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CONCORD TIMES

NEWSPAPER

Vol. 17, No 140250925

Tuesday, July 4, 2023

Price: Le 2

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Death of NGC: KKY blames it on PR threshold

By Ishmael Dumbuya

Sharing of violence videos: SLP to clamp down on defaulters



Inspector General of Police, William Fayia Sellu

The Founder and leader of the National Grand Coalition (NGC), Dr. Kandeh Yumkella has in a tweet stated that the threshold of PR voting system contributed immensely to the destruction of his party in the June 24th elections.

Initially, Yumkella saw nothing wrong with the 2022 Elections Act that brought the District Block voting system that has now caused so much controversy and misery for millions of people across the country, who didn't understand its implications.

But now, Yumkella is criticising the District Block system after turning a blind eye as scrutiny chairman in parliament.



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SLBA commends ECSL, urges improvement on logistical arrangement

SLANSA celebrates 2023 Global Week of Action, reveals findings on June 24 elections

Peace Commission to organise national prayer & thanksgiving services

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REFLECTION Ten reasons why Samura Kamara lost

By Ibrahim Labor Fofana

The June 24, 2023 multi-tier elections have come and gone. President Julius Maada Bio won re-election with 'No Run-Off'. Even before the elections, Samura Kamara and his APC operatives started to cry foul. They declared war on Electoral Commission Sierra Leone (ECSL) asking for Voters' Register, for new Voters' ID cards, for 'poomwee' to run the elections, for Mohamed Konneh and all Commissioners to resign, to postpone the election, etc, etc. In a word, the unpreparedness of the APC and Samura Kamara to participate in the elections was obvious. In order to hide from this fact, Samura Kamara and his operatives complained about everything except themselves. This notwithstanding, the elections were held, and was to a very large extent peaceful. Sixty percent of polling stations results were announced initially by ECSL and the figures gave President Bio a comfortable lead with no run-off in sight.

Prior to this announcement, APC operatives including Presidential candidate Samura Kamara posted on social media that they have won. In addition, their supporters and members took to the streets in jubilation of this fake news and false hope. The sixty percent announcement kept them quiet for a while before emboldened APC social media propagandists started tweaking the interpretation of the sixty percent result.

As if to cut a long story short, Chief Electoral Commissioner and Returning Officer, Mohamed Konneh announced the final results on the eve of Eid ul Adha. As was expected, President Julius Maada Bio won with no Run-Off with 56% while Samura Kamara had an impressive and surprising 41%.

Though he lost, Samura Kamara has refused to concede and accept the outcome of the elections. He has put forth reasons why he is not going to agree with ECSL's Mohamed Konneh.

Now for the benefit of the general public and for putting the records straight for posterity, let me give you ten (10) reasons why Samura Matthew Wilson Kamara, the APC presidential candidate lost the June 24th 2023 Presidential Elections to President Julius Maada Bio.

1. Samura Kamara with the APC was ill-prepared for these elections.

There was no sign of readiness or preparedness to face the incumbent Julius Maada Bio. Several opportunities were available to the APC and Samura Kamara to use against the SLPP and President Bio but none were taken advantage of. Not even the economy was taken advantage of.

2. Samura Kamara and the APC had no campaign team for the elections. Only his Running mate, Chericoco and the Mayoral candidate, Orfinnoh Emmanuella Yvonne were with Samura Kamara. All prominent APC members were visibly absent in the campaign. The Alimamy Pepito Koromas, Joseph Fitzgerald Kamaras, Pallo Contehs, Richard Kontehs, Dianna Konomanyis, the Pat Soves, the Logus Koromas, the president Ernest Bai Koroma brothers and all former APC ministers and government functionaries were nowhere near the presidential candidate or the campaign team. Samura was a lone ranger for the most part and lone rangers don't win elections.

3. Samura Kamara was not his own man. He was being remote controlled by the hidden hands of Ernest Bai Koroma and his surrogate Adebayor. To win a presidential election one has to be on top of one's game and be able to make tough decisions when necessary. If you cannot be your own boss, how do you expect to control, manage or direct your own campaign?

4. The Kono factor: Because Samura Kamara was not his own man, he allowed his principal to dictate to him and the people of Kono were sidelined by his godfather to his own peril. The APC Kamakwei Road national executive was devoid of any other significant regional alliance, Kono, a swing district not included. In fact the APC godfather sidelined the Konos in such a bad way that the anger was taken all the way to the elections. To make matters worse, on the incitement of Adebayor, EBK's surrogate, Diana Konomanyi had her house burnt down and Samura Kamara was on video saying that Kono is no more important than Bonkelenken or Sanda Tenerin. This acrimony festered until close to the elections before efforts were made at assuaging Diana and the Kono people but it was too little, too late. It is therefore not surprising that the SLPP and President Bio cleared the entire

Kono district with his message that "Kono Matters To Me".

5. To win elections in Sierra Leone, no party must rely on its stronghold ALONE. You do that, you lose. This was a big mistake of the APC and Samura Kamara. No effort was made to woo smaller parties ahead of the polls. By the time the APC got Charles Margai to throw in the PMDC towel at Samura Kamara, Maada Bio had clinched NGC Kandeh Yumkella, C4C Emerson Saa Lamina and a host of other small parties. With the Progressive Alliance under Maada's belt and C4C by SLPP's side, even if Sam Sumana had supported Samura Kamara, APC would still lose.

6. Samura Kamara and the APC campaign lacked focus and direction. While the SLPP and the presidential, vice presidential candidates and the First Lady were traversing the country selling President Bio and spreading the campaign message, Samura Kamara and the APC were declaring war against ECSL over procedural matters. This misplaced energy, if put in campaign activities would have helped Samura and the APC.

7. Election campaigns are not cheap and if you spearhead a broke campaign, you'd get poor results. This is simple. Elections and campaigns are expensive. What the APC and Samura Kamara presented to their party supporters and members during the 2023 campaign and elections period was a broke party. A broke party which cannot organize itself, which cannot buy campaign materials, which cannot entertain or energize its supporters and which cannot articulate its vision for the country. If you cannot do any of these, how can you win an election?

8. The APC party was hugely divided and Samura Kamara did nothing to unite the warring factions. Even on the eve of elections one faction was in court with Samura Kamara and his godfather's faction. If it wasn't for the kind consideration of the Judiciary to let democracy prevail, Samura Kamara would not have been qualified to participate in the elections.

