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# June 24<sup>th</sup> Elections: Samura Kamara demands ECSL boss, all commissioners quit within 72 hours

## £2m fraud at British High Commission

### ReNIP, NDA leaders disassociate from claims of aligning with SLPP



Both ReNIP & NDA flagbearers



Dr Samura Kamara addressing the press, CSOs and the international community at the New Brookfield's Hotel

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

The Leader and Presidential candidate of the main opposition All People's Congress (APC), Dr Samura Mathew Wilson Kamara, has demanded that the Chairman of the Electoral Commission for

Sierra Leone (ECSL), Mohamed Konneh and all regional commissioners should resign within 72 hours.

Samura noted that the party's demand for the resignation of the ECSL Chairman was pegged on the fact that his appointment was done in a manner that epitomises the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) Government's flagrant disrespect for the rule of law and it underlying intent of the 2023 elections

Cont. Page 4

### Police made 200 arrests nationwide on June 13<sup>th</sup> Two acquitted, discharged for murder

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## FEATURE

# Promoting home-grown solutions to combat hunger and malnutrition: One community at a time

In a nationwide campaign, Helen Keller Intl Sierra Leone has successfully reached 204 chiefdoms across 10 (of the 16) districts in Sierra Leone, spreading awareness among village development committee members about the invaluable nutritional and economic benefits of the orange-fleshed sweet potatoes (OFSP). This initiative is aimed to enhance self-sufficiency in food production, combat hunger and malnutrition, promote infection prevention control and water sanitation hygiene in rural communities.

To ensure the campaign's success, seven representatives from each village comprising traditional and religious leaders, farmers, traders, bakers, youth groups, and dedicated health workers, were selected by their respective communities to participate in the engagement. Over the course of approximately 90 minutes in each engagement, these individuals, along with Helen Keller's staff, district nutritionists, and monitoring and evaluation specialists from the District Health Management Team in all 10 districts, led the participatory engagement sessions. The sessions, supported by FOCUS 1000 district coordinators, began with an introduction to Helen Keller, fostering a deeper understanding of the organization's impactful work in Sierra Leone and then went into the details of OFSP and its benefits.

FOCUS 1000 Coordinator in Kenema district, Emmanuel Musa, shared that participants were encouraged to cultivate sweet potatoes as a local solution to address acute hunger and malnutrition. "What we achieved in promoting sustainable food sources highlights the importance of collaborative efforts among communities, government entities, and non-governmental organization," emphasized Musa.

Despite facing challenges in reaching remote areas, the campaign successfully raised awareness about the numerous benefits of OFSP. Helen Keller, together with its dedicated partners, remains optimistic that this awareness will translate into increased cultivation and consumption of the crop, ultimately leading to improved nutritional outcomes for

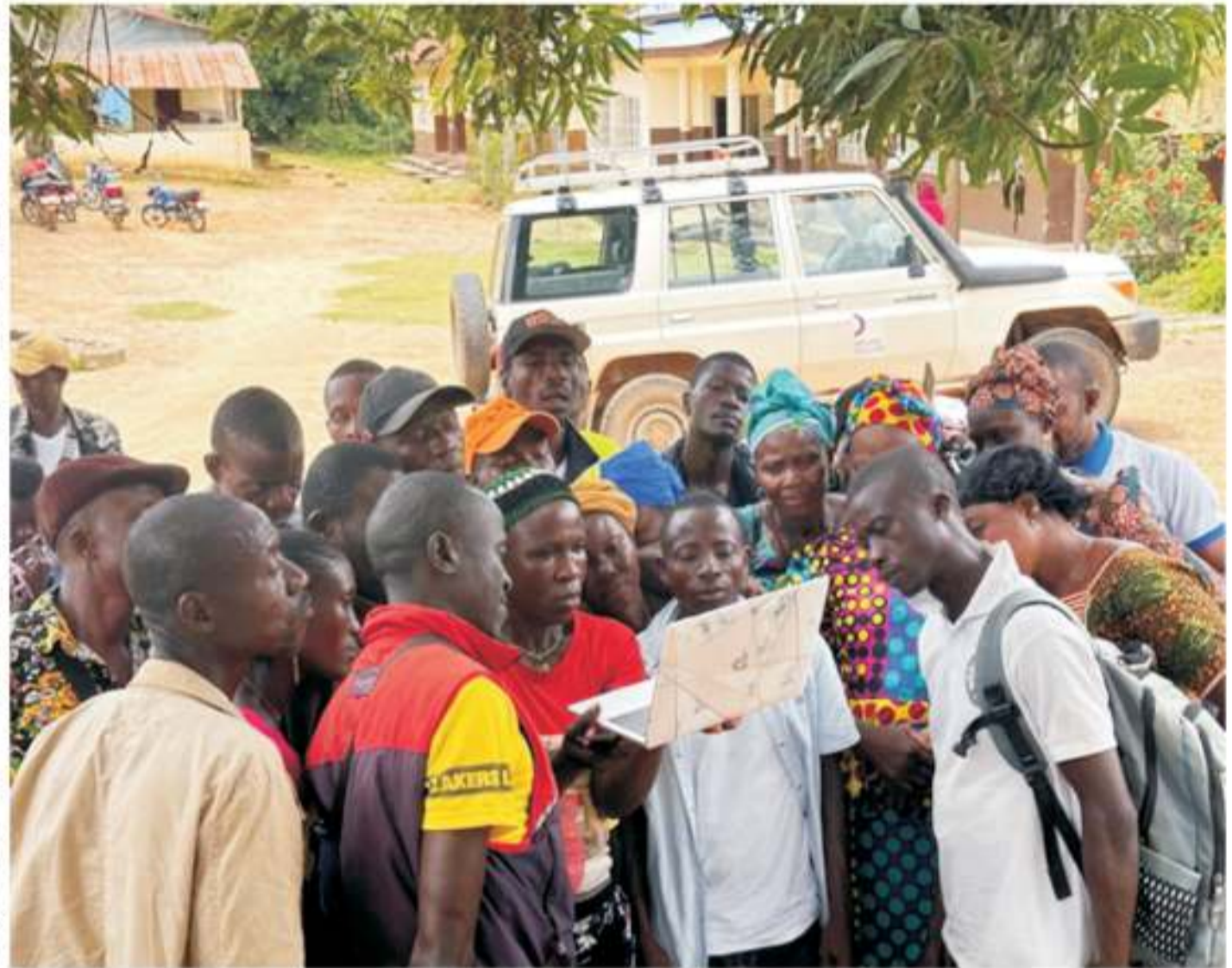


Photo: Participants in Jori village viewing a video that teaches them how to combine wheat flour with orange-fleshed sweet potatoes in bread baking ©Helen Keller/INTL Sierra Leone

vulnerable populations throughout Sierra Leone.

