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60% of presidential result announced: President Bio leads with over 273,000 votes

SLAJ condemns spread of fake news on social media



President Bio Commonwealth, calls on citizens ECOWAS, AU not to celebrate observations until final result on the June is announced 24th election



ECSL Mohamed Konneh making the announcement By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

he Chairman and National Returning Officer of the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL), Mohamed Kenewui Konneh, on Monday, June 26, announced 60% of the regional tallied presidential result of the June 24th presidential election.

The 60% tally regional result from Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Makeni, and Port Loko, showed that the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) secured 1,067,666 votes while the main opposition All People's Congress(APC) secured a total of 793,751 votes.

He however noted that the results detailed were partial and didn't represent the complete outcome of the presidential election.

Cont. Page 3

BET Awards honor hip-hop at 50, Burna Boy wins best international act



OPINION

PEACE, FREE EDUCATION, ENERGY, JOBS AND HOPE: PRESIDENT BIO HAS MERITED A SECOND TERM

By Sulaiman Banja Tejan-Sie Esq. and Sheik Bakarr

he main opposition APC knows which they hoped would snowball into a MURDEROUS PROTESTS out of SLPP's shortfalls over the years. But as the saying goes: too much of one thing is good for nothing. There is a fundamental difference between an opposition party for the sake of grabbing power in the next elections, and a responsible opposition that does not only criticise the incumbent for criticism sake, but is also willing for the sake of country to provide alternative solutions. This is the noble role that the SLPP sought to play while it was subjected to perpetual government's weaknesses to gain political harassment and intimidation in its capital like is the case with democracies all opposition days. Apart from just providing over the world, but those need not be alternative policies, a responsible achieved through violent confrontation opposition should look at the country with a patriotic lens by not only supporting the incumbent in legislative enactments and policy formulation that would enhance the country's development aspirations, but to also help create a conducive space for the government to implement its mandate. After the fall of the SLPP from power in 2007, the unsuccessful, urbane, legal luminary Solomon Berewa quietly returned to his home, congratulated the triumphant Ernest Koroma (even though the final result parliamentary debates where the party will was controversial) and quietly continued to play the role of an elder statesman until his legislation and even come up with peaceful demise.

RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION

Peaceful acceptance of elections results and to bills. For the APC, these avenues have I the facilitation of a peaceful transition after dare say not being exhausted or in some elections is not and will never be in the DNA cases have not even been pursued because of the APC. Simple proof: President they have chosen to follow the path to Koroma never congratulated President destruction. In their minds, it seems like if Kabbah when he was trounced so they are not in power, Sierra Leone should comprehensively in 2002, neither did Eddie burn. If they are not mobilising drug crazed Turay in 1996. Failing to congratulate your gangs to attack policemen, they are egging opponent at a credible election and equally on unsuspecting market women to confront failing to play the role of a responsible law enforcement. I used to be a vocal opposition are bad enough, it is worse apologist of peaceful protest and assembly however to fail to create a conducive not until August 10th 2022. The terror and political space for the government to mayhem wreaked upon this country by function without let or hindrance as it APC apologists at the highest level was pursues its mandate. When the SLPP fell at mind boggling. After those macabre created the required political space for the orchestrated, the APC always the APC government to pursue its aspirations. propagandists appealed to our collective having none of it. Never in that decade of APC misrule did the conscience that they should be granted their unsavoury activities that would disturb the Granted we all know life is hard and has peace and quiet of the people of this rather been gradually getting harder, but in the peaceful nation.

President Bio, nor did they play the role alternative solutions in a bid to ease the required of a peaceful and loyal opposition economic burden on citizens. Time after but swore vengeance against the SLPP for time however, even their IMF economist of daring to dethrone them. They in cahoots a leader at a level as high as the BBC keeps with well-heeled APC diasporans embarked telling us that he has workable solutions on a calculated backlash of subterfuge and which he will not disclose until his party bloody insurrection all in the bid to bring the takes over governance and he becomes the government's name into such opprobrium President. You are wondering what kind of that would trigger massive civil unrest alternative leadership he hopes to provide?

best how to make political capital violent insurrection. Even when they were vastly knowledgeable about the fact that the dire economic straits were largely triggered by the global twin shocks of COVID and the collapse in the prices of our major exports, they were relentless in laying all the blame at the government's doorstep

POLITICAL CAPITAL

Agreed, it is within their right as an opposition party to exploit the especially in a country that still bears the horrible scars of over a decade of arguably the most brutal war the continent had ever witnessed. The opposition in every country has a plethora of platforms on which they can sell their policies and manifestos. It can be in the form of rallies, community meetings, radio and TV programmes or even the print media. Every platform is available including the all-important have the opportunity to influence alternative bills, or there is also the possibility of making critical amendments face of all these difficulties, one would have After the APC lost power in 2018, they in expected a responsible opposition along

After August 10th, I am no longer a supporter of the right to public protest especially when one is dealing with a violent and incendiary opposition. Peaceful protests are intended to provide the platform for opposition voices to be heard especially on burning national issues. Those protests will take upon even greater relevance when a genuine opposition proffers the way forward on critical national issues. The reason why I will have to think twice before throwing my support behind such protests is because as a party, APC and their terror-oriented supporters do not seem to know where to draw the line between peaceful assembly and protest and that of violent insurrection. This was clearly demonstrated during August 10th. From its inception, the so-called demonstrations were illegal. Granted, our law enforcement have a proclivity to always do the ruling party's bidding sometimes in a manner that borders on the obsequious, but whether one likes it or not, police control over any form of public protest is crucial for the protection of life and property especially in the aspect of routes that should be followed during such activities, for it is said that my nose begins where my opponents swinging arm stops. For the APC, protest of any kind especially against the government is an opportunity to vent our grudges on those who we perceive to have robbed us of power, an opportunity for self-enrichment the forms of daylight robbery and vandalism. Even more sinister, it is an opportunity to attack successful individuals and their property in the false belief that they form a segment of our population who are unfairly living off the fat of the land at their expense. It is also an opportunity to not only attack, kill and maim law enforcement, but to also destroy public property in a bid to show case street power and weaponise our right to assembly and protest. If the the polls in 2007, for 10 long years, it incidents had been calculatedly Armageddon of August 10 is what the APC calls the right to free expression, I am

