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To boycott governance may plunge the country into a One Party State

-NCD chairperson

By Ishmael Dumbuya



The Chairperson of the National Commission for Democracy (NCD), Madam Marian Samu, has in a meeting held at the office's Headquarter, Youyi Building stated that the decision of the main

opposition APC to not participate in the governance of the country will perhaps plunge the country in a one party state, as seen under the leadership of Siaka Stevens decades ago.

Cont. Page 4

VP Juldeh launches key Local Government and decentralization meeting

APC MPs, mayors declined working with the Bio administration

CHRFI urges APC elected MPs to represent their electorates 6th Parliament to convey sitting next week



Vice President Juldeh Jalloh delivering his address

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PERSONAL GLIMPSES

RIGHTING ELECTORAL WRONGS COULD BE DIFFICULT BUT.....

By: Winstanley.
R Bankole Johnson

Changes in our polity over the last few days confirms the adage that indeed a week in politics is a long time. Within that same span we have witnessed sheer belligerence derived from an arrogance of incumbency and the comforts of power being subsumed by overtures for peace and reconciliation. Such overtures however do not appear to be underpinned by genuine regrets for remission of indelible wrongs wrought with total disregard for redress or justice, but with the same disposition that is responsible for our retrogression as a nation more than sixty years after our attaining independence. As usual we would grumble and condemn wrongs only when holding the sharper end of the political knife, otherwise foul is fair and vice versa.

Shifty

In our present quagmire there is nothing wrong in the messages for peace and reconciliations. It is just that the purveyors or messengers of such messages are notoriously tainted and shifty characters whose words have never been their bonds. In that regard whoever advised Brig. (Rtd.) Julius Maada Bio on utilizing the services of Alpha Khan, the same man who:

- Ruined Dr. Samura Kamara's chances at the 2018 Presidential elections
- Cannot successfully suture the irretrievably broken down relationship between himself a his childhood bosom friend Ernest Bai Koroma since 2018

for such a colossal national duty call, must have been of disservice to this country.

Anyone with a propensity to be swinging between the proverbial pillars to posts (politically to save his interests) cannot be relied upon for sincerity and consistency, speak less of championing a national truce. If there was any genuineness in Alpha Kanu's mediation stance to warrant the involvement of the Catholic Metropolitan Archbishop, I believe that should have come much earlier than 24th June and on which basis Archbishop Tamba Charles could have sufficiently guided both Alpha Kanu and the Electoral Commissioner as Chief Elections Returning Officer Mohamed Konneh along Matthew 22:21 paraphrased and to have read out the correct Presidential results as is demanded for by the International Observers, NEW and the APC Party.

Transparency

Matter of "factly" and from the perspectives of the opposition APC Party and the wider sector of the International Community, the issues at hand have nothing to do with the Brig. (Rtd.) Bio and Dr. Samura Kamara on inter-personal personal levels. Whoever said personal feuds ever existed between them in the first place? Nor do they

have anything to do with the extent to which international sanctions against a Bio regime might impact the comfortable lifestyles of government functionaries and their assets or worsen that of the ordinary citizenry. Rather the issues at hand are national, and relating to the alleged capture of democracy and a denial of more than half of the voting age population of this country their inalienable right to have selected who should govern them through a tabulation and publication of discredited by the ECSL. It also borders on the need for transparency because we cannot continue to be condoning such blatant wrongs as they persist. And that is why the International Observers (comprising the UN, US, UK, Germany, Ireland, commonwealth, Carter Center, AU and ECOWAS) and the National Elections Watch (NEW) and the APC Party are insisting that the ECSL produces the correct disaggregated voters' tabulation analysis polling station by polling station countrywide for public scrutiny. A failure to so comply insinuates a wider conspiracy to hide something sinister against the popular wishes of the electorate.

Traumatized

The issues at hand also have to do with the wanton deprivation and destruction of lives and properties particularly of opposition supporters in the South-East in the period leading up to 24th June. With orders from sublime quarters, APC members and supporters in particular were openly threatened to either refuse to voluntarily vacate the South-East at their peril which could include death by immolation and arson over their properties if they were ever identified as such. Not a word of caution or reprimand or gesture of reconciliations came from either Alpha Kanu or the Security Sector. How does a society that is constantly talking about peace and reconciliations but without enforcement of justice plan to move on without righting such electoral wrongs? It is even heartless for anyone to be contemplating peace overtures without first attempting to assuage - nay pacify - those who bore the brunt of such sufferings before and after the elections and are still traumatized.

So even at the worst of considerations, resolutions of issues of such magnitude demands priority government attention, the kind that transcends the usual "Court Barry Mentality" and/or local intermediation efforts either given the pervasively divisive kind of politics we have perfected in the last five years, or as Alpha Khan is attempting to hoodwink President Bio into believing he has the capacity to leverage from. Anything short of that and we might as well begin to think about dispensing with all pretentious paraphernalia of law and order and justice as practiced in

RIGHTING ELECTORAL WRONGS COULD BE DIFFICULT BUT.....

this country going forward. We cannot be priding ourselves in human capital development and quality education and at the same time be condoning brazen electoral malpractices that leave in their wake trails of devastation that cannot be redressed within the compasses of law and order.