"The widespread impact of this campaign is a true testament to the relentless efforts of aid organizations and the unwavering commitment of communities to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of zero hunger and the government Human Capital Development good health and well-being," said Rugiatu Lahai, a nutritionist from the District Health Management Team in Kenema while educating the participants about the role of vitamin A (OFSP is a rich source of Vitamin A, an essential micronutrient for promoting healthy vision, immune function and growth and development, particularly in young children and pregnant women.

Mammie Brima, a forty-five-year-old Mamie Queen (queen mother) from Blama Township in Kenema District, was deeply touched by the message about the sweet potato. She made a pledge to spread the word to her community, encouraging households to pool their resources and buy the OFSP

vines from the Extension Division in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in her district. "We will go door-to-door to inform people about this potato," she said. "We will collect our resources and purchase the vines because we want this potato to thrive in our community."

By focusing on home-grown solutions, such as the cultivation of orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, this campaign showcases the transformative potential of local interventions in addressing prevalent issues including food insecurity and positively transforming the lives of those most in need.

"The significance of community engagement in combatting hunger and malnutrition cannot be overstated," says Alpha Daramy Sesay, Communication Officer at Helen Keller in Sierra Leone. "Empowering communities to be at the center of their own food production to bolster food self-sufficiency, cultivates a sense of ownership and empowers them with knowledge and resources to create lasting impact," he adds. So far, thanks to our amazing

partners and generous donors like Irish Aid, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the Arab Gulf Program for Development that we have achieved such results - within a period of 30 days, 10 districts were visited with more than 47 engagements held across the 204 chiefdoms and 404 communities engaged - over 3,600 people participated.

As Helen Keller's nationwide community engagement campaign draws to a close, its legacy is already apparent. The seeds of change have been sown in the hearts and minds of communities across the country. With increased awareness and the empowerment of local communities, the campaign has set the stage for a brighter and more nourished future for Sierra Leone. By continuing to prioritize community-driven solutions and building upon the momentum generated by this initiative, we can pave the way for a Sierra Leone where no one suffers from hunger or malnutrition—a country where the full potential of every individual can be realized - the dream Helen worked towards her whole life!



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## LOCAL NEWS

# ReNIP, NDA leaders disassociate from claims of aligning with SLPP

By Yusufu S. Bangura

Ahead of 24th June general elections, presidential candidate of the Republic National Independent Party (ReNIP), Beresford Victor Williams and the Chairman and Leader of National Democratic Alliance party (NDA), Mohamed Pateh-Ba, have distanced themselves from claims that they have declared support for the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP).

It could be recalled that on Tuesday

13th June, news went on social media that nine political parties have declared and endorsed President Bio's re-election without a run-off.

"I, Beresford Victor Williams, leader of ReNIP and Mohamed Pateh-Ba, leader of NDA do hereby unequivocally distance ourselves from the declaration event of the Sierra Leone's People's Party (SLPP) for a second term, which took place on Tuesday 14 June, at the New Brookfield's Hotel in Freetown," they said.



## June 24<sup>th</sup> Elections: Samura Kamara demands ECSL boss, all commissioners quit within 72 hours

From Cover



He said Konneh was imposed as the head of the commission without due consultation with leaders of other political parties as stipulated in the 1991 Constitution, adding that his independence is questionable, among several others.

"Accordingly, the APC will therefore demand that Mohamed Konneh and all other commissioners resign forthwith, to be replaced by an independent internationally accredited team of electoral commissioners who will conduct fresh electoral processes" he demanded.

Among several issues highlighted that have the tendency to undermine the credibility of the June 24th elections, Samura cited the production of blurred and substandard voter identity cards, prevention of the registration of first time voters during voter registration, missing data in the voter registration and the state-sponsored and orchestrated intimidation and violence against voters.

While discrediting the ECSL of not being in a position to conduct creditable elections, the APC Presidential aspirant urged that the ECSL should guarantee that the counting of ballots and the tallying and certification of results will take place initially at the polling centre/station level as required

by law.

He urged that the ECSL should make a commitment that tallying of votes must be conducted transparently through manual and not electronic processes in the presence of party agents, local and international observers, that his party will be provided with the ECSL data management structure and proposed tallying system, that an independent technical forensic audit of the voter register be done to ascertain the veracity of the ages and identities of voters, among several others.

The APC leader said failure by President Bio and his SLPP Government to heed to the aforementioned considerations before the elections on June 24th, the APC will have no option but to conclude that the SLPP's intention, goal and primary objective is not to conduct free, fair, non-violent and credible elections.

He demanded that President Bio instructs the immediate release of all those peaceful APC supporters and national patriots who have been unlawfully arrested, molested and detained including Arthur Pearce and many others and that President Bio should authorize the security forces to stop intimidating APC members through searches and vandalization of property

ReNIP's presidential candidate reiterated that he was not a signatory or party to the declaration for the SLPP and do not endorse any Presidential candidate, but his humble self.

He added that he does not position himself to transform the country into a Middle Income Economy as he tries to embrace democratic and prosperous future as he plans to transform Sierra Leone under the Hybrid Economy System.

"I want to unreservedly assure my voters, fans and supporters that I am actively campaigning as scheduled, and I am still robustly contesting to win the upcoming 24 June 2023 Presidential Election.

And, I do believe that, with the genuine and realistic view as our aim to transform the Country, I will surely win the election," he promised.

The political parties present during the declaration and endorsement of President Julius Maada Bio were Alliance Democratic Party (ADP), Peace and Liberation Party (PLP), Revolutionary United Front Party (RUFP), Citizens Democratic Party (CDP), United National People's Party (UNPP), United Democratic Movement (UDM), National Unity Reconciliation Party (NURP) and the Running mate for the National Democratic Alliance party (NDA) was part of the event.

## Two acquitted, discharged for murder

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

Justice Momoh Jah Stevens has acquitted and discharged two accused persons, Gbessay Kargbo and Amadu Bailor Jalloh 'alias' Network' after the 12-man-jury delivered a not guilty verdict.

The two accused persons sometime in March, 2022, made their first appearance at the Pademba Road Magistrate Court before Mark Ngegba for a Preliminary Investigation on two counts of murder and conspiracy to commit murder contrary to the laws of Sierra Leone.

It was alleged by the police that both accused persons on the 9th March, 2022 in Freetown, murdered Ahmed Boie Kamara at his residence.