9. The Victor Foh and Alpha Khan factor: For the very first time in our political history, an immediate former vice president abandoned his party and declared his loyalty and support for the party he had fought against all his active political life. This speaks volume, especially when

juxtaposed with the active role of the former APC Presidential Spokesman and government minister Alpha Kanu in support of President Bio and the SLPP. These two defections and declaration are different from the normal political cross carpeting. They showed how determined president Bio was in winning re-election with no run-off. There were many other such APC declarations for president Bio. There were members of Parliament, councillors and others who declared on masse for President Bio. Those who did not declare publicly supported the SLPP and President Bio from the back.

10. Social Media reliance: Samura Kamara and his APC caboodle relied heavily on lies and propaganda on social media to drive the APC and his campaign agenda. Since social media became the powerful communication platform it is, I am yet to see a political candidate who had used it effectively to win an election anywhere. Former United States president Donald Trump used it and lost re-election. NGC relied on it in 2017/18 and it did not help Kandeh Yumkella. Peter Obi of Nigeria trusted it and was humiliated by Bola Tinubu. Samura Kamara wasn't paying attention so he followed social media hypes as a gauge of his popularity and his chances to win the elections. The minute sixty percent (60%) of the presidential results were announced, all those social media propagandists disappeared leaving Samura Kamara and the APC in the cold. By the time the final result were announced, Samura Kamara and the APC had seen their folly...but it was too late.

With these ten reasons why Samura Kamara lost the presidential elections, I am certain well meaning Sierra Leoneans and our international partners would now come to the realization that, Samura Kamara and the APC party lost the elections even before polling day. They missed out on many of the pre elections activities such as the 2022 population census and the voter registration exercise.

Were you surprised that a huge throng in Makeni took to the streets chanting "we wan vote"? How can you vote when you did not register?

With these few points I pray that as a people, we will reflect on our yesterday, focus on today in order to give our children a better tomorrow.



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LOCAL NEWS Peace Commission to organise national prayer & thanksgiving services

By Yusufu S. Bangura

As part of its efforts to consolidate peace in the country, the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICNPC), on Friday 30th June, planned to organize a national prayer and thanksgiving services.

The meeting was organised by ICNPC together with religious leaders from across the country.

The decision to organize such a meeting was to chart the way forward to maintain peace in the country because the country has in recent times (electioneering period) experienced pockets of violence across many parts, especially between the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) and the main opposition, the All People's Congress Party (APC).

Board Chairman for ICNPC, Reverend Shodankeh Johnson, said the Commission, together with religious leaders, was planning to meet with opposition leaders, and will eventually meet with President Bio.

Reverend Johnson added that findings of the Commission with regards issues that have the tendency to divide the nation will be presented to both the opposition leaders and the president.

He assured that reconciliation messages will be preached across the country, and in most gatherings and Johnson mentioned the establishment of sub-committee that will work on the strategy and methodology in that regard.

"We are taking the lead, but it is the responsibility of all and sundry to ensure that peace reigns," he remarked.

Executive Secretary, ICNPC, Hawa



A round table meeting with religious leaders

Samai, emphasized the need for the official faiths here in Sierra Leone (Islam and Christianity) to set a day aside for the national prayer and thanksgiving services

She recognized the high degree of religious tolerance among Sierra Leoneans, adding that tolerance must be maintained.

Samai further stated that the meeting was a way to have religious leaders to support the course of the Commission.

She disclosed that the Commission had been into issues bothering around peace for over two years.

"In just two years of existence, we have changed the trend of peace building in our country, for we are now first in terms of peace building in the West African Region," she noted.

She acknowledged that the religious leaders are the most listening voices in

the country, hence the need to bring them on board to sustain the accolade as being the most peaceful country in the region.

"We can only maintain that position through the support of the religious leaders," she went on.

General Secretary for the Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone, Reverend Dr. Usman Jesse Fornah, described the meeting as a step in the right direction.

"As you all know the IRC-SL is a moral guarantor and guarantors of moral of the peace in the country, and we have an obligation to ensure that peace is maintained and sustained in the country," he remarked.

Sharing of violence videos: SLP to clamp down on defaulters



Death of NGC: KKY blames it on PR threshold

From Cover

This is what he said on his Twitter feed: "The final results released by the EC alone show that the PR threshold posed significant limitations on the political opportunities available to smaller parties. Despite the multitude of challenges and constraints we encountered, the NGC Salone gave its best effort.

"We humbly accept the people's verdict. Heartfelt congratulations to President Bio and the Progressive Alliance on this resounding victory. May the Almighty guide you Mr. President to govern with inclusivity for all Sierra Leoneans. The Progressive Alliance remains steadfast in our commitment to advancing the vision of Compassionate Inclusive Governance," he tweets.

"Immense gratitude to all devoted members of the NGC Salone who tirelessly contributed to our campaign. Your



unwavering dedication is deeply appreciated. Let us unite now in our collective endeavours to forge a brighter future for Sierra Leone."

His tweet has sent a controversial message to the minds of a lot of Sierra Leoneans, who saw the tweet as hypocritical with some saying that he voted in favour of the law that he now decries in his tweets.

The Sierra Leone Police (SLP) has issued a stern warning to those that are in the habit of sharing audio and texts messages that depict violence in the country, noting that defaulters will face the full force of law.

The country now has a Cyber Security and Crime Act which criminalizes such conduct.

Updating journalists after the June 24 elections, the Sierra Leone Police said some audios and text messages making rounds on social media have created so many distractions in the country, even after the election results have been announced and called on the general public to ignore such messages.

"The authors of such videos, audios and texts give the impression that they are depicting scenes of violence perpetrated by jubilant celebrants following the announcement of the outcome of the recently concluded elections," police said.

"The videos, audios or texts in questions

are very old events, some of which did not even occur in Sierra Leone," SLP says.

In that circumstance, the SLP has called on the public to ignore such materials and to further make efforts to fact-check all social media postings before reaching any conclusion.

"Since the elections are now over, everyone is admonished to refrain from acts of spreading false information meant to undermine the country's peace and cohesion," the SLP states.

"Winners of the various positions in the elections must also endeavour to celebrate moderately and within the provisions of the law, including refraining from provocative behaviors."

The SLP further assured Sierra Leoneans that the Security Sector remains alert and fully committed to providing the much needed security for everyone in the country and urged the public to reach out to the national situation room on the 119 toll-free on all mobile networks in the country.

LOCAL NEWS

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

The Sierra Leone Action Network on Small Arms (SLANSA) has celebrated the 2023 Global Week of Action against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and also revealed findings on the June 24th Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Council elections, which conduct the organization observed.

SLANSA was able to deploy ten observers in different polling stations within the assured centers around the country in Kono, Kailahun, Makeni, Kambia, Pujehun, and Western Area Urban.

