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# We will not resign

## SLPP will stoutly reject any attempt to disrupt the elections

- Umaru Napoleon Koroma



SLPP executives at the press conference

## -ECSL Boss

By Yusufu S. Bangura & Hassan Gbassay Koroma

The Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman of the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL), Mohamed Kenewul Konneh, has yesterday told pressmen that he and his colleague commissioners will not resign from office, as demanded by the main opposition All People's Congress (APC) party.

At a widely publicised press conference hosted at the New Brook Fields Hotel in Freetown, the Leader and Presidential candidate of the APC, Dr Samura Mathew Wilson Kamara, demanded that the Chairman of the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL), Mohamed Konneh and all regional commissioners 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



Chief Electoral Commissioner for ECSL

done in a manner that epitomises the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) Government's flagrant disrespect for the rule of law and its underlying intent of the 2023 elections.

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.

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## SLAJ condemns attack on Umaru Fofana

Umaru Fofana says some APC supporters used motherly invectives on him

## Talking Drum sets up situation room, deploys elections security observers

## Nigeria: ruling APC appoints Godswill Akpabio as President of the Senate

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## LOCAL NEWS SLAJ condemns attack on Umaru Fofana

The Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) has put out a press release vehemently condemning attacks on one of its former president, Umaru Fofana, by members and supporters of the main opposition All People's Congress (APC) during the party flag-bearer's address to the media on Wednesday, 14th June, 2022 at the New Brookfields Hotel, Jomo Kenyatta Road, Freetown.

The release states that, Fofana, who was officially invited by the APC to cover the event, was said to have been confronted just outside the hall as he was hurrying to file his report by a large group of APC supporters who directed offensive remarks towards his mother. According to Umaru, their hostility persisted as they pursued him to the hotel carpark, where they continued to subject him to further indecent language and gestures, and was



Umaru Fofana says some APC supporters used motherly invectives on him

threatened physically. He was rescued by some onlookers and a fellow journalist who guided him to a secure location. SLAJ stated that that was not the first time the BBC and Reuters broadcaster has encountered similar attacks from both members and supporters of

the APC, with some originating from influential figures within the party.

Fofana had brought it to the attention of the APC leadership every time he was attacked by the party's supporters and members who have never publicly condemned the action of their members or taken any other action.

"This attack on Fofana is so unfortunate and appalling, coming from a party that invited journalists to listen to their grievances and to help convey them to the wider public. Political parties must note that it is also their responsibility to ensure the safety and security of journalists in the course of their duty, especially during the elections period," said SLAJ President, Ahmed Sahid Nasralla

SLAJ calls on the APC to publicly denounce the recent attack on Fofana unequivocally and take appropriate action and proactive

measures to encourage their supporters to desist from attacking journalists verbally and physically.

"We also call on all political parties and candidates contesting the June 24 elections to ensure the safety and well-being of journalists and other citizens engaging in their democratic duties at all times, especially with elections approaching and the political tension rising between political parties," the release states.

Meanwhile, the National Publicity Secretary of the APC, Sidi Yayah Tunis, confirmed receiving a complaint from Fofana, and he promised to take it up with the party's leadership today.

"It is unfortunate and something we do not condone. None of us was present when it happened, but we will investigate and try to identify who was involved so we take strong action," he assured.

## Save the children, CFN, SLAJ concerned over use of children in politics

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

Save the Children, in collaboration with the Children's Forum Network and the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, has expressed deep concern over reports of children being exploited, abused and involved in political activities during the 2023 General Election Campaigns in Sierra Leone.

In a joint press release issued on June 15 during a press briefing organized at the head office of Save the Children, Aberdeen in Freetown, the three organisations strongly condemned such actions and urged all political parties and candidates to immediately cease using children in political campaigns or for conveying political messages.

According to the release, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Sierra Leone is a signatory, provides a clear framework for the protection and well-being of children and Article 3 of the Convention emphasizes that the best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration in all actions concerning them.

Article 32 highlights the right of children to be protected from economic exploitation and any work that may interfere with their education, harm their health, or hinder their development.

According to the release, the exploitation of children for political

purposes not only violates their fundamental rights but also jeopardizes their well-being and future prospects. Children should never be used as pawns or instruments in political campaigns or activities.

Ahmed Sahid Nasralla, President, Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) called on all and sundry to ensure that children do not participate in election.

"We also encourage journalists to do the needful when they see children participate in political activities by reporting those crimes on their various medium and interview politicians on such issues any time they have the opportunity," he urged. On behalf of the Children's Forum Network (CFN), Mahmoud Barrie, President, CFN, endorsed the press statement on behalf of the over three million children in Sierra Leone. He said laws in Sierra strongly prohibit the use of children to participate in political campaign.

He said CFN strongly condemns the use of children in political activities and reiterates the endorsement of the press statement.

Boi Jenneh Jalloh, National Chairperson Child Rights Coalition and Executive Director FoRUT said when children are not allowed to vote, they should also not be allowed to participate in politics.

She admonished parents to look over their children and not allow them

participate in politics.

Reading from the press statement, Ramatu Jalloh, Director of Advocacy Section, Save the Children, said such actions undermine children's rights, expose them to potential harm, manipulation, and psychological distress.

