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# CONCORD TIMES

## NEWSPAPER

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# 2023 Elections: ReNIP launches manifesto, promises radical change

By Yusufu S. Bangura



**LRMG celebrates June 16 with Dr. S.M Broderick Junior Secondary School**

## Commonwealth Observer Group meets with the press



Chair, Commonwealth Observer Group, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, sandwiched by his colleagues

In a bid to renew Sierra Leone's struggling economy and tackle growing differences, the presidential candidate for the Republic National Independent Party (ReNIP), Beresford Victor Williams has on Sunday, June 18th, in Bo City, launched its manifesto in which he outlines a comprehensive roadmap for the nation's future.

While speaking to party stakeholders and supporters during the event, Williams said his aim to become a President is to "take control" and bring about substantial improvements for the people of Sierra Leone.

Addressing the current situation faced by the country, the ReNIP leader emphasised the urgent need for change and pledged that his party would be the party to deliver the people from suffering. He said the manifesto highlights the party's commitment to socialism and the restoration of Sierra Leone's economy through bold and decisive actions.

ReNIP Leader added that his key areas of focus, as outlined in the manifesto, including raising the minimum wage to Le1.5 million, implementing price control, reducing fuel costs to Le16,000, and effectively managing inflation.



ReNIP Presidential Candidate, Beresford Victor Williams

Cont. Page 4

## As a UN Security Council member, Sierra Leone will promote peace, security and good governance in Africa

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## LOCAL NEWS

From Cover

He also proposes a hybrid economy and the nationalization of key industries, alongside a booster allowance grant of \$5,000 (\$1,000 per year) for each citizen.

Williams further promises to create 1.5 million new jobs, provide social disability allowances, achieve food self-sufficiency, offer free education from infancy, and ensure accessible and cost-free medical treatments.

He also emphasizes the need for improved health and housing facilities, industrialization, and the nationalization of key industries.

ReNIP presidential candidate states that with declining living standards, rising job insecurity, and a collapsing public service sector, he recognizes the strain on Sierra Leone's citizens, particularly the youth, so he pledges to address these challenges head-on, with a vision of a fairer Sierra Leone where prosperity is shared by all.

Williams stressed that the upcoming election represents a pivotal choice for the country and that voters can opt for the status quo, perpetuating the

wealth divide and deepening crises in healthcare and education, or they can embrace the ReNIP party and its plan for radical transformation.

"ReNIP will invest in education, health care systems, financial sector, agricultural program, IT and cutting edge jobs and industries of the future that can improve everybody's lives.

That is why this manifesto outlines a fully costed programme to upgrade our economy which is from education to transport, housing to lifelong healthcare solutions. ReNIP understands how a successful economy depends on services that support us all," he said.

He continues that Sierra Leone is a country where every citizen has equal opportunities to have a stable job, decent wages, and dignified living conditions, adding that the party aims to invest the country's wealth into services that benefit all, including safe communities, well-funded schools, and a revitalized healthcare system that regains its status as a global benchmark.

As the campaign intensifies, he urges

the people of Sierra Leone not to let the established parties, such as the All People's Congress (APC) and the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP), hold the nation back.

He urges voters to choose the path of change, building a Sierra Leone that works for the majority and not just a privileged few.

With the Republic National Independent Party's manifesto, the election discourse in Sierra Leone takes a new direction, as citizens contemplate the possibilities of a fairer and more prosperous future under the ReNIP vision.

Williams called on Sierra Leoneans and all other parties, including APC and SLPP supporters, to lend him their votes to transform Sierra Leone.

"As we are ready to take control of the economy of Sierra Leone, we need to be more positive that we are the only Political Party that is ready to take the necessary steps to bring the economy back under control. At ReNIP, we work for the socialism of our beloved nation to restore the kind of real change set out in this



manifesto. It is a growing sense of anxiety and frustration with our people that we have to be bold to make these changes. We have established ourselves as a party of the people by the people and for the people. Grass root party to elevate the poor from their miseries to a middle-income economy, so let us vote for peace, vote ReNIP 24th June," he stated.

## Commonwealth Observer Group meets with the press

By Ishmael Dumbuya

The Commonwealth Observer Group has yesterday, 19th June, revealed their presence in a press conference held at the Radisson Blu Mammy Yoko Hotel, Aberdeen in Freetown.

Chairperson of the Commonwealth Observer Group to the multi-tier elections in Sierra Leone, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, former Vice President of Nigeria, stated that his team is in the country in order to demonstrate the precious values they all share as Commonwealth citizens, including as peace, democracy, the rule of law and good governance.

He added that their 12-member Observer Group is in the country to observe the country's upcoming elections following the invitation from the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone.

"Members have been drawn from across the entire Commonwealth, representing a wealth of experience, and include experts in law, politics, election administration, human rights, media and civil society," he explained.

He went on to state that the Commonwealth Secretariat has had a long-standing engagement with Sierra Leone dating back to its independence, when the country became an independent state within the Commonwealth in 1961, adding that the Commonwealth has observed every election in Sierra



Chair, Commonwealth Observer Group, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, sandwiched by his colleagues

Leone since the end of the civil war in 2002, as well as the General Elections of 1996.

"The gains achieved over the last two decades of peacetime are a testament to the democratic spirit of its people, and must be cherished, nurtured and leveraged for continued peaceful and sustainable development. That is why, as the Commonwealth Observer Group, we are honored to be a part of this important democratic process, but let me be clear: The Commonwealth Observer Group has no executive role; its function is not to interfere with, but to observe the process as a whole and to make

recommendations accordingly," he emphasized.

Prof. Osinbajo further noted that they will observe the pre-election environment, polling day activities and the post-election period, noting that they will also consider whether the conditions exist for credible elections, including a fair election environment; whether public media has been impartial; the transparency of the entire process; whether voters are free to express their will; and whether the counting and results process is transparent.

He continued that they will then report on whether the elections have been conducted in accordance

with the standards to which Sierra Leone has committed itself, including its national law, regional and international commitments, adding that in conducting their duties, they will be guided by the principles of neutrality, impartiality, objectivity and independence.

"Over the coming days we will be meeting stakeholders including the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone, government representatives, political parties, security agencies, civil society groups, citizen and international observer groups, diplomats, and the media, from the 22nd June. We will deploy our observers in small teams across various parts of the country to observe the voting, counting and results process, as well as meet with other stakeholders in respective locations," he said.