During the preliminary hearing, the state called several witnesses including the government pathologist and forensic expert, Doctor Simeon Owizz Koroma, who in his findings, told the court that the deceased's death was unnatural.

Justice Stevens, in his summing up address to the jurors, said the prosecution brought a case against the two accused persons on a two-count indictment of murder and

conspiracy.

The judge states that the prosecution called several witnesses to establish their case, adding that the burden and standard of proof against the accused rest on the prosecution.

The State prosecutor, M.P Sesay, in his address, said after the deceased had testified against the first defendant in a land matter, the accused persons threatened that that will be his last testimony in court.

He said at Madonkeh Village, the accused persons were seen beating up the deceased and telling him that he will never be a witness in court.

He added that the accused persons were seen leaving with the two motor bikes they apparently came with close to the residence of the deceased before he was reported dead few days after.

Justice Stevens during his summing up, told the jury that after looking at the law and listening to the evidence, it's upon them the jury to consider their verdict, if the accused persons were guilty or not.

After the jury returned with their verdict of not guilty on the two counts of conspiracy to murder and murder, Justice Momoh Jah Stevens acquitted and discharged the accused persons.

## LOCAL NEWS £2m fraud at British High Commission

Several staff members at the British High Commission in Sierra Leone have been suspended on suspicion of defrauding the UK Government of about £2m.

Sir Philip Barton, Permanent Secretary at the Foreign Office, notified the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee of the loss to the department, which he said would be recorded in its annual accounts.

According to the permanent secretary, the fraud related primarily to the procurement of diesel fuel for electricity generators at the UK High Commission in Freetown.

He added that the total sum lost and the full background of the scheme was still being investigated.

"We believe a number of country-based staff colluded to circumvent controls. The staffs believed to have been involved have been suspended and disciplinary action is ongoing,"

Barton told the committee in a letter. In his letter, Barton said he had launched a review into what went wrong and that a programme to improve safeguards at the outpost had been initiated.

The disclosure has sparked concerns among MPs about wider issues regarding fraud, theft and corruption relating to UK Government and UK related charitable funds overseas.

Labour MP Neil Coyle, who sits on the committee, accused the Foreign Office's leadership of having "taken their eye off the ball" of the management of embassies and commissions since the department's 2020 merger with the department for international aid.

"The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office need to reassure us there is no other fraud or corruption in the Sierra Leone office, but also that it has the means of preventing fraud and the loss of

British taxpayers' money across the rest of its operations worldwide," he added.

Conservative MP Alicia Kearns, chair of the committee, highlighted that Barton's letter came in the wake of news that a charity headed by Rory Stewart, former UK international development secretary, had been defrauded of almost \$1mn in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

GiveDirectly, said in a statement on its website last week that some members of its team in the DRC had conspired with others to defraud its cash transfer programme of \$900,000 over six months, "diverting aid from over 1,700 families in extreme poverty".

The charity apologised to aid recipients and donors, and said it had made changes that would prevent such fraud from taking place in future. In its 2021-22 annual accounts, the Foreign Office noted

that its aid spending commitments meant it operated in "some of the most challenging contexts", but nonetheless took a "zero tolerance" approach to fraud.

It recorded gross fraud losses of £2.1mn that year, but after recovering some of the losses the net total lost to fraud was £218,230. In November 2021, the department launched a new counter-fraud strategy.

In 2020, it emerged that nine antique clocks worth £53,000 had been "unlawfully removed" from the Foreign Office's headquarters in Whitehall. The department's transparency data on fraud and theft published that year also recorded thousands of pounds lost from a misplaced satellite phone and cash stolen in Africa, as well as a former employee undertaking an Amazon shopping spree on a corporate credit card and a travel agent inflating ticket prices in the Asia-Pacific region.

## CARL provides legal services to 50 alleged June 13 protesters

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

The Center for Accountability and Rule of Law (CARL) has opted to provide free legal services for 50 people that were arrested on June 13 for alleged unlawful assembly and disorderly behaviour.

CARL-SL made the confirmation through a press release in which it stated that the individuals that are currently detained at the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) in Freetown for further investigations, were arrested in the eastern part of Freetown.

The Sierra Leone Police on Tuesday, June 13, confirmed that they arrested at least 50 youth, including one female, at various locations in the eastern part of Freetown for alleged unlawful assembly, disorderly behaviour, throwing of missiles and breaking. According to the police, the suspects were arrested in various locations including at Grassfield, Wellington, Congo Wata, and Portee in Freetown.

"CARL-SL is currently providing legal aid services to persons who come in conflict with the law due to their participation in election-related activities. Following reports about the arrests, lawyers hired by CARL-SL appeared at the police stations to support the suspects with information about procedures and their rights under the law," they stated in a press release.

They stated that the lawyers had a



brief interaction with each of the suspects before officially indicating to the police that they would be representing the suspects in the course of police investigations and the lawyers were present when

statements were obtained from some of the suspects.

They further stated that it was suspected that six of those arrested included minors, but those children have been transferred to the

Family Support Unit for age verification procedures, noting that CARL-SL will continue to provide legal services to the suspects throughout the investigation.



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## LOCAL NEWS

# Accused sent to prison for alleged robbery

By Mohamed J Kargbo

**2**0-year-old Robert Turay, made another appearance before Magistrate Santigie Bangura of Court N0.3 and was sent to the Male Correctional Centre on Pademba Road for alleged robbery.

The accused is standing trial on two count charges to wit robbery with aggravation and unlawful possession contrary to the laws of

Sierra Leone.

The indictment was read out to him by the court registrar and no plea was taken from him.

It was alleged that on 2nd May 2023, at Wilkinson Road, Freetown, being armed with a knife, the accused robbed Olivia Fewry of one Iphone XMax valued (Nle9,500).

It was also alleged that at the same time, immediately, before or

after such robbery, the accused did use personal violence on the said Olivia.

It was further alleged on count 2 that on the same date and location in Freetown, the accused person was found in possession of a kitchen Knife with red handle which he must have stolen or unlawfully obtained.

The state counsel sought for a

short date due to the absence of his witness, who he intend to bring to court on the next adjourned date.

The defense counsel made an application for bail to be admitted to the accused person, but the Magistrate refused.

The matter was adjourned to the 21st June 2023 for further hearings.

## Police made 200 arrests nationwide on June 13<sup>th</sup>

By Ishmael Dumbuya

**A**ccording to the Head of Media in the Sierra Leone Police, ASP Brima Kamara, police made 200 arrests nationwide on June 13th after an unsuccessful protest called for by a social media influencer, Adebayor.