"In addition, we are deeply disappointed by recent developments that disrupted children's education. It has come to our attention that majority of over 220,000 pupils taking the West African Senior Secondary Education Examination (WASSCE), Primary and Secondary School children were either too scared to attend their exams or did not go to school on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th June 2023. This disruption to their education do not only impacts their academic progress but also compromises their safety and mental well-being," she reads.

She noted that Eglantyne Jebb, the founder of Save the Children, initiated the movement to advocate for and protect children who suffer the consequences of political instability. In situations where children are exploited for political



Representatives from SLAJ, CRC, SCI and CFN

gains, it is imperative to remind everyone of the urgent need to protect and prioritize the well-being of children.

Save the Children, Children's Forum Network, and Sierra Leone Association of Journalists called upon all political parties, candidates, and their supporters to uphold the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

They urged political parties to immediately cease the use of children in political campaigns, protests, events, or activities, ensure the protection of children from any form of exploitation, manipulation, or harm during the electoral process, raise awareness within respective party structures and among supporters about the importance of safeguarding children's rights.



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## LOCAL NEWS

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

The Secretary General of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), Umaru Napoleon Koroma, has stated that they will stoutly reject any attempt to disrupt the June 24th multi-tier elections, as echoed by main opposition All Peoples Congress (APC).

While the APC has demanded that the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) makes available detail voter register, he noted that there is no law that requires EC-SL to give a national Register of Voters to political parties.

He said any attempt by the ECSL to provide political parties the disaggregated data of voters, including voters' identification numbers, voters addresses, dates and places of birth will not only be in contravention of the privacy and confidentiality of voters, but will also endanger the lives and security of voters.

Napoleon was speaking at the SLPP party headquarters on Wallace Johnson Street, where he addressed journalists in response to the call made by the APC presidential candidate, Samura Mathew Wilson Kamara, for the resignation of the EC-SL Chairman and all other commissioners.

He noted that SLPP was gravely concerned about the deliberate attempts by the APC to disrupt the peaceful elections and reverse the democratic gains Sierra Leone has made since the return to multi-party democracy in the late 1990s.

## SLPP will stoutly reject any attempt to disrupt the elections

- Umaru Napoleon Koroma

He said on 11th May 2023, APC released a press Statement which contained a call for a nationwide protest and the said press statement was followed by various threats bordering on national security by the leadership of the APC, including the National Secretary General, Lansana Dumbuya Esq., and the former APC Chairman of the Western Area Rural District Council, Kasho Holland Cole.

He said the demand by the APC Presidential Candidate for the resignation of the Chief Electoral Commissioner and other Electoral Commissioners is an outrageous attempt to use the Board of Electoral Commissioners as scapegoats for the ill-preparedness of the APC for the 24th June 2023 multi-tier elections.

He said the suggestion by the APC Presidential Candidate to replace the Board of Electoral Commissioners with an "independent internationally accredited team of electoral commissioners" to conduct Sierra Leone's national elections, was disrespectful to their collective consciousness, an attack on the sovereignty of Sierra Leone and a spectre of his unfitness to be elected as President and sovereign Head of State.

He said the appointment of the Chief Electoral Commissioner was approved by the Parliament of Sierra Leone following due parliamentary scrutiny by the ruling and opposition Members of Parliament including APC members,



noting that the accusation of any political association against the Chief Electoral Commissioner re-echoes a smear campaign by the APC, which should be roundly rejected by every well-meaning Sierra Leonean.

Napoleon said APC participated in Political Parties Liaison Committee meetings, where concerns relating to the electoral process have been raised and the ECSL has addressed those concerns in the presence of other political parties and members of the civil society.

"The bogus demands and unacceptable deadline by the APC Presidential Candidate are merely characteristic shenanigans by a political party desperately seeking a postponement of the 24th June 2023 multi-tier elections

that has the tendency to create a constitutional crisis in our country," he said.

He said the controvertible statement by the APC Presidential Candidate, Dr. Samura Mathew Wilson Kamara at the press conference, was nothing more than a compendium of unsubstantiated claims, conjectures, blatant inaccuracies and preposterous allegations by a candidate who is apprehensive of an embarrassing defeat at the forthcoming polls.

He said the APC Presidential Candidate's repeated assertion that the only outcome of a free and fair elections the APC will accept is APC Victory' sets a dangerous tone to premeditated post-election violence by APC.

He said the unfounded assertion was akin to the narrative the APC Presidential Candidate created in 2018 when he realised the APC had lost the elections to the SLPP and subsequently refused to concede defeat.

## Murder of Providence School teacher: Witness testifies in court

By Mohamed J Kargbo

Mohamed Arouni Conteh made another appearance before Magistrate Mark Ngeba of Court No:1 and was remanded at the Male Correctional Centre on Pademba Road in Freetown.

The accused was charged to court on one count of murder contrary to the laws of Sierra Leone.

It was alleged that the accused on Saturday, 11th March, 2023, at 54 Victoria Street in Freetown, allegedly murdered 68-year-old Gilis Ola Edward Johnson, former teacher of Providence International High School.

On Thursday, June 15, the prosecution brought in their fifth witness to testify in court, Detective Inspector Police constable Karim Vahguwa attached to the Homicide Unit at the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) headquarters.

The witness recognised the accused person and recalled on the 11th March, 2023 when the accused was brought in for murder.