According to the organization, some level of violence between party agents and staff of the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) were noted in some the polling stations they were deployed.

They observed that voter turnout during polling day was very encouraging, and that women and the physically challenged came out in very huge numbers with preference given to pregnant women, lactating mothers and the aged to vote.

The organization stated that majority of the polling centers visited by their observers didn't open on time with few majority of the centers calm and peaceful.

The SLANSA recommend that the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone should ensure training of polling agent staff months before the elections, to ensure effectiveness & efficiency, and that structure for polling stations should be inspected for safety and security purpose especially for ECSL staff.

SLANSA celebrates 2023 Global Week of Action, reveals findings on June 24 elections



A team of SLANSA election observers

They called on ECSL to ensure that the master register should be produced to have surnames of all registered voters in all polling stations to avoid movement of voters from place to place searching for their surnames.

SLBA commends ECSL, urges improvement on logistical arrangement

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

The Sierra Leone Bar Association (SLBA) has commended the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone ECSL for conducting free, fair and peaceful elections on June 24th.

They recommended that the ECSL should improve on logistics planning to ensure early and effective distribution of election materials to designated polling stations in future elections.

SLBA recommended that the ECSL should provide adequate essential election materials for all polling stations to prevent delays during voting, and ensure that all ECSL staff at polling stations are clearly and adequately identified to prevent imposters and facilitate smooth voting process on elections day in coming election. They called on ECSL to improve on its communications with the public to address misinformation and disinformation, which they say have the potential to undermine the credibility of the institution.

They noted that election observation groups

should refrain from announcing election results because it is not only a usurpation of the constitutional mandate of ECSL, but it also heightens political tension.

"Where concerns are raised by any election observation group or political party, the issues should be determined in a court of competent jurisdiction. Save for the few challenges which the SLBA believes did not materially affect the outcome of the 24th June 2023 multi-tier elections, the SLBA notes that the June 24th 2023 multi-tier elections were free, fair and largely peaceful. The SLBA therefore commends the ECSL and the security personnel for their selfless service," the statement reads.

The SLBA observed the blatant misuse and abuse of social media, with serious misinformation, disinformation and falsehood posted and circulated across major social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tik Tok; and among others, fueled by political agents, leading to heighten political and ethno-regional tensions.

6 accused jailed for robbing High Court judge

By Mohamed J Kargbo

John Bangura and 5 others made their first appearance before Magistrate Mark Ngeba of Court No:1 at Pademba Road.

The accused persons were remanded at the Male Correctional Centre for alleged robbery.

They were before the court on three count charges to wit conspiracy to commit felony, robbery with aggravation and receiving stolen goods contrary to the laws of Sierra Leone.

It was alleged that on a diverse date between 1st May and the 7th May 2023, in Freetown, the accused persons conspired with someone unknown to commit felony to wit robbery with aggravation.

Police alleged that on a date 19th May 2023 at Masimbo, Regent, Freetown, the accused persons, being armed with a gun and machetes, robbed Justice Alfred Tommy Ganda of one black dell laptop valued (Le 4,000.00), one black Toshiba Laptop computer valued (Le3,000.00), two HP laptop computer valued (Le6,000.000), five pair assorted color shoes valued (Le10,000.00), six pair sneakers valued (Le 9,000.00), one timberland boot valued (Le2,000.00), one lavicta wrist watch valued (6,000.00), two

Hennessey whisky valued (Le2,000.00), one Itel phone valued (1,000.00), one Tenco cammon 19 mobile phone valued (Le7,000.00), one Tenco spark mobile phone valued (Le3,000.00) one baileys whisky valued (800.00), fiscal cash sum of (Le14,000.00) and (USD 300) equivalent to (Le 6,900.00), all to the total sum (Le 74,700.00).

It was alleged that at the same time of or immediately before or immediately after such robbery, the accused persons did use personal violence to the said Justice Alfred Tommy Ganda.

It was also alleged that on that two of the accused persons, Yusif Kanu and Abu Bakarr Sidique alias Buba, on a 19th May 2023, at King Jimmy, Wallace Johnson Street in n Freetown, did receive the above stolen items, property of the above named Judge.

The prosecuting counsel sought for a short date due to the absence of her witness whom she intends to bring to court on the next date.

Meanwhile, the defense counsel for the second accused person made an application for bail to be administered to his client, but the Magistrate refused due to the seriousness of the case.

The matter was adjourned to the 10th July 2023 for further hearings.



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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Right to food threatened by climate crisis - UN Human Rights Chief

The impact of the climate crisis is threatening the right to food, the UN human rights chief alerted on Monday (Jul. 3rd).

828 million people faced hunger in 2021. And the crisis is projected to place up to 80 million more at risk by the middle of this century," Volker Türk said during the 53rd session of the Human Rights Council.

"Our topic this morning is the right to food, and clearly this is comprehensively threatened by climate change. Extreme weather events, and both sudden and gradual disasters caused by climate change, wipe out crops, herds, fisheries and entire ecosystems. Their repetition makes it impossible for communities to rebuild and support themselves."

In 2015, world leaders committed among other things to strengthening the global response to the threat of climate crisis.

However, financial pledges by developed nations have not been kept. In the fight to mitigate the consequences of the crisis, small polluters which are least developed nations, suffer an additional penalty.

"Often, these are countries that benefited little from industrial development, and contributed next to nothing to the industrial processes which are killing our environment and violating rights. If this is not a human rights issue, what is?"

Speaking in Geneva, Volker Türk called for an end to subsidies to the fossil fuel industry to deliver a liveable future to the next generations.

He added among other conditions making the upcoming "COP28 the decisive game-changer that [we] so badly need". If a 7-point plan he presented during his address was fulfilled, he believed "a just transition to a green economy – nationally, and globally" – could then "take place."

South Africa: electricity minister says end of daily power cuts close



Electricity Minister Kgosientso Ramokgopa addresses Eskom workers during a visit to the Lethabo Power Station near Sasolburg, South Africa, on March 23, 2023. - Copyright © africanews IHSAN HAFJEJEE/AFP or licensors

South Africa could be nearing the end of daily power cuts, the country's electricity minister said on Sunday.

Minister Kgosientso Ramokgopa said that South Africa was beginning to keep up with demand and that the country could soon have no blackouts for twenty-four hours, though he declined to give a specific date.

South Africa is set to see its most blackout days in history this year, with daily power cuts of up to almost 10 hours a day.

The loadshedding, as the cuts are known locally, have heavily impacted businesses and households.

The economy is already struggling under high inflation and interest rates and the power cuts are expected to reduce GDP by 2 percentage points in 2023.

