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Bishop in police net for alleged embezzlement of over 4million USD

Access Bank Plc enters into acquisition agreements with Standard Chartered Bank



Bishop Alphonso Barry is currently being investigated by the CID

The Criminal Investigations Department (CID) is currently investigating one Bishop Alphonso Barry for alleged mega corruption and fraud. Bishop Barry, who stays in Waterloo and popularly recognised by his neighbours as one of the richest people in the community, is alleged to have embezzled over four million United States Dollars entrusted to him to provide borehole wells for vulnerable communities across Sierra Leone. According to investigations, Bishop Barry is the local representative of an American Non-Governmental Organisation, (Water of Life) and he has been receiving funds from his partners in the United States to implement the project in Sierra Leone.

Cont. Page 4

Thunder strikes 7-year-old boy to death

IPRP Cautions MoFAIC

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PERSONAL GLIMPSES

By: Winstanley.R.Bankole. Johnson

The more I brood over the results announced by Mohamed Konneh/ECSL on the June 24th elections that pronounced Brig. Gen. (Rtd.) Bio re-elected as President with almost precisely the margin required to stave off a run-off, the more axiomatic the evidences that have continued to emerge justifying universal doubts, fears and uncertainties over the transparency and credibility of those results. Some of those emerging evidences are:

1. THE SLPP VICTORY CELEBRATIONS

For something as significant as the miraculous re-election of an unpopular candidate it was very low key and fleetingly short. They didn't even spill over to the next non-business day. The only reason for that was because the SLPP themselves must have been as stupefied (as the rest of us) at the plausibility of the results announced by ECSL/Mohammed Konneh

2. THE SLPP CHAIRMAN'S UNGUARDED STATEMENT

The statement of SLPP Chairman Dr. Prince Alex Harding that inter-alia "...the SLPP would never hand over power to an APC Administration..." was as much an incitement to cause political unrest as it cowardly, arrogant and further exposing an SLPP premonition to the announcement of an adulterated presidential elections results in their favour.

3. THE OLIVE BRANCH

Though one should not question the prerogatives of a Fountain and Head of State (De-facto or De-Jure) to bless or curse his citizens, the spontaneity with which Dr. Samura Kamara was publicly appreciated (for the very first time) by Brig. Gen. (Rtd.) Bio as a leadership material to work with, and the speed with which Dr. Samura Kamara's his innate "APC Terrorists instincts" were exorcised were - like Greek Bearing Gifts - too good to be true, especially coming at the heels of such a bitterly fought contest. Worse still Bio's gesture as always sounded like a "Work in Progress". It wasn't well defined to ascertain whether it covers Dr. Samura Kamara's supporters whose votes he had sworn to protect but have been left cheated of by the ECSL/Konneh results, and the terms by which they could be pacified going forward (if ever). Nor did the "Olive Branch" seem to address wrongs meted to those still detained in Police and Prison Cells countrywide for exercising their political franchises, as well as those whose private and business premises were set ablaze throughout the South-East and were sent scampering into the bushes traumatized before, during and after 24th June.

Further for a party as arrogant as the SLPP to have dispatched emissaries to the "APC Chief Terrorist" former President Koroma for peace overtures and possible resolution of what is deepening into a long political impasse would never have happened, if they were convinced their Presidential election victory as

announced by ECSL/Mohammed Konneh was not skewed.

4. THE ENTREATIES FOR INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Yet another glaring justification for universal fears, doubts and uncertainties about the credibility of the results announced by ECSL/Mohammed Konneh is the passionate appeal by a putative APC member Dr. Sylvia Blyden (OOR) to mainly the Western Internal Community of Nations and Elections Observer Organizations comprising the Carter Center, National Elections Watch (NEW), National Democratic Institute (NDI), UK, US, Germany, Ireland, France, African Union (AU), ECOWAS - operating either as country-specific or in collectively as EU Nations - openly eliciting their congratulatory sentiments for an SLPP administration that she has been tacitly working with in an unscripted de-facto alliance, based on the still unresolved outcomes of a much discredited electoral processes.

Dr. Blyden's appeal premised on the absence of any other credible results contradicting the aggregates as tabulated and announced by the ECSL from Results Reconciliations Forms (RRFs) in their authority immediately evokes a number of questions:

(a). If in accordance with our extant electoral laws (2012 and/or as amended in 2022) the ECSL are the only body constitutionally empowered to conduct public elections and announce results, and they had done so transparently and creditably in accordance with those laws (and the 1991 Constitution), why does she still believe that congratulatory sentiments from the international community are additionally relevant to validate the mandate of the candidate declared as winner by the ECSL?

(b). Where is it in any of those electoral laws (above) that production of parallel RRFs by any other local or Internationally accredited Elections Observer Group are a pre-requisite for validation of results as announced by the ECSL? And even assuming an unwritten agreement on that existed between the rest of the Observer Groups and the ECSL, why did the ECSL not collectively review, tally and agree all of those parallel RRFs transparently with all of those other Observer Groups (including the NEW) before proceeding to announce Brig. Gen (Rtd.) Bio as the winner absolute?

(c). Could it possibly be that it is on account of a breach of agreement in (b) above that has irked the International Community to the extent of withholding their congratulatory sentiments because of what they have described as vast inconsistencies, discrepancies and variances between the numbers of what all of them have tallied, as against what the ECSL went on to announce as their own final results for the Presidential elections?

(d). How come much respect is being accorded RRFs expected from "any other international sources" without due cognizance or same respect for those in-puted into results collated and produced by the National Elections Watch (NEW)?

Skewed

Pundits still hold the view that it was on account those glaring inconsistencies, irregularities and tabulation discrepancies including the possible switching of numbers to favour unpopular candidates and political Parties (and the NEW reports results insinuates much more to that than has been published) that Mohammed Konneh, realizing that the results were not going their way allegedly stormed out of the Collation Center leaving all the Observers to their state and conditions and proceeded to declare their candidate of his choice as "Winner". They are further suspecting that it is hinging on all of that that they (the International Community) are continuing to withhold their congratulatory sentiments for Brig. Gen. (Rtd.) Bio to avoid being tarred with the same brush as ECSL/Mohammed Konneh for endorsing fraudulent/stolen elections mandates, which is the very basis for endemic poverty, social instability and internecine strife and wars within weak pseudo-democratic nations in Africa in particular. In the eyes of the International Community (and of course the APC Party), the 24th June elections are far from over and are still in the results counting and tallying stages.