He said the accused was putting on black long trousers, no shirt on and was barefooted, with a deep cut on his hand which he sustained during the incident.

He also said worked with the Adelaide Street Police Station for additional report on the accused, so they had an abstract report of three witnesses.

He further testified that on the same day, himself and Detective Tamba Kassibama cautioned and questioned the accused and that they obtained statement from him and after the interview, the statement was read and explained to the accused, who affixed his left hand thumb print to it.

He said on the following day, 12th

March, 2023, a team of police officers led by the crime scene officer, 19007 Campbell, went to the crime scene.

He said on their arrival, they search the house of the now deceased and found the living room ransacked with blood stain on the floor of the living room.

He said that they also found a White T-Shirt and under vest with blood stain and a bent knife with black handle.

He said they took photograph of the said items and placed them into an evidence bag and returned to the station.

He noted that on the 12th March, 2023, a team of investigators, himself and the accused, executed a search warrant at the residence of the accused person, and on the process they found an empty form with the inscription 'Hoodie Rich Gang'.

He said at the conclusion, the search warrant was read and explained to the accused and that himself and his colleague endorsed it.

The said search warrant was produced and tendered in court.

He also said on the 14th March 2023, a team of police officers left for Waterloo Police Division in respect of a claim made by the accused person that on the day of the incident, he was kidnapped by one of the persons, who allegedly kill the deceased.

He said the accused had alleged that he was in a van together with 23 others, but that he made a narrow escape and went to the Aberdeen Police Station.

He concluded that at the end of their investigation the photocopy of the cause of death was handed to him while the original was handed to the family.

He said himself and detective 9007 Campbell witnessed the post mortem examination conducted on the remains of the deceased in the presence of the family.

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

## We will not resign

From Cover

-ECSL Boss



"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.

While addressing accredited national elections observers at the Bintumani International Conference Centre on Thursday, June 15, the Chief Electoral Commissioner noted that: "I am happy to be here this morning to tell Sierra Leoneans that, I, Mohamed Kenewui Konneh, Chief Electoral Commissioner and other commissioners will not resign from office and we are going to conduct this elections come 24th June. As a matter of fact, the election has started because presidential election has been conducted for early voters. I am happy to report that we have party representatives in all the centres.

He encouraged political parties to continue with their campaigns until the last day and participate in the June 24

general elections to move the country forward.

The ECSL commissioner added that they were doing their best to ensure that they bring everyone on board to give out correct messages about the electioneering process and messages that will preach peace.

"We are appealing that everyone must be honest in their reporting that they send out or what they said in any meeting. There is a press release issued by the APC claiming that the security sector is part of the voting process that was conducted for early voters. I want them to know the security is not part of this voting process, it's only for those that will be leaving the country for Mecca," he said.

## LOCAL NEWS

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

**W**ith funding from the International Republican Institute (IRI), the Talking Drum Studio (TKS), has set up a situation room and deployed high-level elections security observers across the country.

Updating newsmen during a meeting organised by Talking Drum Studio at their Head Office at Tengbe Town, Freetown, the National Director, Talking Drum, Alpha Kamara said their observers will be collecting data around violent incidents in their various communities and sending to the newly set-up situation room in Freetown.

He said data collected on election violence will be shared with the relevant authorities for appropriate actions. Kamara went on to state that the meeting was one out of many that would be held ahead and after the June 24 elections.

According to Kamara, the data captured by the observers will help TDS and the relevant authorities to have a clear understanding on where the hot spots are and how they are.

He said as elections draw closer,

# Talking Drum sets up situation room, deploys elections security observers

incidents around electoral violence are mounting, adding that as incidents unfold, TDS will be there to dish out real time data.

Recently collected data for May were presented to stakeholders during the meeting. The data were categorized according to districts and type of violence among others.

According to the data, a total of 11 political, 2 electoral, and 1 unclassified violence were recorded in 6 districts of the country in May. The data were recorded as follows, Tonkolili 4, Kambia 3, Kono 2, Bonthe 2, Moyamba 1 and Kerene 1.

Francis Languba Keili, Chief of Staff, Office of the National Security, applauded the strides of TDS for instituting the situation room that captures elections related violence.

He said the emergence of social media has paved the way for people who want to create ill will, create mischief and destabilize the state, making social media one of the greatest threats to national security.

He said most of the people who abuse



Stakeholders present during the meeting

social media are living outside the country, thereby making it difficult to get rid of them.

He said the best way to tackle false information on social media is to have an alternative source to counter false

information and disabuse the minds of mischief makers.

He said the ONS has dedicated a team that swiftly responds to social media rhetorics.

## USL, Broad Institutes conclude training for Postgrad Medical Science Students

**A** team of international tutors from the Broad Institutes (Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institutes of Technology) and their local counterparts from the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS) on Monday paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Sierra Leone, Brig. Gen. Prof Foday Sahr. The visit is part of a farewell gesture to the University authorities after wrapping up a week-long intensive training of 26 postgraduate students (11 PhD and 15 Master) of COMAHS at the Gallinest Paradise in Bo City.