He explained that the arrests were made in Freetown, Makeni and Bo. He clarified that 86 arrests were made in Freetown, 14 in Makeni, and 100 in Bo.

He went on to state that Monday and Tuesday were relatively quiet but at some point in time, a group of people came out in protest with placards in their hands, thereby trying to incite other people to join them in protest.

He cited Waterloo, Calaba Town, Portee, Eastern Police and Akram where people protested and that the police acted swiftly and arrested the culprits and detained.

He further explained that police

made sure that a high feasibility policing was provided for business people, pedestrians and drivers.

The police media boss stated that police will be deployed in those areas mentioned till after the elections, noting that those areas are considered high risk areas.

He concluded by re-affirming police commitments to providing a robust security for all Sierra Leoneans, and ensure that culprits are brought on their knees to face the full force of the law. He therefore urged everyone not to panic and go about their normal business.

It could be recalled that last week, Adebayor called for a sit-at-home protest on Monday 11th June, and a street protest on Tuesday 12th June, inciting people on WhatsApp that the EC-SL boss, Mohamed Konneh must resign as well as to release the number of registered voters' data to the public.

# Bike rider jailed 5 years for robbery

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

**A**lihaji Yusif Fofanah, a bike rider, has yesterday been sentenced to five years imprisonment by Justice Alihaji Momoh Jah Stevens for conspiring and robbing Salamatu Shekinatu Jaow, property worth over five hundred thousand Leones.

The accused was dragged to court on two counts of conspiracy and robbery contrary to Section 23(1) of the Larceny Act 1916 as repealed and replaced by Section 1 of the Imperial Status Criminal Laws Adoption Amendment Act 1971 (Act No.16) of 1971.

The state prosecution, M.P. Sesay, said the accused on the 8th August, 2020, at Waterloo,

conspiracy together with other people unknown to commit robbery.

He further stated that the accused on the same date, robbed the complainant Le 550,000,00.

In his judgement, the judge said the persecution had tendered several exhibits and three witnesses testified in their case against the accused person.

He noted that the prosecution had proven their case beyond reasonable doubt and therefor found the accused guilty as charged.

Lawyer Taylor Younge from the Legal Aid Board pleaded for mercy on behalf of the accused person, asking that the judge should not give the accused custodian sentence.



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## NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

## Nigerian chef non stop cooking record confirmed by Guinness World Records



**Chef Hilda Baci cooks to establish a new Guinness world record for the "longest cooking marathon", the 97-hour cook-a-thon, in Lagos, Nigeria, Thursday, May 11, 2023. - Copyright © africanews Sunday Alamba/ Copyright 2023 The AP. All rights reserved**

A Nigerian chef has achieved the Guinness World Record for the longest solo cooking session after a marathon of 93 hours and 11 minutes without a break, standing and preparing local dishes, the organization confirmed on Tuesday. Hilda Baci, 26, had trained in the gym to stay on her feet for the four days needed to beat the record last

month. She had declared that her feat, achieved between May 11 and 15, aimed to "put Nigerian cuisine on the map". "After a thorough examination of all the evidence, Guinness World Records can now confirm that... Hilda Baci has officially broken the record for the longest (individual) cooking marathon," Guinness World Records said in a statement. According to Guinness, she beat the previous record of 87 hours and 45 minutes, held by an Indian chef in 2019.

Several high-ranking personalities, including the governor of Lagos State, the country's vice-president at the time and Nigerian Afrobeats music star Tiwa Savage, visited her during her culinary marathon.

"I want Nigerian recipes to be spread around the world. I want it to be a normal thing to make Egusi soup in an American home," she told a press conference in the wake of her feat, referring to one of Nigeria's iconic dishes.

"I want you to be able to walk into any random supermarket and find Nigerian ingredients," she said.

## In Egypt, a clinic helps circumcised women regain control of their bodies



**Ex-female genital mutilation (FGM) cutter Monika Cheptiak, who stopped practicing after the country set anti-FGM law in 2010. - Copyright © africanews YASUYOSHI CHIBA/AFP or licensors**

In Egypt, campaigns are calling for little girls no longer to be circumcised. But while the state wants to protect future generations, the 28 million women who have already been mutilated have only one private clinic to help them.

Nourhane, in her thirties, took the plunge at the end of 2021. This resident of Alexandria, in the coastal north, who speaks under a pseudonym, turned to surgeon Reham Awwad to "become once again the one who decides for (her) body".

Eight months after a reconstruction operation, her chronic pain has been replaced by "completely new sensations" and "a clear physical and psychological improvement," she explained.

It has only been possible to carry out this type of operation in Egypt since 2020.

By founding Restore FGM, Dr Awwad and her colleague Amr Seifeldin have offered victims a rare space in a country where disclosing excision is still taboo.

Surrounded by psychologists, they offer therapies, plasma injections to regenerate damaged tissue and clitoral reconstruction.

"Surgery is the last resort", insists Dr Awwad, adding that plasma injections combined with psychological support "can reduce the need for surgery by 50%" and avoid another traumatic procedure.

This is the option being considered by Intisar, who is also speaking under a pseudonym. "Something in me has been broken, and I want to repair it", told the forty-year-old.

When she was 10, "my grandmother took me to a doctor who excised me", and she kept saying "it's for your own good, you're better off like that". Despite being a doctor and the headmistress of her school, her parents had agreed to the operation during the summer the peak of girl circumcisions, according to campaigner Lobna Darwish.

An old tradition now medicalized

To combat this practice, "we need to run prevention campaigns in schools before the summer holidays", argues Ms. Darwish, who oversees gender issues at the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR).

The figures are staggering according to the authorities, 86% of married Egyptian women aged between 15 and 49 had been circumcised by 2021. UNICEF estimates that 200 million women in the world have been circumcised. More than one in ten is Egyptian.

In the most populous of Arab countries, excision involves the removal of the clitoris and labia minora. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), it causes pain, hemorrhage, infections, painful sexual relations and complications during childbirth.

Although illegal since 2008 and regularly denounced by the Muslim and Christian authorities, this age-old practice remains widespread in the patriarchal and conservative country, where many clinics offer it.

After years of campaigning against traditional excisers, three quarters of Egyptian women have been circumcised by a doctor, according to official figures.

"Excision cuts across all social classes," says Intissar, now a journalist.

Promoted as a "cosmetic" operation, she continues, it is in fact aimed at "disconnecting women from their bodies and their pleasure".

"We were told that it was religious, that it was better, cleaner", agrees Nourhane, who was mutilated at the age of 11 with her eight-year-old sister under the gaze of the women in her family.

Egypt isn't the only country that practices this ritual in Africa.