He concluded that on election day, they will observe the opening, voting, closing, counting and the results management processes, ending that they will issue an interim statement on their preliminary findings on the 26th of June, before members of the Group depart Sierra Leone on the 30th of June.

"A final report will then be prepared and submitted to the Commonwealth Secretary General, and subsequently shared with relevant stakeholders and made publicly available," he climaxed.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## LRMG celebrates June 16 with Dr. S.M Broderick Junior Secondary School

**O**n June 16, 2023, Leone Rock Metal Group (LRMG) partnered with the 24th Batch China Medical Team in Sierra Leone to organize an event in commemoration of the Day of the African Child. The event was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone at the Dr. S.M Broderick Junior Secondary School and was a great success, with many memorable activities that were enjoyed by all who attended, especially the pupils.

One of the key highlights of the event was the donation of over 100 bags, shoes and other school materials to pupils of the school and the signature painting on the signature board that was opened to all school pupils who were in attendance and the guests. This portrays the colorfulness of children in Africa and the beauty in creating an enabling environment for them to actualize their dreams. This act was aimed at encouraging creativity and artistic expression among young children in Sierra Leone. The pupils who participated put up some impressive finger prints that showcased their talent and creative skills and also their zest to empower themselves and Africa.

In addition, free medical education and check-ups were also offered to the pupils who attended the event. The medical team from China provided a comprehensive medical education that included lessons on personal hygiene, disease prevention, and other health-related issues. They also conducted free check-ups for the pupils, ensuring that they received immediate medical attention where necessary.

Jacqueline Hong, Manager, PR and Media - LRMG commented "at LRMG, we believe the need to raise awareness of the ongoing need to improve education for children in

Africa. With that belief in mind, we are very excited to be part of this event, which is all about celebrating the African child and empowering them with the tools they need to reach their full potential". She continued "on behalf of LRMG, I want to reiterate that the African Child's Day is not just a day of celebration, but it is also a day of reflection. We must reflect on our responsibility as a society towards our children and ensure that we provide them with the tools they need to become confident, successful adults. LRMG hope that this event will inspire others to take action and contribute towards the education and empowerment of children in Africa.

Dr. Chem, Team Leader - China Medical Team commended LRMG for the developmental projects it has accomplished for children in the country and Africa. He ended "we are thrilled to be partnering with LRMG to bring our message to the pupils of Dr S. M Broderick Junior Secondary School. LRMG is a renowned mining company that has made a significant impact in the mining sector with their immense contributions to the economic growth of the country, and their continued Corporate Social Responsibility projects that cut across every corner in the country. Leone Rock, in particular has provided many job opportunities to

the people of Sierra Leone, especially those living in the surrounding communities where they operate. Notwithstanding, they have continued promoting the educational sector for children by providing school materials, rehabilitating schools, donating school buses, giving scholarships etc. and this is commendable."

The event was a great success, and it received a lot of positive feedback from the attendees. The pupils were thrilled to participate alongside the dignitaries that were present and were grateful for the medical team's efforts to educate them on health-related issues. The principals, parents and teachers who were

present were also grateful for the event and commended LRMG for their efforts to provide an engaging and educational experience for the children.

Overall, the Leone Rock Metal Group and the 24th Batch China Medical Team's partnership succeeded in promoting creativity, education, and health awareness among the children of Sierra Leone. The event was a great example of how partnerships between different organizations can make a significant difference in the lives of young people. It is hoped that such initiatives will continue to be organized in the future, and that they will bring more positive change to communities around the world.



## LOCAL NEWS

# NCD engages stakeholders on Citizens' Platform for political tolerance in Pujechun, Tonkolili, Karene

As we get closer to the June 24, 2023 multi-tier elections, the National Commission for Democracy (NCD) continues with its district stakeholders engagements targeting political parties, traditional authorities, youth groups, women, first-time voters and persons with disabilities in Kailahun, Tonkolili and Karene to mitigate political tension and promote political tolerance and mutual respect before, during and after the June, 2023 elections. The Commission used the occasion to officially launch the Citizens' Platform for Political Tolerance (CPPT) and encouraged the participants to use the platform as a conduit to reach out to their communities to enhance a violence-free and politically tolerant electioneering process for the 2023 polls. These meetings were hosted at the District Council Halls of the various districts on the 17th June, 2023 with staff from the Headquarters of the Commission providing the much needed support for the Regional Officers to effectively rollout these very important interventions.

Leading the teams for the East and Southern regions were the Chairman of the Commission, the Commissioner for the Eastern Region and the Director of Programmes of NCD, Madam Marian Angela Samu, Pastor Momoh Bockarie and John Augustine Lahai, respectively. For the North and North-Western regions, the teams were led by the Executive Secretary, the Director of PR and Communications, the Director of Research and Monitoring and the Director of Admin and Human Resource of the Commission, Abdul Rahman Conteh, Rev. Gibrilla Kargbo, Idriss Din-Gabisi and Albaji Mark tholley, respectively.

The occasions were characterized by statements from representatives of governance institutions, including the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL), the Political Party Regulation Commission (PPRC) and the Office of National Security (ONS) providing updates about elections preparedness and the security status of the districts. These informative statements were followed by presentations on the formation of the Citizens' Platform for Political Tolerance and political tolerance as a concept of democratization.

The Presentation on the formation of the Platform indicated that the

CPP was created in 2017 prior to the 2018 general elections with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the project titled: "Conflict Prevention and Mitigation Project for the 2018 Electoral Cycle in Sierra Leone". It was noted that the CPP was Co-chaired by the National Commission for Democracy (NCD) and the Network Movement for Democracy and Human Right (NMDHR), respectively. The presentation further revealed that the Platform was officially launched in 2017 at the National Stadium Hostels with thirteen (13) out of the fourteen (14) registered political parties for the presidential elections committing themselves to promote a peaceful and politically tolerant 2018 general elections. The Chairman of NCD, Madam Marian A. Samu, noted that the overarching objective of the CPP is to promote political tolerance and mitigate elections violence. Madam Samu intimated participants that prior to the 2018 elections, the Commission held meetings with stakeholders in six districts that were considered to be prone to violence including, Bo, Kenema, Tonkolili, Port Loko, Moyamba and Freetown. She noted that with the revival of the Platform, stakeholders should make good

use of it to enhance tolerance and mutual respect between and among supporters of the various political parties. Madam Samu also informed her audience that the Commission had hosted Paramount Chiefs (PCs) in a cross regional dialogue programme in Kenema and Port Loko, bring together PCs from the North and Eastern regions and the South and North-Western regions, respectively to dialogue about the need to enhance political tolerance in their respective Chiefdoms. She said during these meetings of eminent traditional authorities, the CPP was launched in Kenema and Port Loko for all the Chiefdoms.