Leader of the delegation to the VC&P, Haja Dr. Isata Wurie, Dean of the Faculty of the Medical Laboratory Sciences and Diagnostics at COMAHS and the postgraduate course coordinator gave an update of the course by stating that the course started with an online interaction between the tutors and the students, and that the students subsequently requested for their tutors to be on the ground, which they did. Associate Professor Wurie pointed out that the current phase of the course is fully sponsored by Harvard University, adding that they are preparing to support another two sets of courses and have also confirmed support for two students - one PhD and one Masters to add to the ten masters and PhD

students already supported to by the West African Health Organisation (WAHO). She also noted that the courses are being tailored according to the expectations of the University in addition to providing not only technical support but also supervision and mentorship. She pointed out that the current team of tutors is the second after another team of nine faculty members (international and local) that are teaching the courses gratis.

On his part, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of USL, Brig. Gen. Prof. Foday Sahr welcomed the team from the Broad Institutes and thanked them for their support to the University of Sierra Leone. He pointed out that the USL Administration started working on the programme in 2021 when COMAHS initiated the idea of a postgraduate programme in medical science and had some students registered for the programme.

He noted that the University Administration is thinking of structuring the course like it is done in other institutions - that is, students pursuing the postgraduate programme would graduate initially with a postgraduate diploma in various medical science fields that would include disciplines like Research Methods, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Bioengineering and Informatics so that those students who would not be able to meet the graduation criteria for a PhD and Masters would be able to graduate



A team comprising tutors from the Broad Institutes and COMAHS with the USL VC&P

with a postgraduate diploma.

Before the courtesy visit to the USL VC&P, the team from the Broad Institutes had concluded a week-long training of 26 postgraduate Students of COMAHS in various medical science disciplines that include: epidemiology and infectious disease modeling: history, theory and applications. The training targeted research scientists, medical doctors, pharmacists, and laboratory scientists pursuing a Master of Science (MSc), Master of Philosophy (MPhil), and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees in various medical science disciplines.

The said training is geared towards fulfilling the University's goal of building staff capacity and also in line with the national agenda of human capacity building in the area of providing quality health services in the country.

Earlier, in his goodwill statement at the close of the training in Bo, the Minister

of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Dr. David Moinina Sengeh expressed delight over the collaborative efforts by the University of Sierra Leone and the Broad Institutes in introducing academic research areas such as bioengineering, biostatistics and bioinformatics in Sierra Leone.

Dr. Sengeh further expressed optimism about the outcomes of the training, noting that it could serve as a bedrock in providing academic variety in the area of specialisation for future medical students.

Expressing the benefits of the training from his perspective as one of the PhD candidates that benefitted from the training, Morrison Jusu described the training and the entire postgraduate programme as an opportunity for a national medical science transformation in the country.



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## LOCAL NEWS

# Ministry of Youth, IOM unite to empower migrant returnees

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Sierra Leone and the Ministry of Youth Affairs (MoYA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on June 12 to strengthen their cooperation in supporting youth empowerment and migrants sustainable reintegration into the country.

The MoU signed between the MoYA and IOM confirms their shared interest in strengthening the support to youth empowerment and capacity development, including those of the returned migrants. The MOU is founded on the common interests, stronger synergies and partnerships that will be sought, including the implementation of the MOYA's Youth livelihood/employability support program.

Christos Christodoulides, Head of Office of IOM Sierra Leone, said "the MoU signed with the Youth Minister will reinforce the partnership to scale up the efforts by IOM and the Youth Ministry to empower youth in Sierra Leone, including those who voluntarily returned to the country."

"We are looking forward to continuous collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs," said Mr. Christodoulides, adding that "This MoU signed by both parties is a great step forward towards consolidating efforts for youth empowerment, including for those of returned youth, through the whole of government and society approach."

The Minister of Youth Affairs, Orman Bangura described the signing of the MoU as a step to deepen the partnership with IOM in addressing youth-related issues, especially around youth empowerment, employment, and the right for Sierra Leonean migrants to voluntarily return home.

Many Sierra Leonean youth embark on risky irregular migration journeys with the hope to reach Europe or the Middle East in search of better life and opportunities. Over the last two years, IOM Sierra Leone has assisted the voluntary returns of about 3,000 Sierra Leonean migrants who were stranded abroad. This number includes victims of trafficking (VOT) and young people, including women



Minister of Youth, Mohamed Oman Bagura and IOM Head of Office, Christos Christodoulides in photo opps

and children.

Those migrants not only experience life-threatening experiences during their migration journeys, but once they return home, they face many obstacles for sustainable reintegration such as stigma, shame,

exclusion, and mental health challenges.

IOM the UN Migration is at the forefront to promote safe and regular migration as stipulated in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.

## Ministry of Finance popularise the new SOPs on audit recommendations

In a bid to achieve good public sector-governance, the Internal Audit Division in the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the European Union (EU-SBC111) project, has concluded a 3-day workshop with internal Auditors, Vote Controllers and Audit Committee Members on the popularisation of the Newly developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Audit Follow-up or Recommendations.

The training occurred on the 12th, 14th and 15th of June, 2023, at the Country Lodge Complex, Hill Station, in Freetown.

In explaining the workshop's objectives, the Director of Internal Audit, Kande Sesay, stated that their role is to provide unbiased, objective assessments of how public resources are managed.

He added that auditors help public sector organisations achieve accountability and integrity, improve operations, and instil confidence among citizens and stakeholders hence the reason to popularise the new SOPs.

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) is an audit follow-up document backed up by other documents approved by parliament to be used by the internal audit service.