BALANCINGACT

SLPP embark on any form of political God given right to protest against the dire Granted, there is no escaping the fact that subterfuge and vandalism to obstruct economic straits the government they things are hard and our living standards are President Koroma's work, or engage in any claimed had burdened the citizenry with. falling. Also, true is that the bulk of our strangulating economic malaise is hardly the fault of this government alone, and this is not to say the government does not have its own share of that blame. Largely the first place neither congratulated with all their protestations to proffer however, the problem is global-the result of the worldwide economic crunch particularly occasioned by COVID which succeeded in bringing our entire universe to standstill. However, President Bio and his government should be commended for the almost acrobatic balancing act with which even in the face of this crunch, they have been able to score outstanding successes in other areas of development. Firstly, in spite

of the crunch unlike other countries, the government has strived to ensure that basic essentials like rice, flour, groceries and drugs are available. It is bad when the basics are expensive but even worse when they are not available. I remember that in a few months into the outbreak, government made available millions of dollars to businessmen to ensure that the basic essentials are readily available in the market. Most crucial, is the removal of all taxes on particularly rice and flour- two of the most basic of our staples.

Even more outstanding is that for a government to commit 22 percent of its lean treasury to the provision of free education, free lunch and paid for public examination is a huge sacrifice for a government that inherited over 2 billion dollars and nearly half a trillion in debts. A less competent government would have crumbled. For the SLPP government to commit 22 percent of government's financial resources to just one sector, and be able to pay salaries on a timely basis is a master stroke of an achievement in itself. This government has shown that critical though it is, life is not all about cheap bread and rice, if we are to secure an assured future for our country and our children, we should take the bold step to invest in that future. So, bread and rice today have become the opportunity costs of our investments in health, education, energy etc. Rice and other basic essentials are expensive and are becoming even less affordable by the day, but the reality is that we cannot build a secure future for ourselves if we keep expending over half of our precious foreign exchange earnings on the importation of basic staples alone. This is where our past or the incompetent APCs future continue to haunt us. In the immediate years following independence, we as a nation was not only self-sufficient in rice but we were actually exporters of rice in the sub-region. APC's massive corruption put paid to those halcyon days. One major reason for that was the thieving Siaka Stevens in order to create even bigger avenues for graft for himself and his henchmen, diverted valuable investment in agriculture, education and health to prestige projects especially roads and other infrastructure. Don't get me wrong, there is everything good in building roads and other infrastructure, the problem lies in the fact that since roads and infrastructure are capital intensive, it is easier to over price them and, in the process, steal huge chunks of those monies. So, after diverting funds from critical areas like agriculture, health and education, Shaki and his lackeys merely looted away the bulk of those diverted funds

LIKE STEVENS LIKE KOROMA

The false mantra of the APC is that they are

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International Conference Centre Freetown, Chairman Konneh noted that the final certified result will be announced within the next 48 hours and that the EC-SL is the only constitutionally mandated authority

60% of presidential result announced: Reading the result at the Bintumani President Bio leads with over 273,000 votes

responsible to announce election results. He said the EC-SL remains committed to producing accurate results that reflect the will of Sierra Leoneans, as expressed on the ballot papers they so diligently cast on elections

SLAJ condemns spread of fake news on social media

By Alfred Koroma



Ahmed Nasralla has condemned the rampant use of social media to spread being arrested during the pooling," he said. misinformation and disinformation around Except for the Independent Radio Network the elections.

fake results around the elections.

"We condemned the rampant spread of All People's Congress. misinformation on social media," he said He also said foreign journalists were to announce the final results of Saturday's

The SLAJ President commended the main his vehicle was vandalized at the event.

Association of Journalists (SLAJ), professional in the conduct of the election.

during a press conference on Monday June trapped in the APC head office on Sunday 26, warning that only the Electoral while they were covering the party's press Commission for Sierra Leone has the right conference, but were later evacuated. And another journalist, Alusine Kamara, Editor of Salone Compass Newspaper complained

he President of the Sierra Leone stream media across the country for being "There were no complaints of journalists (IRN) which complained Justice FM for He said social media has been a concern in accusing it of holding secret meetings with the June 24 elections as it has been used by the main opposition candidate, Dr. Samura politicians to spread propaganda and spread Kamara to use the platform to announce



National Returning Officer, i hereby release partial presidential election results for Presidential election conducted on 2 June, for Sierra Leone (ECSL) Result," he said.

Mohamd Chernoh Bah of NDA scored 14. 820, Julius Maada Bio of the ruling SLPP

scored 1, 067,666, Prince Coker of PDP Party By the powers conferred on me as the scored 4,136, Mohamed Jonjo of CDP Party scored 1,663, Henry Saa Kabuta of UNPP 2,865, Iye Kakay of ADP 3,094, Nabieu Musa Kamara of PLP 5,149 Matthew Wilson 2023. These results represent 60 percent of Kamara of the APC scored 793,751, Charles total polling stations results processed each Francis Margai of PMDC 9,621, Abdulia district, cleared by the Electoral Commission Dougakoro Sankoh of RUFP- 4,780, Patrick Jonathan Sandy of NURP party -943 UDP According to him, presidential candidate, Mohamed Sowa Turay of UDP- 1,099 and Beresford Victor Williams of ReNIP party scored 1,807.