Incidentally the public appeal by the Civil Societies for inclusion into mainstream government going forward, instead of them remaining on their turfs as "Watchdogs of Society" to be addressing such aberrations as the "Voice of the voiceless", is a clear indication of dashing hopes, and of a subtle acceptance of creeping decadence subsuming morality as the country degenerates into an arena of a "dog eat dog" or "survival of the fittest" world.

Skewed

Turning to another strand of the issues at hand, those who initially derided the APC Party's decision to recuse their elected functionaries from participating at any governance level should by now be having a re-think. Without that Mohamed Gento Kamara would unequivocally and brazenly have also been announced as winner of the Freetown City Council Mayoral election. His spouse had convincingly hinted on that a few days earlier on social media, and by Gentos' frenzied celebrations at the Lodge following Mohamed Konneh's rancid declaration of the presidential elections results, the writing was already on the wall. It was the incessant flurry of condemnation of International Observers (EU, USA, UK, NEW, AU, ECOWAS, Germany, Ireland etc.) that the tabulation, transmission and collation of elections results and announcements of the first and second tranches of results were below board, coupled with the APC Party's timely letter of dissent and condemnation of those results as skewed by our Leader Dr. Samura Kamara that put paid to it all. Both developments also significantly but divinely checkmated what could have continued as vengeful attacks and or retaliation between political rivals either celebrating victory or commiserating their loss for days throughout the country. And I thank God for that.

Like the international Observers, the APC are insistent that the final results as announced by the ECSL reflected statistical inconsistencies and glaring variances and or omissions that lack transparency and overall integrity. So as time progresses and commentaries by the International Observers become more caustic, so too is the resolve of the APC Party not to participate in governance at any level as would lend recognition of SLPP as victors, given overwhelming primary concerns for suspicions around those final hair-raising results. For example whereas the ECSL promptly allocated four (4) Parliamentary seats to the SLPP for garnering twenty-four thousand votes (24,000) in

the Port Loko District, no Parliamentary seat was allocated to the APC in Bo District where that party polled in excess of twenty-seven thousand (27,000) votes .

Indeed as one International observer commented: "There is always a limit to which electoral frauds and roguery can be perpetrated". This became evident when even after massaging the Mayoral results to reduce the 33.8% margin between Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr and Mohamed Gento Kamara to less than 10% just so as to save the face of the SLPP and create the false impression that they have made substantial gains within the Freetown municipality, the arithmetical sum still did not add up and Madam Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr still emerged victorious.

Missed

Whatever betide unless all issues surrounding the transparency and credibility of the ECSL as they pertain to the conducts and results for the June 24th which is reading like they worked "from answer to Sum", and as are being challenged by the International Observers, NEW and APC are promptly revisited and rectified, participation of the APC at any level of governance could portend evil omens for democracy within the sub-region and will make no sense. And that decision has the full backing of the entire Executives and APC rank and file. I honestly see no reason why this decision should vex the SLPP because the same people advocating a non-participation are the very ones that were not allowed to canvass in the SLPP South-East stronghold areas. And if they did not want them around then why would they be missed in governance now?

In the perception of the international Observers, NEW and the APC Party those results that gave the SLPP 81 seats in Parliament as against 54 allocated to the APC would appear to have been extensively tampered with before release. Add to the SLPP number the 14 government kowtowing of Paramount Chiefs and the stage is thus set to kill democracy in Sierra Leone - not only through a total disregard for constitutionality and the rule of law like never before within Parliament, but of course also for consistent and undue harassments of the duly elected Mayoress Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, by a plethora of authority layers to be deliberately set up for the purpose of making her life more miserable than the fabled "Solomon Grundy" as under:

- Monday – Appearance at a Magistrate's Court
- Tuesday - Anti-Corruption Commission
- Wednesday – The C.I.D
- Thursday – Minister of Local Government
- Friday – Ministry of Western Region (and woe betide this function is headed by an arch-enemy
- Saturday – Civic Funeral
- Sunday – Zion Methodist Church

And that (God Forbid!!) could possibly be the life of our Mayoress of Freetown throughout her second term..



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LOCAL NEWS

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

While officially launching the Inter-Ministerial-Committee meeting on Local Government and Decentralization, Vice President of Sierra Leone, Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh has said the meeting was an opportunity which councils should use as a platform to actualize President Bio's Big Fives in the 2023 Manifesto which is to revamp the public sector management in the country.

The meeting which also includes local council national stock taking exercise was held at the Freetown City Council Hall on July 6th 2023.

He said they are counting on the ideas of the heads of local Councils in actualizing and improving in the administration and local governance, adding that over the years they have experienced weak local council's

VP Juldeh launches key Local Government and decentralization meeting

policies which were addressed through the Local Government Act of 2022.

He recalled that President Bio-led government in the last five years made tremendous effort to addressing most of the challenges that hinder the operation of local government and Councils.

Vice President Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh, added that the Human Capital Development of President Bio placed huge opportunities to locals councils in terms of proving additional classroom, improve foundational learning centers across the country, healthcare delivery, with the recruitment of 6000 Healthcare workers of which the local Councils played key role.

He said in the next five years, the President Bio led Government would prioritize the big fives as indicated in



To boycott governance may plunge the country into a One Party State

From Cover

-NCD chairperson



She urged aggrieved party members to address their grievances through dialogues and court redress rather than boycotting state functions. She went on to state that the National Commission for Democracy (NCD) is one of the governance institutions with the overarching objective of facilitating the growth democracy in Sierra Leone, adding that that is why they are keen on preaching peace between political parties in the country.

