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# CONCORD TIMES

## NEWSPAPER

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**APPA expresses disappointment over NEW's presidential assessment report**



# 2023 Elections: SLPP secures majority in Parliament, APC wins FCC Mayor

By Hassan G. Koroma

## APC to boycott participation in all level of governance

The Chairperson of the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL), Mohamed K. Konneh, on Saturday, July 1st, announced the results for the Mayor/Chairperson, Parliamentary and Local Council elections.

(SLPP) secured an outright majority in Parliament, the main opposition All People's Congress maintained the mayoral seat of the Freetown City Council, with incumbent Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyer re-elected with 51.32%, while Mohamed Gento Kamara secured 47.72%.

While the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples Party

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## WHO, UNICEF urge nations to focus more on child health

## Tribal heads congratulate President Bio



President Bio, VP Juldeh & Tribal Heads pose for picture



Ziad Dalloui, CEO, President and Founder of Africell

## Africell expands financial inclusion in Angola

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## REFLECTION

By Alfred Koroma

President Bio has been reelected for a second term. It's a shot line of sentence that may sound displeasing to his opponents, but not entirely surprising to those who has been paying keen attention to political trends in Sierra Leone. To the intimate circle of the President, it's a breath of fresh air after tough race.

Thirteen (13) political parties contested June 24 Presidential and Parliamentary election which was largely laced with violence, political intolerance, lawlessness, indiscipline and the spread of fake news and hate speech on social media, mainly, by members and supporters of the two main political parties.

The 2023 general elections had appeared to be one of the toughest and most interesting Presidential, Parliamentary and local council race in Sierra Leone was conducted amidst tensed atmosphere both online and offline, emblazoned with a series of claims, rumors, misinformation and disinformation.

The tensions around the election didn't only come on the pooling day but had begun way back, after a tightly contested election in 2018 that threw Sierra Leone's one of the oldest and major political parties, the All Peoples Congress (APC) in opposition.

When the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) took over the in 2018, they decided not to let their opponent to go away with all they carted during their eleven years of administration.

Controversy around the recommendations of the SLPP-led Governance Transition Report, the Commission of Inquiry, the removal of the main opposition MPs and the Alfred Paolo Conteh's treason trial, the Mid-Term Census constantly kept the political climate tensed between the two main parties

# 2023 election as it went



A voter casting vote at Hockey Pitch pooling centre on 24<sup>th</sup> June

nationally, with grievances bumping up unto the moment of the recent election.

The APC became almost destabilized, entering from one litigation and another either with the government or with some members of the party which impeded the party's readiness for the June pools. In less than a year to the election, the main opposition had gone through three different executives – the Old Executive, Interim Executive, and the current executive. The instability of the party executive created room for information gaps for the executive that led APC to the election, clearing the way the ruling SLPP for a second term.

### The campaigns

June 23 election campaigns went a little different from the previous ones. The Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) ban on street rallies during campaigns brought the difference, making this year's election campaign a bit unusual. Nevertheless, both the SLPP and the APC mounted a tough campaign, marred by controversies and complaints around the electoral process and the occurrence of violent incidents in many parts of the country.

The APC raised so many concerns with regards the conduct of the election and at some point threatened to boycott the election if the concerns of the party were not met. From questioning eligibility of electoral Commissioners to dark voters ID and publication of voter register, data transmission, blah, blah, blah. ECSL responded to some of those concerns and held several face-to-face meetings with the party.

Despite the controversies, June 24 election campaigns also contemplated issues around the economy, notably, the cost of living. In the last five years, Sierra Leone has seen an increasing rise in the prices of food and inflation.

The APC candidate, Samura Kamara, promised he will fix the economy if elected President, while the victor, Julius Maada Bio said he would focused on five initiatives and key among them is 'Feed Salone', an Initiative to boost agricultural productivity and ensure food security.

Other smaller parties also had their messages. For example, the Revolutionary United Front Party presidential candidate, Abdulai Dougakoro Saccoh told

Concord Times his government would be different from the way conventional parties rule if elected. As a revolutionary party he said, they just pass decree to stop what is not in the interest of the suffering masses, and what they as a government don't want. RUFP was going to focus on the teaching and learning of local languages in the country.

### The media, fake news and hate speech

Social media played a great role in the recent election. Political parties used the platform to directly interact with their supporters, held political conversation, and helped citizens or their supporters understand campaign manifestos and happenings around the election. Yet, social media was also the most dangerously utilized tool during the election. It was incorrigibly used to by political propagandists to spread fake news, hate speech and malicious propaganda. Some prominent politicians have used social media platforms to misinform the public.

But the media mainstream media and fake news debunking hub, SLAJ-iVerify played a smatter role in reporting credible information to the public and debunking fake news on social media.