Dr. Blyden's public solicitation for international recognition for this Bio regime as announced by the ECSL either leaves an impression that those results were veritably cooked and could eventually be nullified no matter how long that takes, or that without those congratulatory sentiments the Bio administration would not be able to function as a government. So it makes a huge difference and a matter of serious concern that the EU, UK and Ireland - both very well renowned for courtesies - and the US, Germany, France, Ireland, AU, Carter Center, National Democratic Institute (NDI), National Elections Watch (NEW) and ECOWAS etc. should continue to be withholding their felicitations possibly because as far as they (and APC) are concerned, the results announced by the ECSL/Mohammed Konneh are skewed.

Charade

From my humble perspectives if there is anyone to blame as bearing the greatest responsibility for the delayed congratulatory sentiments from the International Observers so desperately needed by the government it should be Mohamed Konneh. He has failed to have performed according to plan and to have produced the disaggregated results of the elections from polling center to polling center along the length and breadth of this country as was agreed with them upon completion of the elections from the get-

go. And unless he complies, I don't see the International Community comprising the Elections Observer nations and groups varying their demand for production of the disaggregated votes. It is worrisome if we have reached a point where purportedly credible organizations and countries who organize and supervise/monitor elections (US, Germany, France, Ireland, AU, Carter Center, National Democratic Institute (NDI), National Elections Watch (NEW) and ECOWAS etc) can neither certify the outcomes of their efforts nor congratulate emerging winners, and it will also be a useless waste of resources to be sending Elections Observers anywhere else hereafter.

If ECSL/Konneh gets away with this charade, incumbent governments in Africa with absolute control over the five (5) arms of government (Security Sector; Legislature, Electoral Commission; Political Parties Regulations Authority; and the Judiciary) will always be having their way and say, and that will be as good as reverting to One-Party "Kakistocracies" with ease. So ECSL/Mohammed Konneh must be prevailed upon to produce those disaggregated results. After all: "If D Forl Whyte: Ee Whyte Oh!!"

It makes no sense that entreaties for resolution for our seeming political impasse would appear to be focused more on the victims (APC/Dr. Samura Kamara) rather than on the villains: ECSL/Mohammed Konneh, and for the former to put the nation above politics as they insinuate a Government of National Unity or Union Government (GNU/UG). For the APC/Dr. Samura Kamara to ever capitulate to the formation of a government of National Unity with Brig. Gen. (Rtd.) Bio/SLPP at the helm at these challenging times of a need to re-define our archaic kind of politics will be as good as condoning lawlessness and a continuation of SLPP governance on a stolen mandate. A GNU/UG is both untenable and impracticable under our present circumstances because we are neither under a state of emergency nor at war. Additionally the palpable seeds of ethno-regional division sown between and amongst us since April 2018 (and which the Brig. Gen (Rtd.) himself has often alluded to and acknowledged have been evident since prior to our attaining independence) will not support it. To condone or participate in a GNU/UG (with SLPP at the helm) is to fall into the SLPP trap of transforming Sierra Leone into a One-Party Stay State - effortlessly. Accordingly the APC must stick to their guns not to participate in governance under the SLPP - whether or not the SLPP proceeds to run Sierra Leone as "Half-Party State. Otherwise the leadership commitment of the APC and Dr. Samura Kamara to always protect and defend their supporters' votes and make redefining the political trajectory of Sierra Leone their responsibility will pale into a travesty.

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Access Bank Plc (Access) enters into acquisition agreements with Standard Chartered Bank



London, United Kingdom – 14 July 2023: Access Bank Plc (Access) and Standard Chartered Bank have entered into agreements for the acquisition of Standard Chartered's shareholding in its subsidiaries in Angola, Cameroon, The Gambia, and Sierra Leone, and its Consumer, Private & Business Banking business in Tanzania. Each transaction remains subject to the approval of the respective local regulators and the banking regulator in Nigeria.

The announcement was made today at Standard Chartered's Headquarters in London in the presence of senior representatives from both banks. Signed by, Sunil Kaushal, Regional CEO, Africa & Middle East, Standard Chartered and, Roosevelt Ogbonna, Group Managing Director, Access Bank Plc, the agreement with Access for the sale of the bank's business in Sub-Saharan Africa is in line with Standard Chartered's global strategy, aimed at achieving operational efficiencies, reducing complexity, and driving scale.

Access Bank will provide a full range of banking services and continuity for key stakeholders including employees and clients in the Standard Chartered businesses across the five aforementioned countries. Access and Standard Chartered Bank will work closely together in the coming months to ensure a seamless transition, with the transaction expected to be completed over the next 12 months.

Commenting on the agreement, Sunil Kaushal, Regional CEO, Africa & Middle East, Standard Chartered, said: "Following on the announcement we made April last year, the project is now substantially completed with the announcement for the sale of the 5 markets and the furtherance of a partnership with Access Bank. This strategic decision allows us to redirect resources within the AME region to other areas with significant growth potential, ultimately enabling us to better support our clients. We look forward to working closely with Access Bank's team over the coming months to achieve a successful conclusion to this transaction while safeguarding the interests of our valued clients and prioritising our employees".

Commenting on the agreement, Roosevelt Ogbonna, Group

Managing Director, Access Bank Plc, stated, "We are pleased to sign this agreement today and express our appreciation for being selected as the preferred partner to Standard Chartered Bank through this transaction, in which it is exiting four African markets and refocusing in one. As a distinguished regional and international bank with a rich heritage spanning over 150 years, Standard Chartered Bank has built a solid presence in these markets for over 100 years."

For Access, this strategic transaction represents a key step in its journey to build a strong global franchise focused on serving as a gateway for payments, investment, and trade within Africa and between Africa and the rest of the world, anchored by a robust capital base; a relentless focus on execution; and best-in-class customer service & governance structures.

"At Access Bank, we are committed to reshaping the global perception of Africa and African businesses, even as we continue to build toward our vision to be the World's Most Respected African Bank. Our 5-year growth plan will see us build a world-class class payments gateway leveraging the power of technology and supported by a dynamic ecosystem of local and international partnerships, enabling us to serve global payments and remittances efficiently. With our recent European expansion and our deepened presence in key trading corridors across Africa, we will bridge the gap between cross-border and domestic transfers across all business segments. More importantly, we are committed to impacting our host communities positively," Ogbonna added.