PEACE, FREE EDUCATION, ENERGY, JOBS AND HOPE: PRESIDENT BIO HAS MERITED A SECOND TERM

From Page 2

development-oriented party hence the reason why they love investing in results favourable to the main opposition particularly roads. Like Stevens like Ernest. One proof of how the APC diverts funds meant for roads lies in the poorly constructed Wilkinson Road which the APC claimed at the time of its commissioning cost a whooping eight million dollars for less than a four-kilometre road. Poorly constructed roads under Koroma abound in Freetown. The washing away of newly laid asphalt on Dundas Street and Wilberforce and Hill Station roads is prime examples. This not to say that the SLPP is not infrastructure oriented. The party has concrete quality infrastructural projects especially in the educational sector. Milton Margai Technical University, Njala University, SLPMB, several hospitals and health centres, pipe borne water at rural at urban levels. Of course, not to mention the party's immeasurable contribution to education. What sets the SLPP apart from other political parties in Sierra Leone, is the party's capacity to balance financial allocations to MDA's with a dexterity that of course prioritises its flagship projects like education, health, energy and agriculture, but in no way marginalises other sectors that synergise with other MDAs in a manner that ensures that no one is left behind.

Bio's Merit

June 24th was D day, Sierra Leoneans are quite knowledgeable about how President Bio has rescued them from the excruciating high cost of education by providing free education and lunch for their nearly three million kids. President Bio in five short years has lit up over forty percent of the country, all over the country hospitals and health centres are being built. bread, cement, oil, butter, iron rod and other building materials are being built. This means more employment for youth and less clamour for foreign exchange by business as these goods can now be procured locally with local currency. We have seen the emergence of two universities in the Eastern Province which had none before in addition to Milton Margai, IAMTEC and the American Medical University in the capital Freetown. In the food sector, vast investments by foreign and government entities are cropping up everywhere. These can only mean more jobs and a giant step towards food self-sufficiency. Salaries of public sector workers are being raised while school children are now the beneficiaries of free lunch. Hope has returned and Sierra Leoneans now have only one way to extend their gratitude to President Bio: Give him another five years to complete his mission of service to Sierra



To Ensure Non Violence in Elections. All Elections Processes Must be Followed and Should be Done Inclusively

LOCAL NEWS

By Ishmael Dumbuya

he Commonwealth, ECOWAS and AU Observer Groups have in a joint press conference held at the Bintumani Hotel updated members of the press on their observations in connection to the just concluded general elections in the country.

In his opening remarks, ECOWAS Election Observation Mission Head, Mohamed IBN Chambers, thanked the people of Sierra Leone for exercising their democratic rights, and keeping the elections very peaceful.

He added that on Elections Day, the mission deployed 95 observers, grouped into 39 observer teams in 15 districts. He noted that the observers visited 337 polling stations across the country, both urban and rural.

He went on to state that a significant number of polling stations visited (57.14%), polling staff and materials did not arrive before the scheduled start time of 7am, citing various centers where ballot papers were unavailable, such as in Polling Centre 16059 at Wellington, Methodist High School and Bo, SOS International School, Lumley. He further states that in 37% of polling stations observed, polling commenced within the first hour, while in 63% of cases, polling started with considerable delays due to the late arrival of polling

Commonwealth, ECOWAS, AU observations on the June 24th election

staff and materials. He ended that 98% of polling stations were set up in a way that guaranteed the secrecy of the vote. "In general, voters were required to present their voters card in order to vote, nonetheless, 8% of polling stations visited, observers witnessed voters being allowed to vote without their voter's card. Such voters either presented their voter's slip or other forms of identity that tallied with the details on the voter's register," he climaxed.

Yemi osinbanjo, Head of the Commonwealth Observer Mission, stated that the environment on Election Day was largely peaceful, though the Group noted some isolated

He noted that early voting was arranged on 15 June 2023 for pilgrims travelling to Mecca as well as security personnel who were scheduled to work on Election Day.

However, the Mission noted that some security personnel opted to vote on Election Day itself. The Group also noted that the announcement was made just 24 hours prior to the date for early voting.

He further stated that Election Day was characterized by some logistical challenges, most notably the late arrival, or non-delivery in some cases, of both non-sensitive and sensitive



elections materials. As a result, the inadequate signage in some cases, with Mission noted the late opening of polls the use or presence of crowd control tape in many polling centres, with delays of or queue controllers' rare or nonabout one to three hours in the opening existent guidelines. of polls.

He concluded that the electoral staff Mission Head, Moussa Faki Mahamat, were generally professional, stated that 78.6% of polling stations transparent, and conciliatory and for closed on time, and all voters in the the most part, managed emerging queue at the closing time were allowed conflicts well. However, the Mission to vote, adding that stations that noted varying levels of assimilation of opened late also closed late to training by the polling staff, as there compensate for the time lost at the were a few inconsistencies in the opening. application of procedures. Some He said that the Mission noted that examples of these inconsistencies women and youth participated as include: It was noted that long queues polling officials, and as party agents. of voters waited patiently for their turn He ended by stating that counting and there was poor queue management and peaceful atmosphere.

African Union Election Observation

and were calm and orderly. However, closing process took place in generally

NEW blasts paramount Chiefs' involvement in political campaigns celebrate until final result is announced

By Alfred Koroma

he National (NEW) has taken a swipe on Paramount Chiefs' involvement in the political campaigns leading to June 24 elections.

Paramount chiefs are the traditional heads of Chiefdoms in Sierra Leone. They control the

party in national politics.

But on the eve of June 24 elections, for their mediation role." NEW reported it observed incidents of This is the second time the traditional their interference in political authorities have hit headlines. In April, political parties by their tribal heads.

"It is not even their space. It is not their role. They have no business in this arrangement," the head of NEW, Marcella Samba noted, urging the the other during elections



judicial system, and allocate land in ."Their traditional responsibility is to their chiefdoms. By tradition, the chiefs hold the entire community together, she re supposed to stay neutral and not added, "When the two political parties depict alignment with any political collide, it is those leaders that mediate. If they are taking sides, it is problematic

campaigns and the endorsement of the report report published by the Special Investigative Committee that investigated the August 10 protest revealed the authority of the Paramount Chiefs is eroding.