Speaking at a news conference on Sunday, Ramokgopa said the warmer months at the end of the year would ease demand, as the southern hemisphere's warmer season begins.

"I know when we get into summer conditions, then at the current rate, generation will far exceed demand," he said.

Winter demand

Blackouts have eased in recent weeks, a welcome respite from months of cuts.

The government implements loadshedding in stages ranging from one to eight, with eight being the highest and resulting in over 10 hours of daily power cuts.

With the power generation beginning to keep up with demand, Ramokgopa says the country would be coming down from Stage 6 to Stage 3 in the space of six weeks.

However, as South Africa heads into its coldest months in July and August, there are fears that higher heating demands could outstrip electricity supply.

The China-Africa Trade Biennale bears fruitful results

The third China-Africa economic and trade expo on the theme of common development for a shared future concluded on Sunday in Changsha city, with 10.3 billion U.S. dollars' worth of projects signed.

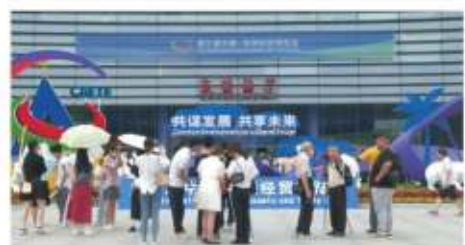
Guided by the spirit of the 8th FOCAC Ministerial Conference, the Expo will focus on the "Nine Programs" for China-Africa cooperation and organize various events in various forms, attracting thousands of participants to Changsha, including Chinese and African dignitaries and diplomats, representatives of international organizations, financial institutions, business associations, chambers of commerce, and media, entrepreneurs, experts, and scholars.

The expo aimed to boost business links between both parties while opening the Chinese market to products Made in Africa.

"The economic and trade cooperation between China and Africa has been expanding from traditional trade and engineering construction to digital, green and financial fields. In particular, the import of agricultural products from Africa shows great cooperation potential. All of these have strongly promoted the high-quality development of economic and trade cooperation between the two sides," shared Wang Dong, deputy head, Department of Western Asian and African Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

The four-day event has attracted over 100 000 visitors and resulted in 74 cooperative projects, a first in the expo's five-year history, according to statistics from the organizing committee.

African visitors claim that the Chinese market has much to offer their businesses and populations.



China Africa Economic and Trade Exposition (CAETE), June 2023. - Copyright © africanews AFP

"[Chinese clients are] very, very good to deal with because they are very proactive, and they want to do business," says Buyer from Zambia.

"We can transfer these skills from China to Mozambique, for Africa in general," added an Exhibitor from Mozambique.

"Chinese equipment and machines are helping African people innovate and start businesses, change their lives, and make their lives more beautiful," told a Buyer from Benin.

The China-Africa economic and Trade expo is committed to building a new mechanism for China-Africa economic and trade cooperation, a new platform for the implementation of economic and trade initiative and a new window for Sino-African economic and trade cooperation at the sub-national level.

China is Africa's largest trading partner and its fourth-biggest source of investment. Official data show that bilateral trade between China and Africa totaled 282 billion U.S. dollars in 2022.

Ugandan authorities maintain its oil drill projects are developed sustainably

Uganda's Kingfisher oil field is operated by China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), as part of a joint deal with French oil giant TotalEnergies. Another oil field, Tilenga, is operated by TotalEnergies. Kingfisher oilfield is expected to produce 40,000 barrels each day when production is at its peak, while Tilenga is expected to produce 190,000 barrels. Both form a key part of a major national project expected to be completed within two years.

Uganda is estimated to have recoverable oil reserves of at least 1.4 billion barrels. Drilling began in January this year (2023), the project is expected to be completed within two years.

Speaking on behalf of the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, corporate affairs manager Gloria Sebikari says the country is on track to begin producing oil by 2025.

She says \$6.9 billion (USD) worth of contracts are being awarded, \$1.8 billion (USD) of those will go to local companies.

"Two projects will produce the crude oil project that's the Kingfisher project and the Tilenga project," she explains.

"Those two projects will produce oil and this produced oil will be commercialized through two other projects, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline, that will run from here, Hoima, to Tanzania to export crude oil, and then the Uganda refinery project, that will be used to process our crude oil into petroleum products for use."

Sebikari says work on the 897-mile (1,443-kilometer) East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) is expected to begin this year.

It will be the world's longest heated oil pipeline, transporting crude from fields near Lake Albert in western Uganda to Tanzania's Indian Ocean port of Tanga.

The \$2.5 billion dollar project provoked concern from groups who argue the pipeline poses serious risk to the environment.

Some oil wells are to be drilled within Uganda's Murchison Falls National Park, where the Nile plummets 130 feet (40 meters) through a gap just 20 feet (6 meters) wide.

The surrounding wilderness is home to hippos, egrets, giraffes and antelopes.

The pipeline would then pass through seven forest reserves and two game parks, running alongside Lake Victoria, a source of freshwater for 40 million people.

That ecological fragility is one reason why some activists oppose the project despite assurances from TotalEnergies that the pipeline's state-of-the-art-design will ensure safety for decades.

On Tuesday (26 June 2023) environmental groups brought another legal case against TotalEnergies in the French courts, the civil suit filed in Paris came four months after the collapse of a similar case brought by activists.

The new litigation cites TotalEnergies' alleged failure to comply with France's "duty of vigilance" law and seeks compensation for the company's alleged violations of land and food rights over six years.

TotalEnergies has long denied the allegations.

A group of people were earmarked for compensation, either financial or housing, when TotalEnergies took over the Tilenga project.

Fifty-two-year-old Juliet Akumu got a house adjacent to the development area, but says she's now concerned about environmental pollution from the oil field.

She says a dust cloud recently covered her entire village.

"The major problem we have experienced so far was a couple of days ago, there was a huge dust that originated from the construction site and all of us were covered in that dust," says Akumu.

Sebikari from Petroleum Authority of Uganda says they have addressed all loopholes and environmental concerns arising from the project.

"I believe a lot of the issues being raised by the activists are out of either misinformation or deliberate disinformation," she says.

"As government and the project partners, we have taken deliberate steps to ensure that the oil and gas projects are developed sustainably, we have taken care of the environment and biodiversity concerns.

"We are also ensuring that the livelihoods of the communities surrounding this operations are improved alongside the development of the projects."

Waste management company EnviroServ is one of the companies licensed to handle the oil waste.

It's facility manager, Peter Odil, says they have been meeting all regulatory requirements in its mandate to protect the environment from hazardous waste.

"We are compelled by the law to make sure that we monitor our activities here," he says.