In April 2022, Standard Chartered strategically decided to divest from a number of markets, namely Lebanon, Angola, Cameroon, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe and Jordan, and to exit the CPBB (Consumer Private and Business Banking) business in Côte d'Ivoire and Tanzania. The Bank announced its sale of its business in Zimbabwe earlier in June and in Jordan in March this year. With this announcement, Standard Chartered has substantially completed the divestment process from the markets announced in April 2022, except Côte d'Ivoire where it remains actively engaged in discussions with potential buyers for the sale of its CPBB business in the country.

LOCAL NEWS

By IPRP Communications Unit

The Independent Procurement Review Panel (IPRP) has on Friday, 14th July, 2023, in a ruling, cautioned the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC) to be seen practising and adhering to public procurement laws to avoid evaluation processes that are not in tune with the 2016 Public Procurement Acts and Statutory Regulations 2020.

The Panel further advised the need for proper documentation of processes and training of staff on public procurement issues.

A complaint was filed by Fayia Unity Garage to the Independent Procurement Review Panel (IPRP) on alleged Procurement Irregularities in the procurement process.

Based on the summary of facts, the (MoFAIC) advertised a bid in local newspapers, requesting for a Framework Contract for the supply of Spare Parts and Maintenance of Vehicles (Lot 1).

The Appellant submitted a bid expressing interests in executing the task, and the complainant was notified by the procuring entity that he was unsuccessful during the Evaluation Stage.

The Procuring Entity cited poor maintenance of vehicles as well as during the course of repairs seven vehicles had been grounded among which were VIP vehicles.

The Appellant claimed that his garage was providing similar service to the MoFAIC for which he had never

defaulted and was baffled to receive a notification letter from the procurement Committee that his garage was unsuccessful.

The Appellant filed in a protest letter to the procuring entity expressing their dissatisfaction over the outcome of the evaluation process, and claiming that the MoFAIC only responded to their letter after the mandated 5 day period has elapsed. The Independent Procurement Review Panel is a creation of section 65 (1) of the Public Procurement (PPA) No.10 of 2016. The IPRP is charged with the responsibility to review complains/appeals from dissatisfied bidders about decision of a procuring entity.

A day hearing was held for both parties in the said matter and panel ruled:

That the Appellant was not successful during the evaluation process on the bases of failing a technical assessment, rather he was evaluated on an alleged damaged vehicles which had no bearing to the bid requirement.

The Panel finds that the Appellant's garage space can only house eight vehicles at a time and the recommended winner of the bid had a more spacious garage. The roads leading to the Appellant garage was not in good conditions.

Furthermore, the Panel found out that the Appellant had all documents required, coupled with his lowest bid but was evaluated on the status of his garage and its evident that his garage is not spacious even though he has been providing services of maintenance and supply of spare parts since 2016 without query.

The Panel therefore recommends for the MOFAIC to proceed with the contract and award the winner.

Bishop in police net for alleged embezzlement of over 4million USD

From Cover

He met with his U.S partners in 2012 at a Christian conference in Liberia where they established contact and the former decided to work with him to ameliorate the plights of vulnerable communities in Sierra Leone that do not have access to pure drinking water.

Bishop Barry is alleged to have used the funds he receives on behalf of the vulnerable communities to enrich himself and lives a lavish lifestyle at Waterloo to the envy of his neighbours.

"Some of us always question where this man is getting money from because he swims in wealth. He has a compound size of over two acres with a mansion and other houses," one of his neighbours told Concord Times.

One of Bishop Barry's partners, Tyler, a U.S national, who spoke to Concord Times, narrated that, "In 2022 alone, we sent four hundred thousand United States Dollars for him to construct 96 borehole wells, but he didn't. He always deceives us with fake reports. But what we did was that we created a database of all the reports he sent to us in the form of google map. We went on site using GPS to locate the borehole wells he said he had constructed, but only found a few. Some of the wells we found out are hand-dug wells and that is not what we paid for.

Tyler said Bishop Barry always gave them over bloated expenses and that he even converted to his own use, monies meant to pay staff of the organisation.



"He told us he was paying over two thousand United States Dollars for our office space in Kambia, but we later found out from the landlady that he was paying four Hundred United States Dollars. He requested that we pay two thousand eight Hundred United States Dollars as sacked benefit to one of our staff, but he didn't pay the fellow even though we gave him the money," he said.

Tyler expressed frustration that authorities including the police should take the matter seriously because it has to do with the lives of vulnerable Sierra Leoneans.

"We will not continue to fund the project if that man is allowed to walk free after he has done a great harm to people."

When contacted, Bishop Barry couldn't deny the claims, but noted that he had been advised by his lawyer not to talk to anybody about the issue. Investigation continues.

Thunder strikes 7-year-old boy to death

By Yusufu S. Bangura & Blessing C. Cole

Seven-year-old boy identified as Ansu Borbor Koroma was struck to death by thunder at Luguama Village, Samba Section in the Kpanga Chiefdom, Pujehun District.

Speaking to the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) on Monday, 17th July, the Crime Officer of the Pujehun Police Division, Detective Inspector Jam Kpakra, said the unfortunate incident took place between 18:00 to 19:00 hours of Wednesday, 12th July.

He said the incident was reported by one Brima Musa through the speaker of Kpanga Chiefdom, Samuel Munda Kamara on Thursday 13th July.

He added that after the report, a team of police officers headed by him immediately visited the scene and obtained an eyewitness statement to aid the investigations.

He explained that, the deceased together with his younger brother and a friend, were at home when they decided to go and buy

banana.

He said after eating the banana they returned home and upon arrival, his friend returned to his own residence.

He said after the boy had left, lighting occurred and that the deceased was at the back of the house holding a cutlass, and at the same time his grandfather was coming from his farm trying to enter the house when the thunder struck and both of them fell on the floor.

Detective Inspector John further said during the process the deceased eventually died while his grandfather later woke up.

He said after the incident a physical examination was conducted by a nurse from the Community Health Center who discovered that blood was oozing from the deceased nostrils and some part of his trousers got burnt by the lighting.

He continued that after the examination was done, the remains of the deceased were handed over to the family members for burial.