A mirror for self-discovery

The law regularly imposes stiffer penalties on doctors who perform excisions or on their parents.

But for Ms Darwish, this "criminalization" is counter-productive because no one wants to denounce their own family.

"What is needed above all are sex education courses" and "publicizing the toll-free number" set up by the government in 2017, she says.

For Dr Awwad, doctors also lack information: "They don't hear about reconstructive surgery either during their studies or during their internship", she accuses.

Women, for their part, know little about their anatomy. At every first consultation, Dr Awwad gives her

## Cameroon threatens to suspend TV channels broadcasting homosexuality

Cameroon's media regulator threatened on Tuesday to suspend distributors of television channels, particularly foreign ones, that broadcast "scenes of homosexuality", in a country that punishes same-sex relations with imprisonment. In a text entitled "Warning", dated Monday and circulated in the media on Tuesday, the National Communication Council, a government body, stated that it had noted "the proliferation of programs promoting homosexual practices", "generally broadcast by foreign editors".

These programs "are increasingly to be found in cartoons aimed at children and minors", says the text. "The CNC calls on the promoters of channels broadcasting programs showing scenes of homosexuality in Cameroon (...) to immediately withdraw these programs, which violate the law, morality and customs of our country, on pain (...) of the outright suspension of the media concerned".

The CNC does not name any of the media it is criticizing. However, an official from the body, who requested anonymity, assured AFP that "for the moment there is no question of this or that company being named because the volume of programs concerned is too great to name them all".

Cameroon, like many other African countries, receives many foreign channels via subscriptions to the packages offered by the French group Canal+ and the South African group DSTv, as well as a number of other small private operators selling



**Cameroon's national radio and TV headquarters building is pictured on July 25, 2022, in Yaounde. - Copyright © africanews LUDOVIC MARIN/AFP or licensors**

access to foreign channels by satellite.

The nine members of the CNC are appointed directly by decree of President Paul Biya, 90, who has ruled the country with an iron fist for more than 40 years.

Sexual relations between people of the same sex are punishable by prison sentences ranging from six months to five years in Cameroon.

In May 2022, the international NGO Human Rights Watch (HRW) denounced the "violence and abuse" regularly suffered by LGBTIQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex) people in this Central African country.

"The criminalization of homosexuality has created a climate in which Cameroonians and the security forces can assault and abuse LGBTIQ people with impunity", HRW deplored.

## Climate activists denounce COP28 president

Climate activists denounce COP28 president and head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, Sultan al-Jaber, ahead of meeting in Dubai later in the year.

Kenyan climate activist, Eric Njuguna, and Swedish climate activist, Greta Thunberg, participated in the Climate Change Conference in Germany.

The event takes place ahead of the COP28 meeting later this year in Dubai.

Speaking to the press, Kenyan climate campaigner Eric Njuguna denounced the choice of an oil giant boss to preside over the COP28 climate summit.

"And I think history records will show that in 2033 for COP 28, metaphorically speaking, we let a mosquito lead the fight against malaria. It's a stab in the back for communities bearing the brunt of the climate crisis, but also the future generations who will be affected adversely by the climate crisis", said Kenyan climate campaigner, Eric Njuguna.

Sultan al-Jaber, head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, is to lead the Dubai climate negotiations.

Last week, Al-Jaber acknowledged that a reduction in the use of fossil fuels was "inevitable".

Scientists and climate activists are pleading for a more rapid expansion of renewables, and a phase out of oil, coal and gas, given the significant proportion of climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions produced by these energy sources.

Climate activists want world leaders to agree to phase out fossil fuels at the UN climate negotiations in Dubai (COP28, Ed.) in late 2023, after failing at their summit in Glasgow in 2021 and again in Sharm-Ei-Sheikh in 2022.

But major oil and gas exporters are keen to shift the focus further downstream, arguing the world can reduce carbon emissions without ditching the fossil fuels that generate them.

## Senegal: authorities investigate videos of armed civilians during demonstrations

The Senegalese government announced on Tuesday that it had opened an investigation following the broadcasting of videos showing armed men in civilian clothes, accused of violently attacking demonstrators during the unrest that followed the conviction of opposition politician Ousmane Sonko in early June.

"An investigation has been opened into the controversy caused by videos (of armed men in civilian clothes) circulating on social networks in recent days. It will be up to Senegal's justice system to establish the truth", Interior Minister Antoine Félix Abdoulaye Diome told the press.

He was speaking in the presence of Prime Minister Amadou Bâ during a visit to the BRT construction site, a rapid bus project designed to relieve traffic congestion in Dakar, where installations were damaged by demonstrators.

Videos and eyewitness accounts show armed men in civilian clothes in pick-ups chasing demonstrators during the unrest that followed Sonko's conviction.

Pro-Sonko supporters accuse the presidential camp of having paid these "thugs" to assist the police and



**Demonstrators gather during a protest in Dakar, on June 1, 2023. - Copyright © africanews JOHN WESSELS/AFP or licensors**

gendarmes and put down the protesters. The presence of these armed men, reported by many local and international media, has been denounced by human rights activists.

From June 1st to June 3rd, Senegal was gripped by its worst unrest in years after Mr. Sonko was sentenced to two years in prison in a vice case. The violence left 16 people officially dead, but 23 according to Amnesty International.

**Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP**

patients a mirror so that they can discover their genitals.

Intissar has been there. "I found out that both my labia and part of my clitoris had been removed. I thought I'd just had a little bit of skin removed. I was very angry," she says.

Nourhane has also experienced anger. Firstly at her mutilation, but also at the lack of help for reconstructive surgery. It took her almost a year to

get a donation to cover the operation: 1,200 euros, ten times the average salary in Egypt.

"Medicines are expensive too, so the people in charge need to sort this out," she says, and "offer reconstructive surgery in public hospitals".

But Nourhane has already scored a victory: together with her mother, she managed to prevent the excision of her two nieces.