She said NCD is an independent and impartial body that provides strategic guidance and leadership in the democratic transformation and reformation needed after the June 24th elections.

The PR and Communication Director, NCD, Reverend Gibrilla Kargbo, said that the NCD closely monitored the elections, and is aware that some factions are aggrieved following the announcement of the June 24th election. He however urged all parties to remain calm and maintain the peace the country has fought for quite a long time.

He reiterated that the commission's mandate is to remain impartial and to enable the growth of democratic values and the tenets of good governance, adding that NCD is an independent, dynamic and decentralized Commission dedicated to providing civic education, capacity building and support to all citizens of Sierra Leone in order to promote transparent, accountable and responsive democratic processes and institutions, strengthen civil society and develop an engaged, informed and responsible citizenry.

He concluded that the mandate of the commission is to educate and encourage the public to defend the Constitution at all times against all forms of abuse and violation and formulate for the consideration of Government, when necessary.

In attendance were representatives from CSOs', PPRC, Anti-Corruption Commission, Police Complaints Board, some political party members and newsmen.

the SLPP 2023 Manifesto.

He assured that they are going to be very innovative in proving the necessary support to local Councils towards agricultural activities which is government propriety.

He added that President Bio made it very clear to revamp the public sector management of which the Councils are key players. He also said President Bio is going to deepen the human capital development of which the involvement of the local Councils couldn't be over emphasized.

"Ladies and gentlemen, as I conclude this session let us unite to look for ideas as to how we can improve on the gains made in the last five years. So you are all invited here today for a frantic discussion as to what are the real issues affecting development in the Councils. We don't want the Councils to lag behind in terms of implementing the big fives Manifesto", he said.

In his welcome address, Minister of Local Government and Community Affairs, Tamba Lamina said sometimes last year the Ministry requested head of local Councils to provide leadership in the local Councils but the electioneering process disturbed the venture.

He said as election had gone by and it is now time to actualize such laudable initiative in terms of improvement in the local government across the country.

He formally used the opportunity to congratulate the Vice President who doubles as the chairman of the inter-Ministerial committee of local Councils. He said the new Manifesto agenda focuses on key indicators which the local government has to pay attention to.

He said among those key indicators are the Feed Sierra Leone, Human Capital Development among others, adding that the Fifth parliament legislated laudable laws which would now help

improve the operation of local government across the county.

Minister Lamina continued that sometimes last year the Ministry paid visit to all local Councils encouraging them to provide leadership which aimed at ameliorating the local Councils.

He expressed thanks and appreciation to the Vice president for his leadership in ensuring the local governments are supported to the highest magnitude.

The Minister of Finance, Mohamed Bangura said the objective of the meeting is very clear as it aimed to supporting local government to function very well. He reiterated that the Bio led Government is very committed to given the best supports geared towards improving the local government across the country.

Minister of State, Western Area, Nabella Tunis expressed her appreciation to be part of the meeting and also appreciated the locals government for working in line with government policies in promoting local government.

She extended government willingness to be working with local Councils in thick and thin, adding that they are committed to promoting development that is visible to every corner across the local Councils in the country.

Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Dr. Francis Kaikai expressed thanks to the Chief Administrators for the tremendous leadership in terms of providing development to their respective Councils.

He said the meeting is very important especially when aimed at stock taking for local Councils. He said the stock taking initiative is embedded in the 2023 Manifesto which supports the Feed Sierra Leone and the human capital development.



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LOCAL NEWS

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

The Chief Executive Officer of Campaign for Human Rights and Development International (CHRDI), Abdul M. Fatoma has called on the main opposition All Peoples Congress (APC), newly elected members of Parliament not to boycott parliament.

He said the decision of APC boycotting the parliament will leave their constituents unrepresented in the governance participation in the country. He was speaking to Concord Times via a telephone interview, concerning the APC position papers to boycott governance participation and also not seek redress because they lack trust in the judiciary system of the country. He urged those dissatisfied with the election process and its possible outcome to pursue their grievances

through the legal channels specified by statute.

He said it is not only opposition parties that has lost trust for the Judiciary, but other institutions and individuals as well.

He stated that, despite the lack of trust in the judiciary, it is the best place to seek redress, noting that boycotting governance participation is not the solution and does not mean good for democracy in the country because certain people will not be represented in Parliament if those they elected boycott.

He said it is not good to cry down state institutions, encouraging citizens to learn to believe in and respect state institutions including the Judiciary and the police force.

CHRDI urges APC elected MPs to represent their electorates



President Bio calls on drivers to work with his administration

By Yusufu S. Bangura



President Bio and heads from different transport sector

6th Parliament to convey sitting next week

By Jariatu S. Bangura

President Julius Maada Bio has directed the Clerk of Parliament to convene the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone on Thursday 13h July 2023 at 10:00 a.m, pursuant to Subsection (1) of Section 86 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone (Act No. 6 of the 1991).

Accordingly, the Clerk have informed all Members of Parliament elect to attend the sitting of Parliament on the said date.

In a notice from the office of the Clerk of Parliament, it stated that pursuant to Section 83 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone (Act No. 6 of 1991) every Member of Parliament duly elected at the General Elections of 24th June 2023 shall, before taking his seat in

Parliament, take and subscribe the Oath of office for Members of Parliament as prescribed in the Third Schedule of the said Constitution on Thursday 13h July 2023.

Also, all Members of Parliament elect have also been invited to attend the Induction Programme scheduled in Parliament for Wednesday 12th July 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room One.