He noted that the implementation of the findings and recommendations of the

Audit over the years had not been given the relevance it deserved.

He said at the end of the training, they expect all stakeholders to be able to clarify their respective roles as stated in the SOPs.

He expressed that the importance of the New SOPs in improving audit follow-up cannot be over-emphasized.

The government representative Mr Paul Caulker, in his opening statement, said the set of participants is critical to the full implementation of the SOPs.

He said the audit committee is exceptionally the key private force assisting MDAs in addressing findings and recommendations for both internal and external auditors.

He retreated that the audit committee should be able to advise and guide MDAs in responding to audit issues responsibly in line with the audit unit service.

The EU representative Mr Martial Laurent said European Union is supporting the projects with several activities in Sierra Leone.

He also said Sierra Leone has made progress in developing capacity building for both internal and external audit



control.

He pointed out that indicators have shown that the government can significantly improve implementing the PFM system.

He noted European Union representative said that there is a guide and consideration to which liberation is the need to enhance the PFM system in Sierra Leone and the operation of the Ministry of Finance and its budget oversight committee in the Country.

He added that the role of internal audit and their perception of it and audit recommendations are crucial. He said they believed that there is a high potential for improving the system and also improving participation by strengthening the role of both internal and external audits.

The translation of the Audit Reports into the SOPs would be a laudable venture, he noted.

In his statement, the UKFCDO representative, Mr Kamaray, indicated that over the years attending to audit recommendations has been abysmal, not only internal audit but also external.

He said auditors are essential in government because they are part of the control measures.

He noted that an audit is not about a witch hunt. It is about assuring compliance with policies and processes, and principles of government.

He admonished the participants that the workshop is Significant to their work, thereby understanding the concept and principles and the processes involved in audit follow-up.

He encouraged the participant to take the training seriously and try as best as possible to use them to help with the governance and the risk management procedure.

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## NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

### Nigeria: ruling APC appoints Godswill Akpabio as President of the Senate



The new President of the Nigerian Senate, Godswill Akpabio, after being sworn in in Abuja, Nigeria, on 13 June 2023. - Copyright © africanews MALIK KONATE/AFP or licensors

Nigeria's ruling party, the All Progressives Congress (APC), on Tuesday nominated the man who will preside over the Senate in the run-up to the 2023 elections.

Godswill Akpabio, 61, of the APC, representing the north-western state of Akwa Ibom, was chosen on Tuesday to preside over the country's upper house.

Akpabio, who served two terms as governor of Akwa Ibom State, promised to work closely with lawmakers from eight political parties represented in Parliament to help control insecurity and economic hardship.

Nigeria's new president, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, took office on 29 May after a hotly contested presidential election in February that opposition

parties are challenging in court.

Tinubu's APC holds the majority of seats in both houses of the National Assembly following the February legislative elections. "This is the first time in the Nigerian Senate that eight political parties are sitting together," he said.

"The country is at a crossroads, facing a number of challenges. We have just inherited an economy that needs renewal and revitalization," he insisted.

As Senate President, Akpabio is Nigeria's third-highest political leader, after Tinubu and Vice-President Kashim Shettima.

The ruling APC holds the largest number of seats in the 109-member Senate with 59 senators, followed by the People's Democratic Party (PDP), which has 36 seats out of the 50 opposition senators.

The APC also leads the lower house with 162 seats in the 360-member House of Representatives. Members of Nigeria's lower house also elected the ruling party's candidate, Abass Tajudeen, as its Speaker.

Tinubu, a former governor of Lagos State and businessman, has made the country's security and economic situation the priority of his government.

### FIFA secretary general to leave at the end of the year

FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura, the first woman and first non-European to become the world football body's No. 2 in 2016, will be stepping down at the end of the year to devote "more time to (her) family", the organization announced on Wednesday (June 14).

After a career at the United Nations, the 60-year-old Senegalese was appointed in May 2016 in the wake of the election of Italian-Swiss Gianni Infantino as president of the organization, and helped "restore its credibility" after a cascade of scandals, FIFA said in a statement.

"Women's football will have reached new heights under her leadership", the body continued, while the successful staging of the Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand (20 July-20 August) is the leader's last major objective.

Fatma Samoura chose to cut short "speculation about (her) position" by anticipating the announcement of her resignation, which she planned to make official "next week" to the FIFA Council, explaining that she wanted to devote herself to her family next year.

FIFA has given no indication as to her succession, although for seven years No. 2 has appeared as consensual and discreet.

Observers say Infantino's hands-on style as an

executive president has meant Samoura has often struggled to establish a clearly defined public role in the \$2 million-a-year job.

He has been thunderous and divisive, making numerous proposals for reform, some of which have not been achieved, such as the move to a biennial World Cup, and controversial statements.

"Joining FIFA was the best decision I ever made in my life. I'm happy to have led such a diverse team," commented the Senegalese, who was appointed with no experience of sport or TV rights, but with a long career as a diplomat.

Quadrilingual, a major asset in a body with 211 member federations Fatma Samoura had previously spent most of her career with the United Nations, as a humanitarian coordinator, notably in Djibouti, Cameroon, Chad, Guinea, Madagascar and Nigeria.

She succeeded Frenchman Jérôme Valcke, who was swept away by a series of corruption scandals that also claimed the life of former FIFA president Sepp Blatter, to embody the "new FIFA" wanted by Gianni Infantino.