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## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRM SELECTION)

**COUNTRY:** Sierra Leone

**NAME OF PROJECT:** Sierra Leone Land Administration Project (P177031)

**Grant No.:** E0600-SL

**Procurement Title:** Hiring of a Consulting Firm to coordinate the recording and registration of land tenure rights.

**Reference No:** SL-MLHCP-364429-CS-QCBS

**Date of Issue:** 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2023.

The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MLHCP), through the Government of Sierra Leone *has received* financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Sierra Leone Land Administration Project (SLLAP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include the “Coordination of Recording and Registration of Land Tenure Rights”. *The estimated level of effort (professional staff-months) for this assignment is sixty (60) months. The assignment is expected to be implemented within a period of sixty (60) months; commencing the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023 and ending on the 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2028.*

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment *can be requested via email, using the following email address: [sllaprocurement@gmail.com](mailto:sllaprocurement@gmail.com), copying [joejoe7787@yahoo.com](mailto:joejoe7787@yahoo.com), copying [alphajohcham@yahoo.com](mailto:alphajohcham@yahoo.com) and [jobosamba@yahoo.com](mailto:jobosamba@yahoo.com).*

Or

*Can be obtained at the address given below:*  
The Project Coordination Unit  
Sierra Leone Land Administration Project (SLLAP)  
3rd Floor – West Wing, Youyi Building  
Brookfields, Freetown.  
Attn: The Procurement Specialist  
Tel: +23279629390

The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MLHCP) through the Sierra Leone Land Administration

Project (SLLAP) now invites eligible Consulting Firms, (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information, demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The shortlisting criteria are: **Relevance of Core Business and years in business, relevant experience as a firm, technical and managerial capability of the firm. The Qualifications and Experience of Key Experts shall not be included in the shortlisting criteria. Key Experts will not be evaluated at this stage (shortlisting stage).**

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” November 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. In addition, please refer to the specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment *as per paragraph 3.17 of the Procurement Regulations.*

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)** Method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours: – (09:30 to 1700 hours Sierra Leone Time on Mondays to Fridays.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) by or before 2:00pm on Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.

*Sierra Leone Land Administration Project (SLLAP) – Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MLHCP)*  
**Attn: The Procurement Specialist**  
*West Wing of 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Youyi Building*  
*Brookfields, Freetown*  
Tel: +23279629390  
E-mail: [sllaprocurement@gmail.com](mailto:sllaprocurement@gmail.com)

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Sierra Leone,  
Phone: +232 (0)76 895920  
email: care.sle@care.org

**SUPPLY OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR TWO YEARS**  
**REF.NO.CARESL/2023/FA/001**  
**JUNE 2023**

12.	Clearing and forwarding	Sea and Air Shipments
13.	Non-Food Items	plastic sheet, cooking utensils, foam, blanket etc.
14.	Food Items	Rice, Oil, Beans etc.
15.	Water trucking and treatment	Water Supplies
16.	Mobile sanitation	Sanitation services
17.	Medicine	Drugs including first aid kits
18.	Generator Maintenance	Maintenance and Repairs

CARE International began work in Sierra Leone in 1961, initially focusing on school food programs to improve children's nutrition. More recently, CARE Sierra Leone's priorities have become economic development, food security and public health. By understanding and addressing the underlying causes of poverty, we are focusing our efforts on long term goals to help the people of Sierra Leone improve their livelihood.

**SUBJECT: INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF GOODS AND SERVICES**

Planned Timetable For Tender Process		
Issue Invitation to Tender (ITT)	12 <sup>th</sup>	June, 2023
Deadline for submission of bids	21 <sup>st</sup>	June, 2023
Bid Opening	4 <sup>th</sup>	July, 2023
Preliminary Evaluations by CARE	6 <sup>th</sup>	July, 2023
Technical visitation to suppliers	10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	July, 2023
Final Evaluation/selection of Bids	13 <sup>th</sup>	July, 2023
Pre-award Meetings with Selected Suppliers	18 <sup>th</sup>	July, 2023
Notification of Intention Letters	19 <sup>th</sup>	July, 2023
Award of Contracts (Contracts Signing)	20 <sup>th</sup>	July, 2023
Contracts start Date	24 <sup>th</sup>	July, 2023

**OBJECTIVES**

CARE Sierra Leone is seeking the services of competent and trustworthy suppliers and service providers that are registered with the relevant government authorities in Sierra Leone, for the supply of goods and services on contract for two years (2023-2024).

Some Evaluation Criteria	
1. Valid Registration Documents with Sierra Leone Authorities	8. Cost reasonableness (for services)
2. Customer's References and contact details	9. Quotations with one year validity
3. Copies of previous contracts	10. Quality of Services (from references)
4. Operator's license (if applicable)	11. Contractual Delivery Time (Lead Time)
5. Payment terms	12. Warranty Conditions (if applicable)
6. Professionally written cover letter	13. Compliance with Sierra Leone laws
7. Financial Capacity	14. Compliance with CARE International rules

NO	Category	Descriptions
1.	Accommodation	Hotels
2.	Air conditioner Service	Maintenance and Repairs
3.	Vehicle Maintenance	Maintenance and Repairs (Garage)
4.	Motor Bikes Maintenance (Honda)	Maintenance and Repairs (Garage)
5.	Office Provision	Toiletries, Hygiene and Tea items
6.	Vehicle Rental	Vehicle Hiring
7.	Office Supplies	Stationeries and equipment (computers & accessories)
8.	Catering	Catering
9.	Visibility	Printing
10.	Furniture	Office and home
11.	IPC and Medical equipment	( masks, glove, hand sanitizers, chlorine, liquid soap,) and temperature scale, Dignity kits, PPEs

**Please Note:**

After signing of contract, CARE will be issuing purchase orders requesting for supplies as per quantities needed. Therefore, unit costs will be drawn from the existing contract that will emanate from this tender process.

**Invitation to Tender Process**

CARE Sierra Leone is issuing this invitation to bid to select its qualified suppliers for the supply of goods and services for its CARE operations in 2023-2025. Once a supplier is selected as a result of this process, CARE will only consider changing supplier if the selected supplier is found to be incompetent, unable to adequately satisfy the need as required, if pricing becomes uncompetitive or if significant changes occurred in the market place/within the CARE operational areas.

This invitation to bid has been issued in order to obtain offers for the supply of goods and services, on contract for two years (2023-2025). CARE Sierra Leone does not compromise quality for all goods and services that they procure; hence, selected supplier from this process must consistently deliver the highest quality of service to CARE. CARE Sierra Leone reserves the right not to enter into or award a contract as a result of this Invitation To Tender. CARE also reserves the right to terminate any contract issued as a result of this bidding process, as set out in the contract terms and conditions. Successful bidders will be expected to enter into a formal contract with CARE, which will be supported by Framework Agreement that will be valid for two years.

The onus is on the supplier to ensure that their offer is complete and meets CARE requirements. Failure to comply may lead to the offer being rejected without any reason being given. Please therefore ensure that you read this document carefully and comply fully with all requirements herein.