Meanwhile, elected members of Parliament of the main opposition, All People's Congress Party (APC) have signed a memo not to participate in any governance matter until the right things are done.

However, political observers would be keenly watching to see what unfolds in coming days.

APC MPs, mayors declined working with the Bio administration

By Ishmael Dumbuya

The newly elected Mayors and Members of Parliament (MPs) from Sierra Leone's main opposition party, the All People's Congress (APC), have declared their intent to abstain from participating in the governance processes of the state.

Fifty-three (53) Mps, three (3) mayors, and Seven (7) local council chairmen have signed and endorsed their unwillingness to participate in the country's administration. The decision follows a resolution made by the APC's National Advisory Committee during a meeting held on June 30th, 2023, as stated in the party's press release. The resolution outlined the party's decision not to partake in any level of governance in Sierra Leone.

The elected representatives of the APC in Parliament have wholeheartedly endorsed this position and have vowed to abstain from participating in the country's 6th Parliament until their demands are met.

Their demands includes the re-run of the June 24th election within 6 months and to be conducted by international observers, the resignation of all ECSL commissioners, and a travel ban restriction on some SLPP government officials.

It could be recalled that after the announcement by ECSL that President Bio has won the June 24th election, the APC party doubted the credibility of the election, stating that it was marred with fraud and rigging. Since then, the APC vowed not to take a legal redress doubting the judiciary and also maintained not to participate in the Bio's administration.

President Julius Maada Bio has called on Members from the Motor Drivers Union and General Transport Workers Union in Sierra Leone to work closely with his administration for the betterment of the country.

He made this call on Wednesday 5th July 2023, when members from the transport sectors paid a courtesy visit and to give their congratulatory message to him for his re-election as president of the country.

President for Motor Drivers Union and General Transport Workers Union, Alpha Amadu Bah said the transport sector expressed thanks for the re-election of President Bio, noting that President Bio in his past five years gave maximum support to them.

He said Drivers Union forms a very strong body in the development of the country because they comprised all walks of life, adding that they would work hard to make sure President Bio achieve his dreams for the second term.

"As drivers, we want you to know that we will not engage in any strike or

violence that will undermine the peace of this country because we want to see our country move to another level," he said.

During the meeting, President Bio expressed his appreciation for receiving those set of individuals that matter to society. He said their work is very important to the nation.

He added that he appreciate the work of the unions, as they are movers of the economy, and taking the bold step to congratulate him, which has shown that the transport sector will be stable in the country.

He further said last week he met with the farmers' federation and the traders union which serves as part of his government's effort in the second term mandate to swiftly commence with their flagship national development priority to 'FEED SALONE'.

President Bio noted that his flagship initiative is geared to boosting agricultural productivity that may ensure sustainable food security and inclusive economic growth in the country.



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LOCAL NEWS

By Jariatu S. Bangura

President of women in the Media (WIMSAL), with support from UNDP have concluded a one day town hall meeting with community stakeholders and women on women's participation, peace building and national development.

Keynote Speaker, President of Women in the Media, Eastina Taylor said most times women are at the back when decisions are being made whilst the men are at the forefront.

She said most time women do not have support needed to put their voice into development.

Key discussions were held on the importance of women participation in the past elections by different women.

Former Councillor Contestant for United Democratic Movement (UDM) in Kamakwei, Mary K. Bangura said she contested under a smaller political party which makes her and the others not to be recognized in the areas they contested as compared to those who participated in bigger parties even though they were able to make impact.

She said she was given the support needed by her people despite there were challenges because of gender but she stood tall to do her best.

She said as it stands she has been given the courage to contest in the next elections until she wins.

She said even though she didn't contest in the Dwazark community, but she was recognized.

She said most times women are not supported by their husbands which makes it very difficult for them sometimes therefore urged that men should support their wives to contest for higher positions.

Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) Zonal Women's leader, Yeanoh Saio Mansaray said politics gives people the opportunity to decide where to assert their interest therefore people don't need to make choice because of other people.

WIMSAL concludes engagement with women at Dwazark community

She said during the last election, she encountered lot of challenges from family and her party but one thing that should be noted is that, there is no need to fight for one to win in any elections.

She said in her party, fingers are always pointed at her family background as APC sympathizers, but one thing she holds on to is her right to choose which party she wants to belong to.

She said women should have security during elections due to the threats they most time encounter by their male counterparts, noting that the 30% is yet to be achieved as it stands now but significant stride has been made.

Women's leader Dwazark Community, Humama A. Kargbo said when elections come women are sent in the front to fight for the men but when they win, they are left behind by the men. "Key positions are taken by the men because women do not speak with one voice".

She said she contested during the lower level elections, but was given an Organizing Officer position on the basis that she will be considered in the next election as promised which could not be actualized when the time comes.

She said most time women don't support each other because of grudges between them but they have been sensitizing other women to change their stereotypical perspective.

She said the winner for MP at the Dwazark community was a former teacher which inspired her to contest and she won even though she encountered challenges before and after the elections.

She said women should learn to support each other and should learn to trust each other and not see themselves as enemies.

She called on other women to come as one and push the community forward for the



Women in the media Sierra Leone

sake of peace.

Chair lady Dwazark Market, Abibatu Y. Kamara also stated that before the elections, market women were used as tools to go back and forth but immediately after the election they dump them and break their market stools.