5 youth remanded for riotous conduct

By Mohamed J Kargbo

Abdul Sesay and 4 others made an appearance before Magistrate Mark Ngeba of Court No.1 at Pademba Road in Freetown and they were remanded to the Male Correctional Center for their involvement in the June 13 protest in Freetown.

The accused persons were standing trial on three count charges to wit failure to give notice for procession, behaving in a disorderly manner and throwing missiles contrary to the laws of Sierra Leone.

It was alleged that on the diverse date on the 13th June 2023, Yusufu Caulker, Momoh Koroma, Ibrahim Sesay, Abdul Sesay and Abass Kargbo, at Rokupa in Freetown,

failed to give notice for procession.

It was also alleged that on the above same date in an address in Freetown, the accused persons did behave in a disorderly manner to wit caused riot in a bid to disturb the peace of the country.

Police alleged that on the above date and address in Freetown, the accused persons did throw missiles (stones) on police officers who were trying to disperse the crowd.

The prosecuting counsel was to lead in another witness in court to testify, but the witness was absent.

Meanwhile Magistrate Ngeba adjourned the matter to the 24th of July 2023 for further hearings.



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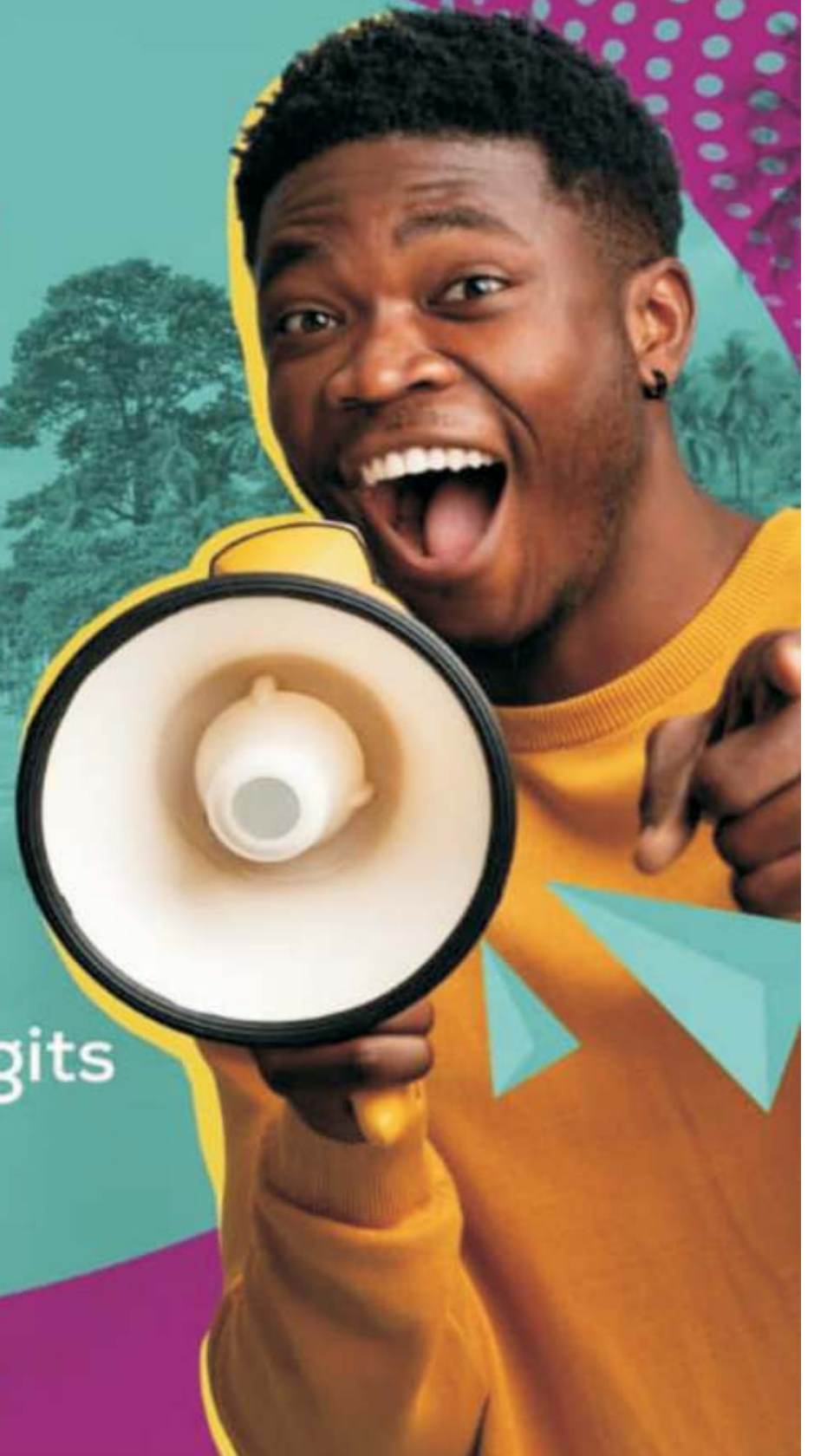
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3 Wellington Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone
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14th July, 2023.

MEDIA RELEASE

IPRP CONCLUDES INVESTIGATION INTO COMPLAINT BROUGHT AGAINST THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND FAYIA UNITY GARAGE

The Independent Procurement Review Panel (IPRP) has concluded the matter **between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC) (RESPONDENT) and Fayia Unity Garage, Freetown (Appellant).**

Based on the summary of facts, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation advertised a bid in local newspapers, requesting for a **Framework Contract for the supply of Spare Parts and Maintenance of Vehicles (Lot 1).**

A complaint was filed by Fayia Unity Garage to the Independent Procurement Review Panel (IPRP) on alleged Procurement Irregularities in the procurement process.

The Appellant submitted a bid expressing interests in executing the task, and the complainant was notified by the procuring entity that he was unsuccessful during the Evaluation Stage.

The Procuring Entity cited poor maintenance of vehicles as well as during the cause of repairs seven vehicles had been grounded among which were VIP vehicles.

The Appellant claimed that his garage was providing similar service to the MoFAIC for which he had never defaulted and was baffled to receive a notification letter from the procurement Committee that his garage was unsuccessful.

The Appellant filed in a protest letter to the procuring entity expressing their dissatisfaction of the outcome of the evaluation process, and claiming that the MoFAIC only responded to their letter after the mandated 5 day period has elapsed.

