmental Sciences, or a related field	10
2.	At least two years of experience in Environmental and Social Impact assessment processes,	20
3.	Experience in mine rehabilitation and closure planning.	15
4.	Excellent and strong Communication Skills, both written and verbal	15
5.	Knowledge of relevant local Mining and Environmental Regulations and Guidelines	10
Total Possible Points		70

#### 1. Submitting Proposal.

The costs of preparing a proposal are the sole responsibility of bidding suppliers. All proposals and supporting documentation submitted with the proposal become the property of Environment Protection Agency – Sierra Leone. Proposals must be prepared according to the Proposal Preparation Guidelines.

The consultant is requested to prepare and submit their technical and financial proposal to be submitted to the address not later than 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 at (2:00 Pm)

Note: The consultant shall be ranked and the first ranked on the list shall be selected for the proposed assignment given that, their fee rates are within the budget. The selection process will be based on the Least Cost Selection.

Service Required: EPA-SL has received fund from a donor and is therefore hiring the services of an International Consultant to

Conduct a Validation of Marine Rehabilitation and Liability for Larger Scale Mining in Sierra and is therefore inviting

Individual Local consultant who can provide a statement of capability and experience indicating that they are qualified to perform the service (description of similar assignment, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.) to submit Technical and financial proposals for the assignment. The Technical Proposals will be publicly opened on

[22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023] at [2:00 pm], in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below.

This advertisement is open to all international Consultant

worldwide.

Kindly submit the following documents;

- Ø Technical proposal
- Ø Financial Proposal
- Ø A Cover Letter
- Ø Curriculum Vitae of consultant
- Ø Individual Profile
- Ø Samples of previous work.

#### Duration, Timeline, and Location

The Local Consultant will collaborate with the International Consultant(s) throughout the duration of the project. The timeline of the valuation exercise will be One month from the date of the signature of the contract.

Duty Station: Home-based consultant and shall be resident in Freetown.

Interested consultant may obtain further information and collect the terms of reference (TOR) at the address below or send emails between [9am to 4pm Mondays to Fridays].

All proposals along with relevant documents must be submitted in soft copy form via email to the following: geyaoh@yahoo.com; bondi.geyao@epa.gov.sl; shuckkanneth@gmail.com; lsatu.kamarara@epa.gov.sl

Proposals received after the closing date and time

will not be considered.

**WOMEN ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY**  
All proposal may be delivered in hard copies to the address below.

Executive Chairperson  
Environment Protection Agency-SL;  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
92 Dundas Street  
Freetown-Sierra Leone

# OBITUARY

THE DEATH IS REPORTED OF IBRAHIM OBRIES MANSARAY COMMONLY KNOWN AS BRIMA DATSUN / OBRIES. FORMERLY OF 11 BINTUMANI DRIVE, ABERDEEN. THIS SAD EVENT TOOK PLACE ON 3rd JUNE 2023 AGED 80.

#### HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS:

- **WIFE:** ADAMA OBRIES MANSARAY IN LONDON
- **CHILDREN:** OBRIES MANSARAY JUNIOR, ALEX ALHASSAN MANSARAY, ALIMAMY MANSARAY AND RAMATHA OBRIES MANSARAY
- **BROTHERS:** KEKUDA MANSARAY OF UTB, FODAY & ABU MANSARAY OF KONDOLOR, ROTIFUNK.
- **SISTERS:** MRS RAMATA KAMARA & PST. MRS FATMATA FOULLAH
- **NEPHEWS:** MAX AND BUFFY BAILOR
- **NIECES:** HANNAH FOULLAH,
- **GRAND CHILDREN :** ABNA, WISDOM, MICHELLE, ALEXZINA, ALVIN, ALAN AND ANDRAMANSARAY
- **IN-LAWS:** THE KALAWA FAMILY OF CHARLES STREET,
- **SEVERAL RELATIVES INCLUDING :** THE BAILORS, THE CAULKERS, THE BENDUS, THE KALAWAS AND THE TAYLORS OF GODERICH
- **CLOSE FRIENDS:** THE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF KING MEMORIAL UMC, FRIENDS OF THE ABERDEEN ROUND ABOUT.