Dwazark Community Chief Pa. Alimamy

O. Dumbuya said women hold high positions in their homes therefore the men should provide security for them.

She said they were told to sit at home quietly but when the results were announced women provoked their counterpart which makes it very difficult to sometimes support women.

No Political party secures 2/3 majority in Parliament

By Yusufu S. Bangura

-Says IGR



Ishmail Saidu Kanu, IGR's Parliamentary Officer

Institute for Governance Reform (IGR), has announced that none of the political parties have secured a 2/3 majority in the 6th parliament.

IGR made the statement after the general elections was held on June 24th, and the subsequent publication and announcement of winners of the Parliamentary seats by the Chief Electoral Commissioner for ECSL, Mohamed K. Konneh.

According to IGR's analysis of the election results, none of the parties have obtained a clear 2/3 majority in the upcoming parliament of Sierra Leone.

The organization examined the distribution of seats allocated to each political party in every district across the country to arrive at the said conclusion.

The IGR's analysis also highlights a positive development in terms of gender representation in parliament which reveals that the participation of women has

increased by 15% in 2023 with both Kailahun and Bonthe Districts recording the highest of 40% representation of women.

This significant boost in female participation is seen as a positive step forward for the political landscape of Sierra Leone. Furthermore, its note that women account for 30.4% (41 MPs) of the 135 directly elected members of parliament and the total female MPs came down to 28%.

With no party securing the constitutional majority, IGR emphasizes that the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), which holds the majority of MP votes with 54.4% of the vote, will have to collaborate and negotiate with the opposition All People's Congress (APC), which obtained 36.2% of the vote, as well as the Paramount Chiefs with 9.4% of the vote, for all legislative scrutiny and approvals over the next five years.

This indicates that a cooperative approach will be necessary to pass legislation and make significant policy decisions during this parliamentary term.

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Kenyans arrested after alleged period-check stripping order



This photograph taken on April 25, 2023, in Courseulles-sur-Mer, shows party - Copyright © africanews LOU BENOIST/AFP or licensors

Three individuals employed by a prominent food manufacturer in Kenya have been arrested following reports of forcibly stripping female staff members to determine their menstrual status, according to local media. Brown's Food Company expressed sadness over the incident, emphasizing that it does not align with the company's overall procedures. Senator Gloria Orwoba brought the incident to public attention through a Facebook post, condemning the company for period shaming and sexual harassment. The controversy arose when a senior company official discovered a sanitary towel in the wrong disposal bin.

The official allegedly gathered female employees from the department and requested that they confess to the incident. When these attempts were unsuccessful, the senior official purportedly demanded that the women strip to verify their menstrual status, as stated in Senator Orwoba's post.

In response to the allegations, Brown's Food Company has suspended the accused individuals pending an investigation.

The company aims to address the matter thoroughly to ensure accountability and appropriate action is taken.

Nigeria: Fuel demand falls following end of subsidies

Fuel consumption has fallen in Nigeria since President Bola Tinubu removed costly subsidies.

This is according to figures released to the Reuters news agency by the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority.

The average daily petrol consumption reportedly reached 48.43 million litres in June, down from the previous average of 66.9 million.

The end of subsidies has caused fuel prices to nearly triple, leading to a rise in transport costs and higher food and electricity prices for many Nigerians using petrol generators.

Business may soon be impacted.

The Stanbic IBTC's latest Purchasing Power Index links the subsidy scrap to a marginal decline in business confidence in June 2023 as inflationary pressures surged.

Respondents said issues around the ending of the fuel subsidy acted to limit the pace of output

growth, although activity was still up markedly in the latest survey period.

For decades, Nigeria's low-cost gasoline has been transported illegally by road to its neighbours, primarily Benin, where it is resold on the black market by a multitude of informal sellers. The scale of the trafficking is such that the price of taxi fares has almost doubled in Cotonou (Benin). In Cameroon, another neighbour of Nigeria, several motorcycle taxi unions have gone on strike in protest.

Elected in February in a disputed election, Bola Tinubu announced as soon as he took office on 29 May the end of fuel subsidies, which were costing the state billions of euros and forcing it to borrow massively to keep petrol prices artificially low.

"I have painfully asked you, my compatriots, to sacrifice a little more for the survival of our country. For your trust and faith in us, I assure you that your sacrifice will not be in vain," he said in an address on June 12.

Ethiopia: Upper House votes to form 12th regional state

Ethiopia's upper house of parliament on Wednesday "unanimously" gave the green light to the creation of a 12th regional state, called the "Southern Ethiopian Region", after a recent referendum in the south of the country.

"Considering the desire expressed through a referendum by six zones and five special districts previously integrated into the SNNPR (Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region), the House of Federation has accepted (...) that they organize themselves in (new) regional state", announces the Upper House in a press release.

These six zones and five districts will therefore form the "Southern Ethiopian Region", continues the Chamber, without specifying the terms or deadlines for this future organization. The inhabitants of the areas concerned had been called upon to decide on February 6 by referendum on their regrouping within a new region and had very massively expressed



The Ethiopian Parliament is preparing to swear in Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed::: - Copyright © africanews AP/Copyright 2021 The AP. All rights reserved

themselves in favor of it. But the results had been canceled due to irregularities in one of the zones, those of Wilayat, where the ballot was therefore reorganized on June 19, with there to a result overwhelmingly in favor of integration into a new region.