A day hearing was held for both parties in the said matter and the panel holds that:

1. Pursuant to section 64(1) of the Public Procurement Act, 2016, the Appellant lodged an appeal with the Respondent asking for a review of the decision. The Respondent called the Appellant to a debriefing in which the issues raised therein, were discussed but not to the satisfaction of the appellant,

Decision

Based on the above mentioned reasons, the Panel finds as follows:

2. The Panel finds that the Appellant was not successful during the evaluation process on the bases of failing a technical assessment, rather he was evaluated on an alleged damaged vehicles which had no bearing to the bid requirement.
3. The Panel finds that the Appellant's garage space can only house eight vehicles at a time and the recommended winner of the bid had a more spacious garage. The roads leading to the Appellant garage was not in good conditions.
4. The Panel finds that the Appellant had all documents required, coupled with his lowest bid but was evaluated on the status of his garage and its evident that his garage is not spacious even though he has been providing services of maintenance and supply of spare parts since 2016 without query.
5. The Panel therefore recommends for the MoFAIC to proceed with the contract and award the winner.
6. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation must be seen practicing and adhering to public procurement laws to avoid evaluation processes that are not in tune with the 2016 Public Procurement Act and Statutory Regulations 2020. There is need for proper documentation of processes and training of staff on public procurement issues.

The Independent Procurement Review Panel is a creation of section 65 (1) of the National Public Procurement (NPPA) No.10 of 2016. The IPRP is charged with the responsibility to review complains/ appeals from dissatisfied bidders about decision of a procuring entity.

Furthermore, the procurement process of Sierra Leone is governed by the NPPA Act No.10 2016 and the Regulations Statutory Instrument No.15 of 2020.

For further enquiries on this and other IPRP matters, please contact **the Public Relations Officer**, on +232-75 166461/ 080- 855375 or via email iprpanal218@gmail.com

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MEDIA RELEASE

14th July, 2023.

IPRP CONCLUDES INVESTIGATION INTO COMPLAINT BROUGHT AGAINST FREETOWN POLYTECHNIC KOSSOH TOWN AND MAK ENTERPRISES

The Independent Procurement Review Panel (IPRP) has concluded the matter between the **Freetown Polytechnic Kossoh Town (Respondent) and Mak Enterprises, Freetown (Appellant)**.

Based on summary of fact, Freetown Polytechnic Kossoh Town advertised a bid in local newspapers, bidding for a **FRAMEWORK CONTRACT FOR LOT 3 (COMPUTER CONSUMABLES/ACCESSORIES)**.

A complaint was filed by Mak Enterprises to the Independent Procurement Review Panel (IPRP) on alleged procurement irregularities in the procurement process.

The Appellant submitted a bid expressing interest as well as full filled all requirements as stated by the procuring entity.

The Appellant claimed that one of the bidders did not include City Council Certificate, Integrity and Eligibility in their bid document which was a conditional precedent to be full filled.

Furthermore, the Appellant complained that Mak Enterprises price was the lowest in price as compare to other bidders.

The Respondent disclosed that after the evaluation process, it was Phil Mick that emerged as the most responsive bidder, citing that chidex Group Holding that the complainant suspected to have won the bid submitted higher bid price than other bidders. This was evident on the checklist the Freetown Polytechnic provided.

A day hearing was held for both parties in the said matter and the panel ruled:

Internal Appeal

1. Pursuant to section 64(1) of the Public Procurement Act, 2016, the Appellant lodged an appeal with the Respondent asking for a clarification on their decision. The Respondent replied to the Appellant by letter in which the issues raised therein were explained though not exhaustive as the issues were not dealt satisfactorily.

Conclusions

Based on the above mentioned reasons, the Panel finds as follows:

2. The Panel finds that the Appellant was not adequately informed about the outcome of the evaluation thereby clearly missing who the winner was.
3. The Panel finds that the winner or the Most Responsive Bidder complied with requirements in fulfilment of the process.
4. The Panel finds that Appellant had misunderstood the entire notification of intention to award contract letter.
5. The Panel having listened to the cases of the Appellant and Respondents, believes that the Appellant does not have a case as the Respondent awarded the contract to the most Responsive Bidder.
6. The Panel finds that the Respondent acted in accordance with 68(1) 68 (2) 68 (3) and 68 (4) of the Public Procurement Regulations, 2020, and 53(6) of the Public Procurement Act 2016 with respect to the arithmetical corrections and computation of unit cost to quantity.
7. Panel however advise that the Freetown Polytechnic must conduct refresher trainings for procurement officers to have proper and clear understanding of the process.

The Independent Procurement Review Panel is a creation of section 65 (1) of the National Public Procurement (NPPA) No.10 of 2016. The IPRP is charged with the responsibility to review complains/appeals from dissatisfied bidders about decision of a procuring entity.

Furthermore, the procurement process of Sierra Leone is governed by the NPPA Act No.10 2016 and the Regulations Statutory Instrument No.15 of 2020.

For further enquiries on this and other IPRP matters, please contact **the Public Relations Officer**, on +232-75 166461/ 080- 855375 or via email iprpanal218@gmail.com

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LOCAL NEWS

In its continuous drive towards leveraging the powers of digital communications through the various social media platforms in the country, one of the leading telecommunication companies/networks, Africell Sierra Leone has last Friday 14 July 2023, certified sixteen - 16 youth after an intensive two month successful training on Digital Marketing skills, hosted at the company's headquarters at Wilberforce in Freetown.

The historic certification ceremony of young and home-grown digital media and marketing professionals graciously took place in Africell SL boardroom at the network's headquarters at Wilberforce Freetown.

Addressing her audience at the occasion, Africell-SL Event Manager, Nancy L. Turay among other things described the moment as historic, regardless of the facts Africell SL is operating a business, the company had, and will continue to do more in terms of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility.

With the value of digital communications, young Sierra Leoneans have improved their lives through the training on Digital Marketing Skills they have acquired knowledge that she further explained will improve their lives.

She continued that the trainers were equipped with the necessary equipment to enable them to fully explore the digital market.

Welcoming all at the occasion, the Head of Digital Marketing, Kamanda Koroma informed that the training was rolled out by the Africell SL Impact Foundation.