The chiefs complained to the Committee traditional authorities to desist from that their authority has been eroded as the habit of favoring one side against a result of disconnect between them and the central government.

President Bio calls on citizens not to

By Yusufu S. Bangura

resident Julius Maada Bio has on Monday called on all citizens to keep the peace and wait for the final announcement of the result before they start celebrating.

He made the call after the announcement of the first set of presidential result by the Chief Electoral Commissioner for Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL), Mohamed Konneh.

He said on the 24th June 2023, Sierra Leoneans across the country went to the polls to make their democratic choices for various national and local council or associate with violence actions for the constitutional body that is vested with provocative and retaliate action. election results.

peace during and after the said. announcement of results of these He affirmed his unconditional elections," President Bio called.



President Julius Maada Bio

offices and that the ECSL is the sole sake of peace and that they must avoid

the power to manage and announce "Let us individually and collectively maintain and promote peace in our "This afternoon, the Chief Electoral communities and among social and Commissioner for ECSL has announced political groups which we are affiliated. 60% of the presidential result. I urge the police and security forces to Therefore, while we await the enforce public order laws with respect announcement of the final result by the and protect all citizens in an even Chief Electoral Commissioner, I call on handed way as every citizen's all citizens to keep the peace and constitutional rights are equally continue to respect all other public laws. important and must be fully respected We each have a stake in maintaining at all times and in all circumstance," he

commitment to an inclusive, peaceful, He said citizens must not incite violence fair and transparent elections process.



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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

BET Awards honor hip-hop at 50, Burna Boy wins best international act

talent during a performance-packed category of BET awards. show that consistently felt like a party.

tribute performance.

A masked Lil Uzi Vert opened the show greeted with a resounding applause. at Los Angeles' Microsoft Theater The night's biggest surprise was a rare before it jumped into a quick history public performance by Quavo and lesson. Capri walked the audience Offset, the surviving members of Migos, through a medley of the earliest days of who did a rendition of "Bad and Boujee" New York City '80s rap culture featuring in front of an image of Takeoff, who died The Sugarhill Gang's "Rapper's in a shooting last December. Delight," MC LYTE's "Cha Cha Cha," DJ Kid Capri walked the audience and Big Daddy Kane's "Raw."

featured only female performers while Microsoft Theater in downtown Los Nigerian Musician, Damini Ogulu, a.k.a Angeles. Burnaboy won the award for Best

he 2023 BET Awards are International Act. The 'African Giant' celebrating 50 years of hip-hop crooner beat the likes of Ayra Starr, with tributes to the genre's Central Cee and Stormzy, among earliest voices, late legends, and new others to clinch the most coveted

Though Burna Boy was absent at the Busta Rhymes took home the Lifetime show, his plague was received by Achievement Award with a star-studded Michael Blackson. His (Burna Boy's) announcement as winner had been

through rap classics honoring not just The coveted best new artist award went
East and West rap but also the styles of to Coco Jones, in a category which Miami, Atlanta and Jamaica, live from

Oil spill from Shell pipeline fouls farms and a river in a long-polluted part of Nigeria

new oil spill at a Shell facility in Nigeria has government of marginalization. farming communities in part of the Niger Delta. which has long endured environmental pollution caused by the oil industry.

The National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, or NOSDRA, told The Associated Press that the spill came from the Trans-Niger Pipeline destruction of their livelihoods resulting from the operated by Shell that crosses through obsoleteness of Shell's equipment and are communities in the Eleme area of Ogoniland, a region where the London-based energy giant has faced decadeslong local pushback to its oil exploration.

The volume of oil spilled has not been determined, but activists have published images of polluted farmland, water surfaces blighted by oil sheens and dead fish mired in sticky crude.

While spills are frequent in the region due to vandalism from oil thieves and a lack of maintenance to pipelines, according to the U.N. Environmental Program, activists call this a

It is "one of the worst in the last 16 years in Ogoniland," said Fyneface Dumnamene, an environmental activist whose non-profit monitors spills in the Delta region. It began June 11.

"It lasted for over a week, bursts into Okulu River - which adjoins other rivers and ultimately empties into the Atlantic Ocean — and affects several communities and displaces more than 300 fishers," said Dumnamene of the Youths and restoration of the environment and then Environmental Advocacy Centre.

He said tides have sent oil sheens about 10 At the request of the Nigerian government, the kilometers (6 miles) further to creeks near the nation's oil business capital, Port Harcourt.

Shell stopped production in Ogoniland more than 20 years ago amid deadly unrest from residents criticized Shell and the Nigerian government for protesting environmental damage, but the Trans- 50 years of pollution and recommended a Niger Pipeline still sends crude from oil fields in comprehensive, billion-dollar cleanup. other areas through the region's communities to export terminals.

The leak has been contained, but treating the fallout from the spill at farms and the Okulu River, which runs through communities, has stalled. NOSDRA Director General Idris Musa said.

blaming protesting residents. "But engagement is

The apparent deadlock stems from mistrust and past grievances in the riverine and oil-abundant minority ethnic groups who accuse the Nigerian the impact."

contaminated farmland and a river, Africa's largest economy overwhelmingly upending livelihoods in the fishing and depends on the Niger Delta's oil resources for its earnings, but pollution from that production has denied residents access to clean water, hurt farming and fishing, and heightened the risk of violence, activists say.

> The communities "are very angry because of the concerned the regulator and Shell will blame sabotage by the residents," Dumnamene said.

> Often oil companies blame pipeline vandalism by oil thieves or aggrieved young people in affected communities for spills, which could allow the companies to avoid liability.

> London-based Shell said it is working with a joint investigatory team, consisting of regulators. Ogoniland residents and local authorities, to identify the cause and impact of the spill.