Presenting on the Concept of Political Tolerance, the team Leads in the various districts elucidated the concept with succinct and clear explanation of the definition of the concept of political tolerance both from the academic and layman perspectives. The presentation attempted to suggest the reasons for the acute political intolerance in the country even as it proffered recommendations that may possibly address the problem of political intolerance in Sierra Leone. Some of the issues the presentation highlighted as the cause of political intolerance ranges from lawlessness and arbitrariness, misinformation

and disinformation through social media platforms, abuse of drugs and youth unemployment and the lack of equity in the distribution of state resources. Some of the recommendations provided included, respect for the rule of law, responsible use of the social media, drug control, and employment for the youth and equitable distribution of state resources.

The Chairman and other presenters of the Concept encouraged participants to engage their communities and educate them about the need to embrace one and other even when they do not share the same political views. They noted that Sierra Leone operates a multi-party democratic system of governance and therefore creates room for the formation of political parties. It was emphasized that people have the right to belong to the party of their choices but should be seen to be tolerating the views of one another so that a peaceful electioneering process will prevail. The climax of the occasion saw political party representatives ascending the podium to make a commitment about promoting political tolerance and mitigating political tension even before the National Pledge was recited to remind participants about the need to put the country above all else.





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## LOCAL NEWS

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

Justice Adran Fisher on Monday, 19th June, 2023, refused the bail application made by the defense lawyer on behalf of the accused person, Ikubolaje Nicol, former manager of Skye Bank Sierra Leone, who is standing accused of murder.

He said granting the accused bail at this stage of the matter will put him at risk and will put the reputation of the judiciary in a bad light.

He said he has ordered the Supreme Court registrar to submit the file to the Chief Justice to assign the matter within fourteen days.

Justice Fisher has also put on hold the matter until Supreme Court determines whether the matter should be done by judge alone or by judge and jury.

It could be recalled that the defense lawyers for the accused filed a motion at the Supreme Court, seeking an interpretation for an application made by the state counsel, Ahmed James Maxwell (AJM) Bockarie for a trial by judge alone.

Justice Adrian Fisher has informed the defense lawyer and state lawyer that he has to rule on the motion whether he will grant the application for the defense to seek interpretation at the Supreme Court.

# Skye Bank Manager's murder trial: Justice Fisher refuses bail application

The application made by the Principal State Counsel for a trial by judge alone was objected to by the defense counsel, Roland Wright.

The 46-year-old accused was arrested on the 23rd November, 2022 in Freetown by the Police as a suspect on allegation of the murder of Sinnah Kai Kargbo, a 26-year-old female banker believed to be his fiancée and employed by the same bank; and both attached to Freetown Head office.

The suspect was after Police investigation charged to court on three counts Preliminary Investigation (PI), conducted at the Pademba Road Magistrates' Court in Freetown.

Ikubolaje Nicol was later committed without bail for trial at the High Court and has been on remand at the Male Correctional Centre on Pademba Road.

The accused made his first appearance at the opening of the May 2023 High Court Criminal session presided by Justice Ansumana Ivan Sesay, a Court of Appeal Judge; and with the leave of the Court, his matter was mentioned by the lead defense counsel, Roland Wright.



Ikubolaje Nicol

In the particulars of offence, the State alleged that the accused on the 15th October, 2022 and on diverse days between that day and the 16th October, 2022, at Leicester Village in Freetown, Western Rural Area, conspired with other persons unknown to murder Sinnah Kai Kargbo.

Ikubola Nicol was on the 16th October, 2022 at the above address alleged to have murdered the twenty six (26) year old Sinnah Kai Kargbo, who he past the night with.

However, Justice Fisher has adjourned the matter until the determination at the Supreme Court and notices will be sent to both parties.

## President Bio launches the Kailahun - Koindu Road Project



President Julius Maada Bio has officially launched the Upgrading of the Kailahun-Koindu - Guinea-Liberia Border Road Project. The event was held on Friday, June 16, 2023 in Gbalahun, Kailahun District.

The project is under the Mano River Union Road Development and Transport Facilitation Programme - Phase III. It is funded by the African Development Bank and the Government of Sierra Leone.

During his address to the audience at the engineers camp site, President Bio said the road project was part of the fulfillment of promises he made to the people of Kailahun. "As long as we are in power, we will continue to provide you with the essential services that will make you comfortable," he stated.

He encouraged parents to send their children to school so that they can turn out to be helpful to them. "You have always been in the sun and under the rain in support of this party, but the best way you can benefit more

from governance is when you have lots of educated children who can gain meaningful appointments and influence policies," he advised.

President Bio promised to continue negotiations with development partners to ensure that funds will be provided for the remaining stretch of the road.

The Director General of the Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA), Ing. Amara Jambai Kanneh, said that the launch of the road project was a historic event because it has been at

the heart of every descendant of Kailahun District.

Ing. Kanneh gave an account of the progress made on the project, including the award of works contract, the payment of compensation to Property Affected Persons and the ongoing contribution of camp and quarry sites.

He pledged the professional commitment of SLRA to supervise the contractor and ensure that the works are done within the required budget and stipulated time.

The Paramount Chief of Luawa Chiefdom, Mohamed Kailondo Banya, on behalf of other local authorities, commended President Bio for his development strides and noted the relevance of the Kailahun-Koindu Road Project.

The Project Manager for China Henan International Cooperation Group (CHICO), Yang Yaqui, pledged the commitment of his company to implement the project according to its specifications.

The scope of works for Lot One of the project includes, upgrading 25



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## LOCAL NEWS

By: Kingsley Ighobor

**S**ierra Leone achieved a significant milestone on 6 June when it was elected to a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the period 2024 to 2025. Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Prof. David Francis spoke to Africa Renewal's Kingsley Ighobor on what this means for Sierra Leone and Africa, and the priorities that the country intends to promote during its tenure. The following excerpts are from the interview:

**What is the significance of this achievement for your country, but also for Africa?**

Today marks a momentous day for Sierra Leone. We are returning to the UN Security Council in the non-permanent category after 53 years. Being voted for by 188 countries [there are 193 UN member states] is a demonstration of the respect for Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone is no longer defined by its troubled past. Today we are considered a liberal, progressive, confident and enterprising nation.