"We have eleven monitoring wells in layman's term, you can call it the boreholes, they were drilled around this facility, and we pick the water samples from them, the deepest being 65 meters, the shallowest being 9, so we pick water samples all around this facility, we do analysis every three months and we report to regulators."

Aside from environmental concerns, some say Uganda's plans to tap oil from Lake Albert may cause tensions with the Democratic Republic of Congo due to their close border.

Felix Ocitti, manager of operations and compliance at Petroleum Authority of Uganda, says they've already put measures in place to resolve that.

"As far as we are aware right now, we do not have any claims from Congo in as far as this project is concerned, because there is no evidence right now that our resources actually cross the border," he says.

"If that happens, we have mechanisms through which we shall be able to develop our field and those three mechanisms I have mentioned are options that we have at the table.

"It is always at the discretion of the countries to negotiate and find what is best for us to be able to employ."

Kenya: President Ruto lifts logging ban

Despite concerns from environmental organisations, Kenyan president William Ruto announced on Sunday he will lift a logging ban which has been in place since 2018.

Speaking at a church service in Molo, a town around 200km north-west of Nairobi, Ruto said the decision was "long overdue" and was aimed at creating jobs and opening businesses.

"We can't have mature trees rotting in forests while locals suffer due to lack of timber. That's foolishness," he said. "This is why we have decided to open up the forest and harvest timber so that we can create jobs for our youth and open up business."

The Kenyan president, who has positioned himself at the forefront of African efforts in the fight against climate change, says his government will maintain its goal of planting 15 billion trees over the next ten years.

Greenpeace Africa, however, says the decision "could have devastating consequences for the environment".

"In Kenya, forests are home to rare and endangered species, and millions of local people depend on these forests for their livelihoods, relying on them for food and medicine," the organisation wrote last month in a petition against the move.

"Since the Kenyan government imposed the ban on logging six years ago, significant progress has been made in forest protection and with combatting the climate crisis," it said.

"Lifting the ban will undo all our hard work, as it will open the floodgates to commercial and illegal logging solely driven by profit."

The 2018 ban, which was put in place by the previous government, aimed to stop illegal logging and raise Kenya's forest cover to 10%.

Currently forest cover in the country stands at 8.8%, according to government statistics, while the forestry and logging industry contributed 1.6% to the Kenyan economy in 2022.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP



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ISSUE

Unveiling the inefficiency: Why Sierra Leoneans votes struggle to make meaningful changes?

By Kamara Alie Mohamed

Sierra Leone, a country in West Africa, has a long history of struggling to translate electoral outcomes into meaningful changes. Despite regular elections and the democratic framework in place, many Sierra Leonean voters often find themselves disillusioned by the lack of progress and tangible results. This article aims to explore the factors contributing to the inefficiency in the Sierra Leonean electoral system and the challenges that hinder the transformation of votes into meaningful changes.

Historical Context and Political Instability:

Sierra Leone has experienced periods of political instability and armed conflict, such as the devastating civil war from 1991 to 2002. These events have left a lasting impact on the country's institutions and have contributed to a weakened democratic process. The legacy of instability and the

subsequent challenges of nation-building have hindered the effective functioning of the electoral system.

High Levels of Poverty and Socioeconomic Factors:

Persistent poverty and socioeconomic inequalities have created a fertile ground for corruption and clientelism within Sierra Leonean politics. Vote-buying, patronage, and nepotism are prevalent practices that erode the credibility of elections. In such an environment, voters may feel compelled to vote for candidates who offer immediate personal benefits rather than those who prioritize long-term development and systemic change.

Weak Governance and Lack of Accountability:

Inadequate governance structures and weak institutions contribute to the inefficiency of the electoral system. Corruption, lack of transparency, and limited

accountability mechanisms undermine the trust that voters have in the electoral process. When politicians are not held accountable for their actions, the incentive to deliver on campaign promises diminishes, resulting in a disconnection between voter expectations and actual outcomes.

Ethnopolitics and Regionalism:

Ethnic and regional divisions play a significant role in Sierra Leonean politics. Political parties often align along ethnic or regional lines, fostering a sense of identity-based voting rather than issue-based decision-making. This tendency limits the ability of voters to elect representatives based on merit or policy platforms, hindering the potential for meaningful change through elections.

Limited Civic Education and Political Awareness:

Insufficient civic education and limited political awareness among the general population can hinder the democratic process. When

voters are unaware of their rights and responsibilities, they may be more susceptible to manipulation and misinformation. Enhancing civic education initiatives can empower citizens to make informed choices and hold their elected representatives accountable.

Conclusion:

The inefficiency in translating Sierra Leonean votes into meaningful changes stems from a complex web of historical, socioeconomic, and political factors. Overcoming these challenges requires concerted efforts from both the government and civil society. Strengthening democratic institutions, improving governance and accountability, addressing socioeconomic disparities, and promoting civic education are crucial steps towards ensuring that the electoral system in Sierra Leone better reflects the will of the people and leads to meaningful transformations in the



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**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(Individual Consultants Selection)**

Country: Sierra Leone

Project: Agriculture Value Chain Development Project

ASSIGNMENT TITLE: CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE ASSESSMENT DESIGN AND FORMULATION OF A PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY
Reference No. SLE-2000001544-0009-CS-ICS

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) towards the cost of Agriculture Value Chain Development Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the recruitment of consultant as part of the post of **Consultancy Services for the Assessment Design and Formulation of a Partnership Strategy**

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 **Agriculture Value Chain Development Project**

The consulting services ("the services") include:

- Study the existing national and international best practices and lessons learned in identifying, managing, assessing, and sustaining partnership.
- Propose a partnership framework containing the partnership life cycle (from identifying to close and exit) that works best for AVDP.
- Identify and define key partners (public, private, Governmental and Non-governmental Agencies, community-based organizations (CBOs), Commercial business houses both local and international and international organisation) as potential partners for AVDP.
- Identify key factors for effective partnership in the context of AVDP.
- Recommend partner exit mechanism (for all work components) that works best for AVDP and its partners;
- Develop a partnership agreement model considering the mode of partnership and the sector the partner represents;
- Develop the required tools

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to IFAD's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy and the Revised IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption its Activities and Operations accessible at the IFAD website: www.ifad.org. The latter sets forth IFAD's provisions on prohibited practices. IFAD further strives to ensure a safe working environment free of harassment, including sexual harassment, and free of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in its activities and operations as detailed in its IFAD Policy to Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse accessible at the IFAD website.