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## LOCAL NEWS APC to boycott participation in all level of governance

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

In its recent positions concerning the outcome of the June 24th, 2023 multi-tier elections and a call for support to defend democracy and sustain Sierra Leone's peace & security, the main opposition, All People's Congress (APC) party, has declared its non-participation in any level of governance, including the legislature and local councils.

The APC declared its non-participation in any level of governance, including the legislature and local councils on the ground that the results have already been tampered with to give the SLPP an unjust majority at all levels.

"We are resolved to reject outright the results produced by the ECSL. For the last years, we decided to absorb the pain and untold suffering that the SLPP subjected the APC to, we decided in the interest of our people to allow peace and stability to reign. However, we can no longer tolerate injustice, tyranny and usurpation of power in Sierra Leone. This is what dictatorship looks like and that is why as a party, we owe it to the people of Sierra Leone to stand up for democracy, justice and unity," the APC presser reads.

The APC Presidential candidate, Dr. Samura Kamara had earlier rejected the outcome of June 24 multitier elections, after the Electoral Commissioner, Mohamed Konneh, announced President Bio as the winner. Samura referred to the day as a sad day for democracy.

The party also challenged the process leading to the June 24 elections to the

extent of calling for the resignation of Mohamed Konneh, together with all regional Electoral Commissioners, whose credibility, according to the party, are under questioned.

Before the June 24 elections, international partners expressed that they were following the electioneering process with keen interest.

But following the June 24 elections, most of the local and international observers frowned at the low level of transparency exhibited by Mohamed Konneh, the ECSL Commissioner.

The APC therefore issued a presser, cataloging its concerns and positions on the outcome of the June 24 elections. The party extended sincere gratitude to all whom on the 24th of June 2023, voted and vigilantly worked on protecting their votes during polling to ensure that their votes are counted.

"Further, the APC extends our heartfelt sympathies to all those who have lost loved ones, properties and livelihoods; who have been displaced, terrorised and forced to live in constant fear. To date, there has been no responsible attempt to neither stop this organised violence against APC supporters, nor bring the perpetrators to justice. Your sufferings and pains are felt at the highest levels of the party and we will never rest until we seek justice for you!," the party assured.

The party noted that like all totalitarian systems, the SLPP regime's gradual takeover of power and elite capture of all state institutions including parliament, judiciary, the security establishment, diplomatic and civil



service, human right institutions and civil society, often do not end with a desire to rig elections.

"They have not only tried to steal the presidential election, but also are working assiduously to give the SLPP a 2/3 majority in parliament, and take a comfortable lead in local councils across the country. To carry out this broad daylight robbery in a modern 21st Century world, is not only shocking but goes to validate our concerns and agitations since 2018".

In light of the aforementioned circumstances, the APC said following extensive internal consultations, it has reached a definitive position regarding the actions of the ECSL and President Bio and his instrumentalised security and justice sectors.

Registering its position, the APC unequivocally rejects the announced results of the recently concluded multi-tier elections in Sierra Leone, given the glaring irregularities and violations of established electoral procedures.

"We demand the resignation of Mr. Mohamed Konneh and all the other commissioners of the ECSL based on demonstrated bias and failure to conduct their duties impartially. We insist on a rerun of the elections within six months to be overseen by credible individuals and institutions who will ensure a fair and transparent process".

The party also demands the resignation of Fayia Sellu, the Inspector-General of Police; Major General Patrick Lavahun, the Chief of Defence Staff; Abdulai

Caulker, the National Security Coordinator; Francis Langumba Keili, the Chief of Staff of the Office of the ONS; and Desmond Babatunde Edwards, the Chief Justice.

According to the APC, those individuals have shown a clear disregard for their constitutional duties and have instead aligned themselves with the undemocratic aspirations of 'Julius Maada Bio'.

The party promised to engage international development partners to advocate for the imposition of travel bans on key individuals who have played instrumental roles in stealing the mandate of the Sierra Leonean people.

"We urge the inclusion of the illegitimate President, Julius Maada Bio; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, David Francis, the Chief Minister, Jacob Jusu Saffa; the Deputy Minister of Justice, Umaru Napoleon Koroma; the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, David Moinina Sengeh; the Press Secretary Keketoma Sandi; the Minister of Information, Mohamed Rahman Swarray; the Minister of Internal Affairs, David Panda Noah and his deputy Lahai Lawrence Leema, the First Lady Mrs. Fatima Maada Bio, the Deputy Speaker Sengepoh Solomon Thomas and Dr. Prince Alex Harding".

The party called on all well-meaning Sierra Leoneans at home and abroad to play their part in resisting tyranny and fight for the restoration of democracy, civility and good governance in Sierra Leone.