"Today, our body is better managed, more open, more reliable and more transparent", Fatma Samoura assured FIFA on Wednesday.

### Flood victims denounce aid profiteering in eastern DRC

Communities affected by last month's floods and landslides in eastern DRC have denounced the distribution of aid in the region.

Members of a group of survivors claim that the crisis management committee in charge of distributing government aid is profiteering from the crisis.

"Here, we found a lot of bodies here when the machine (the backhoe, editor's note.) passed. There are at least 13 bodies that we found. There are also crates - because on the other side there were shops - we found empty crates, alcohol, money, clothes too, mattresses that were already damaged... but it was on the other side", said Crispin Chiringa, a Bushushu disaster survivor who lost several family members.

A few days after the disaster, the Congolese government announced aid for 200 affected families amounting to 2.5 million Congolese francs (around €1,000.00 per family, Ed. ) per household.

"They told us there was a lot of money, but they diverted it themselves. They only gave us

380,000 (Congolese francs - about 150€ - instead of the 2,500,000 - about €990 - announced by the government, Ed. )

They told us that all the money had been distributed, but they embezzled it. I went to sign (the list of beneficiaries, Ed.), then they prevented me (from recovering the money, Ed.), they said that I had stolen this token (allowing to recover aid, Ed.), denounced Namavu Luitire, a woman from Nyamukubi who lost her husband and child in the disaster.

The allegations by the victims are being investigated by a lawyer working on behalf of a member of parliament.

"We have information that there are even bags of rice, bags of flour, blankets and women's clothing that have been discovered in Kalehe Centre, while the women of Nyamukubi and the women of Bushushu, who are direct victims of these floods, you saw, they spend the night on the ground, they don't even have anything to eat", said lawyer Eric Dunia.

More than 2,500 people are still missing. Official figures claim that 443 people have lost their lives.

### South Africa: Clinic hopes to save future of penguins threatened by extinction

A small fish is dangled under the beak of an emaciated penguin at a South African clinic, to whet the bird's appetite.

The sickly animal is among dozens undergoing treatment in the coastal town of Gqeberha, where a dedicated rehabilitation centre is on a mission to bring African penguins back from the brink of extinction.

"We are trying to reverse some of the human damage caused to these birds over the years," says Caitlin van der Merwe, a seabird ranger at the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB).

Threatened by climate change and human activity, the endangered species, which waddles awkwardly on land but turns into a fast-swimming torpedo in the water, has suffered a drastic decline in numbers.

Around 50,000 mating pairs -- penguins are monogamous -- inhabited the shorelines of South Africa and Namibia three decades ago. Today the number has dropped to 10,000 pairs.

That's a jaw-dropping 80 percent population decrease, which zoologists say is even more worrying given that a healthy penguin population is considered indicative of a healthy marine ecosystem.

"The species declining, that means there's a big issue in the marine environment," says Carl Havemann, who heads the penguin clinic.

- Climate threat -

The centre is currently teeming with feathered patients.

Over the past two weeks, about 40 baby penguins have been transferred here from Bird Island, an islet home to one of Africa's largest penguin colonies about 60 kilometres off Gqeberha, formerly known as Port Elizabeth.

Heavy rains have battered the island, washing away nests and chicks.

The little black and white birds traditionally dug their nests into a thick layer of guano - a mixture of droppings and remains that accumulate over time.

But the organic substance has been plundered for use as natural fertiliser, and the penguins now have to make do with branches or in cracks in the rocks, which make for a less sturdy home.

And for the first three months of their lives the birds are covered only by grey plumage that offers little protection from water and cold.

The rains caused many to drown or die of hypothermia.

"With climate change, weather events are becoming more and more extreme and these obviously impact the natural colonies," Havemann says.

- Footbath -

Some survivors are being treated in the seabird rehabilitation centre's intensive care unit, where staff are busy disinfecting, stitching and bandaging wounds.

Footbaths, sardines and medicines are also part of the treatment.

In total, around 100 birds, both young and adult, are cared for in the clinic.

The goal is to return them to the wild in the shortest time possible, limiting interaction with humans to what is strictly necessary.

The penguins huddle together, their shoulders raised as if they are perennially cold.

Some are kept hydrated through a small tube inserted in their gullets. Desperate ones are euthanised.

For those who are fit enough, rehab continues in the pool.

"If they don't swim, they don't drink," says van der Merwe, as she whispers soothing words to a small penguin furiously waving its wings while she holds it between her thighs.

It is suffering from borreliosis, an infectious disease caused by bacteria, and needs antibiotics.

Besides extreme weather events, African penguins are also threatened by diseases, overfishing and pollution.

Gqeberha is home to a major port and huge cargo ships refuel offshore.

Spills in the recent past have seen frantic attempts to rescue and clean up oil-tarred penguins.

At current rates of decline, African penguins could become extinct within a decade, according to the Environment Ministry.

"The ocean has such a complexity. If we take bits here and there, the whole system will collapse," van der Merwe says.

### Brazil's President Lula plans 2 trips to Africa

The Brazilian leader is due to visit no fewer than eight African countries from August onwards. He aims to strengthen political and economic ties on the continent.

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva plans to make these two visits to strengthen economic and political relations with the continent, according to official sources.