Interested consultants shall not have any actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest. Consultants with an actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest shall be disqualified unless otherwise explicitly approved by the Fund. Consultants are considered to have a conflict of interest if they a) have a relationship that provides them with undue or undisclosed information about or influence over the selection process and the execution of the contract, or b) have a business or family relationship with a member of the client's board of directors or its personnel, the Fund or its personnel, or any other individual that was, has been or might reasonably be directly or indirectly involved in any part of (i) the preparation of the REOI, (ii) the selection process for this procurement, or (iii) execution of the contract. Consultants have an ongoing obligation to disclose any situation of actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest during preparation of the EOI, the selection process or the contract execution. Failure to properly disclose any of said situations may lead to appropriate actions, including the disqualification of the consultant, the termination of the contract and any other as appropriate under the IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption in its Projects and Operations.

The **Agriculture Value Chain Development Project**, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security now invites eligible individual consultants ("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 in the form of a curriculum vitae (CV). A consultant will be selected in accordance with the individual consultant selection (ICS) method set out in IFAD's Project Procurement Handbook that can be accessed via the IFAD website at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. Interviews will not be conducted as part of the selection process.

The shortlisting criteria are:

- 1. Qualification:** Master's degree in the fields related to Development Studies/ International relations and/or Organizational Development/Business Administration = **30 marks**
- 2. Experience:**
 - i. At least ten years working experience in recognized organizations in the field of policy, strategy development and/or managing similar systems in Sierra Leone = **30 marks**
 - ii. Experience in developing data collection tools, data analysis and transforming of the data into analytical reports and strategies = **15 marks**
 - iii. Experience in sub-Saharan Africa = **10 marks**
- 3. Presentation of CV and Cover Note, including Career profile highlights = 5 marks**

Clarifications may be requested by e-mail not later than 14th July, 2023, so that responses can be issued to all consultants not later than 17th July, 2023.
The address for requesting clarifications is: Email: avdppmu@gmail.com

Expressions of interest in the form of Curriculum Vitae must be delivered by e-mail or hard copy to the following address on or before **20th July, 2023** at 16:00 GMT.

Agriculture Value Chain Development Project

23 Torwama Road, Freetown
avdppmu@gmail.com

unicef

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.**

- 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.**

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INT'L SPORT

Mauricio Pochettino arrives at Chelsea to start work as their new manager

Chelsea have shared the first scenes of Mauricio Pochettino arriving at the club as the Argentinian prepares to get to work in his first week as Blues boss.

The former Tottenham manager will begin whipping his new squad into shape just a month after taking over the reigns at Stamford Bridge, as he bids to transform the club's fortunes following a poor campaign last year.

In a video shared on social media captioned 'this is where it starts', Pochettino is seen arriving at the club as he gets out the back of a grey van.

He hugs various members of staff - including coaches Miguel D'Agostino and Toni Jimenez - and greets others before walking into the building at Cobham.

Pre-season gets underway for Chelsea this week in London before a trip to the US for more preparation for the new season, which starts on the weekend of August 13.

His side will play Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney's Wrexham in the States on July 19 before facing Dortmund on August 3.

They'll then host Liverpool on August 13 at Stamford Bridge in a tough

Premier League opener for the ex-Tottenham boss.

Despite the wealth of talent at Pochettino's disposal, it won't be plain sailing for the 51-year old with plenty still to change at the club before the new season gets underway.

Pochettino will have plenty to sort if he is going to help the club get somewhere close to where they once were as a team.

Having already offloaded several major stars such as N'Golo Kante - who joined Saudi club Al-Ittihad - and Kai Havertz, who has departed to Arsenal in a £65m deal, ten players are still set to leave the club before the new campaign.

Mason Mount, Christian Pulisic, Cesar Azpilicueta, Romelu Lukaku, Ethan Ampadu, Trevoh Chalobah, Baba Rahman, Malang Sarr, Callum Hudson-Odoi and Hakim Ziyech are all expected to depart.

Homegrown star Mount is on the verge of completing his move to Manchester United, having arrived at the club on Monday despite



Pochettino's wishes to work with the midfielder.

Ziyech has been strongly linked with a move to Saudi Arabia, though he failed a medical at Al-Nassr last week, putting his expected exit in doubt.

The club is still rebuilding off the field, too, having endured a difficult opening year to Todd Boehly's reign after taking over from Roman Abramovich.

Pochettino and Boehly are overseeing a huge overhaul of the squad in a bid to bounce back from their dismal 12th-place Premier League finish last season.

Striker Nicolas Jackson has arrived from Villarreal for around £32m, while Christopher Nkunku is also a new face after joining from RB Leipzig for £52m.

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

Banyana Banyana thumped by ruthless Botswana after SA's World Cup-bound squad boycotts friendly match



Banyana Banyana lost 5-0 to Botswana but the bigger picture is that the national team is facing turmoil ahead of their departure to the World Cup.

Banyana Banyana head coach Desiree Ellis was forced to name a makeshift team to play Botswana after the country's Fifa Women's World Cup squad decided to boycott

the match.

The reason for the boycott is that Banyana were not happy with the match venue, Tsakane Stadium, as they suggested that the venue was substandard to host their World Cup preparation match.

However, the match did take place and the Mares beat Banyana 5-0 to register their maiden win over South

Africa since 2011. Ontlametse Gaonyadiwe opened the scoring with a first-half hat-trick before Mamelodi Sundown's Refilwe Tholakele netted a brace.

Banyana are set to depart for the World Cup and Sports and Arts and Culture Minister, Zizi Kodwa has intervened amid Banyana's potential revolt ahead of the global spectacle.

"We are 18 days away from the start of the Fifa Women's World Cup on 20 July 2023 in Australia and New Zealand," Kodwa said in a statement released on Sunday.

Banyana players, according to a report by TimesLive, are seeking payment of about R1-million each for playing three group games in the World Cup. The minister will continue to intervene in the matter.

"It has come to my attention that there are serious concerns that have been expressed by Banyana, the South African women's national football team, which have been brought to the attention of the South African Football Association (Safa) and the South African Football Players Union (Sapfu). I have been in contact with the president of Safa, Danny Jordaan," Kodwa's statement read.

Kodwa said he is intending to meet with the South African Football Players Union to "obtain a status update on the state of readiness of Banyana's World Cup participation."

"I will be meeting with the South Africa Football Players Union on Tuesday 4 July 2023 to hear the serious concerns expressed by the team."