## 2023 Elections: SLPP secures majority in Parliament, APC wins FCC Mayor

From Cover

According to the results, the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples Party secured 81 Parliamentary Seats while the main opposition All People's Congress secured 51 seats in the House of Parliament.

The results showed the voting pattern in the country as the SLPP won majority of it seats in the South-East which is their traditional stronghold, while the APC secured four seats in that part of the country, three in Kono and one in Moyamba.

The APC also won majority of its seats in the North-West, their traditional stronghold with fifty seats, while the SLPP secured twenty-eight seats in that part of the

country.

As the governing party, the SLPP made some serious inroad in the North and Western Area, having shared equal seats with the APC in Falaba and winning the District Council Chairperson in that District.

In Port Loko also, the SLPP strongly competed the APC, having secured four seats as against six for the APC.

Similar competition was replicated in Kambia, Western Area Rural and Western Area Urban, where the APC secured a slight lead despite being it stronghold.

For the District Council Chairperson and Mayoral positions, both parties maintained their strongholds, albeit the SLPP won in Falaba.



## LOCAL NEWS

By Yusufu S. Bangura

# Tribal heads congratulate President Bio

Sixteen Tribal Heads across the Western Area Rural and Urban have on Friday 30th June congratulated President Julius Maada Bio and Vice President, Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh on their re-election and expressed hope for the success of their agenda.

During their visit to the president at State House, the Chairman of the Council of Tribal Heads in the Western Area, Sahr Orlando Gbokie, stated that they were happy to meet and congratulate the President and his Vice, noting that their re-election did not come as a surprise to them because they really campaigned all over the country.

"Mr. President, it was during your first term in office that we had our dignity restored. Your government made sure all of us were paid monthly wages, much more consistent than the stipends we received as local leaders before your coming to power. Also, thanks to your foresight, we are proud to have a representative at the city council," he stated.

He paid tribute to the establishment of the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion, which he said they were happy to have worked with since its establishment.



President Bio, VP Juldeh & Tribal Heads pose for picture

He pledged their support to the agenda of the government, adding that they would serve as agents of peace in their different localities.

President Bio replied by welcoming the tribal heads and said he was happy that they came to congratulate him, reminding them that the elections were over and that he was now focused on bringing development to

the country and its people.

He called on the tribal heads to ensure peace reigned in their localities while admonishing them to be proactive in settling disputes so as to sustain the peace and build on the long history of communal harmony. President Bio also noted that as a government they were doing their own part to enforce the rule of law in order to keep the peace, notwithstanding the challenges

including the difference in social and political orientations.

He assured them that he would continue to fly the country's flag higher internationally because of the efforts he had made to showcase the positive sides of the country, stating that he had led to the overwhelming support from other countries when Sierra Leone won as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

# Africell expands financial inclusion in Angola

As mobile money adoption, activity and accessibility in Angola and other countries in Africa are limited; Africell Mobile Company has changed the narrative by deepening financial inclusion in Angola through its mobile money service.

Angola's large unbanked population has widely applauded Africell Mobile Company for the financial inclusion.

Despite the fact that Angola's mobile money industry has more scope for growth than most countries in sub-Saharan Africa but it remains challenging for the unbanked population who are often people in marginalised or low-income communities who rely on cash.

With the launching of the Afrimoney service three months ago, it is already changing lives of people by extending essential financial tools to many of the approximately 50% of Angolans who don't have bank accounts.

Afrimoney is harnessing growing mobile penetration at all levels of Angolan society to offer users a simple, safe and accessible alternative, accessed through their mobile phones for executing rapid digital financial transactions including saving, transferring, spending and earning.

Just like in Sierra Leone and other

countries in Africa, Africell has succeeded in changing lives by offering all the core mobile money use-cases: airtime, cash-in, cash-out, P2P transfers, as well as bill, bulk and merchant payments in Angola.

"Exciting opportunities exist almost wherever you look in Africa. We are working with ambitious and innovative partners in a variety of sectors to accelerate the integration of mobile technology and explore creative new use-cases both for our core GSM services and for mobile money," the Chief Executive officer of Africell Mobile Company said, adding that, Africa's content, entertainment and streaming industry has obvious scope to benefit from digitisation, while clean energy, education and healthcare are other areas we are looking at with interest.

He continued by stating that Africell works closely with various arms of the United States government in addition to other international bodies to navigate issues arising in their operating markets.

"The compelling thing about telecommunications, particularly in an under-penetrated market, is that investment begets investment. In other words, as digitisation spreads, it accelerates, creating demand for further investment," he added, stating further



Ziad Dalloul, CEO, President and Founder of Africell

that as an operator, they want to invest in serving businesses; and the very fact that they have an opportunity to do so is proof

of the "multiplier effect" of earlier investments in network infrastructure and customer acquisition.