FUNERAL SERVICE WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2023 AT THE KING MEMORIAL, UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, GODERICH STREET AT 1:00 PM INTERMENT IS AT THE ASCENSION TOWN CEMETERY.

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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: 20<sup>th</sup> 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, 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Job Detail**

**Organization:** Sierra Leone Lands Administration Project (SLLAP), Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning.

**Title:** GIS Survey, Land Surveying, Country Planning, Procurement, Financial Management, Housing, Social Works/Rural Development, and ICT Interns.

**Posted:** 2023-05-30

**Application Deadline: June 15, 2023.**

**Position Description:** Internship

**Temporary Position:** – 12 months (not renewable)

**Location:** Youyi Building, Freetown, Ministry of Lands Housing and Country Planning.

**BACKGROUND**

The Government of Sierra Leone with support from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank has commenced the implementation of the Sierra Leone Land Administration Project (SLLAP). SLLAP is financed through a US\$ 41.1 million grant. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to establish as efficient and accessible land administration system.

The project will finance the implementation of land administration reforms as outlined in the government's National Land Policy of 2015 and the Customary Land Rights and National Land Commission Acts 2022. Under component 1, the project will support institutional reforms by financing the establishment of a National Land Commission as well as District Land Commissions. The project will finance the required buildings, equipment, operational support and capacity building.

Further, the project will support legal land sector reforms. Component 2 will finance the establishment of a digital Land Management Information System (LMIS), including the design of the system and ICT infrastructure and digitization of paper-based land records. Component 3 will finance the demarcation and recording of customary land rights in rural areas and support the land title transaction system in the Western Area including Freetown. To facilitate the surveying work, the project will also finance a modern geodetic network. Component 4 will finance all project management-related aspects and Component 5 is a Contingency Emergency Response Component.

In August 2022, MLHCP commissioned an assessment to determine training needs and develop training requirements for the land sector. The focus of the study was to identify capacity-building gaps and needs to support and sustain SLLAP implementation. National validation of the assessment and training requirement report was undertaken in November 2022.

Four categories of training requirements were identified in the report. The first category (A) relates to the in-country training program while the second category (B) relates to on-the-job and certified professional training. Category C relates to the internship program and Category D relates to tertiary education training offered overseas and benchmarking visits by senior staff of MLHCP, NLC, and DLC. The total number of trainees under Category A is 1,118 while those under Category B, are 134. Under Category C, the total number of interns to benefit from SLLAP are 120 while the total number of beneficiaries under Category D is 36 including 6 Master's Degree candidates in specializations aligned to land administration. All training activities are scheduled to commence after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 to allow sufficient time to procure the necessary training equipment, computers, software, and other work tools.

To build a pool of human resources that can be utilized to sustain the land administration system in the country. SLLAP is proposing to recruit a total of 20 interns per autumn over a period of six years. Interns will be attached to SLLAP and the various departments of MLHCP. Interns are expected to acquire relevant work experience and technical skills in various disciplines across the land sector.

Therefore, the Sierra Leone Lands Administration Project (SLLAP) wants to recruit the first set of interns into various departments with the Ministry to support the implementation of the Project Development Objectives for a period of One Year (1yr) beginning in the month of July 2023. The following areas had been identified to recruit interns to fill the vacancies.