<https://www.goal.com>



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Fix No.	Sales Close	Competition	Home Team	Score	Away Team	1 / 1 (1)	1 / X (2)	1 / 2 (3)	X / 1 (4)	X / X (5)	X / 2 (6)	2 / 1 (7)	2 / X (8)	2 / 2 (9)
1	7/4/2023 9:25	Australia (Queensland)	GOLD COAST KNIGHTS	1 v 9	REDLANDS UNITED	1.47	21.00	80.00	3.65	10.00	21.00	17.00	20.00	14.00
2	7/4/2023 14:25	Latvia	RIGAS FUTBOLA SKOLA	2 v 8	FS JELGAVA	1.22	45.00	99.00	3.30	15.00	50.00	20.00	40.00	35.00
3	7/4/2023 15:55	U19 European Championship	NORWAY U19	3 v 1	GREECE U19	3.45	14.00	40.00	5.20	4.70	6.80	30.00	15.00	5.00
4	7/4/2023 15:55	Algeria	USM ALGER	5 v 12	MAGRA	2.18	19.00	80.00	3.75	5.20	12.00	28.00	20.00	11.00
5	7/4/2023 15:55	Algeria	EL BAYADH	7 v 11	ASO CHLEF	3.05	16.00	60.00	4.40	4.00	8.00	35.00	17.00	7.00
6	7/4/2023 15:55	Algeria	USM KHENCHELA	8 v 14	RC ARBAA	2.60	17.00	70.00	4.00	4.30	9.60	30.00	19.00	8.80
7	7/4/2023 15:55	Algeria	JS KABYLIE	13 v 10	BISKRA	1.65	29.00	99.00	3.35	6.80	24.00	30.00	30.00	23.00
8	7/4/2023 15:55	Algeria	PARADOU	15 v 4	MC ALGER	2.47	18.00	80.00	3.85	4.30	11.00	35.00	20.00	10.00
9	7/4/2023 15:55	Algeria	ORAN	9 v 3	ES SETIF	4.30	16.00	45.00	5.40	3.65	6.00	40.00	16.00	4.90
10	7/4/2023 17:25	Latvia	RIGA FC	1 v 3	FK LIEPAJA	1.60	21.00	99.00	3.35	7.20	18.00	21.00	22.00	15.00
11	7/4/2023 17:25	Iceland Cup	KA AKUREYRI	0 v 0	BREIDABLIK KOPAVOGUR	6.00	13.00	22.00	8.40	5.00	4.50	40.00	12.00	2.47
12	7/4/2023 19:10	U19 European Championship	ICELAND U19	2 v 4	SPAIN U19	15.00	23.00	22.00	21.00	9.00	3.80	99.00	24.00	1.63
13	7/4/2023 20:25	Peru	SPORT BOYS ASSOCIATION	9 v 15	AD CANTOLAO	2.16	17.00	60.00	4.00	5.80	12.00	24.00	18.00	9.60
14	7/4/2023 20:55	USA MLS	INTER MIAMI	27 v 5	COLUMBUS CREW	4.30	14.00	27.00	6.60	5.40	5.80	30.00	14.00	3.60
15	7/4/2023 20:55	USA MLS	ORLANDO CITY SC	10 v 26	TORONTO FC	2.47	15.00	45.00	4.40	5.60	9.60	24.00	16.00	7.20
16	7/4/2023 20:55	Brazil Cup	BAHIA	0 v 0	GREMIO	4.10	14.00	30.00	6.00	4.80	6.00	30.00	14.00	4.10
17	7/4/2023 20:55	USA MLS	FC DALLAS	12 v 16	DC UNITED	3.40	14.00	35.00	5.20	4.90	6.80	29.00	14.00	4.90
18	7/4/2023 20:55	USA MLS	COLORADO RAPIDS	29 v 25	PORTLAND TIMBERS	3.35	14.00	35.00	5.20	4.90	6.80	29.00	15.00	5.00
19	7/5/2023 9:55	Japan 2	VEGALTA SENDAI	12 v 7	SHIMIZU S-PULSE	6.00	15.00	26.00	8.20	5.20	4.90	40.00	14.00	2.90
20	7/5/2023 9:55	Japan 2	IWAKI FC	21 v 17	TOCHIGI SC	3.70	15.00	45.00	5.00	3.85	6.60	35.00	16.00	5.60
21	7/5/2023 9:55	Japan 2	MITO HOLLYHOCK	19 v 16	TOKUSHIMA VORTIS	4.00	14.00	35.00	5.80	4.60	6.20	30.00	14.00	4.30
22	7/5/2023 9:55	Japan 2	THESPAKUSATSU	10 v 14	ROASSO KUMAMOTO	5.60	14.00	27.00	7.60	4.90	5.00	40.00	14.00	3.15
23	7/5/2023 9:55	Japan 2	OMIYA ARDIJA	22 v 15	JEF UNITED CHIBA	5.20	15.00	30.00	7.00	4.60	5.00	40.00	14.00	3.40
24	7/5/2023 9:55	Japan 2	TOKYO VERDY	2 v 5	V-VAREN NAGASAKI	3.00	15.00	45.00	4.70	4.70	7.80	29.00	15.00	6.20
25	7/5/2023 9:55	Japan 2	VENTFORET KOFU	6 v 13	BLAUBLITZ AKITA	3.30	16.00	50.00	4.60	4.10	7.20	35.00	17.00	6.20
26	7/5/2023 9:55	Japan 2	JUBILO IWATA	4 v 18	ZWEIGEN KANAZAWA	2.13	17.00	60.00	4.00	6.00	12.00	24.00	18.00	9.60
27	7/5/2023 9:55	Japan 2	FAGIANO OKAYAMA	8 v 11	FUJIEDA MYFC	3.05	14.00	40.00	4.90	5.00	7.60	27.00	15.00	5.60
28	7/5/2023 9:55	Japan 2	RENOFA YAMAGUCHI	20 v 9	MONTEDIO YAMAGATA	5.20	14.00	27.00	7.20	5.00	5.20	35.00	14.00	3.25
29	7/5/2023 9:55	Japan 2	OITA TRINITA	3 v 1	MACHIDA ZELVIA	5.20	15.00	35.00	6.60	4.10	5.00	45.00	15.00	3.70
30	7/5/2023 15:55	U21 European Championship	ISRAEL U21	0 v 0	ENGLAND U21	12.00	20.00	26.00	14.00	5.80	3.75	80.00	19.00	2.03
31	7/5/2023 17:25	Egypt	AL AHLY SC (EGY)	1 v 13	ISMAILY SC	1.89	21.00	99.00	3.70	6.20	16.00	26.00	22.00	14.00
32	7/5/2023 18:25	Argentina	GODOY CRUZ	9 v 13	CA PLATENSE	3.00	17.00	60.00	4.30	4.20	8.00	30.00	17.00	7.00
33	7/5/2023 18:55	U21 European Championship	SPAIN U21	0 v 0	UKRAINE U21	2.50	16.00	50.00	4.30	5.60	9.40	24.00	17.00	7.20
34	7/5/2023 19:55	Argentina	CA TIGRE	19 v 27	CA BANFIELD	3.25	15.00	45.00	4.70	4.30	7.40	30.00	16.00	6.00
35	7/5/2023 20:55	Argentina	ROSARIO CENTRAL	6 v 5	ESTUDIANTES DE LA PLATA	4.50	14.00	40.00	6.00	4.00	5.80	40.00	14.00	4.30
36	7/5/2023 20:55	Brazil Serie B	CR BRASIL AL	12 v 1	SC RECIFE PE	5.60	16.00	35.00	6.80	4.10	4.80	45.00	15.00	3.50
37	7/5/2023 20:55	Argentina	RACING CLUB AVELLANEDA	11 v 3	SAN LORENZO ALMAGRO	4.30	16.00	45.00	5.40	3.70	5.80	40.00	16.00	4.80
38	7/5/2023 20:55	Brazil Cup	SAO PAULO	0 v 0	PALMEIRAS	4.30	15.00	35.00	6.00	4.50	5.60	35.00	14.00	4.00
39	7/5/2023 20:55	Uruguay	NACIONAL	5 v 6	PLAZA COLONIA	1.85	21.00	99.00	3.65	6.80	16.00	25.00	22.00	14.00
40	7/5/2023 20:55	USA MLS	NEW YORK CITY FC	22 v 21	CHARLOTTE FC	2.65	15.00	45.00	4.60	5.40	8.80	25.00	15.00	6.60