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## LOCAL NEWS

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

# APPA expresses disappointment over NEW's presidential assessment report

The All Political Parties Association (APPA), has reacted and expressed disappointment at the June 24 presidential assessment report of the National Elections Watch (NEW).

According to a press statement from APPA-SL, they viewed the conduct of the June 24 Multi-tier Elections as transparent, inclusive and peaceful.

They commended the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) for creating the enabling environment for their political parties to participate, even though it could not have been perfect but they proudly associate themselves with its outcome, pointing out that even the biggest of democracies have had the worst election stories of recent times.

"The leadership of the various Political Parties that makes up APPA-SL is disappointed at the June 27 "so-called "independent, non-partisan assessment of the June 24th Presidential Result" report by the National Elections Watch NEW," they stated in a press statement.

They further stated that as registered political parties who have been part of the entire

electoral process, and without delving into the unscientific, unsubstantiated, contextually non-existent and politically motivated nature of the NEW's Report, they accepted that Julius Maada Bio of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party won the June 24th Presidential Elections and that they were ready to work with him for the development of Sierra Leone.

They also note that the individual statements from the leaderships of nine political parties on the conduct of the June 24th Elections and those views on the outcome of the elections should be respected and also note the accelerated pace at which a once enviable organization like NEW is degenerating into a mere caricature of itself.

"The June 27 Report by NEW is a recipe for chaos and should be discountenance by all Sierra Leoneans. We are however hopeful that that credible alternatives in the civil society space are coming up.

We note that several credible organizations observed the June 24th elections and have decently done what any observer can or ought to do. This is what we as political

parties expect from observer missions and not make inciteful statements," they noted.

They reminded Madam Marcella Samba Sesay that, NEW is not a registered Political Party but merely a local observer organization that does not have a national outlook and lacks the moral and legal fortitude to make any informed declaration on the just concluded June 24 elections.

They noted that should NEW wants to behave like a political party, let them register as one, and stop acting like a puppet for a brainless international giant hiding behind their shadows.

They further note that the biased, unprofessional and skewed assessment does not come as a surprise, because in all the Political Parties Liaison Committee meetings where NEW had attended as observer, they have amplified the views of the All People's Congress, protested and often called on the ECSL to restrict NEW's role to mere observation and not make any decision on the proceedings of the electoral processes.

They hope that in future elections, a policy guideline on election observations will be developed and shared among observers.

They called on the Chairperson of NEW, Marcella Samba Sesay, to publicly apologise to Sierra Leoneans and leave the political space to them the politicians.

"The double standard to satisfy your pay master should be terminated immediately. We want to re-echo the loud voices of Sierra Leoneans on their sovereignty and cannot mortgage it to any international body of persons.

They charged that the external players have nothing to write home about when it comes to democratic elections and of late, the excesses, shortcomings and the lack of democratic elections remind all to begin to think of democratic dispensations with characteristics peculiar to their societies.

They called on Sierra Leoneans to remain peaceful and discountenance hateful, inciteful and tribally decorated comments that have the potential to undermine the peace and national cohesion drive of Sierra Leone

## WHO, UNICEF urge nations to focus more on child health

By Alfred Koroma

A new report launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Children's Fund UNICEF highlights the need to step up investment in nurturing care particularly in the poorest and most fragile countries.

According to the report, a child's early experiences have a significant impact on their health, growth, learning, behaviour and, ultimately, adult social relationships, well-being, and earnings. A child brain develops fastest, with over 80 per cent of neural development happening during the period from pregnancy to the age of three.

The first years of a child's life provide

"irreplicable opportunities to improve lifelong health, nutrition and well-being," the UN Agencies report.

Nurturing care for early childhood development, the new report looks at progress against the global Nurturing care framework, which provides guidance on supporting the healthy physical, intellectual, and emotional development of young children.

The framework promotes an integrated approach to early childhood development, covering nutrition, health, safety and security, early learning, and responsive caregiving as essential areas for interventions, UN News report.

"Early childhood development provides a critical window to improve health and well-being across life with impacts that resonate even into the next generation," Dr. Anshu Banerjee, Director of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing at WHO is quoted saying.

"While this report shows encouraging progress, greater investment is needed in these foundational early years so that children everywhere have the best possible start for a healthy life ahead."

The report recognized governments' efforts to boost early childhood development as nearly 50 percent more countries have developed

related policies or plans, and services have expanded since the framework was launched five years ago.

But the UN Agencies called for more investments to scale up services and demonstrate impact among vulnerable populations, ensure adequate support for children with developmental difficulties and address caregiver psychosocial.