**Pricing/Details Required**

We are inviting you to quote under the following headings:

a) Prices charged for category selected (please list all items in stock, with specifications as per category selected with their prices) – **Please quote in SL**

**Leones Only**

- b) VAT if applicable  
c) Other applicable rates e.g. service charge

**7. Payment Terms**

By bank transfer within 30 days after the satisfactory delivery of goods and/or services, and submission of an official invoice and other relevant supporting documents

**8. Additional Information and Documents Required By CARE**

For purpose of emphasis and clarity, the following is a list of the supporting documentation that we require:

- Evidence of any valid accreditation.
- Valid Business Registration with the Government of Sierra Leone
- Tax clearance Certificate (current and valid)
- Minimum of three references (Maximum of Five), two of which should be long standing customers of at least one year (company name, contact name and telephone Number);
- Size of customer database (how many?) - along with a list of your main customers including any International Non-Government Organizations and U.N. agencies (top 5).

**Responses**

Copy of the tender addressed to the TENDER COMMITTEE should be dropped in the TENDER BOX provided at the reception not later than 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 (at 4:30PM the latest), at the head office of CARE Sierra Leone at 11th Old Railway Line – Tengbeh Town - Freetown, Sierra Leone. Tenders are to be submitted on working days only, Monday to Thursday, between 9:30AM and 4:30PM and Fridays before 2:00PM.

Please Note that external packaging or envelopes **MUST NOT** bear the name or markings, which may identify the bidding company or organization. Write the words 'INVITATION TO BID – SUPPLY OF (indicate the category) and the reference number REF.NO.CARESL/2023/FA/001 on the envelope. SUPPLIERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS AT THE PROVINCES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

For further enquiries, please contact: emmanuel.sebehwilson@care.org/Amy.Foday@care.org

**DISCLAIMER**

- CARE Sierra Leone reserves the right to alter the dates of the timetable.
- CARE Sierra Leone does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender at all.
- CARE Sierra Leone is not responsible for the cost of preparation of the tender response

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Independent Procurement Review Panel  
3 Wellington Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone  
Email: [www.IPRP.gov.sl](http://www.IPRP.gov.sl)



6<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.

## PRESS RELEASE

### INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED PROCUREMENT IRREGULARITIES AGAINST THE FREETOWN POLYTECHNIC, KOSSOH TOWN

The Independent Procurement Review Panel (IPRP), on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2023, commenced investigation into complaint filed by **MAK ENTERPRISES LIMITED**, on 29 Rawdon Street Freetown (the Appellant) against the **FREETOWN POLYTECHNIC, KOSSOH TOWN** (Respondent) on allegations of procurement irregularities bordering on a **FRAMEWORK CONTRACT FOR LOT 3 (COMPUTER, CONSUMMABLES AND ACCESSORIES)**.

The IPRP is a creature of section 65(1) of the Public Procurement Act No. 10 2016. The IPRP is charged with the responsibility to review complaints/ appeals from dissatisfied bidders, private contractors about decisions of a procuring entity in procurement process.

Furthermore, the procurement process of Sierra Leone is governed by the Public Procurement Act No.10 2016 and the Regulations Statutory Instrument No .15 of 2020.

The proceedings of the IPRP is underway and outcome will be made public.

For further enquires on this and other IPRP matters, please contact the Public Relations officer, on **23275166461 / 232/080-855375** or via email [iprpanel218@gmail.com](mailto:iprpanel218@gmail.com)



## INT'L SPORT

# It's time to sell Kylian Mbappe, PSG! Striker's move to Real Madrid is finally on - and Ligue 1 giants must take the cash and run

**K**ylian Mbappe has told Paris Saint-Germain that he won't renew his contract, leaving the club with little choice but to sell him this summer.

This all started with a picture from the past. A young Kylian Mbappe sits on his childhood bed, leaning on the wall, while a collage of Cristiano Ronaldo posters surround him. There isn't an inch of white space, just a Real Madrid legend plastered all over his room.

That image first came to light in 2017, when the then-Monaco forward was in search of a new club — already pipped as one of the best strikers in the world at 18. At the time he chose PSG, putting his childhood dreams on hold. But there was always a sense that he would someday be a Madrid player.

Six years later, it has become relevant again. Mbappe informed PSG yesterday that he would not be renewing his contract, which expires at the end of next season. This comes less than 12 months after he spurned Madrid interest, and committed at least another two years of his future to Paris.

The Parisians are now in a classic football predicament: they can either sell Mbappe now or risk losing him for free in a year. And Los Blancos still lurk.

PSG have adamantly declared that Mbappe will not leave the club for free under any circumstances. They insist that he will either change his mind and pen a new long-term contract, or leave for a handsome fee this summer. Mbappe, meanwhile, has insisted that he is not trying to force a move, and that he wants to play at Parc des Princes next year. But his good will — if not shrewd negotiating tactic — does little to chance PSG's stance. If the Parisians are true to their word, Mbappe will likely be out of Paris by the end of August.

Now might just be the time for PSG to cash in, anyway. Mbappe is among the best players in the world, and a Paris native. But he's also always had one eye on the Spanish capital. And at this point, when in need of striker, Madrid are almost certain to pay up.

So, PSG have been gifted the chance for Mbappe to leave on the most favourable terms possible, and they should take it. This is no longer about the idealism of a local kid, or the Ligue 1 title he would inevitably deliver next season. Instead, the Parisians face a financial decision, one intrinsically tied to the success of their side for years to come. Mbappe must be sold.

Selling Mbappe is not an immediate net benefit to PSG. There are, shockingly, football matches to win. And having arguably the best player in the world playing for your team tends to bring about some degree of success over the course of a season. Mbappe would be crucial in next year's Ligue 1 campaign, and by default makes them slightly more competitive in the Champions League (although he can do nothing about the obligatory yearly collapse.)

He is an immensely talented footballer who will only continue to improve.



That he is a Parisian who once resisted the allure of one of Europe's biggest clubs to stick around makes him a marketing gem, too. He is, in effect, the only player who still has the adulation of PSG's notoriously critical ultras. PSG are unfortunate that Mbappe has such a deep desire to go to Madrid — otherwise, this seems like the kind of footballing marriage that could last forever.

Still, romance aside, from a club perspective, Mbappe's benefit is dwindling. The star player has started to become a distraction.

It started last summer, when he made massive financial demands to PSG, which were swiftly granted. He wanted more money, power and autonomy than everyone else at the club. And the Parisians agreed to every last detail — before celebrating it like they'd signed him as a bargain.

But they can't necessarily be blamed for that. If this were anyone else, PSG would have denied the demands, and perhaps been more willing to get rid of the disgruntled player. So, with Mbappe, those celebrations — ones that were raucous despite the absurd €70 million (\$75m/£60m) loyalty bonus they reportedly agreed to pay the Frenchman for every year he stayed at the club — could perhaps be forgiven. Football is often rather heartless, but it would have been one for the idealists to see Mbappe stay with his hometown club.