Angola, Mozambique, Senegal, Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Sao Tomé & Príncipe are among the countries that the Brazilian leader is expected to visit.

His first tour is expected to coincide with the BRICS Summit of Heads of State and Government scheduled for August in South Africa, while the second could take place on the sidelines of the next African Union Summit, to be held in February 2024.

Brazil also plans to reopen its embassy in Sierra Leone and set up diplomatic representation in Rwanda.

Developing trade

It is clear that Brazil wants to expand its economic cooperation with the continent in line with President Lula da Silva's South-South integration strategy.



Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva at the South American Summit at the Itamaraty Palace in Brasília, Brazil, 30 May 2023. - Copyright © africanews Andre Penner/ Copyright 2023 The AP. All rights reserved

During Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's previous terms in office, Brazil stepped up its relations with the continent. As a result, trade between the two sides increased sevenfold in a decade, from \$4.2 billion in 2002 to \$28.4 billion in 2012.

But the rapprochement between Africa and Brazil has taken a turn for the worse. The economic and political crisis that shook the Latin American country from 2014 onwards is no stranger to this.

Trade between the two parties has plummeted. In 2022, it was limited to 21.3 billion dollars, practically the same level as in 2010.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

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## Call for Applications for a National Consultant

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

**Deadline: 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.

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Wilberforce, Freetown  
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**

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

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

**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](mailto:emmanuel.sebehwilson@care.org)/[Amy.Foday@care.org](mailto: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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## OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT

THE DEATH IS REPORTED OF **IBRAHIM OBRIES MANSARAY** COMMONLY KNOWN AS BRIMA DATSUN WHICH SAD EVENT TOOK PLACE AT HIS RESIDENCE ON 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2023 AGED 81 YEARS.

### HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS:

- **WIFE:** ADAMA IN LONDON
- **CHILDREN :** OBRIES, ALEX, ALIMAMY AND RAMATHA
- **BROTHERS :** KEKUDA MANSARAY OF UTB, FODAY & ABU IN KONDOLOR, ROTIFUNK.
- **SISTERS:** RAMATA KAMARA & FATMATA FOULLAH
- **COUSINS:** TEDDY WILLIAMS (FORMER I.G. OF POLICE) LEN A. CHICO MYERS IN FREETOWN, PARAMOUNT CHIEF CHARLES CAULKER OF ROTIFUNK, BUMPEH CHIEFDOM, MAX AND BUFFY BAILOR IN FREETOWN.
- **NEPHEWS:** GIBRILLA AND SEVERAL OTHER NEPHEWS
- **NIECES :** HANNAH FOULLAH AND SEVERAL OTHER NIECES
- **GRAND CHILDREN :** ABNA, WISDOM, MICHELLE, ALEXZINA, ALVIN, ALAN AND ANDRAMANSARAY
- **IN-LAWS:** THE KALAWA FAMILY OF CHARLES STREET,

• **CLOSE RELATIVES INCLUDING :** THE BAILORS, KOROMAS, CAULKERS, BENDUS, KALAWAS OF CHARLES STREET, TAYLORS OF GODERICH, GODWINS OF LEAH STREET, MYERS AND ROGERS FAMILIES, HALLOWAYS, KEITAS OF MAMBOLO.

• **OTHER RELATIVES:** THE MEN'S ORGANIZATION OF THE KING MEMORIAL (UNITED METHODIST CHURCH) AND VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHURCH, KWESI BERNARD-JONES, STEVO MASSAQUOI, ABU KARGBO OF SIERRA LEONE COMMERCIAL BANK, CHRISTO MOURANA OF COLLEGE ROAD, CONGO CROSS.

• **CLOSE FRIENDS:** FRIENDS OF THE ABERDEEN ROUND ABOUT, MRS ALARIE SESAY, NURSE VICTORIA BANGURA. NEIGHBOURS OF BINTUMANI DRIVE, ABERDEEN.

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

INTERMENT IS AT THE ASCENSION TOWN CEMETERY.

**THERE WILL BE NO VIGIL.**

**WE ARE SORRY FOR ANY OMISSION OF NAMES BECAUSE YOU ARE ALL CONSIDERED EQUALLY IMPORTANT.**



## INT'L SPORT

**W**illiam Saliba has agreed in principle a new four-year contract with Arsenal, running to 2027.

The French centre-back's existing deal was due to end in 2024, but he is now set to add another three years onto his stay in north London.

Arsenal are now formalising paperwork ahead of an official announcement of his extended stay.

Saliba first signed for the Gunners for a fee of around £27m in 2019 and after a year back on loan with former club Saint-Etienne was then handed the number four shirt - but did not make his first-team debut until August 2022.

The 22-year-old spent 18 months back in France across two further loan spells at Nice and Marseille before finally making his Arsenal bow against Crystal Palace last year, and instantly became a key member of Mikel Arteta's squad.

The defender was instrumental en route to Arsenal's highest points tally since 2004 (84), scoring twice in 27 Premier League appearances for the club.

Speaking last month, Sky Sports' Jamie Carragher said Saliba's injury which ruled him out for much of the

# William Saliba agrees new Arsenal contract in principle: Defender to pen new four-year deal at Emirates

second half of Arsenal's season didn't cost them the league title - but that they would have got far closer to winning it with him.

He said: "I don't think him being there for the full season would have meant that Arsenal would have gone on and won the title.