> Shell's response team "has been activated, subject to safety requirements, to mobilize to the site to take actions that may be necessary for the safety of environment, people and equipment," a company statement said.

> NOSDRA confirmed the joint investigation, but a cause of the spill - whether sabotage or equipment failure - has not yet been revealed.

Hundreds of farmers and fishermen who have been cut off from their livelihoods would insist on compensation. Dumnamene said.

U.N. Environment Program conducted an independent environmental assessment of Ogoniland, releasing a report in 2011 that

While, the government announced the cleanup in 2016, there is little evidence of restoration on the ground. The government says community protests and lawsuits by local activists have hampered progress.

"A credible cleanup would have been a beacon of "Response has been delayed," Musa said, hope for the Niger Delta and other areas in Africa that have suffered oil pollution, but no credible cleanup is ongoing," said Ledum Mitee, a veteran Ogoni environmental activist and former president of the Movement for the Survival of Niger Delta region, which is mostly home to Ogoni People. "It is a cover-up, and we do not see

Outrage erupts after man accused of blasphemy is stoned to death in latest mob killing in Nigeria



A team of military and police bomb squad pick pieces of detonated explosives pieces of detonated explosives.... - Copyright ® africanews AMINU ABUBAKAR/Copyright2006

man was stoned to death after being accused of blasphemy in northwest Nigeria, authorities and activists said, sparking outrage on Monday from rights groups worried about what they said were growing threats to religious freedom in the region.

Usman Buda, a butcher, was killed Sunday in Sokoto state's Gwandu district after he "allegedly blasphemed the Holy Prophet Muhammad" during an argument with another trader in a marketplace, police spokesman Ahmad Rufa'i said in a statement on Sunday night.

Local residents shared videos that appeared to be from the scene showing a large crowd that included children pelting stones at Buda on the floor as they cursed him.

Rufa'i said a police team was deployed in the area but when they arrived, "the mob escaped the scene and left the victim unconscious." He was later declared dead at Usmanu Danfodiyo Teaching Hospital in Sokoto, Rufa'i said.

The killing was the latest attack rights campaigners have said threatens religious freedom in Nigeria's predominantly Muslim northern region. Blasphemy carries the death penalty under Islamic law in the area. Amnesty International Nigeria's office said the failure to ensure justice in such cases would encourage more extrajudicial killings. "The government is not taking the matter seriously and that has to change," Isa Sanusi, acting director of Amnesty International Nigeria, said.

Sokoto Gov. Ahmed Aliyu said

local residents should not take laws into their hands. But he also warned that his government would "deal decisively" against anyone found guilty of blasphemy.

'Sokoto people have so much respect and regard for Prophet Muhammad ... hence the need for all the residents to respect (and) protect his dignity and personality," Abubakar Bawa, his spokesman, said.

Many of those accused of blasphemy never make it to court for trial. Last year, a student in Sokoto was beaten and burnt to death for alleged blasphemy while a man was killed and set ablaze for the same reason in the capital city of Abuja also in the northern region.

The police in Sokoto said it has opened an investigation into the latest incident, though arrests are rare in such cases.

"Even where arrests were made, there were serious allegations that those arrested were either later released or the whole case is jeopardized. This is very dangerous and it shows the Nigerian authorities are deliberately not willing to do the right thing to fix this dangerous situation," Sanusi added.

Kenya: five civilians killed, some beheaded, in Shebab attack in east

ive civilians were killed and some beheaded in an attack on Saturday evening in two villages in eastern Kenya claimed by the radical Islamist Shebab police and local sources said on Sunday.

The attack was carried out at around 19:30 (16:30 GMT) on Saturday in the villages of Juhudi and Salama, located in the coastal county of Lamu, which borders Somalia. according to these sources. "Five people were killed (...)

The victims' throats were slit and others were beheaded. a police source told AFP

They (the assailants) were armed with machetes and some had firearms, but they did not shoot at them. The victims' throats were slit and others were decapitated". added this source.

A resident of one of the villages, Hassan Abdul, said that "the women were locked in the houses and the men were ordered to come out, they were tied up with ropes and massacred"

*In total, five people were killed, including a secondary school pupil. (...) All those killed had their throats slit and some were beheaded", he added, claiming to have counted between 20 and 30 assailants.

According to another resident, Ismail Hussein, the attackers also seized goods belonging to the residents, in particular foodstuffs, before fleeing by firing into the air. The Lamu County Prefect, Louis Rono, confirmed the attack but did not give a death toll. "We have increased security in the area following last night's attack," he said on Sunday.

The Shebab, a group affiliated to al-Qaeda, claimed in a statement to have carried out an operation on the village of Juhudi, saying they had killed "six members of the Kenyan infidels" and "burnt down ten houses where Christians were living*

- Deadly attacks - For more than 15 years, the Shebab have been fighting the federal Somali government, backed by the international community to establish Islamic law in this country in the Hom of Africa.

Since its military intervention in southern Somalia in 2011 and then its participation in the African Union force in Somalia (Amisom, now Atmis) created in 2012 to combat



 Copyright © africanews fighters display ... Farah Abdi Warsameh/AP

this insurgency, neighbouring Kenya has also been targeted by this group, which also recruits among the local youth.

Deadly attacks targeted the Westgate shopping centre in the capital Nairobi in September 2013 (67 dead), Garissa University in April 2015 (148 dead) and the Dusit hotel complex, also in Nairobi, in January 2019 (21 dead).

Numerous other smaller-scale attacks regularly target police and civillans in the border counties of Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Lamu, home to the tourist island of the same name.

Saturday's attack took place in the vicinity of Mpeketoni, an inland town around 450 km as the crow flies from the capital Nairobi and around 120 km from the Somali border.