He disclosed that the Africell SL Impact Foundation's Digital Marketing training courses which the 16 digital marketing experts went through was successful, noting that over the past two months, Africell SL has empowered individuals with the essential digital marketing skills, which the media witnessed the fruition of collective efforts.

Accused discharged for want of evidence

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

One Ramadan Bah, who was charged to court for fraudulent conversion, was on Monday, 17th July, 2023, discharged by Justice Suliman Bah.

The accused was arraigned before the court on one count charge of fraudulent conversion contrary to Section 20 (1) (iv) (a) of the Larceny Act of 1916.

In a modern age, social media plays a vital role in the emerging market, he said, adding that participants were given remarkable opportunities to leverage the power of digital platforms, improve their business models and enhance their professional approaches to social media.

On the aims of the training, Koroma explained that each participant equipped with the necessary tools to thrive in a dynamic world of digital marketing. By bringing the digital and physical worlds, Koroma added that Africell SL ensured that everyone accessed the opportunities.

To the participants, he encouraged them to remember the power they hold to be inspired and effect change in their lives and communities as they embark on their digital journey.

He concluded that the day is not just a celebration of achievement but also a reaffirmation of the Africell SL's shared commitments towards the empowerment and striving for excellence.

The Chief Cooperate Affairs Executive, Joe Abass Bangura noted before the coming of digitalization and the internet, the four Ps, which he disclosed are, price, place, promotions and people were essential.

With the emergence of digitalization and internet, digital marketing drives the agenda and the ability to communicate, Joe Abass Bangura.

He disclosed that forty (40) participants enrolled into the programme with thirty-two (32) enlisted while twenty-nine (29) sailed through the intense training.

"The project is a practically adopted and apply-proven of all contents," he said, and continued that the Africell SL Impact Foundation creates of new enrolments for skill promotions.

A beneficiary of Africell's Impact Foundation's Digital Marketing Training course, Adel C. Jusu in her note of appreciation for and on behalf

The charge sheet indicated that the accused on 17th October 2023, in Freetown, fraudulently converted to his own use or benefit, certain property-a red and black victor TVS motor bike.

Earlier in court, the prosecutor informed the court that he had tried to locate the witnesses in the matter, but couldn't reach any of them

Leveraging the Power of Digital Platform

Africell-SL Certify Bloggers 16 Digital Marketers



of Group One, registered her profound appreciations to Africell SL for organizing Digital Marketing training course," she said. "I counted it all joy to have been enlisted in such as specialized training programmes for youth."

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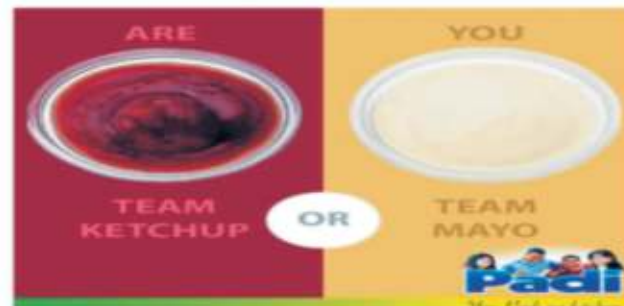
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Request for Proposals Design and Supervision of Office Space Remodeling

The United Nations Children's Fund wishes to invite Proposals for the Design and Supervision of Office Space Remodeling.

Please visit the United Nations Global Market (UNGM) Website and download the tender documents. Please see the link for this Request for Proposal below:

[Design and supervision of office space remodeling \(ungm.org\)](https://ungm.org)

The submission deadline for is Wednesday 26th July at 10.am.

Proposers are requested to submit any requests in respect of this RFPS to sr1-procurementrequests@unicef.org by Friday 14th July at 1700 hours.

Proposals are to be submitted to the email addresses indicated in the Tender Documents.

There will be no Bid Conference.

Request for Proposals LTA for General Premises, Building and Electrical Maintenance Works

The United Nations Children's Fund invites tenders for Premises Maintenance, Building and Electrical Works 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 Tender Documents can be downloaded at the site below.

[GENERAL PREMISES,
BUILDING AND
ELECTRICAL
MAINTENANCE WORKS](https://ungm.org)
(ungm.org)

There will be a bid conference on Friday 21st July at 10.30 am at the UNICEF Freetown Conference Room.

The deadline for the submission of bids is at 10 am on Thursday 3rd August

NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Africa takes the stage: Women's World Cup Kickoff, July 21

Morocco, Zambia, Nigeria and South Africa will defend the colours of the continent during the 2023 FIFA World Cup. First match on Friday, July 21 with the entry into the running of Nigeria against Canada for this 9th women's world cup of football.

Australia and New Zealand welcome the 32 nations present for this final phase, against 24 in 2015 and 2019.

The African continent will have four teams. In this case, the four semi-finalists of the Women's CAN 2022: Morocco, Zambia, Nigeria and South Africa.

To access this 2023 Women's World Cup, the Moroccans had eliminated Botswana, while the Zambians had defeated Senegal. South Africa had defeated Tunisia and Nigeria had beaten Cameroon.

Nigeria

The Super Falcons, who will play their 9th World Cup – they have never missed a final phase – are in Group B, that of the Australians. The Nigerians will open the ball in Melbourne against Canada, the reigning Olympic champions. Their third and final opponent will be World Cup rookies the Republic of Ireland. Nigeria is the African selection that has obtained the best result in a World Cup with a quarter-final loss in extra time against Brazil, it was in 1999. The Nigerians have 9 appearances in 2023, like the United States, the Germany, Norway, Sweden, Brazil and Japan.

Zambia

This is a first for Zambia who have never participated in the World Cup before. The draw placed Zambia in group C. The She-polo polo will face the Japanese, titled in 2011 - the first non-American and non-European nation crowned – finalist in 2015 but only eighth-finalist in 2019. Spain and Costa Rica complete Group C.

South Africa

South Africa will play its second World Cup after France 2019 where the South African players had fallen from the group stage. Desiree Ellis



Nigeria's Asiat Oshola and South Korea's Kim Hye-ri the ball during the - Copyright © africanews JEAN-PIERRE CLATOT/AFP or licensors

Banyana Banyana will have a lot to do with a particular Group G opponent: Sweden. The Swedes remain on a final lost at the last World Cup as well as on two finals lost at the Olympic Games. Italy and Argentina, selections of a lower caliber than Sweden it is said, make up the rest of Group G.