Still, Mbappe has always understood the power he has. He negotiated so harshly with PSG last summer because he knew that they would pay up. A deal that would send him to Madrid seemed close at the time, but there was always a prevailing sense that PSG would get the last chance to change his mind — if only to retain their hometown sweetheart.

And, just as he expected, the Parisians

paid up. But he didn't hold his nerve for long. Mbappe reportedly regretted his decision to stay immediately and was swiftly on the phone with an indignant Florentino Perez asking Madrid to sign him.

In October, that desire came to light. Shortly before a key Champions League clash, it was revealed that Mbappe wanted to leave — something that blew up in the media before being swiftly taken back. A few months later, he took jabs at Neymar in the press about his late-night fast food habits. Shortly after that, he feuded with the club via social media about a season ticket promotion video that wasn't to his liking. PSG diligently took it down.

There were further incidents, too. Mbappe was made vice-captain at the expense of Presnel Kimpembe — without Kimpembe even knowing about the decision. He criticised his teammates in the press after a loss to Bayern Munich, admitting that PSG 'aren't good enough' to win the Champions League.

This was all accepted, mostly because Mbappe's brilliance on the pitch was dragging PSG to another Ligue 1 title. Without him, they may well have been beaten to the finishing post by Lens.

And there's an argument to be made here that this is just another incident, that Mbappe will retrace his steps, and draw an even more generous contract out of the Parisians. But this time, it seems a step too far. Even if Mbappe is bluffing — and he almost certainly isn't — the vice-captain has become more trouble than he's worth.

The idea of simply selling the forward isn't that simple, though. Footballers have made public their desire to leave clubs before, but not on this scale, of this quality, or at this price point. Mbappe should be one of the most

expensive players in the world. In today's market, superstars of this magnitude are not sold. In a world without contract constraints, it would take an astronomical amount of money to lure him from PSG.

And now the Parisians are effectively free to name their price. They reportedly want something in the range of €200 million (£172m/\$215m), according to the New York Times. That evaluation is impossible to argue with, not least because there is no precedent for how much a player like Mbappe, in the last year of his contract, should cost.

The issue is, Madrid likely won't pay that much, and PSG surely know that. At this point, then, it's a numbers game. But it won't necessarily be easy for Los Blancos. They just spent €103 million (£88m/\$110m) on Jude Bellingham and were counting on Mbappe being available for free next summer. They would perhaps otherwise have the nerve and opportunity to hold out, but the fact that Karim Benzema recently left for Saudi Arabia complicates things. Suddenly, Madrid need a striker.

Still, Mbappe has done his club a favour. He noted last year that he did not want to leave PSG on a free — and would rather them generate funds from his sale. And by telling the club that he wants out before the transfer window has properly opened, Mbappe has made good on that promise. PSG have something of a negotiating position.

Madrid, then, could perhaps drive the asking price down. But they won't have the advantage of the hasty negotiations of a last-minute deal. Instead, they will have to meet PSG somewhere. Even though he wants out, Mbappe will not come cheap.

<https://www.goal.com/en>



## Sports family mourns death of former SLFA President



of their former boss. Nahim Khadi's impact in Sierra Leone football both as a player and a football administrator will forever be remembered."

Former club Old Edwardians stated: "Nahim Khadi was a Friend and Father of high integrity and his passion for football was unmatched. We pray that God grants the late Nahim Khadi eternal rest and also grants those he has left behind the fortitude to bear the loss."

East End Lions Football Club noted that the late "Nahim Khadi was a great man, husband, father and someone more than just a coach or leader. He was an exceptional coach and a true asset to our team during his reign when he contributed to our history with success in the 1989 Sierra Leone FA Cup."

Former National cricket player, Abu Bebeaks said: "A philanthropist, true Sports icon, Legend and Patriot for school and country as an Edwardian has fallen May his soul rest in peace."

The late Nahim Khadi who until his death lived in the United Kingdom was elected as FA president in 2004 before his resignation in 2012.

Before being elected as President, the late Khadi served as a Team Manager for Sierra Leone national team, Leone Stars and also served the Sierra Leone Cricket Association.

The late SLFA President served as team manager of Old Edwardians and guided them to a league title in 1986 before joining East End Lions to serve as a coach in 1989, winning the FA Cup after a 1-0 win over Real Republicans in the final.

The Sierra Leone Football Association (SLFA), Sierra Leone Cricket Association (SLCA) Sierras Leone Premier League clubs, sports administrators, fans, and colleagues, have all been mourning the death of the former SLFA President, Nahim Khadi.

The former SLFA boss died in London last Tuesday, aged 75, due to illness.

SLFA stated upon hearing his demise that his impact on football is a lasting legacy.

"The SLFA is deeply saddened by the passing



## Nigeria coach expects 'difficult' match against Sierra Leone



Nigeria head coach Jose Peseiro has told journalists that he is expecting Sierra Leone to give his side a tough run in their 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier in Monrovia, Liberia on Sunday.

A draw will be enough to see the Super Eagles through to the tournament scheduled for Cote d'Ivoire early next year, but Peseiro has acknowledged that it will not be achieved without a challenge from the Leone Stars.

"It's going to be a difficult match because, in our last three meetings with them, we beat them only once, at home," Peseiro told reporters after the team's training session at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena in Lagos.

"They drew with the Super Eagles 4-4 here in Nigeria and played 0-0 in Sierra Leone. Everybody thinks it's easy, but it's not."

Peseiro recalled Nigeria's shock 1-0 defeat to Guinea-Bissau in Abuja earlier in the qualifying series and insisted that it would be wrong to write off the Leone Stars.

"Even against Guinea-Bissau at home everybody thought it would be easy but the result was different. We had 27 shots on goal but they shot only two times and scored. This can happen in football," he noted.

"You know the qualities of Sierra Leone and they have to win. If they don't beat us they cannot qualify. Before our match, Guinea-Bissau will have played Sao Tome at home.

"Sierra Leone knows they have to beat us if Guinea-Bissau beat Sao Tome. And they're a good side, they've been camping since last week and we have to do our maximum to beat them."

Guinea-Bissau host Sao Tome tomorrow and victory against the bottom side would take the Djurtus above Nigeria into first place in qualifying Group A and put Sierra Leone under pressure.

As things stand, both Nigeria and Guinea-Bissau can wrap up qualification in this matchday, with the former needing at least a draw against Sierra Leone and the latter a win against Sao Tome and Principe.