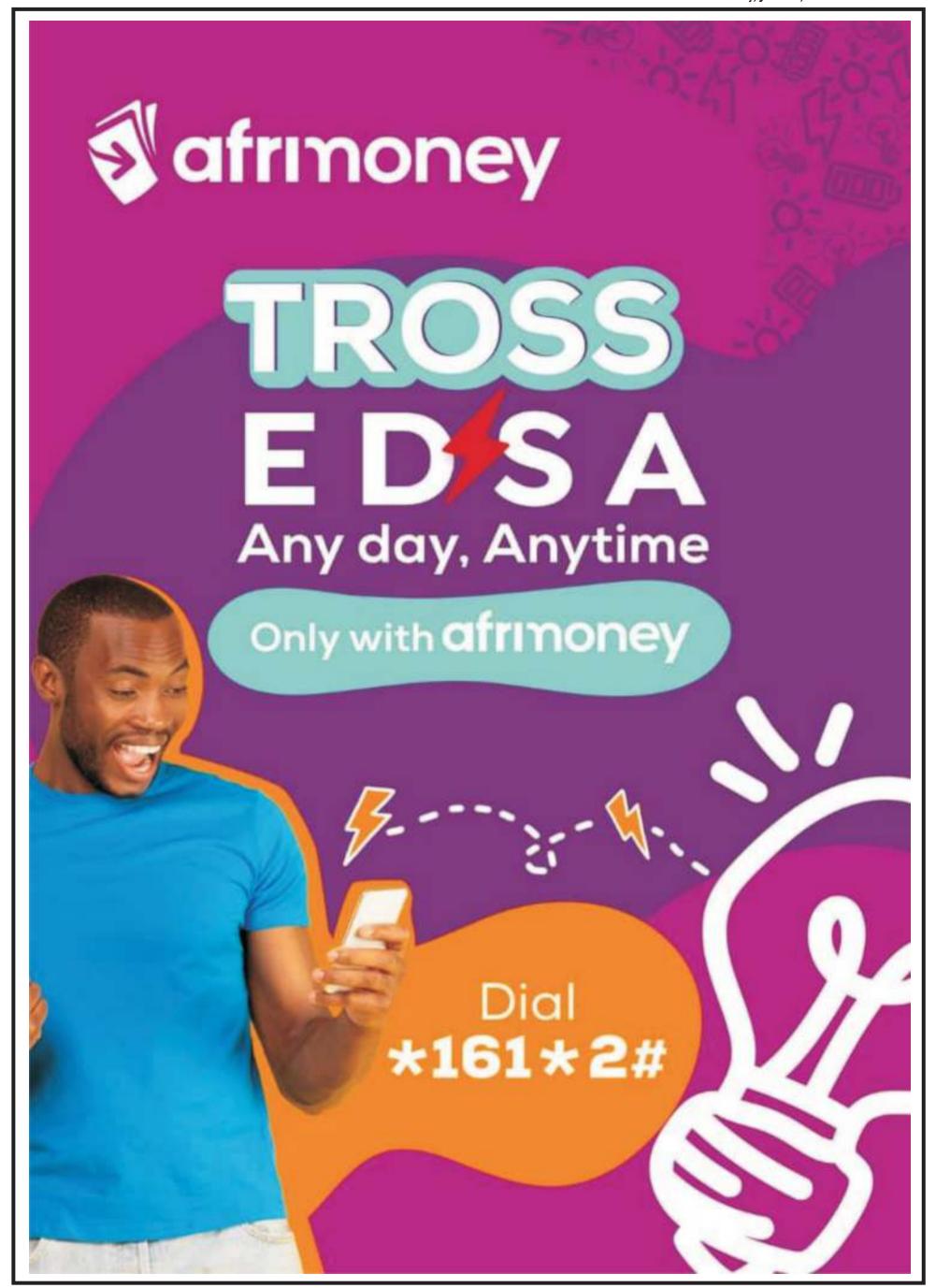
The area had already been targeted on 2 January 2022 by an attack attributed to the Shebab, in which one man was decapitated and five others shot or burnt to death, according to a police report.

In 2014, a series of raids claimed by the Shebab left around a hundred people dead.

On 14 June, eight police officers were killed when their vehicle was destroyed by an improvised explosive device in Garissa county.

On 15 May, Kenya and Somalia announced the gradual reopening at three points of their land border, which had been officially closed in 2011 in an attempt to curb Shebab attacks.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP



he Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC), has in a press conference updated pressmen on their observations of the June 24th elections across the country. In his statement, the Chairman PPRC, Abdulai M. Bangura, stated that in fulfilment of the commission's statutory mandate. on June 24th ,the commission deployed commissioners, permanent and adhoc staff and youth corps across the country to monitor the presidential, parliamentary and local council elections.

He went on to state that the PPRC observed that the ECSL staff both adhoc and permanent, were professional in the execution of their duties.

opened on time throughout the polling started late. However, the the late start," he explained.

PPRC on June 24th election of the property of the state of the state



PPRC Chairman updating the press on their findings

country. There were delays in a

few polling stations in the Western polling time was extended in those refrain from pronouncing results

"Generally, polling stations Urban and Western Rural and polling stations to compensate for and wait for the statutory

parties were largely comporting, adding that there were some unfortunate incidents in Makeni and Lunsar, in the Northern part damaged.

He revealed that the security sector also played a pivotal role in the conduct of the elections and that police presence was at every polling centre, and they exhibited a great deal of professionalism.

He also indicated that observers, both local and international, were present in every polling centre.

"We encourage all contestants to

mouthpiece of the people, which is He further noted that political ECSL to announce the results. We call on the ECSL to expedite the tallying process and announce the results. To those who will be of the country where ECSL staff fortunate to win, please celebrate were beaten and property responsibly and desist from provocative actions," Commissioner Bangura admonished.

> The Chairman, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion, Rev. Shodankeh Johnson, urged every Sierra Leonean to be peaceful and promote national cohesion, adding that the peace of the country rests on the shoulder or everyone.