The current Constitution adopted in 1995, four years after the fall of the military-Marxist Derge

Nigeria triggers national response plan for annual deadly floods; 14 states on alert



Men ride on motor cycles through a flooded street following a heavy downpour in - Copyright © africanews Sunday Alamba/AP2011

The Nigerian government has activated its national response plan ahead of what's expected to be another round of annual flooding related to climate change, with several states seen as hotspots on alert, authorities told The Associated Press on Thursday.

After last year's floods that killed more than 600 people, Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency said it has begun to work ahead of what's predicted to be another dangerous deluge. The agency has sought air support from the country's air force and has activated its offices for quick response across the country, spokesman Manzo Ezekiel said.

"As it is, the (flooding) outlook is still very gloomy and we are doing our best to raise awareness and get the various agencies to prepare accordingly," said Ezekiel.

The West African nation suffers deadly flooding every year often as a result of ignored environmental guidelines and inadequate infrastructure.

However, last year's floods worsened by unusual rainfalls and the release of excess water from a dam in neighboring Cameroon resulted in record deaths and destroyed more than 340,000 hectares (about 840,158 acres) of land in 33 of the

country's 36 states and the capital city.

Extreme weather conditions worsened by human activities like building on waterways is predicted to cause flooding in several states. Less rainfall is expected than last year, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency said.

"As a result of climate change, we've been seeing extreme weather events like unusual rainfall (and) unusual heat," said Ibrahim Wasiu, head of the meteorological agency's forecasting unit. "Climate change plays a role."

As many as 14 states are on alert for floods in the coming days, according to a new alert published Wednesday by the Federal Ministry of Environment. It urged the states to take precautionary measures to prevent the loss of lives.

Several states have already experienced flooding this year, including the capital city of Abuja where days of downpour swept away many houses and blocked major roads, prompting authorities to mark hundreds of houses for demolition.

"The most important thing is to put people in a safe disposition," Ezekiel with the disaster management agency said. "Our focus is to see how people as much as possible will not be affected by the floods."

South African president in Kinshasa to discuss security and trade

South African president, Cyril Ramaphosa, met this Thursday with DRC president, Félix Tshisekedi, at the Presidential Palace in Kinshasa.

The South African leader is on a two-day visit to the country to discuss security and trade.

Both leaders are also attending the DRC-South Africa Economic Forum, which brings together around a hundred businessmen from the two countries.

On Tuesday, the two sides reactivated the DRC-South Africa Great Joint Commission, a bilateral body of ministers from both sides tasked with working on revising bilateral deals.

The visit from the South African president takes place as Kinshasa prepares for a general election at the end of December amid persistent security problems in the east of the country.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

regime, had divided Ethiopia into nine regional states, divided according to ethno-linguistic criteria and endowed with broad powers within a federal system.

While the other regions are very largely ethnically homogeneous, several dozen very minority groups - among the approximately 80 peoples of Ethiopia - were grouped together at the time within the SNNPR, the scene of tensions and violence in recent years.

Article 47 of the Constitution authorizes each "Nation, nationality or people belonging to one of the regional States (...) to form, at any time, its own" regional State, subject to the organization of a referendum and a favorable outcome. But any desire in this direction had been firmly curbed by the federal government until the arrival in 2018 of

current Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

His declared reformist desire, after 27 years of domination by the elite of the Tigrayan minority over federal power, has freed many territorial and identity claims.

The "Southern Ethiopia Region" is the third region to come into existence since Mr. Abiy leads Ethiopia, after Sidama in 2020, and the South-West Ethiopia Region at the end of 2021, both of which have already emerged from a split with the SNNPR.

The latter has only six administrative subdivisions out of the twenty that it grouped together before 2020.

Ethiopia has been agitated in recent years by many community tensions and conflicts, sometimes deadly, particularly related to land disputes resulting from administrative division.

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INT'L SPORT **Moises Caicedo: Chelsea set to formalise interest in Brighton midfielder**

Chelsea continue to explore the market for a midfielder and are expected to formalise their interest in Brighton midfielder Moises Caicedo soon.

It is thought Chelsea are getting encouragement the player would join if a deal can be agreed between the clubs, with personal terms not expected to be a problem.

Chelsea were interested in signing Caicedo in January but the 21-year-old Ecuador international opted to sign a new deal at Brighton before helping deliver a sixth-place finish in the Premier League and European qualification for the first time in the club's history.

One source has told Sky Sports News that Chelsea are also looking at Southampton midfielder Romeo Lavia, who has been linked with Liverpool and Arsenal this summer.

Inter Milan continue to work on a deal to sign Chelsea striker Romelu Lukaku.

Chelsea's stance remains unchanged and they have no intention of allowing the 30-year-old Belgium international to leave

on a straight loan.

Inter are thought to favour a loan with an obligation to buy Lukaku, who wants to return to the San Siro after spending last season on loan at the Champions League finalists.

AC Milan are still working on a deal for Chelsea forward Christian Pulisic.

No official offer has been made yet, but it's thought Pulisic would favour a move to Milan over Lyon.

Lyon have an offer on the table worth €25m for the 24-year-old United States international.

Chelsea are close to agreeing a mutual termination of the final year in captain Cesar Azpilicueta's contract.

The 33-year-old will then be a free agent and is expected to join Atletico Madrid.

Negotiations have been excellent with strong mutual respect between club and player, who captained Chelsea to their second Champions League title in 2021.