As you know Sierra Leone is the Chair of the African Union Committee of 10 (C-10) for the reform of the UN Security Council. Algeria, another C-10 member, was today also elected to the non-permanent category of the Security Council. This means that in 2024 and 2025, two C-10 members will amplify our collective voice to promote and defend the common African position for the reform of the UN Security Council.

**What factors have contributed to your lengthy absence from the UN Security Council, and how were you able to get back in?**

Sierra Leone's absence can be attributed to several factors, including a difficult period marked by a brutal civil war, bad governance and near-state failure.

When you are in a period of bad governance, inefficient political and economic management of the state and civil war, you don't have time to come to the UN Security Council. Nobody will vote for you because they will not respect you.

However, the country was able to regain its position through a series of positive developments. The interventions of the UN and the West African peacekeeping force, ECOMOG, played a crucial role in helping Sierra Leone recover from the civil war and rebuild itself.

We transitioned from war to peace, on a path towards democratic consolidation. We are now regarded as a successful case of post-war peacebuilding and state reconstruction.

In 2018, Sierra Leone was ranked as one of the most corrupt countries in the world. However, through focused efforts, Sierra Leone managed to improve its score on the Millennium Challenge Corporation's Control of Corruption index, from 49% in 2018 to 83%, in 2022.

As the Foreign Minister, I mobilized our diplomatic missions, particularly in New York, Geneva, Nairobi, Addis Ababa, and Abuja, to advocate for and

# As a UN Security Council member, Sierra Leone will promote peace, security and good governance in Africa

— says Foreign Minister David Francis

secure the seat on the UN Security Council. This effort was challenging, especially considering that Nigeria was also vying for the position. However, Nigeria, under the leadership of former President Muhammadu Buhari, demonstrated magnanimity by ceding the opportunity to Sierra Leone.

**You mentioned at the campaign launch last year that your priorities would be promoting peace and security, empowerment of women and youth, addressing climate change and others. On women and youth, what initiatives do you have back home that demonstrate your commitment to these goals?**

We have seven strategic priorities but let me focus on **women and youth**. Our government recognizes the importance of investing in human capital development, particularly prioritizing women and youth. With women comprising around 52 per cent of our population, it is essential to focus on empowering them.

To advance gender equality and women's empowerment, we passed the groundbreaking Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Act last year 2022. This legislation ensures a minimum quota of 30 per cent for women in elective positions, appointed roles, and access to private capital from banks.

Similar efforts have been made to empower the youth. We have created opportunities for skills training and development such as the **Youth Agricultural Farms** where young people are contributing to food security and getting vocational and technical education.

In the UN Security Council, we aim to share our experiences with the rest of the world.

**There are still many troubled spots in Africa. In the 1990s, the war in Liberia spilled over to Sierra Leone. Now Guinea, another neighbouring country, is undergoing a political transition following the coup d'état of September 2021. How are you contributing to the restoration of democracy in that country?**

Military coups are a threat to the peace, security, and stability of our sub-region. Currently, transitional authorities in Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea are in Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea.

We cannot allow Guinea to be affected by large-scale conflicts because of the spillover or fire-next-door effect, as I always refer to it.

President Bio has personally visited Guinea and the President of the National Committee for Unity and Development [Col. Mamady Doumbouya] has also visited Sierra Leone. We've reached an agreement that we will support the process on the understanding that they remain committed to the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West Africa States] transition agenda.

The President has also been to Mali, and he has sent me as his Special Envoy to engage with the leadership of Burkina



Faso. Our goal is to encourage them to remain committed to their democratic transition agendas.

**Are you hopeful?**

On the one hand, yes, but at the same time, in politics, you can never be definitive. Our role is to encourage them to remain committed to restoring constitutional rule and democratic governance.

**The 2023 Global Terrorism Index refers to the sub-Saharan region of Africa as the epicenter of terrorism, more than other regions. How do you intend to use your membership in the UN Security Council to rally countries in Africa and indeed your international partners to tackle terrorism on the continent?**

Terrorism in the Sahara region is a threat to the peace, security, and stability of the continent. We know the insecurity challenges in Mali and Burkina Faso.

Sierra Leone, although not directly affected by terrorist activities, has experienced a history of civil war and understands the devastating consequences of such insecurity.

We're going to engage with all players within the ECOWAS framework and through bilateral engagements. In my engagements with the Deputy Secretary of State of the USA and the UK Foreign Secretary and other European colleagues, including foreign ministers, we have developed a proposal aimed at combating terrorism in the region.

However, we must also address the root cause of terrorism.

**What motivates ordinary people in the Sahara region to engage in terrorist activities?** We think we have fair knowledge of the dynamics and complexities of this issue.

The root cause is essentially marginalization, dispossession, poverty, deprivation, exclusion from the economic and political processes within countries.

To effectively address these factors, it is imperative to prioritize democratic governance, where individuals can freely express their opinions and actively participate in decisions that affect their lives. It is that failure that drives them away and neutralizes them

because they have nothing to lose.

**As Chair of the AU Committee of 10 to negotiate the reform of the UN Security Council, what is Africa's best argument for more seats in the council and do current geopolitical realities reinforce the need for such a reform?**

Africa's best argument is that the world that established the UN Security Council 77 years ago is very different from today. While the UN Security Council underwent a reform once, from 1963-1965, increasing its membership from 11 to 15, Africa continues to be underrepresented in the non-permanent category and unrepresented in the permanent category.

Addressing the historic injustices and marginalization of many regions of the world, including Africa, is a moral and political argument.

Furthermore, the geopolitical landscape has significantly evolved, particularly since 24 February 2022 [when the war in Ukraine started].

Notably, the P-5 [the Permanent Five include China, France, Russia, the UK and the USA] members have expressed a willingness to reform the Security Council, in particular bringing on board other regions of the world, including Africa. However, the devil is in the detail.

Africa has a common position, which is what Sierra Leone will promote.

We will advocate for two seats in the permanent category, including all the rights and privileges, including the veto, if maintained. Without a doubt, Sierra Leone and Algeria can leverage proximity to the P-5 members to amplify Africa's voice.

**Elections are coming up in Sierra Leone. Is your victory today celebrated across party lines back home?**

The campaign for the seat was supported by all 11 parties in the country. As Foreign Minister, I have worked with all the political parties in Parliament. Members on the Foreign and Affairs Select Committee have been fully supportive.