**INTERNSHIP VACANCIES:**

Training	Ref. No.	Department/ Placement	No. of Interns	Interns Qualification
GIS & Land Survey	SLLAP/001	MLHCP	6	Degree/National Diploma/Certificate: Geomatics, Cartography, Geographic Information Science, Geo-Information Science, Technology, Engineering other related discipline;
Procurement	SLLAP/002	PCCU/ Procurement Unit	2	Degree/National Diploma in Procurement, Business Administration, Public Administration, or any relevant subject.
Financial Management	SLLAP/003	PCU/ FM Unit	1	Degree/National Diploma: Accounting, Financial Management, Cost & Management Accounting, Public Finance
Urban Planning/ Housing	SLLAP/004	MLHCP/ Housing Directorate	3	Degree/National Diploma: Geomatics, Cartography, Geographic Information Science, Geo -Information Science and Technology;
Safeguards: Social, Environment and M&E	SLLAP/005	PCU/ Safeguards Unit	4	Degree/National Diploma: Social Sciences, Rural Development, and Development Studies.
ICT	SLLAP/006	MLHCP/ICT	1	Degree/National Diploma/Certificate: ICT, Soft and Hard Ware, Networking.
Admin: HR & Records Management	SLLAP/007	PCU/ADM	3	Degree/National Diploma: Social Sciences, Rural Development and Development Studies.

**Who are we looking for:**

It goes without saying you'll be a top performer and a collaborative thinker. You'll be someone who is focused, ready to learn, hardworking, and most importantly, passionate about working in a fun, fast-paced environment that is constantly evolving. We're also looking for an intern with:

- § Degree qualified or currently completing further study in the areas outlined above or a related field.
- § Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- § Sound analytical and problem-solving skills with high attention to detail.
- § Ability to work independently with minimal supervision and collaboratively as part of a dynamic team.
- § Strong organizational skills including skills in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Internet browsing).
- § Ability to work to tight deadlines.
- § Monitor engagement and inquiries on specific objectives and roles and responsibilities.
- § Keep up-to-date with your mentors and heads of departments/units.
- § Have completed and/or currently completing an HND certificate/degree.

These roles will give you great experiences in the world of Land Administration and the Public Sector environment. You will report directly to the Training Coordinator through the heads of departments/units in the Sierra Leone Lands Administration Project in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning.

**Apply by June 30 and while we look at your application, get to know us through our various social media channels! Female candidates are highly encouraged to apply for these roles. Send your applications to [joseph.kpakiwa@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.kpakiwa@gmail.com) and [jayansumana@gmail.com](mailto:jayansumana@gmail.com)**



# Invitation for Bids



## NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING SIERRA LEONE ROADS AUTHORITY

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

Date of First Issue: 9<sup>th</sup> 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	<b>Concrete Works along Hilly sections from Blama to Njala Komboya in Bo District (Lot1)</b>	Bo Districts	2.9	SLRA/DUR/NCB/2023/010	40,000.00	RMFA
2	<b>Reinstate Embankment Slope along Lumley Aberdeen Beach Road (Lot2)</b>	Car Park Opposite Kallon Building/Diamond Casino Freetown Urban District	85m	SLRA/DUR/NCB/2023/011	15,000.00	RMFA
3	<b>Dredging Works at Jeremiah Street and Culvert at Regent Junction (Lot 3)</b>	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 14<sup>th</sup> 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, 14<sup>th</sup> 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



**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE**  
**NATIONAL INVESTMENT BOARD SECRETARIAT**  
 9 Lamina Sankoh Street  
 Freetown



**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
***Consultancy Services***

**DEVELOPMENT OF A TRANSITION ROAD MAP FOR A ONE-STOP-SHOP  
 FOR THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT BOARD (NIB) SIERRA LEONE**

**BACKGROUND**

The Government of Sierra Leone has established a National Investment Board (NIB) through an Act of Parliament with the overarching objective of facilitating the Government's structured approach to investment promotion in the Country. The NIB's Statutory model is such that it has a Board constituted in a manner that ensures smooth and seamless operations which is achieved by placing all the critical actors in the investment Eco-system on the same platform (Board) to engage in and support the facilitation of its operational arm (The NIB National Secretariat).

The newly established NIB has been working on the legal instrument as well as the start-up activities in support of its full-scale operation. As part of its operation for the full-scale operation, the NIB's National Secretariat will require a National Transition Road Map and other strategic products which will detail institutional and organizational development and assist develop some of the critical systems and procedures. In this regard, NIB with support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Sierra Leone is preparing the One-stop-Shop Transition Road Map, which will not only integrate the four (4) agencies/department into one but will also serve as a platform for different investment services in the country.