Arsenal 'reach a £40m agreement' with Ajax for defender Jurrien Timber



Arsenal have reportedly reached a full agreement with Ajax to sign defender Jurrien Timber.

The Gunners are hoping to complete deals for both Timber and Declan Rice by the end of the week.

Mikel Arteta's side have already reached a £105m agreement with West Ham for Rice, and now the Athletic have reported that they have also come to a full agreement for Timber.

It is claimed that negotiations have been completed on an initial £34.3m fee, plus £4.3m in 'largely realistic bonuses'.

The 22-year-old is also said to have been granted permission to undergo a medical and finalise personal terms.

Arteta's side made an improved offer

for the highly-rated Dutch defender last week, after their initial £30m bid was rebuffed.

Ajax were thought to value their academy product at £50m, but the 22-year-old's desire to move meant both clubs were keen to come to an agreement despite him having two years left on his current deal.

Kai Havertz has already been secured for £65m while another of the club's priority targets Rice also looks set to join after Arsenal reached a full agreement with West Ham over his move to the Emirates.

The two London teams had been haggling over the payment structure linked to the £100m guaranteed portion of the fee.

But the clubs have now settled on the fee being paid in three instalments

over 24 months, with Rice now due to undergo a medical ahead of signing his contract.

Timber was heavily linked with Manchester United last summer after his former manager, Erik ten Hag, moved to Old Trafford from Ajax at the close of the 2021-22 season.

But despite the Red Devils making significant strides towards signing the defender, Timber ultimately rejected the club's advances.

The Netherlands international plays a mutable role in defence, comfortable as a centre back or right back, and could come into Arsenal's starting XI in the wake of possible moves for Rob Holding and Kieran Tierney.

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

PSG 'activate buyback clause' to sign Newcastle and Arsenal target

PSG have activated a buyback clause to sign an Arsenal and Newcastle transfer target, according to a report.

PSV's Xavi Simons left the club for the Netherlands last summer, but the French champions are thought to be keen on regaining their former player. The clause is said to be just £5.1million, and PSV have no say in the matter after signing off on the agreement when they signed the midfielder last year.

Simons may yet not return to France however. It is up to the player whether he wants to return and he only has 25 days to decide on his future.

According to Fabrizio Romano, the release clause expires at the end of

July, causing PSG to move quickly and put the decision in the player's hands for the rest of the month.

Simons has impressed in his debut season in his homeland at PSV, scoring 21 goals in 44 games as PSV finished second in the Eredivisie table.

His performances attracted interest from the Premier League, with Arsenal's Mikel Arteta and Newcastle's Eddie Howe monitoring his performances closely.

The 20-year-old could still move to the Premier League if he rejects the chance to move back to Ligue 1.

A move back to PSG would represent an insane bargain deal for the French side after his performances in the



2022-23 season seemingly caused his market price to sky rocket.

That fee would be a staggering contrast to the £41m figure Simons is valued at by CIES.

The midfielder has reportedly recently changed agents and is now being advised on new career moves by English pair Darren Dein and Stuart Peters.

It's a move that, according to former Eindhoven manager Aad de Mos, may steer him towards Arsenal.

He explained: 'His agent change indicates that he is searching [for a new club].

'Maybe he's thinking about Arsenal. His new agents have a lot of contacts there.'

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

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Sierra Leone Agribusiness & Rice Value Chain Support Project (SLARIS)
Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Building
Moyamba, Sierra Leone



Invitation for Bid

(National Competitive Bidding - NCB)

1. **Requirement:** Supply & Delivery of Office Supplies & Related Items for SLARIS

2. **Bid & Contract No:** MAF/SLARIS/OFF/NCB/002/2023

3. **Date of Issue:** 23 June 2023

4. The Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice value Chain Support Project of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has received a Grant from the African Development Fund (AfDB) towards the Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Development Project (SLARIS) and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this grant will be utilized for the procurement of Office Supplies & Related Items for SLARIS Moyamba as summarized below:

5. Description of Goods:

No.	Description	Qty	Bid Security Amount (SLL)	Estimated Delivery Period After Award
1	Multi-purpose Colored printer	Lot	6,000.00	Within two (2) weeks
2	Assorted Office Cleaning Materials			
3	Rain Gear (Raincoat and Boot)			
4	Dust Resistant Ceiling Fan			
5	Garden Items (Hoe, Cutlas, Wheelbarrow) Et al			
6	A4 Papers & Hard Drive (External- SSD)			
7	Florescent bulb & Stater			

6. Bidding is open to all competent National Contractors with all valid business registration documents issued by the Government of Sierra Leone.

7. Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the office of the Project Manager, Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Value Chain Support Project (SLARIS), MoA Building, Moyamba, between 9.00AM and 3PM on week days (**Monday to Friday only - excluding public holidays**). Email: kakuaboy@gmail.com; chriskebbie84@gmail.com, Tel: +232 76 364800, +232 79 453004.

8. Bidding documents shall be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **SLL 800,000.00** (eight hundred thousand Leones). All payments for the purchase of the Bidding document should be made to the SLARIS Bank Account with details below:

Bank Name:	Rokel Commercial Bank
Account Name:	Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice value Chain Support Project (SLARIS)
Account No:	02-01-1011970
BBan No:	002001002101197079
Address:	25/27 Sinka Stevens Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Ref:	MAF/SLARIS/OFF/NCB/002/2023 - Office Supplies for SLARIS

9. SLARIS upon receipt of proof of payment, shall provide both printed and electronics copies to the purchaser as may be required.