This about Sierra Leone; it is not about scoring political points.

This article was first published in [www.un.org/africarenewal](http://www.un.org/africarenewal)

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## NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

### Uganda: UN experts say ADF financed by Islamic State group



A soldier with the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) is seen at a checkpoint on the Mbau-Kamango road in the territory of Beni on December 10, 2021 - Copyright © africanews SEBASTIEN KITSIA MUSAYI/AFP or licensors

UN experts have established that the ADF rebels active in the east of the DRC and accused of Friday's attack on a high school in Uganda were receiving financial support from the Islamic State (ISIS) group and were seeking to expand their area of operations, according to a report consulted by AFP on Monday.

One of the many armed groups scouring the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the ADF (Allied Democratic Forces) are among the deadliest, accused of killing thousands of civilians.

Originally Ugandan rebels, mostly Muslim, who have been present in the DRC since the 1990s, they pledged allegiance in 2019 to the ISIS, which claims responsibility for some of their actions and presents them as its "central African province" (ISCAP). But their funding by the ISIS had not been documented until now.

In its latest report, due to be released this week, the UN panel of experts on the DRC says that the EI has "provided financial support to the ADF since at least 2019, through a complex financial system involving individuals in several countries on the continent, emanating from Somalia and passing through South Africa, Kenya and Uganda".

The experts also state that the ADF have "sent fighters and/or collaborators on reconnaissance missions in an attempt to extend their area of operations beyond the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri".

According to them, "they have sought to recruit and carry out attacks in Kinshasa" as well as in the Congolese provinces of Tshopo, Haut-Uélé (north-east) and Sud-Kivu.

Ugandan officials accuse the ADF of carrying out a raid on a Ugandan secondary school near the Congolese border on Friday night, which left at least 41 people dead.

Uganda and the DRC launched a joint offensive in 2021 to drive the ADF out of their Congolese strongholds, but have so far failed to put an end to the group's attacks.

The UN experts also devote a large part of their study to Rwanda's support for the M23 rebels in North Kivu,

which they had already established in previous reports, although Kigali denies this.

They state that they have "obtained further evidence of direct interventions by the Rwandan Defense Forces (RDF) on DRC territory" and "identified several RDF commanders and officials coordinating RDF operations in the DRC".

They note that "the security and humanitarian situation in the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu has continued to deteriorate".

Rwandan support for M23

The UN experts also devote a large part of their study to Rwanda's support for the M23 rebels, which they had already established in previous reports, although Kigali denies this.

A predominantly Tutsi movement, the M23 ("March 23 Movement") took up arms again at the end of 2021 and conquered large swathes of territory in North Kivu.

They say they have "obtained further evidence of direct intervention by the Rwandan Defence Forces (RDF) on DRC territory" and "identified several RDF commanders and (Rwandan) officials coordinating RDF operations in the DRC".

An East African regional force is deployed in the M23 area of operations and, under its supervision, the rebels have announced their withdrawal from certain positions.

But, according to the experts, "the withdrawals and disengagements announced appear to have been temporary and tactical, mainly to gain time in the face of growing international pressure".

The UN-mandated experts also claim that the M23 has "tried to win allies in South Kivu" among militias reputed to be pro-Rwandan, "with the aim of opening a front" in this province neighbouring North Kivu.

Generally speaking, the report notes that "the security and humanitarian situation in the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu has continued to deteriorate significantly".

It adds that a new outbreak of inter-community violence appeared last year in the west of the DRC and refers to a "tense" political situation in the run-up to the elections scheduled for December.

### Mali: Vote counting underway on junta's new Constitution

Polling stations closed in Bamako, Mali, at 6PM UTC on Sunday (June 18) to begin vote tally.

During the day, citizens had voted on a new constitution.

Main changes in new draft constitution include strengthening the president's powers, reforming institutions or recognising traditional authorities.

Constitutional court supervisor Hamadou Sissoko was content with the voting process.

"We didn't have any problems with our delegates or with the heads of the polling stations. Every time we go around, all we have to do is introduce ourselves as Constitutional Court supervisors, and they let you work with your delegate. We haven't had any problems."

Some 8.4 million citizens were eligible to vote in the referendum.

Jihadist insurgency

The danger of jihadist attacks was a consideration in central and northern regions, meaning the vote was not held in some parts of the country, including the

town of Kidal, a stronghold of former rebels.

A team of observers from civil society groups backed by the European Union reported that there were only a few voting issues in the polling stations to which they were deployed.

They also reported that more than 80 polling stations in Mopti, in the center of the country, were not open "due to insecurity".

The group said that a "terrorist attack" had disrupted voting in Bodio, but did not give further details.

In Menaka, a northern region contending with rebels linked to the Islamic State group, voting was limited to its capital due to insecurity, local elected officials said.

Political disagreement also reportedly prevented voting in some areas.

Turnout, typically low in the country of 21 million, will be seen as an indicator of the junta's ability to restore stability and generate popular enthusiasm for its agenda.

The head of a Bamako polling station was optimistic: "I don't think the participation rate will be low,

## EU allocates Egypt \$22M to help manage influx of Sudanese fleeing war

Egypt's top diplomat met with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on Sunday (June 18).

The officials talked among other things on strategic relations, economic partnership and close cooperation in the Mediterranean, the Egyptian Foreign ministry tweeted.

The EU representative announced an allocation to back Egypt as it welcomes refugees from neighbouring Sudan.

"In very few days more than 200,000 people has been hosted in Egypt, and I have to thank you for that and also, the European Union will provide an immediate assistance of €20 million (about \$22 million) to help you to address this new wave of Sudanese refugees on your Southern border. I know it is not enough, I know you are going to pay much more, but at least, let us to contribute a little bit in your support".

Over two months into the war between Army general Al Burhane and paramilitary commander Dagalo, over 1,800 people have been killed, according to NGO Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project.

Nearly two million people have been displaced, including 476,000 who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries, the United Nations says. Citing a crackdown on "illegal activities" including fraud, Egypt announced earlier this month it would reverse a visa exemption for children, women and elderly people. All citizens of neighbouring Sudan now have to obtain visas before crossing the border.

The U.N. and other nations will organize Monday (June 19) a pledging conference to raise funds to cover Sudan's humanitarian needs.

The U.N. says it received less than 16% of the \$2.57 billion required to help those in need in Sudan in 2023. Another \$470 million is needed to support refugees in the Horn of Africa region, the body added.