"To improve the health of children, we must not only focus on meeting their immediate physical needs, but also ensure they are able to learn effectively, and develop positive, emotionally rewarding relations with people around them," said Dr. Bernadette Daelmans, Head of Child Health and Development at WHO.





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## Invitation for Bids

Freetown, Sierra Leone  
June, 2023

Re: Supply and Delivery of Polythene Bags for Cocoa Community Nurseries. Reference No: SLE-2000001544-0028-G-ICB

- The Government of Sierra Leone has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Adaption Fund (AF), OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and Toni Blair Institute (TBI), the financing of which is being administered by IFAD towards the cost of **Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (AVDP)** and intends to apply part of the financing for the purchase of these goods. The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD's approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD's rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with the **Agricultural Value Chain Development Project**.
- The goal of AVDP is livelihoods and climate change resilience of rural farming households in Sierra Leone improved, while the **project development objective (PDO)** is to promote agriculture as a business for enhanced incomes and reduced rural poverty, among 42,985 rural households. The AVDP will be implemented nationwide over a six-year period. A value chain development approach will drive the implementation process, supported by the application of a robust targeting strategy to ensure the inclusion of the rural poor in both the implementation of project activities and the sharing of the benefits and priority attention to enhancing climate resilience among the project beneficiaries.
- The purchaser now invites sealed bids from eligible entities ("bidders") for the **supply and delivery of 4,252,500 pieces of polythene bags for cocoa community nurseries**. More details on these goods and related services are provided in the schedule of requirements in this bidding document.
- This IFB is open to all eligible bidders who wish to respond. Subject to the restrictions noted in the bidding document, eligible entities may associate with other bidders to enhance their capacity to successfully deliver the goods and related services.
- The goods and related services, and the contract expected to be awarded, are divided into the following lots:

Lot No	Description	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Place of Delivery
1	Supply and delivery of polythene bags	pcs	2,126,250	MAFS Stores, Bo City, Southern Sierra Leone
2	Supply and delivery of polythene bags	pcs	2,126,250	MAFS Stores, Kenema City, Eastern Sierra Leon

Bidders have the option to bid for one or more lots, but they will only be contracted for one. However, in the event that a bidder wins more than one lot, the lot with the higher price will be awarded to the bidder. If the lots are of the same value, any one of the lots will be awarded to the bidder.

1. Bidding will be conducted using the **International Competitive Bidding (ICB) method**, the evaluation procedure for which is described in this bidding document. In accordance with the IFAD Procurement Handbook which is provided at [www.ifad.org/project-procurement](http://www.ifad.org/project-procurement). The ICB process, as described, will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.

2. Please note that a **pre-bid conference will not be held** as described in the bid data sheet BOS, Section II of the bidding document.

3. Bidders interested in submitting a bid shall purchase the bidding document against payment of a non-refundable fee of **SLE500 or USD50**. Payment shall be made to the Agriculture Value Chain Development Project through Western Union/Money Transfer, RIA, MoneyGram or in the following account:

Account Name: Agriculture Value Chain Development Project

Account No: 014-001-107-861-138-462

Bank: Commerce and Mortgage Bank

4. Bidding documents can be obtained by sending an e-mail with a copy of the payment slip, giving full contact details of the bidder and the subject of procurement, to [avdppmu@gmail.com](mailto:avdppmu@gmail.com). This will also ensure that the bidders receive the bidding document by email or hard copy (at the following address), as well as any updates regarding the bidding document.

Address: 23 Torwama Road, Bo, Southern Sierra Leone

Bids must be delivered electronically to the PMU via the following link and in the manner specified in the bid data sheet – instructions to bidders 23.2, no later than **19<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 at 12:00 GMT**. Link : <https://bit.ly/polythenesub>

5. Bidders shall be aware that late bids will not be accepted under any circumstance. All bids must be accompanied by:

#### Applicable to Local Bidders

- Certificate of Incorporation/Registration
- Copy of valid NASSIT Clearance Certificate
- Copy of valid NRA Tax Clearance Certificate
- Copy of valid Local Council Certificate

#### Applicable to Foreign Bidders

- Certificate of Incorporation/Registration
- Copy of valid Tax Clearance Certificate

6. **Bid security in the form of a Bank Guarantee. The amount and currency of the Bid Security shall be the equivalent of \$7,500 per lot and be denominated in any freely convertible currency. Bid Security from community and village banks and Bid Bond from insurance companies are not acceptable.**

7. Please note that only electronic bids shall be accepted.

8. There will be a virtual bid opening via ZOOM on **19<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 at 12:30 GMT**.