Morocco

The Atlas Lionesses will be able to show the extent of their talent during their very first participation in the Women's World Cup. The Moroccans fell into group H. A heterogeneous group with experienced Germany, South Korea and Colombia. If the German selection will have the favour of the forecasts for the first place, the Lionesses of the Atlas will have a blow to play, in particular with their coach Reynald Pedros, who arrived at the head of the team in 2021. He knew how to instil the winning spirit that characterized him when coaching Olympique Lyonnais, which allowed him to win the Champions League twice and be voted The Best – FIFA Coach for Women's Football in 2018.

And here is to finish some statistics with the number of participations of African nations in the Women's World Cup, 2023 included

9: Nigeria

3: Ghana

2: South Africa, Cameroon

1: Ivory Coast, Equatorial Guinea, Morocco, Zambia

EU, Tunisia sign deal to fight illegal migration



Kais Saied shakes hands with Mark Rutte, Ursula von der Leyen and Giorgia Meloni - Copyright © africanews AP/AP

The European Union wishes to negotiate with Egypt and Morocco partnerships similar to the one it has just concluded with Tunisia, relating in particular to the fight against irregular immigration, a European source said on Monday.

The EU and Tunisia signed a memorandum of understanding in Tunis on Sunday for a "comprehensive strategic partnership", which also concerns the country's economic development and renewable energies.

On the migratory aspect, it provides for European aid of 105 million euros intended to prevent the departure of migrant boats to the EU from the Tunisian coasts and to fight against smugglers. But also to facilitate the return to this country of Tunisians who are in an irregular situation in the EU, as well as the return from Tunisia to their countries of origin of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa.

European Commission President Ursula von der

Leyen said she wanted the partnership to be a model for future agreements with countries in the region.

Egypt and Morocco are two countries that could be affected, said a senior European official speaking on condition of anonymity, stressing the benefits of this type of partnership for both sides of the Mediterranean.

But this agreement with Tunis has also drawn criticism because of the treatment of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa by the authorities of this Maghreb country.

Hundreds of migrants were arrested in Tunisia and then "deported", according to NGOs, to inhospitable areas on the borders with Algeria and Libya. Women and children are abandoned in the middle of the desert without water, food or shelter, according to testimonies collected by telephone by AFP and videos sent to NGOs in Tunisia.

It is "not about signing a check" to the Tunisian

EAC force to investigate alleged M23 massacre in eastern DRC

The regional force deployed in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo announced on Monday that it was sending a "verification mission" to the area where the M23 rebels allegedly killed 11 men at the weekend.

Local sources told news agency AFP that the massacre had occurred in Rutshuru territory, some 100 km north of Goma, capital of North Kivu province.

According to the same sources, the bodies were discovered after the withdrawal from the area of M23 rebels, who allegedly clashed with other

armed groups there.

Reacting to the allegations, political spokesman for the M23 rebels, Lawrence Kanyuka, denied any involvement in the massacre and added that the M23 had already handed over the territory to the East Africa Community regional force.

There has been a fragile truce between the M23 and the regular Congolese forces since the EAC force was deployed in the region a few months ago. But sporadic clashes pit the rebels against armed groups claiming to be patriots.

Egypt: building collapses in Cairo killing 9 people



Rescuers search through the rubble of a collapsed five-story apartment building... - Copyright © africanews STR/Copyright 2023 The AP. All rights reserved

A five-storey building collapsed in the Egyptian capital Cairo on Monday, killing at least nine people, authorities said, as rescuers dig through the rubble.

Building collapses are common in Egypt, where shoddy construction and lack of maintenance are widespread in slums, city slums and rural areas. The state-run MENA news agency reported that rescue teams recovered at least nine bodies from under the rubble of the building in Cairo's Hadaeq el-Qubba district, about 3.2 km from the center of the city.

Four survivors were also taken to hospital and authorities evacuated a nearby building, according to MENA.

After an initial inspection, Cairo's deputy governor, Hossam Fawzi, said the collapse was

caused by one of the residents on the ground floor who had removed several walls during earlier maintenance work. The man has been arrested and will be investigated, he added.

Egypt's Ministry of Social Solidarity said it would donate 80,000 Egyptian pounds (\$1,940) to the families of the nine victims. The ministry also said it would provide aid to the injured and was monitoring damage to nearby properties.

Police forces cordoned off the area while rescue teams searched the rubble for possible survivors, according to local reports.

The government has tried to crack down on illegal construction in recent years, after decades of lax enforcement. Authorities are also building new towns and neighborhoods to relocate people living in at-risk areas.

Sudan conflict: children under increasing threat

One in every two children in Sudan, or 13.6 million children, is in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, according to a new report released on Tuesday by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Since the conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) began on April 15, 1.5 million children have been displaced, the UN report said. UNICEF Sudan says it has reached over 3 million women and children with health supplies and 1.4 million people with safe drinking water.

However, with no end to the conflict in sight, the organisation warns that the humanitarian crisis is set to worsen, saying that the "critical needs are rapidly multiplying".

Continued fighting

On Saturday, fighting erupted between the army and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement - North (SPLM-N) in Kadugli, capital of South Kordofan state.

The SPLM-N has besieged the city and taken control of five of the city's six military bases.

Elsewhere, the armed conflict that began in the southern suburbs of Khartoum has now spread to all of Khartoum and other states.

"Children's crisis"

The ongoing conflict is creating a "deepening children's crisis" says UNICEF. Children are now at increased risk of disease, with basic services such as immunisation not fully functioning.

The report says there have been outbreaks of measles and an increase in mortality rates associated with acute malnutrition in Darfur and White Nile.

Across the country, 24.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Since the start of the conflict, there have been over 3,000 deaths and 6,000 injuries. Of those, over 330 children have been killed and 1,900 injured, according to UNICEF.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

authorities; stressed the European official, indicating that the agreement provided for a series of contracts with different actors, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The memorandum of understanding concluded on Sunday between the EU and Tunisia, in the presence of Ursula von der Leyen, President Kais Saied, but also Italian heads of government Giorgia Meloni and Dutch Mark Rutte, will have to be approved by all of EU member states.

While European countries like Italy wanted to be able to send migrants back to Tunisia who had

simply transited through that country, Tunis has made it clear that it does not want "to be a country of settlement for irregular migrants". The agreement therefore only covers the return of Tunisian nationals who are in an irregular situation in the EU.