Bo Rangers Manager reacts to back-to-back league glory

SWASAL Prexy calls on Sports Ministry, NOC-SLE, others to see sports journalists as development partners

In celebration of this year's World Sports Journalists Day, the President of the Sports Writers Association of Sierra Leone (SWASAL), Sahr Morris Jr, has called on the Sierra Leone Football Association, the National Olympic Committee/Commonwealth Games Association, the Sports Ministry, and Sporting Discipline to see SWASAL as partners in development.



The SWASAL boss in his statement to celebrate the World Sports Journalist Day urged his membership to brace up and continue practising the beloved profession with the utmost professionalism. He said: "It's another year for us to celebrate ourselves as Sports Journalists, a day that is highly recognized; World Sports Journalists Day. Today is also the 99th anniversary of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS), one year ahead of AIPS Centenary and also a year ahead of the Sports Writers Association of Sierra Leone (SWASAL) Golden Anniversary (50th Anniversary)."

"Whilst observing the day on a low key, it is very important to recognize one of our colleagues who recently passed away in the Eastern Region, the ever cheerful Fomba M Kanneh aka Locco B, and all others who have passed away (May their Souls Continue to Rest In Peace)."

The SWASAL President said celebrating World Sports Journalist Day is important because recognizing the work of sports journalists keeps them motivated to work with more efficiency and commitment.

And on behalf of his Executive and the membership, he congratulate the Association former Public Relations Officer, Ishmeal Saidu Kanu who was ranked 9th in Africa in the AIPS award joining the likes of Alusine Rehmi Wilson who achieved a similar feat a few years ago.

"Let me continue to urge all members to rise from their slumber, keep on the pace, and compete against others on the global stage, also, please

grab whatever opportunities are on offer or shared by the Executive, rise to the challenge, and achieve your potential," the SWASAL boss said.

He however revealed that 2023 has been a very difficult and challenging year for his Executive in terms of funding to accomplish all their planned goals but amidst all those difficulties, the Executive was able to overcome some and most of their international coverage involving the country's male and female national teams were 100% or 90% sponsored by the Executive with sometimes little support from other partners.

He also revealed that as part of this year's celebration, it will officially commence its new membership drive with a new Membership Application Form.

"Also, for the first time, World Sports Journalists Day will be celebrated outside the Capital City of Freetown as the National Executive in collaboration with the SWASAL Southern Region will engage in sporting activities on 8 July 2023 in Bo," he said, and also revealed that they've made several engagements with higher institutions of learning, the Media Reform Coordinating Group (MRCG) to further take Sports Journalism capacity building to another level and very soon they will cross the finish line.



Bo Rangers perfectly sealed their second Sierra Leone Premier League title on Sunday evening when they played to a 2:0 win at the Southern Arena against relegation threat Wuslum Stars FC.

The Elephant Boys stamped their authority in the country's football with a record back-to-back title win with four games to spare.

And the defending champions' Team Manager, Abdul Karim Bangura (AKB) said it has been a long hard ride for the squad and everyone around the team.

"Thanks to our wonderful football family, Thank you to the general Sporting family, your congratulatory messages mean so much to us. It's been a long hard ride but we are thankful to Allah for making it possible again. To our colleague Premier League

clubs, this victory is for all of us as we strive to help develop this game that we love so much. Let us continue to play our part and support each other so we can continue to give hope and meaningful life to our players and technical teams whose livelihoods depend on this game," the joyful Team Manager said.

He further thanked the Sierra Leone Premier League Board for a job well done under difficult circumstances, the Sierra Leone Football Association for making the gameplay, and the Referees Association and Sports journalists to propagate the beautiful game.

With four games to play, Bo Rangers could go unbeatable as they are currently the only side yet to have dropped all three points from 20 matches played.

Badminton dele departs for technical training seminar in China



Sierra Leone Badminton Quartet have departed the country's shores to attend a 20-day administrative, technical and athletes training seminar, which will run in Hangzhou, China from 5 - 25 July 2023.

Yusufu A. Bangura, Vice President of the Association who is also the leader of the delegation to China will undertake the administrative course, Yusufu A. Bangura, and Osman Kamara both will run the technical course while Mohamed Borbor Kamara and Salamatu Kalokoh will both undertake the athlete training.

Before their departure, the delegation bids farewell to the Director of Participation and Sustainable Sport at the National Sports Authority, Steven Keifala, and assured him of their commitment to act as ambassadors and return home to support

the growth of the sport in Sierra Leone.

The Ambassador and Project Coordinator for Badminton in Sierra Leone, Augustine Sillah presented the members to the Director and explained the nature of the support from the Peoples's Republic of China through its Embassy in Sierra Leone. The support includes the provision of flight tickets, accommodation, meals and other hospitality for their entire stay in China.

He said the opportunity is an outcome of his working visit to China months ago together with the Association's President, Shamsu Mustapha to solicit support for their projects in Sierra Leone.

He further explained that: "For the sport of badminton to grow in the country, we need to build the capacity of the administrative and technical personnel in the association."