Link to join Bid Opening: <https://bit.ly/bidopeningpolybags>

9. For any further clarification, please contact the above email address:

Yours sincerely,

Project Manager  
Agriculture Value Chain Development Project



## Recruitment of Eighteen (18) Inland Valley Swamp (IVS) Technicians

### 1. Introduction

The Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Adaption Fund (AF), OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and Toni Blair Institute (TBI) towards the cost of Agriculture Value Chain Development Project (AVDP). The project is placed under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and managed by a Program Implementation Unit (PIU). AVDP is a six year project and will be implemented in all 15 agricultural districts of the country. The goal of AVDP is livelihoods and climate change resilience of rural farming households in Sierra Leone improved, while the **project development objective (PDO)** is to promote agriculture as a business for enhanced incomes and reduced rural poverty, among 42,985 rural households. Government intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this funding to eligible payments for the engagement of Eighteen (18) IVS Technicians.

### 2. Specific Duties and Responsibilities

Under the Supervision of The Regional Irrigation Engineer, the IVS Technician will be required to liaise with the Ministry of Agriculture (AED) and IVS FBO/IVS Community to perform the following technical task and report:

- Ensure that water control structures are done correctly with reference to earth work guide, design and specification.
- Work with community beneficiary or labour force to make sure that bunds are constructed according to earth work guide, design and specification.
- Work in collaboration with Youth contractors to mobilize members or labour for work during IVS rehabilitation.
- In collaboration with youth contractors mark time sheet, technical field work and work achieve on a daily bases at each IVS location.
- Update AED/MAF and AVDP Irrigation Engineer on work achieve every two weeks (biweekly report) at each IVS site.
- Report to AED/MAF and Regional Irrigation Engineer of any mishap going on in the field.
- In collaboration with FBO members, provide local construction materials like sand, aggregates/boulders, bamboo canes, sticks/bush pole to be used as pegs etc. free of cost during IVS rehabilitation/development.
- In collaboration with IVS beneficiary community or labour force shall be responsible for IVS field implementation, operation and maintenance of the IVS to achieve full development/rehabilitation.
- In consultation with the AED/MAF and AVDP Irrigation Engineer, shares progress reports of rehabilitation work with PMU/AVDP, MAF visitors, IFAD Supervision Missions.
- Undertake and supervise labour on specialize duties related to finishing of IVS infrastructures such as: finishing of bed level of drains and canals, slicing of bunds, drains and canals, placement of boulders on the downstream end of the spillway etc.
- Serve as site supervisor/works foreman in the absence of the AED/MAF Engineer and the AVDP IVS TEAM.
- Participate effectively during supervision and monitoring by AVDP and MAF staff. This include the supply of information related to the work and measurements of lengths, distances and areas of infrastructures.
- Guide in the formulation of work time tables / schedules for the effective use of Community labour
- develop a cluster of five IVS sites each (Minimum of 50ha)

### 3. Duration.

The Technician will be engaged for initial period of twelve (12) months, renewal will be based on satisfactory performance.

### 4. Qualification

- At least a certificate in IVS rehabilitation/development or a diploma in civil engineering, irrigation (preferably IVS), agricultural engineering or an equivalent field
- Minimum of 5 years' experience in developing irrigation schemes or experience in Inland Valley Swamp rehabilitation/development

### 5. Submission of Application:

Interested candidates should submit their applications including cover letter, Curriculum Vitae and relevant certificates to [avdppmu@gmail.com](mailto:avdppmu@gmail.com) on or before, Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2023 at 5:00 pm. Please ensure that the subject of the email bears the description: "Application for the Post of IVS Technician"



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**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**  
**The Ireland-Africa Fellows Programme (2024/25)**

The Embassy of Ireland in Sierra Leone is now seeking applications from **eligible** persons to the 2024 Ireland-Africa Fellows Programme.

The Government of Ireland has offered fellowships to study in Ireland for almost half a century. The key goal of the Ireland-Africa Fellows Programme is to nurture leaders from a range of African countries, including Sierra Leone, to develop in-country capacity to achieve national SDG goals, and to build relationships with Ireland.

The programme offers selected early-career Sierra Leonean professionals with leadership potential the opportunity to undertake a fully-funded one-year master's programme at a prestigious higher education institution in Ireland. The award covers course fees, accommodation, living costs, and flights. Applicants can choose from almost 200 postgraduate programmes especially selected to enhance capacity in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Areas of study have included development, food security, agriculture and rural development, medicine and health care, social policy, women's studies, engineering, education, international relations, law, information systems, economics and finance.

Applications are encouraged from early-career professionals working in MDAs and non-governmental organisations directly contributing to the achievement of the SDGs in Sierra Leone.