Mutual interest

Sameh Shoukry and Josep Borrell's Cairo meeting took place after a deadly Greek migrant boat wreck. A trawler that sank off the coast of Greece last week leaving at least 79 dead and many more missing in one of the worst disasters of its kind this year.

Egypt was promised to receive about about 80 million dollars for border management, search and rescue and anti-smuggling operations.

"There is no European country that is hosting the number (of Refugees) that Egypt is hosting, however we are doing this under the framework of our international commitment that we abide to, but also through the Egyptian historic stance in embracing and protecting our brothers but we need the continuity of assistance from our brothers in friendly countries because at the end it is a mutual interest. Egypt has become a destination state and if things met with obstacles, it would turn again into a transit country."

According to Italy's Interior Ministry, between January and June over 50-thousand migrants have arrived by boat in Italy, compared to just over 20-thousand in the same period in 2022.

### Kenya signs EU trade deal boosting Brussels' ties in Africa

Kenya and the European Union signed a trade agreement on Monday at a ceremony in Nairobi, the first major deal since 2016 with an African country where Brussels is seeking to forge closer economic ties and counter Chinese appetite.

Kenya and the European Union have signed a trade deal in a coup for Brussels as it seeks deeper economic ties with Africa in the face of competition from China.

Kenyan President William Ruto presided over a ceremony in Nairobi on Monday to mark the formal conclusion of negotiations for the EU-Kenya Economic Partnership Agreement.

Once ratified and entered into force, Kenya will receive duty-free and quota-free access to the EU, its biggest market where it sends roughly one-fifth of all its exports.

Imports from the EU to Kenya such as chemicals and machinery will receive progressive tariff reductions over a period of 25 years, but some sensitive products will be excluded.

"Today is a very proud moment for Kenya, and I believe a very proud moment for the European Union," Kenyan Trade Minister Moses Kuria said after signing the accord with EU Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis.

Kenya's main exports to the EU are agricultural products, including vegetables, fruits and the country's famous tea and coffee.

More than 70 percent of Kenya's cut flowers are destined for Europe.

Ruto, who said the EU was "the second most important development partner for Kenya after the World Bank" said the country's farmers could be "assured of a predictable market" and the agreement provides new opportunities to boost this trade.

"It ensures a stable market for industrialists, for our farmers, and also industrialists in the European Union," he said.

Dombrovskis said EU companies had invested 1 billion euros (\$1.1bn) in Kenya in the past decade, but that there was "a strong appetite" to do more business.

"With this deal in place, we have the right platform to do so," he said.

Hamidou Nantié Bougoudogo said.

"That's my point of view. [...] I hope the rate will be as high as we'd like."

Transitional leader col Assimi Goïta who supports a yes vote in the draft constitution cast his ballot in the garrison town of Kati. He's said the new constitution will "pave the way towards a new, strong and efficient Mali, at the service of the population's well-being."



Prime Minister Alexander De Croo (L) shakes hands with Kenya President William Ruto (R) during a diplomatic meeting between Belgium and Kenya, in Brussels on March, 29 2023. - Copyright © africanews JAMES ARTHUR GEKIERE/AFP

It is the first broad trade deal between the EU and an African nation since 2016 and follows a spending spree by China on lavish infrastructure projects across the continent.

The EU has taken steps to counter China's Belt and Road program, announcing in February it would increase investments in Kenya by hundreds of millions of dollars through its own Global Gateway initiative.

It is part of a trend of African nations being wooed by Western partners in recent years as Russia and China increasingly gain a foothold in Africa.

Dombrovskis said the East African powerhouse was "a beacon of dynamism and opportunity", echoing the international perception of Kenya's relative stability in what remains a turbulent region.

In a briefing with reporters before Monday's ceremony, Dombrovskis said Africa was a "priority region" for the EU, and he hoped the Kenya deal would "be a boost" to future trade links with Africa.

The Kenya deal is the culmination of trade talks between the EU and the East African Community (EAC) that started roughly a decade ago.

In 2014, the EU and the EAC, then Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania finalized negotiations for an economic partnership agreement, but only Nairobi ended up ratifying it.

Kenya went its own way, but Dombrovskis said the agreement remained open for other members of the EAC, which now includes the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, to join.

The junta had advertised the new constitution as the answer to Mali's inability to tackle its multiple crises. Goïta who seized power in 2020 has vowed to return the country to civilian rule in 2024. He called the Malians to remain united whatever the outcome of the referendum.

Results are expected within 72 hours.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

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SIERRA LEONE C.C. /2023 2023 K. NO. 33  
LS

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SIERRA LEONE  
(LAND AND PROPERTY DIVISION)

BETWEEN:-

MRS. HAWA KAMARA  
20<sup>th</sup> PIPE LINE  
ALLEN TOWN  
FREETOWN

AND

MICHAEL AZUBIKE NWANKWO  
34 UPPER ALLEN TOWN  
OROGU-CRAB TOWN  
FREETOWN

PLAINTIFF  
DEFENDANT  
Date: 19-04-23  
Signature: [Signature]  
Time: 1:33pm

By His Excellency the President of the Republic,  
Supreme Head of State, Grand Commander of the  
Order of the Republic, Commander-in-Chief of the  
Armed Forces, Fountain Head of Unity, Honour,  
Freedom and Justice.

TO:- MICHAEL AZUBIKE NWANKWO, 34 UPPER ALLEN TOWN, OROGU-CRAB TOWN, FREETOWN

We command you that within 14 days after the Service of this Writ on you, exclusive of the day of such service, you do cause an appearance to be entered for you in the High Court of Sierra Leone in an Action at the Suit of MRS. HAWA KAMARA. And take notice that in default of your so doing the Plaintiff may proceed therein, and judgment may be given in your absence. WITNESS THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE MR. DESMOND BABATUNDE EDWARDS Chief Justice of Sierra Leone at Freetown the 17 day of April in the year of our Lord, 2023



Master and Registrar

N. S. - This Writ is to be served within twelve calendar months from the date thereof, or if renewed, within six calendar months from the date of the renewal, including the day of such date, and not afterwards. The Defendant may appear hereto by entering an Appearance either personally or by Solicitor at the Master's Office, High Court of Sierra Leone.

A Defendant appearing personally may if he/she desire, enter his/her appearance by post and appropriate forms may be obtained by sending a postal order for Le 300.00 with an addressed envelope, foolscap size, to the Master and Registrar, High Court, Freetown.