**SCOPE OF WORK**

In support of the development of the One-Stop-Shop Road Map the National Secretariat of the National Investment Board is inviting Expressions of interest for Consulting Services. The Consulting Firm/ Team will be required to provide expert support in the development of the Road Map as well as accompanying the NIB National Secretariat in its roll out through continued advisory support.

The Consulting firm/ Team will be required to undertake the following:

1. To conduct an institutional review and analysis of the following Government of Sierra Leone entities which operate in the National investment eco-system: SLIEPA; CAC; PPP and Government Registry with a view of proposing concrete recommendations for alignment with the NIB as per the legislation (2022)
2. To develop a Transition Road Map leading to NIB's One-Stop-Shop for investment in Sierra Leone drawing from the institutional review and analysis
3. To develop organisation procedures and systems that will support the operations of the NIB and its National Secretariat Post review and presenting one National entity leading and directing the Investment space in Sierra Leone
4. To develop a Change Management Model and plan that will support the Human resources as well as workflow delineation of personnel in a manner that will promote efficiency and effectiveness in the NIB's Workforce to deliver on its statutory mandate.
5. To support the Roll out of the One-Stop-Shop Road map through Technical advisory support in the areas of Organisational Development, institutional strengthening, policy and systems development
6. To facilitate and support the development of a Human Resources Training strategy for the Personnel of the National Investment Board

Secretariat

**DELIVERABLES**

The Consulting Firm / Team will be required to produce the following Outputs/ Deliverables:

- i. A Report on the institutional Review and Analysis of the following entities: SLIEPA; CAC; PPP and Government Registry
- ii. A National Transition Document for a One-Stop-Shop for the National Investment Board in Sierra Leone
- iii. A standard document on procedures and systems to support the transition and realignment of entities into a One-Stop-Shop
- iv. A Change Management strategy and roll out plan.
- v. A Human Resource Training Strategy

**SERVICE PROVIDER SPECIFICATIONS**

The prospective Consulting Firm/ Team should meet the following Person specification:

- i. Team lead with Postgraduate qualifications in Economic; Management; Political science (Organizational development options) and other relevant social science disciplines
- ii. The Consulting Firm/Team must demonstrate competencies to undertake the tasks and produce deliverables as outlined in the Expression of Interest notice
- iii. The Consulting Firm / Team must have a performance history of providing high level consultancy services to the government of Sierra Leone and development agencies in similar or related areas.
- iv. The Consulting Firm/ Team must be cable of constituting highly qualified multi-disciplinary experts to undertake this assignment.
- v. The Consulting Firm / Team must have demonstrable evidence of executing high level national/ international consultancy with minimum supervision and oversight
- vi. The Consulting Firm/ Team must produce high quality Deliverables in appropriate format within the specified timeframe as will be agreed in the Contract and Inception Report(s)

**MODE OF APPLICATION**

To apply for this consultancy assignment, the Consulting Firm/ Team must submit separate Technical and Financial proposals which should be addressed to:

**The Executive Secretary**  
**National Investment Board (NIB)**  
**No. 9 Lamina Sankoh Street**  
**Freetown**

All inquiries should be addressed to: gassimu.koroma@nib.gov.sl

The Closing date for application is:

**5<sup>th</sup> July, 2023**



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## Relegation threat: Wusum Stars aiming to delay Bo Rangers title glory



**W**usum Stars will travel to the Southern Region to face host, the Elephant Boys of Bo Rangers on Thursday 22 June 2023 with a dual aim – earning three vital points in the battle for survival and also delaying the home side the Sierra Leone league title triumph. Coach Foray's side can win the league back-to-back for the first time in the club's history if they emerge victorious at their new home, Southern Arena Stadium, an achievable proposition for home supporters. With second second-place FC Kallon playing against Lauwa FC a day before the clash in Bo, the Elephant boys can go ahead and lift the title without kicking a ball but if the result goes FC Kallon's way, they must have to work hard and defeat the Wusum Boys for another title celebration.