**To be eligible to apply for Stage One of the Ireland-Africa Fellows Programme, applicants must:**

- Be a resident national of Sierra Leone.
- Have a minimum of two years relevant work experience.
- Hold a bachelor's level academic qualification from an accredited and government-recognised higher education institution, **first class honour or second class honour-2:1**
- Be available to commence a new course at master's level in Ireland no sooner than August/September 2024.
- Be able to demonstrate leadership abilities and aspirations, as well as commitment to the achievement of the SDGs within Sierra Leone.
- Have identified and selected three courses relevant to your academic and professional background from the Ireland-Africa Fellows Programme Directory of Eligible Courses, available at [www.irishaidfellowships.ie/strands/ireland-africa-fellows-programme](http://www.irishaidfellowships.ie/strands/ireland-africa-fellows-programme).
- Have a clear understanding of the academic and English language proficiencies required for both courses chosen. Be able to demonstrate their skills in academic English with an appropriate score on a recognised test (IELTS **6.5** or higher or Equivalent Duolingo score) to be taken at the later stages of the application process.
- **Must not** have applied for an Ireland-Africa Fellowship on more than one previous occasion.
- Be in a position to take up the Fellowship in the academic year 2024/2025.

The **stage 1** process is a preliminary application which seeks information under the headings detailed below and requires you to submit a **scanned copy** of the following documents with your application form:

1. Your passport (only the identity page is required), or other official identification document if you do not have a passport at this time
2. Your undergraduate degree award certificate. Temporary certificates are not accepted, unless studies were completed within the previous 12 months.
3. Final degree academic transcripts
4. (Optional at this stage): Your English language test (IELTS) certificate. Only IELTS certificates dated September 2022 or later are acceptable

Your application will not be valid unless copies of documents 1, 2 and 3 above are included. Applications will not be considered for this fellowship unless all eligibility criteria are met. Applications must be **typed** and be **submitted by email** to [SierraLeoneFellowships@dfa.ie](mailto:SierraLeoneFellowships@dfa.ie). **Hard copies will not be accepted.**

**Stage 1 - preliminary application opens Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and closes Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

The stage 1 application form is available at <https://www.irishaidfellowships.ie/strands>. This is a short application form which allows our selection panel to assess your eligibility under the various criteria of the programme.

You will be contacted by the Embassy of Ireland in Sierra Leone once final decisions have been made (no later than 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023) and informed whether you have been successful or unsuccessful at stage 1.

If your Stage 1 application is successful, you will be **invited to move on to stage 2** of the process, and complete a more detailed application form including the submission of all required certified documents.

**Fellowships are restricted to certain Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Organisations.** To check if your organisation is eligible, please email [SierraLeoneFellowships@dfa.ie](mailto:SierraLeoneFellowships@dfa.ie)

## 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.***

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

Thank you.



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## INT'L SPORT Mason Mount: Chelsea and Man Utd set for talks over potential transfer

talks are expected to take place this week to try and resolve the impasse over Mason Mount's potential move to Manchester United.

United submitted what was said to be their final offer to Chelsea last week.

The Blues responded to the £55m bid by demanding £58m, with an additional £7m in add-ons.

United feel this is too much for a player in the final year of his contract, given Chelsea paid £50m for Raheem Sterling last season.

The England man only had a year left on his Manchester City contract when his move to Stamford Bridge was agreed.

It is understood Chelsea are wary of

the perception around selling one of their home-grown players, especially at a time when new manager Mauricio Pochettino wants to make his mark on the squad.

The Blues are seeking to reduce the size of their squad and have sold goalkeeper Edouard Mendy and defender Kalidou Koulibaly to Saudi Pro League side Al-Ahli this summer, as well as midfielder Mateo Kovacic to Manchester City.

N'Golo Kante has agreed a deal with Al-Ittihad, also based in Saudi Arabia, while fellow midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek is close to a move to AC Milan.

Midfielder Tiemoue Bakayoko has left the club as a free agent.

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football>



## Man City CONFIRM the £25m signing of Mateo Kovacic from Chelsea on a four-year deal

Manchester City have confirmed the signing of Chelsea star Mateo Kovacic on a four-year deal reportedly worth £25million.

The Croatia star's new contract will keep him at the Etihad until the summer of 2027, and the announcement on Tuesday evening makes him the club's first signing of the window.

The English champions first opened discussions with their Premier League rivals at the beginning of June, ahead of Kovacic's international duty.

The 29-year-old midfielder has been tipped to replace outgoing midfielder Ilkay Gundogan, who has joined Barcelona as a free agent after a final record-breaking season as club captain.

Kovacic joined Chelsea on loan from Real Madrid during the 2018-19 season, before being bought permanently by the west London outfit as their only sanctioned purchase during their two-transfer-window ban.

The player, long a lynchpin of the starting XI, has helped the Blues win the Europa League and the Champions League - the player's fourth - during his 221 appearances for the club.