If the Defendant enter an appearance he must also deliver a defence within ten (10) days from the last day of the time limited for appearance unless such time is extended by the Court or Judge, otherwise Judgment may be entered against him without notice, unless he has in the meantime been served with a Summons for Judgment.

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

The Plaintiff's claim against the Defendant is for the following:-

1. Recovery of possession of a piece or parcel of land and hereditament enclosing an area of 0.1651 acre situate, lying and being at HASSAN DRIVE, UPPER ALLEN TOWN, Freetown in the Western Area of the Republic of Sierra Leone.
2. In the alternative, recovery of the sum of Le 52,000,000.00/Le 52,000,000 (Fifty Two Million Leones or its equivalent of Fifty Two Thousand Leones in current value) being money paid to the Defendant by the Plaintiff for the said land.
3. Interest on the said sum pursuant to Section 4 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provision) Act, Cap 19 of the Laws of Sierra Leone 1960.
4. Damages for breach of contract.
5. Special damages in the sum of Le 24,500,000.00/Le 24,500,000 (Twenty Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Leones or its equivalent of Twenty Four Thousand Five Hundred Leones in current value).
6. Any further or other order(s) that this Honourable Court may deem fit and just.
7. Costs

PARTICULARS OF CLAIMS

1. The Plaintiff is at all material times to this action a nurse who contracted with the Defendant for a piece or parcel of land and hereditaments enclosing an area of 0.1651 acre situate lying and being at HASSAN DRIVE, UPPER ALLEN TOWN Freetown in the Western Area of the Republic of Sierra Leone.
  2. The Defendant is and was at all material time to this action represented to the Plaintiff that he is the owner of a piece or parcel of land and hereditaments enclosing an area of 0.1651 acre situate lying and being at HASSAN DRIVE, UPPER ALLEN TOWN, Freetown in the Western Area aforesaid.
  3. That the Plaintiff entered into a transaction for the said piece or parcel of land with the Defendant after being introduced to each other by agent named YUSUF KAMARA aka COMMANDER who represented to the Plaintiff that the Defendant is the fee simple owner of that piece or parcel of land and hereditaments enclosing an area of 0.1651 acre situate lying and being at HASSAN DRIVE, UPPER ALLEN TOWN, Freetown in the Western Area aforesaid.
  4. That in reliance of that introduction the Plaintiff contracted with the Defendant for the said land for a consideration of Le 70,000,000.00/Le 70,000,000 (Seventy Million Leones or its equivalent of Seventy Thousand Leones in current value).
- And the sum of Le ..... of each sum as may be allowed on taxation and if the amount claimed to be paid to the Plaintiff or his solicitor within ..... days from service hereof further proceedings will be stayed.
5. That on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022, the Plaintiff made part payment of Le 50,000,000.00/Le 50,000,000 (Fifty Million Leones or its equivalent of Fifty Thousand Leones in current value) for the said land to the Defendant. A further sum of Le 2,000,000.00/Le 2,000,000 (Two Million Leones or its equivalent of Two Thousand Leones in current value) was paid to the Defendant by the Plaintiff on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2022 and receipt issued respectively by the Defendant to the Plaintiff in the presence of the said Yusuf Kamara.
  6. Both the Plaintiff and the Defendant agreed that the remaining sum of Le 18,000,000.00/Le 18,000,000 (Eighteen Million Leones or its equivalent of Eighteen Thousand Leones in current value) be paid after a valid conveyance is executed in the name of the Plaintiff.
  7. The Plaintiff thereafter went ahead and expended money for the brushing and clearing of the said land also for the surveying of same which said surveying was done by a particular FODAY BESAY. The following day, the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2022, the Plaintiff along with the surveyor erected beacons demarcating the said land.
  8. The Plaintiff was however informed by her caretaker a month later or thereabout that a certain MR. IBRAHIM JALLOH went to the said land with some boys unknown to the caretaker, ordered the said boys to destroy the beacons erected by the Plaintiff on the said land.
  9. The Plaintiff right away informed the Defendant about that recent development on the said land but he however told the Plaintiff that it was a mere mistake made by the said MR. IBRAHIM JALLOH.
  10. It however turned out later that indeed MR. IBRAHIM JALLOH is the owner of the said land.
  11. The Plaintiff thereafter demanded that the money she had paid for the said land with all other expenditures undertaken be refunded to her within a period of one month. The Defendant promised earnestly to provide the Plaintiff with another piece of land of the same size within one month or would refund the money requested by the Plaintiff.
  12. That the Defendant failed to either provide the land he promised or refund the money demanded by the Plaintiff.
  13. Consequent upon his failure, the Plaintiff hired the services of Alpha Forna & Associates to write a letter to the Defendant for the recovery of the said money or convey the piece of land for which they had transacted.
  14. By letter dated the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022, Alpha Forna & Associates wrote the Defendant replicating the instructions of their Client which said letter was never replied to.

15. That sometime in November, 2022 the Defendant approached the Plaintiff informing her of his readiness to replace the initial piece of land for which they had transacted with another piece of land of the same acreage situate lying and being at OROGU-LOWER ALLEN TOWN, Freetown aforesaid and for the same price.

16. Both the Plaintiff and the Defendant agreed that the said land at OROGU LOWER, ALLEN TOWN be surveyed in the name of the Plaintiff on a Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023 and the land was indeed surveyed by a certain MR. MATTHEW SINNAH on the said agreed date.

17. The Plaintiff along with her landlady and masoner and the said surveyor went to the said land to erect beacons demarcating same but they were stopped from doing so by a certain JOSEPH who claimed to be one of the beneficiaries of the said land.

18. That Plaintiff again demanded that all the expenditures she has incurred so far inclusive of the part payment made for the initial piece of land situate lying and being at HASSAN DRIVE, UPPER ALLEN TOWN, Freetown in the Western Area aforesaid be refunded to her by the Defendant but the Defendant has since failed, refused and/or neglected to meet the demands of the Plaintiff.

19. The Defendant therefore breached the term of the contract by failing to provide the Plaintiff the piece or land for which they had transacted or refund the money paid for the said land and all expenditure incurred.

20. By reason of the Defendant's breach of contract, the Plaintiff has suffered loss and damages.

PARTICULARS OF SPECIAL DAMAGES

1. Services of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Surveyor	- LE 7,000,000/ Le 7,000
2. Brushing and clearing	- LE 3,000,000/ Le 3,000
3. First construction Beacons	- LE 1,000,000/ Le 1,000
4. Services of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Surveyor	- LE 12,000,000/ Le 12,000
5. Second construction of beacons	- LE 1,500,000/ Le 1,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>LE 24,500,000/ Le 24,500</b>

21. By reason of the Defendant's action, it is clear that he is not willing to refund the Plaintiff's land or money unless this Court grants Order(s) in that regards.