NCD commends voters, election stakeho

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

he National Commission for Democracy (NCD) has commended the resilience of Sierra Leoneans for coming out in their numbers and patiently waited to cast their votes in the June 24th general elections across the country.

The commission, on the day of polling, deployed accredited staff to observe the polls.

The commission called on political party supporters to remain calm in the days ahead as the results of the polls are tallied and subsequently announced by the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL). "Even as we acknowledge the challenges of ECSL in conducting the elections in some parts of the country especially in the Western Urban and Rural districts, NCD commends the courage of ECSL to conduct the polls of Saturday, June 24, 2023, amidst tensions and uncertainties. Also, we commend other stakeholders, especially national and international observer missions in the conduct of the Saturday," the release states.

They further commended the polls for creating the enabling environment, the level playing field, and deescalating the tensions around the polls with far-reaching implications for the peace, stability, and tranquility of the country.

According to them, various teams of NCD observers reported that some the polling centers and stations started voting at 7am, while others started voting late.

Some of the reasons cited for starting late, according to NCD, were mostly logistical and procedural, and that it was also observed that the laid-down procedures were followed to the letter and there were very long queues in the polling centers and stations observed. They further stated that every eligible voter that was in the queues by 5pm was allowed to vote, and that in most of the polling centers and stations they observed that counting of the votes started immediately after the close of polls at 5pm, while voting went beyond 5pm in other centres.

They stated that in all the polling centers and stations observed, counting was not disrupted, with ECSL officials and party agents signing the Reconciliation and Result Forms (RRFs) with certified copies posted on the walls, copies also issued to the party agents, and copies also placed in Tampered Evidence Envelopes (TEEs) for onward transmission to the district and regional tally centers.

national and international observers Ngegba of the Pademba Road Court in the polling centers and stations No.1 and they were remanded to the were security personnel in all of the Pademba Road. polling centers and stations observed. All the accused persons were standing "NCD stands ready to join other trial on six count charges including stakeholders including National and conspiracy to commit wounding with International Observation Missions intent contrary to law. to engage especially the political The charges were read out to them by the rules of the game even as they consolidate the nation's democratic According to the particulars of gains," the release states.

Chief and 3 others sent to prison for alleged Wounding

By Mohamed J Kargbo

3-year-old Chief Pa Alimamy Sesay, alias White Boy, Amadu Sesay, Jihad Fofanah and Mohamed Fofanah made their first NCD pointed out that there were appearance before Magistrate Mark observed and that they observed there Male Correctional Centre at

players as they are urged to play by the court registrar and no plea was

offence, on a date unknown between

the 8th to 30th March, 2023, at Jorpoh Farm, Waterloo in Western Rural, the accused persons conspired together with other persons unknown to commit wounding with intent

It was alleged that the accused persons on the above date and address maliciously wounded Edward Sesay, Thomas Sesay, Solomon Bami Sesay Mohamed Tarawalie, and Sulaiman Bangura with intent to maim them.

Counsels representing the accused persons, A Koroma and C.Kamara were about to apply for bail for the accused persons when the Magistrate refused it because of the seriousness of the offences charged and that two human ears were tendered in court.

The matter was adjourned to the 27th of June 2023 for further hearings

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Population Services International-Sierra Leone Job Description

Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (ME&L) Specialist (EpiC Sierra Leone)

Job Type: Consultancy/Independent Contractor Location: Freetown, Sierra Leone

Start Date: To be determined. End Date: To Be determined.

Reports to: Country Project Manager-EpiC SL

Grade: TBD

Background Introduction

Population Services International (PSI) is a network of locally rooted, globally connected organizations working to achieve consumer-powered healthcare — people-centered health systems that ensure quality, affordable care wherever and whenever it is needed. Our origins in sexual and reproductive health have grown into a broader mission. Today, we work with the public and private sectors as well as local communities, prioritizing people's voice and choice and developing solutions to meet their essential health needs. Over the past five decades, we have helped push boundaries, break taboos, set trends, and develop innovative solutions to complex global health challenges.

There are over 9,000 "PSI'ers" around the world. It's a diverse group of entrepreneurs and professionals with an unusually wide range of backgrounds - from the medical industry to the music business - all with unique skills we bring to the job.

PSI Sierra Leone seeks to recruit, on an "independent contractor basis" the services of an M&E Specialist to assist with, amongst other pieces of work, data management for the Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) Project activities which are aimed at increasing the coverage of COVID 19 Vaccination in Sierra Leone.

Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) is a five-year global project funded by U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). EpiC receives COVID-19 funding to bolster health systems necessary to address COVID-19 and reduce cases of reemergence.

Currently, EpiC and its consortium members implement COVID-19 activities in more than 45 countries worldwide. The project delivers high-quality technical assistance at the community, facility, district, regional and national levels and builds relationships with relevant partners working to address COVID-19.

In Sierra Leone, EpiC works hand in hand with Sierra Leone's Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) to identify and address gaps that are not currently covered by other partners throughout the country but more especially in the 7 districts that have the lowest COVID-19 vaccine uptake.

Constal Objective of the Bacition

Reporting to the EpiC Sierra Leone Country Project Manager and working closely with the M&E Coordinator for the organization, the MEL Specialist will take a leadership role in developing and supporting EpiC Sierra Leone project's data management, utilization and reporting through the EpiC Global Infolink's database platform. The support will include data collection, cleaning, validation and visualization, co-leading administration of the project's activity database. The MEL Specialist will also work with the global EpiC M&E team on co-design and oversight of implementation of new components of routine data collection (by adding to existing database).

The MEL Specialist will lead the ongoing capacity building and skills maintenance in data management and utilization for program quality improvement among the EpiC Sierra Leone country project team. The position will contribute to consolidating and building EpiC project's evidence and knowledge resources and showcasing the impact of our covid-19 vaccination work both internally and externally. The MEL Specialist will also support the EpiC project team and its implementing partners in oversight and guidance on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) activities. The position will work very closely with the Impact Malaria program M&E team, and when needed, also provide guidance to other program colleagues within the country office.