"I'm sure they would have been a lot closer, but there are still things he needs to improve on, to get to the level I'm talking about, of other central defenders who have gone on to win titles.

"I'm not saying he wouldn't have made a huge difference in the second half of the season. He would have, because he's better than Rob Holding, he's better than Kiwior, there's no doubt."

William Saliba will follow Gabriel Martinelli, Aaron Ramsdale and Bukayo Saka in committing his long-term future to Arsenal. The club have acted swiftly and efficiently to tie

down their best young stars.

Most fans would agree, though, that, of that group, Saliba's future seemed the most uncertain. While the others are firmly embedded at the club - since childhood in Saka's case - the Frenchman still feels like a relatively new arrival, despite joining in 2019.

There were times, during his loan spells in France, when it seemed he may leave Arsenal before even featuring for them, but in the end he was worth the wait, the 22-year-old establishing himself as one of the Premier League's very best young centre-backs this season.

His speed, physicality and technical class helped transform Arsenal's way of playing, allowing Mikel Arteta to push his side further up the pitch, but it was when he succumbed to a back injury in March that his importance became clearest. Arsenal were five points clear of Man City at that point. They finished five points behind



them.

His absence hurt them in an offensive sense as well as defensively, with those thrust into his place unable to replicate his crucial role in Arsenal's build-up play, the team losing its rhythm as well as its aura.

That is not to say they would have won the title had Saliba stayed fit. Manchester City's relentlessness was such that it probably would have proved beyond them regardless. But their chances of doing so in future are far greater with Saliba signed up.

<https://www.skysports.com/football/news>

## Pep Guardiola is the man who COMPLETED football

**E**ven the dinner Pep Guardiola shared with Garry Kasparov in New York in the depths of a sabbatical from football 11 years ago had a competitive intensity about it.

Chess grandmaster Kasparov said he had given up the ghost against a 22-year-old Norwegian challenger, concluding that he would never beat him. Guardiola, feeling there might be an understanding here of his own sense of professional fatigue, questioned him about this again and again, probing for an explanation which Kasparov was reluctant to give.

It was a parallel conversation at the dinner table that night between the wives of these two primeval driven individuals, Daria Tarasova and Cristina Serra, which extracted the explanation. Kasparov was worn out by the knowledge of what six hours of cognitive overload during matches actually entailed, while the challenger, Magnus Carlsen, was innocently unaware.

The relevance of this exchange to a discussion of why Guardiola has taken football management to a new level is the intellectual curiosity. He is, says the journalist Marti Perarnau, who has produced some of the most perceptive writing on Guardiola: 'A man who questions everything. He can be obsessive in this respect.'



His right-hand man at Barcelona, Bayern Munich and City. Manel Estiarte, speaks of the 'law of 32 minutes' with Guardiola - the approximate period of time for which he can be distracted from football before his mind is wandering back into it again.

Much will justifiably be made, in the aftermath of his second career Treble, of the vast sums of money put at his disposal as he secured those accolades for Barcelona and Manchester City.

But the football intellect - seeing value where others don't, breaking pre-

established paradigms and improving players - transcends a transfer budget. The support of an Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund helps but Guardiola's pursuit of the less obvious players - Manuel Akanji, Nathan Ake, Julian Alvarez - attests to a judgment that the immeasurably less sophisticated Qataris at PSG would kill for.

There is also, of course, that capacity to make defenders and midfielders interchangeable in the way which saw John Stones make a greater creative contribution than Jack Grealish on Saturday night.

It was at Bayern Munich that this stage in the Guardiola technical evolution was first manifest, as defenders Philipp Lahm, Joshua Kimmich, David Alaba, Rafinha and Juan Bernat became multi-functional players. They were not the first ones. Javier Mascherano as a centre back at Barcelona, and Yaya Toure filling in there, defied expectation.

The roots of the fluidity reside in the Johan Cruyff school of Total Football at Barcelona in the 1990s, in which supremely aware players ran into space where they were most needed. The writer David Winner describes that brand of football as 'Pythagoras in boots' in his book Brilliant Orange, which discusses the 'neurotic brilliance' of the Cruyffian disciples and, yes, there is certainly some of that in Guardiola.

He remains an enigma to the English audience in some ways, with that rather awkward, passive aggressive, sometimes faintly pompous manner in his press conferences. One sports newspaper in Madrid tried to poke fun at his supposed perfection by sending their reporter to ask him if he 'peed cologne' before his first Clasico against Jose Mourinho in 2010. 'Maybe it's true, maybe I'm sarcastic, I don't know,' he replied. 'Maybe that's the way it is.'

Barcelona beat Real Madrid 5-0. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football>

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NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD **PPRC** **CHASL** STANDARD BUREAU  
STATISTIC SIERRA LEONE **WORLD BANK** **AFRIGAS** **RADISSON BLU HOTEL**  
**MARITIME** NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES **PLAN INTERNATIONAL**  
**PRA** FAWAZ BUILDING MATERIALS **ECOMED** PARTNERS IN HEALTH  
**PEE CEE & SONS** **SMALL ARMS** **MOTT MACDONALDS** **SLWREC**  
KINGHO MINING COMPANY **PPRC**  
**NEC** NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD **NPPA** **EBK UNIVERSITY** **JUDICIARY OF SIERRA LEONE**

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