WHEREFORE THE PLAINTIFF CLAIMS

The Plaintiff's claim against the Defendant is for the following:

1. Recovery of possession of a piece or parcel of land and hereditament enclosing an area of 0.1651 acre situate, lying and being at HASSAN DRIVE, UPPER ALLEN TOWN, Freetown in the Western Area of the Republic of Sierra Leone.
2. In the alternative, recovery of the sum of Le 52,000,000.00/Le 52,000,000 (Fifty Two Million Leones or its equivalent of Fifty Two Thousand Leones in current value) being money paid to the Defendant by the Plaintiff for the said land.
3. Interest on the said sum pursuant to Section 4 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provision) Act, Cap 19 of the Laws of Sierra Leone 1960.
4. Damages for breach of contract.
5. Special damages in the sum of Le 24,500,000.00/Le 24,500,000 (Twenty Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Leones or its equivalent of Twenty Four Thousand Five Hundred Leones in current value).
6. Any further or other order(s) that this Honourable Court may deem fit and just.
7. Costs.

[Signature]

PLAINTIFF'S SOLICITOR

THE WRIT OF SUMMONS WAS ISSUED BY ALPHA FORNA & ASSOCIATES, OF AND WHOSE ADDRESS FOR SERVICE IS 49 VICTORIA STREET, FREETOWN, SOLICITOR FOR THE PLAINTIFF WHO CARRIES ON BUSINESS AT 49 VICTORIA STREET, FREETOWN.

C.C. /2023 2023 K. NO

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SIERRA LEONE  
(LAND AND PROPERTY DIVISION)

BETWEEN:-

MRS. HAWA KAMARA  
20<sup>th</sup> PIPE LINE  
ALLEN TOWN  
FREETOWN

- PLAINTIFF

AND

MICHAEL AZUBIKE NWANKWO  
34 UPPER ALLEN TOWN  
OROGU CRAB TOWN  
FREETOWN

- DEFENDANT

This Writ was duly served by me

On the Defendant

On the Day of 2023

WRIT OF SUMMONS

Alpha Forna & Associates  
ALPHA FORNA & ASSOCIATES  
BLESSED CHAMBERS  
49 VICTORIA STREET  
FREETOWN  
SOLICITORS FOR THE PLAINTIFF

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# Request for Proposals UNICEF

## Sierra Leone Admin Services (Re-advertisement)

The United Nations Children's Fund invites individual tenders for the services listed below through a Long-Term Agreement for an initial period of 24 months with possible extension for another 12 months.

Please visit the United Nations Global Market (UNGM) Website and download the tender documents. ***The submission deadline for each Tender is Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 10.am.***

There will be a bid conference for each Tender on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at various times as indicated below.

1. Provision of Air Conditioners Maintenance Services for UNICEF Offices in Freetown and Kenema and the Warehouse at Ferry Junction, Freetown. **BID CONFERENCE IS THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE AT 10.30 AM**
2. Servicing of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) for Freetown CO, Ferry Junction Warehouse and Kenema Field Office and Biometrics for Freetown Country Office. **BID CONFERENCE IS THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE AT 12.30 PM**
3. Servicing of Fire extinguishers for Freetown Country Office, Warehouse at Ferry Junction, Freetown, and Kenema Field Office. **BID CONFERENCE IS THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE AT 2.30 PM**

Thank you.

**POWER & PRAYER REVIVAL WEEK**  
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## Paralympic: Sierra Leone's Rugiatu Sankoh Wins Gold in Ghana

**S**ierra Leone's female powerlifter, Rugiatu Sankoh has won a gold medal in the Women's Powerlifting Competition in Accra, Ghana.

Sankoh lifted a total of 150kg, which was the highest lift in her category to clinch the Gold medal which put her in a place to secure a place in the upcoming Paralympic Games.

Meanwhile, Sierra Leonean Para Coaches and Technical Officials alongside other African nations have completed the highly attended regional training in Ghana for Coaches and Technical Officials ahead of the All Africa Paralympic Games.

With the Games scheduled for Ghana this September 2023, the training conducted was to help prepare the coaches and officials ahead of the big event in Africa. All participants who successfully completed the course were certified as Level 3 Coaches and Officials.

And according to the President of the National Paralympic Committee of Sierra Leone Unisa Deen Kargbo, they now await the outcome of the classification and qualifying of the country's para powerlifting athletes.

He said: "I would like to take this opportunity, as the team leader, to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Sports, the National Sports Authority, the National Olympic Committee, the President and the Executive Members of the National Paralympic Committee for choosing us to represent our country."

UDK further revealed that they are also expecting support from the Government in terms of funding for the National Paralympic Committee and the Para athletics.



As NCA's 13 years impasse ends...

## NOC/CGA-SLE president urges new executive to embrace unity



**P**resident of the National Olympics Committee/Commonwealth Games Association-Sierra Leone (NOC/CGA-SLE), Prince Vandy Sualley, has called on the newly elected executive of the Sierra Leone National Cycling Association to embrace unity for the development of the sport in the country.

The NOC/CGA-SLE President and some members of the Committee, who observed the highly controversial and embattled congress last Saturday at the Henry G Moore

Auditorium Olympic-Africa, Goderich, believes it is time for peace and unity with the Association.

"Let me start by congratulating the delegates and all the aspirants, this was a win for Cycling Association in the country because this brings an end to the 13-year-old struggle and infighting.

"Let me encourage the newly elected executive to embrace each other as family and work towards the development of the sport. Today you are all winners and we hope



this win will be a turning point for cycling in Sierra Leone," Sualley said.

With keen interest from the African Cycling Association (CAA), the Cycling Association elective congress ended with Mohamed CD Kamara being elected as the president having secured 18 votes from the 37 vote cast as he beat off competition from Emile Luke who secured 13 votes and Ekundayo Vincent with

6 votes.

After officially being declared the newly elected President, Kamara promised to unite the association and lead it to new heights.

The other S elected executive members include: Isata Mondeh, Sinneh Mansaray, Shadrack Williams, Bernard Turay, Mohamed Ben Conteh, Alimamy T M Sesay, Simon Alimamy Bangura and Anthony M Bangura.