By contrast, Wusum Stars are fighting for their lives at the other end of the table, currently 16th and one point from safety with six games remaining for them, they must ensure they beat the relegation battle as they were relegated in 2012 for the first time in almost three decades but returned to the top flight in 2021. Meanwhile, Bo Rangers who are currently on 69 points with second-placed FC Kallon on 56 with five games to go will be the fifth team in the Sierra Leone Premier League history to win the league back-to-back - Mighty Blackpool 1978, Real 1979, Real Republicans in 1983 and 1984, Diamond Stars 2012 and 2013. East End Lions remain the only team to have won the league three in a row -1992, 1993 and 1994.

## We want to beat Nigeria and qualify for the next AFCON

-Dumbuya

**S**ierra Leone and LISCR FC forward, Ishmael Dumbuya, says they want to beat the Super Eagles of Nigeria in Monrovia this weekend. The striker, who is hoping to make the Leone Stars' final squad against the Super Eagles in a short video wants his side to carry the day and be able to reach another African Cup of Nations. "I hope to make the final squad for the game against Nigeria," the LISCR FC forward said in a short video posted on the official Twitter handle of the Sierra Leone Football Federation. "We want to beat Nigeria and qualify for the next AFCON.



John Keister's side will face the three-time African champions at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Stadium, Monrovia in a matchday five tie of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier on Sunday. The Leone Stars have recorded just one win in the qualifiers and are expected to be run over

## IOC to launch Let's Move campaign on Olympic Day



**T**he International Olympic Committee (IOC) has today in a presser announced a new global initiative to inspire and enable the world to move more every day. Led by Olympians and created in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), Let's Move will begin on Olympic Day, 23 June, with an invitation to make time every day for movement for better health.

The world is moving faster than ever, but people are moving less. Research has found that one in four adults and over 80 per cent of young people do not meet the recommended minimum activity levels needed for optimum health (WHO, 2022). Not having enough time in the day is one of the most common reasons given for not being able to reach this goal. At the same time, starting with just 30 minutes of movement a day has significant health benefits for hearts, bodies and minds. Regular physical activity can help prevent or manage certain diseases, like heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some types of cancers. It also helps to prevent hypertension, and it reduces symptoms of depression and anxiety. Being active also ensures healthy growth and development in young people and staying healthy in later life.

On 23 June, the Olympic Movement will encourage and support people around the

world to make this time in their daily lives to move in any way, anywhere. This includes a digital invitation from Olympians Allyson Felix, Pau Gasol, PV Sindhu, Yusra Mardini – to name a few of the athletes involved – to schedule 30 minutes to move this day with them and to join the Let's Move Olympic Day digital workout from anywhere in the world, with the ambition of turning this into a daily habit.

IOC President Thomas Bach said, "On Olympic Day, we celebrate the Olympic Movement's mission to make the world a better place through sport. When we do sport, it keeps our mind and body strong and healthy. When we do sport, it inspires us to always give it our best and it makes us dream, it spreads joy and it brings us together. This year, together with the WHO, we are highlighting the positive impacts sport has on both physical and mental health. We want to inspire the world to move more every day. Sport and physical activity are the low-cost, high-impact tool for healthy bodies and healthy minds and resilient communities."

Over 131 mass participation events and digital activations will take place in all corners of the world, being organised by the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and the wider Olympic Movement, providing an opportunity for everyone to move together on Olympic Day.

by the Super Eagles. Dumbuya is however confident they can beat their highly-rated opponent. Sierra Leone currently occupies the third position on the Group A table with five points

from four matches, four adrift of the Super Eagles.

They will need to win the game to keep their hopes of making it to Cote d'Ivoire 2023 alive.

Published by Concord Times Communications, 44, Edwards Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone [www.slconcordtimes.com](http://www.slconcordtimes.com)

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