Upon signing, Kovacic was effusive in his praise for the club and their manager, Pep Guardiola.

'This is a brilliant move for me, and I cannot wait to get started with City,' he said.

'Anyone who has watched this team under Pep knows how good they are - for me, they are the best in the world. The trophies they have won are clear for all to see, but they are also the best footballing side out there.

'To be joining this squad really is a dream for any footballer. I still have plenty of learning and developing to do, and I know under Pep's management I can become a better player, which is really exciting for me.

'My plan now is to rest for a few weeks before coming back to Manchester to prepare for the new season. I want to help



this club stay at the top and win more trophies.'

Kovacic was previously at Real Madrid between 2015 and 2018, where the club won three consecutive Champions League trophies and he played alongside his Croatia team-mate and close friend Luka Modric, having joined from AC Milan.

Man City's director of football Txiki Begiristain confirmed that the club had long held an interest in the player, and praised his 'technical qualities' in the wake of the announcement.

'Mateo is an excellent footballer,' Begiristain said. 'He can play as a 6 or an 8, has plenty of experience at top level clubs and he understands the Premier League.'

'It was a very simple decision to bring him to City because he has the tactical and technical qualities we are looking for in a midfielder.'

'He is someone we have monitored for a very long time and always we were impressed whenever we watched him.'

'I am delighted he is here. This is a great signing for this club, and I am very excited to watch what he can do with Pep and the rest of our backroom team.'

The Champions League winners have had a tentative start to the transfer window, but will look to increase their efforts now that the market is in full swing.

Man City are thought to be strong rivals with Arsenal for the signature of Declan Rice, and have been heavily linked to highly rated RB Leipzig defender Josko Gvardiol.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football>

help flesh out the squad for next season. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football>

## Arsenal FINALLY reaches a £105m agreement with West Ham for Declan Rice

Arsenal are on the verge of signing their No 1 target Declan Rice after agreeing a deal in principle with West Ham worth £105million. Having tabled their third offer, comprising of £100m in guaranteed cash plus a further £5m



in bonuses, officials from both clubs were locked in advanced talks on Wednesday with a view to ironing out the finer details of the deal's structure.

Mail Sport understands that Arsenal's offer proposed the guaranteed portion of the fee be paid over the course of four years.

West Ham ideally want the cash paid in two instalments by the start of 2025.

But the issue has been described as minor and not a point that will see the deal collapse, with both clubs now working towards reaching an agreement rather than haggling over the price.

Manchester City's decision to exit the race for Rice following Arsenal's huge bid significantly strengthened the Gunners' position.

City saw a £90m offer rejected by West Ham on Tuesday with the Treble winners deciding on Wednesday that they wouldn't be matching Arsenal's bid.

Another significant development on Wednesday morning arrived when West Ham received information that Rice wanted them to accept Arsenal's

£105million offer.

Formally agreeing personal terms will not be an issue, with Rice to sign a long term contract worth at least £250,000-per-week.

Arsenal has always been Rice's preferred destination despite City's late interest in him.

And he will now be granted his wish of joining the Gunners, where head coach Mikel Arteta views him as a future captain.

Since making his debut at the age of 18 in 2017, 24-year-old Rice has developed into a homegrown hero for the east London club, making it difficult for them to part with him.

In total, he racked up 245 appearances, scoring 15 goals.

During that time, Rice - who played three times for Republic of Ireland in 2018 before switching allegiance to England - has established himself as a key man for Gareth Southgate's men, winning 43 caps.

The Hammers' triumph in the Europa Conference League last season capped off what had been a difficult season for the club as they flirted with relegation

and Moyes came under significant pressure.

Moyes will now be tasked with using funds generated from the sale of Rice to





## Guild of Editors – Sierra Leone

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Email: [editorsguild94@gmail.com](mailto:editorsguild94@gmail.com) Mob:+23276653596

### Public Notice

### Increase in Advert Pricing for Newspapers

24<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.

The general public is hereby informed that the Guild of Newspaper Editors – Sierra Leone (GoNE-SL) has reviewed the advert pricing for newspapers as follows:

#### Black & White

No.	Description	Old Price (NLe)	New Price (NLe)
1	Quarter Page (¼)	700	800
2	Half (½)	800	1,200
3	Full Page	1,000	1,500
4	Centre Spread	2,000	3,000

#### Coloured

No.	Description	Old Price (NLe)	New Price (NLe)
1	Full Page	2,500	3,000
2	Centre Spread	5,000	6,000

The cover price remains the same.

Please note that the new pricing takes effect on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2023.

Your cooperation is highly solicited.

Signed:  
Donald Theo-Harding  
Chairman, GoNE-SL.

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