10. Every Bidders is required to quote for all items or none.

11. Bids MUST be clearly marked and delivered to the address below on or before **12 Noon of Tuesday, 1 August 2023 - Sierra Leone Time**.

The Project Manager

Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Value Chain Support Project (SLARIS)
Ministry of Agriculture Building, Moyamba, Sierra Leone.

Ref: **Supply & Delivery of Office Supplies & Related Items for SLARIS, Moyamba**
Tel: +232 76364800/+232 79 453004

12. The Bidder shall submit with its bid the following additional documents:

- Bid Security amount of SLL 6,000.00
- Completed Bid Form and Price Schedule;
- Technical specification of each item offered to include, *brand name/make and country of origin* as may be applicable;
- Compliance with Delivery Schedule
- Evidence of at least two (2) same/similar contracts successfully completed in the last five (5) years in a form of copy of signed Contracts or certification letter from the Contracting institutions.
- Audited Financial Statement for the past three (3) previous years
- Business Registration Certificate;
- Valid Council Registration Certificate;
- A Certified True Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate from the National Revenue Authority (NRA)
- A Certified True Copy of National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT) Clearance Certificate

13. Bids will be publicly opened on **Tuesday, 1 August 2023 - Sierra Leone Time at 12:15 PM**, in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below. Please note, Late bid (s) will be rejected and returned unopened by SLARIS.

Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Value Chain Support Project (SLARIS) Ministry of Agriculture Building, Moyamba, Sierra Leone. Tel: +232 76364800/+232 79 453004

Farmer remanded for alleged fraud

By Mohamed J Kargbo

Yusif Abdulai Kamara, a farmer was on Wednesday 5th July 2023 sent to prison by Magistrate Mark Ngegba of Pademba road court No.1 for allegedly defrauding US Citizen, Chavonna Frazier over Le 400 million for land. The accused was standing trial on one count, to wit fraudulent conversion contrary to section 20 of the larceny Act of 1916.

According to the particulars of the offence, the accused on a date unknown between 1st and 31st March 2021, in Freetown fraudulently converted to his own use and benefit certain property to the sum of \$21,200 USD equivalent to (Le 424,400) entrusted to him by Chavonna Frazier for the purpose of purchasing a parcel of land in Freetown

for an organization called Sierra Leone Ancestor Investor Association based in California United States of America.

When the charge was read to him by the court registrar, no plea was taken.

Defence counsels A. Koroma applied for bail on behalf of his client, he also informed the bench that they are ready to pay the complainant her money, noting that they already paid 30 million Leones to the police at CID which he said they will bring to the court on the next adjourned date.

The complainant in reply said all that she wants is her money. Magistrate Ngegba, however, remanded the accused in prison.

The matter was adjourned to 13th July for further hearing.



Guild of Editors - Sierra Leone

C/O MRCG 145 Circular Road, Freetown.

Email: editorsguild94@gmail.com Mob:+23276653596

Public Notice

Increase in Advert Pricing for Newspapers

24th 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, 3rd April, 2023.

Your cooperation is highly solicited.

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

Bankers: Union Trust Bank A/C No: 01-210-25968-01

Babadi Kamara confirms resignation as Leone Stars Manager

Executive Chairman of Bo Rangers Football Club, Babadi Kamara has confirmed his resignation as Team Manager for the Sierra Leone senior national team, Leone Stars. With talks earlier on Thursday stating that the influential Team Manager has quit his position in the senior national team, the manager himself confirmed the news and downplayed any other rumours of him being in line for any political appointment. However, despite confirming his resignation, Kamara remains tight lips on what led to his decision but words have it that he is unhappy with the Football Association for the incident that occur during the team's participation at the last African Cup of Nations tournament in Cameroon. One of his reactions to the resignation rumours reads: "Fact: I have resigned. Rumours of me being appointed are not true. "We dae Salone football time".

A close pal said: "He has been distancing himself from the national team because the Football Association has failed to implement some of the recommendations made after the African Cup of Nations and no one seems to care." The SLFA are yet to comment on the latest decision of Babadi Kamara. In July 2021, Babadi Kamara was appointed Team Manager of the senior team by the Sierra Leone Football Association and his contract which was subjected to renewal was due to come to an end on July 31 2023. Babadi Kamara who is also the CEO of the newly constructed Southern Arena, the first privately owned (six thousand capacity) stadium in the country, played a key role as Team Manager during Leone Stars' participation in the TotalEnergies AFCON 2021 tournament in Cameroon.



SLFA boss ends relegation rumours



President of the Sierra Leone Football Association Thomas Daddy Brima has dismissed rumours of no Premier League relegation this season.

The SLFA boss put an end to all speculation and confirmed that there will be relegation from the ongoing Sierra Leone Premier League.

In recent times, there have been speculations on social media that teams would not be relegated this season especially so when the Football Association president Stiker is one of the teams battling relegation.

However, the FA president while addressing delegates, observers and members of the football family at the FA's Ordinary Congress held at Radisson Blu said: "In the last few days, I have had rumours that there will be no relegation in the Men's Premier League because my team is fighting relegation.

"I cannot afford to undo the gains my administration has made for selfish reasons. If my team relegates, let them relegate."

President Brima is the owner of Wilberforce Strikers who sit rock-bottom of the league with 30 points and three games to go.