The protocol signed plans to devote 15 million euros - out of the 105 million - to the "voluntary" return of some 6,000 migrants from sub-Saharan Africa from Tunisia to their countries of origin.

In addition, the EU intends to deliver to the Tunisian coastal authorities eight boats for search and rescue operations and drones.

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INT'L SPORT Willian is set to re-sign for Fulham after his contract expired

Willian is set to re-sign for Fulham after a breakthrough in talks over the weekend.

The former Chelsea forward was a key player for Marco Silva's side last season but there has been uncertainty over his future after his deal expired at the end of the June.

There has been interest from elsewhere, with Nottingham Forest among the teams keen to sign the 33-year-old.

But talks over a return to Craven Cottage - which was always an attractive option for him - are at an advanced stage, with the ex-Arsenal star ready to sign for Fulham once again.

Fulham were keen to offer Willian an initial 12-month deal with the option for a further year - but the contract details are unconfirmed.

Talks over finalising the deal will continue on Monday but the move is close to be concluded.

The 70-cap Brazil international spent

seven seasons at Chelsea from 2013-2020.

He scored 63 goals in 339 appearances in all competitions across his Stamford Bridge spell.

But an unsuccessful season at Arsenal saw him leave the Gunners by mutual consent to join boyhood club Corinthians in Brazil.

When he departed after receiving online threats, he joined Marco Silva's Cottagers on a one-year deal in September.

In January, his goal helped Fulham secure a 2-1 win against his former side - and Fulham's West London rivals - Chelsea.

Willian finished the season with five goals and five assists in 30 appearances in all competitions.

Those totals marked him as the second-top scorer (behind Aleksandar Mitrovic) and second-top assister (behind Andreas Pereira) at the club last campaign.

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



Marcus Rashford agrees a new £375,000-per-week, five-year contract at Man United

Marcus Rashford is on the brink of signing a new five-year deal with Manchester United, according to reports.

The star is preparing to commit to his boyhood club long-term after a blistering season at Old Trafford, which saw him score 30 goals in 56 games across all competition.

The 25-year-old's deal was set to expire in 2024, but as per the Athletic, Rashford's new contract will see him stay at the club until at least 2028.

Mail Sport previously revealed that contract discussions between Man United and Rashford - which have been ongoing for some time - were set to make the England forward among the club's highest earners.

Rashford's previous deal saw him make £250,000 per week, with his salary set to rise to £375,000 a week when he puts pen to paper.

The player, who was seen parking his Rolls Royce on double yellow lines around Cheshire over the weekend, is being represented in negotiations with the Manchester club by his agent Dwaine Maynard.

The new deal will see him become the fourth-highest earner in the Premier League.

Only Erling Haaland and Kevin De Bruyne of Manchester City, and Mohamed Salah of Liverpool, will make more than Rashford when handed his new contract.

Haaland tops the Premier League wage list, earning a staggering £865,000 per week, the fee predominantly driven by a number of related bonuses included on top of his £375,000 base weekly wage.

De Bruyne is the next highest earner in Pep Guardiola's Treble-winning side with his £400,000-a-week salary.

Salah too makes £400,000 a week, after being rewarded with a new and improved three-year contract by the Reds in 2022.

With Rashford's future undetermined in the midst of negotiations, Maynard met with Paris Saint-Germain last summer, although it was always thought that



Rashford would prefer to stay at the club he joined at the age of seven.

One of the academy's most successful graduates, Rashford has scored 123 times in his 359 senior appearances for the club after breaking into the first team in 2016.

His eye-catching club displays have also translated into international success, with Rashford scoring 16 in his 53 caps for England.

Erik ten Hag will hope that Rashford remains in rich goalscoring form ahead of the start of the season, as the club ploughs on without a designated striker. The Dutch manager is focusing his transfer efforts on securing the signature of Atalanta wonderkid Rasmus Hojlund, but the Serie A side are keen to ensure they receive a high fee for the loss of a top talent.

Man United had their players-plus-cash offer rejected by Atalanta before the weekend but will have to work creatively to fit the 20-year-old into their transfer budget of just £120m.

The club have already secured Mason Mount for £60m earlier in the window, and are preparing for the £43m arrival of Andre Onana from Inter Milan to replace David de Gea.

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

Chelsea are put off by striker's salary and prepare £80m Moises Caicedo bid

Hello and welcome to another edition of our transfer newsletter, brought exclusively to you.

My name is Simon Jones and, as well as writing regularly for the Daily Mail and MailOnline, I'm aiming to give you insight, news and the latest chat from across the globe on all the deals taking shape in this summer's transfer window.

It's been another busy week with Man United approaching a deal for Andre Onana, while Rasmus Hojlund remains a key target for them.

Elsewhere, Chelsea have been put off one target by a hefty price tag but are preparing a bid for Brighton's Moises Caicedo.

Below, I bring you the latest news from across the globe.

He rattles into tackles to the strains of 'Tequila' so it's easy to understand why David Moyes likes Fulham favourite Joao Palhinha.

The West Ham manager is a confirmed admirer of the Portuguese midfielder and, for the uninitiated amongst you, 'Tequila' is the tune made famous by The Champs in the 1950s that Fulham fans use to serenade their cult hero.

West Ham would love to give their fans a weekly shot of what Palhinha can bring but have found out that Fulham want around £60million.

That is a big mark-up for a 28-year-old that cost them £20m but Fulham know they have a big talent on their books. As a consequence, West Ham, who are losing head of recruitment analysis Jordan Miles to Aberdeen, are running through other names on their lengthy list.



A verbal offer has been made for Southampton's James Ward-Prowse, while talks have taken place over Denis Zakaria of Juventus, Edson Alvarez at Ajax, Leeds United's Tyler Adams and Scott McTominay is another still in the mix.

Fulham are striving to keep a number of their key players as well as manager Marco Silva.

Willian has been tempted back by an improved contract offer, despite travelling for a medical with Nottingham Forest last week, and is expected to re-sign today but Aleksandar Mitrovic wants to take up an offer to join Al Hilal in Saudi Arabia despite two bids being rejected.

Fulham are also trying again for Callum Hudson-Odoi after an opening offer was knocked back.

The Cottagers still intend to bring in Brazilian centre back Morato from Benfica after having an initial £18m offer rejected.

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