The specific job functions are as follows:

Leadership on routine & periodic activity data collection and management

Provision of routine covid-19 vaccine management information system backstopping to the EpiC SL team

Technical ME&L assistance to the EpiC project team Contribute to the learning agenda of the project.

Key Responsibilities

Work with the Project Manager (EpiC) and the M&E Coordinator to contribute to strengthening the EpiC Project MEL systems.

Manage routine data, including data cleaning and entry in the global EpiC Infolink's software platform to ensure timeliness, completeness, consistency and quality.

Leading the design and testing of data collection, data entry and supervision tools

Creating data analysis plans and effectively implementing them

Undertake critical review of existing data collection forms & reporting tool to identify gaps and feed this to the EPI M&E team for further action.

Liaise /coordinate with the central DHIS2 unit of the MOHS and other partners to share with them critical and relevant covid-19 vaccine data-related findings from the field aimed at strengthening the overall system.

Ensure timely and complete reporting and feedback of routine data system, including data quality review, relying on support from the EpiC program Team.

support from the EpiC program Team.

Provide technical leadership for the development, validation and implementation of data collection tools and processes,

including the adaptation and improvement of the existing suite of quantitative monitoring tools for EpiC Sierra Leone.

Coordinate regular review of data at national and district levels to identify any trends, patterns or unexpected changes and to support data for decision making with the rest of team.

Implement processes for tracking progress of routine monitoring (new data tracker detailing reporting elements and their periodicity for tracking, monthly deadlines for receiving data and estimated processing time at country level)

Coordinate EpiC Sierra Leone project team's ongoing skills building and provide in-house guidance on the appropriate use of the database.

Contribute to evidence generation, documentation and information-sharing on covid-19 vaccine integration by working with the EpiC Project Communications Officer to co-author articles and success/ change stories.

Presenting at conferences and meetings evidenced-based data for internal and external stakeholders.

Maintain active involvement/ participation in external technical MEL working groups, and other technical bodies, as appropriate, based on the project's needs.

Carry out additional tasks, as delegated by the Project Manager and PSI Sierra Leone Country Representative.

Qualification and experience

A Musters' degree in a relevant field mainly public health, epidemiology, statistics demography, etc.

At least 3 years of proven experience in monitoring and evaluation in reproductive, maternal child health, or a related field Quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis management skills, specifically with database management.

(preferably in DHIS2) and survey instruments development (preferably in Kobo Toolbox or ODK)
Experience conducting monitoring, evaluation and research in a global public health setting.

Solid technical background in Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health and other related aspects

Competence in qualitative and quantitative analysis software programs (SPSS, Epi-Info, SAS, etc.)

Ability to guide, coach and oversee others to produce accurate, timely results and products collaboratively

Technical writing and strong presentation skills to both internal and external audiences

Willingness to travel to the field.

Must be able to work in a dynamic and complex environment.

Excellent written and verbal English language skills

Interested candidates should submit CV, professional certificates and cover letters indicating the position they are applying for and submit online to the email recruitment@psi-sl.org/before the 30° June 2023.

Population Services International is an Equal Opportunity Employer, promoting gender, equity and diversity

PSI is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages applications from qualified individuals regardless of actual or perceived race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, personal appearance, matriculation, political affiliation, family status or responsibilities, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, childbirth, related medical conditions or breastfeeding, genetic information, amnesty, veteran, special disabled veteran or uniform service member status or employment status.

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 6th July at 10.am.*

- Provision of Air Conditioners Maintenance Services for UNICEF Offices in Freetown and Kenema and the Warehouse at Ferry Junction, Freetown
- Servicing of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) for Freetown CO, Ferry Junction Warehouse and Kenema Field Office and Biometrics for Freetown Country Office
- Servicing of Fire extinguishers for Freetown Country Office, Warehouse at Ferry Junction, Freetown, and Kenema Field Office.

Thank you.





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

COUNTRY: Sierra Leone

NAME OF PROJECT: Sierra Leone Land Administration

Project (P177031)

Grant No.: E0600-SL

Procurement Title: Hiring of a consulting firm for the

> Coordination of the Recording and Registration of Land Tenure Rights

Reference No:

QCBS

27th June, 2023. Date of Issue:

The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MLHCP), through the Ministry of Finance has received paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Sierra Leone Land Administration Project (SLLAP), and intends to ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include "Coordination of the Recording and Registration of Land Tenure Rights". The estimated level of effort (professional staff-months) for this assignment is Forty-Eight (48) months. Implementation is expected to commence on the 4th of September, 2023 and ends on the 4" September, 2027.

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

Or

Can be obtained at the address given below:

The Project Coordination Unit

Sierra Leone Land Administration Project (SLLAP)

3rd Floor-West Wing, Youyi Building

Brookfields, Freetown.

Attn: The Procurement Specialist

Tel: +23279629390

The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning Tel: +23279629390 (MLHCP) through the Sierra Leone Land Administration E-mail: sllapprocurement@gmail.com

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

The shortlisting criteria are: Relevance of Core Business and years in business, relevant experience as a firm, technical and managerial capability of the firm. The Qualifications SL-MLHCP-364429-CS- and Experience of Key Experts shall not be included in the shortlisting criteria. Key Experts will not be evaluated at this stage (shortlisting stage).

> The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" November 2020 policy on conflict of interest. In addition, please refer to the specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment as per paragraph 3.17 of the Procurement Regulations.

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

> Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours: -(09:30 to 1700 hours Sierra Leone Time.

> Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) by or before 2:00pm on Wednesday the 12th July, 2023.

> Sierra Leone Land Administration Project (SLLAP) – Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MLHCP)

Attn: The Procurement Specialist West Wing of 3[™] Floor, Youyi Building

Brookfields, Freetown



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