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tribal heads on
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House Speaker chides international community

By Jariatu S. Bangura

Disability community demands inclusion in governance



Executive Secretary for NCPD, Saa Lamin Korleque making his call

The Speaker of the Sierra Leone Parliament, Dr. Abass C. Bundu, has charged that reasons behind the international community's involvement in the current political situation in the country is merely to protect and promote their own interests and not the interest of Sierra Leoneans.



House Speaker, Abass Bundu



President Bio receives certificate of return from Chief Electoral Commissioner

Whilst appreciating felicitations from Members of Parliament and Paramount Chiefs Members of Parliament on his re-election as Speaker, Dr. Bundu noted that MPs should not worry too much about the absence of opposition MPs in the second sittings of the Sixth Parliament, as they will come once they are ready to serve their people.

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COMMENTARY

By Talib Jalloh

1982: the British Jamaican reggae band, Musical Youth, released their first album, *The Youth of Today*. The song was a hit, and the album sold like hotcakes. The band was full of youthful exuberance, and the hit itself was a scintillating reggae that promoted upbeat skankers and effortlessly captured audiences wherever it was played. The melody kept the young and old dancing until the end and the message it amplified was pungent. That message resonates with today's Sierra Leone.

One aspect of the *Youth of Today*'s message will relate to the many youths who believe that they are carrying a heavy load – high-handedness of the security forces and economic burden. The Musical Youth vocalized: "We're under heavy, heavy manners, yeah". The background to this is the declaration of State of Emergency in Jamaica in 1976 by Prime Minister Michael Manley claiming an attempt to overthrow his government. His detractors however believed that it was a ploy to detain opposition members. Heavy manners referred to the overbearingness of repressive and oppressive actions and situations including economic suppression which many youths in Sierra Leone very easily define as "d gron dry". Like the youths of Jamaica would tumble down on the prices of goods, prices in Sierra Leone have become a cause for high blood pressure.

On the other hand, the song calls on the youths to stand up and drive the destiny of their countries: "The youth of today has got lots to say. It's our life; it's our future," the song reassured the youths. Like the Musical Youths, President Bio, despite not receiving congratulatory messages on his re-election as much as we all would have loved, has challenged the youths by appointing a youthful cabinet.

Meet our 36-year-old (or thereabout) dread-locked wearing appointed Chief Minister, David Moinina Sengh, a PhD grad from Harvard who, until recently, finds time to play basketball along the beach at Lumley or football at YSC on Wilkinson Road. When not on the pitch, he does cypha or rap battles with upcoming MCs on the pavement of the streets.

Greet Chernor Bah or C Bah, the girls' champion, now Minister-designate for Information and Civic Education, also claims to be the Bukayo Saka of his six-a-side Saturday football side at the YSC, where he goes to play together with Sengh and others. Like David, Cee

... Of Boys to men & girls to women in Bio's new cabinet

Bah also wears a knotted hairdo, and he is fairly young, maybe just hitting his forties, and he prides describing himself as Kanikyay Borbor on social media.

Like Tim Kabba, the Minister-designate for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, who is also in his mid-30 something or so, Haja Salimatu Bah, Minister-designate for Communication, Technology and Innovation, I am told may have just turned 30 or not too far above 30.

Truth be told, all the above names in the newly announced cabinet have a telling message: the present is in the hands of the youth. And the women. In a country where Kush or 'pampers wata' are drugs or illegal substances ravaging communities to a point where it deserves to be declared as a public health emergency, appointing a cabinet that looks like them, speak like them, talk like them and sometimes, even feel like them is reassuring, if we are serious about addressing the challenges facing the nation.

The Presidency or his re-election may be disputed as the main opposition has cried foul, but the drive to change is unmistakable, at least, judging from the composition of the ministers appointed.

We have had different cabinet makeups. The Joseph Saidu Momoh's cabinet of 'book man dem' – many PhD holders failed us and made education a privilege. Former President Tejan Kabbah had a cabinet of technocrats, but after 10yrs, we were left with many expectations. President Ernest Koroma's cabinet was full of names of Methuselah's age in politics and administration. Ernest should be commended though for appointing a number of young people to ambassadorial positions and a couple to ministerial positions.

In all past cabinets, the management pattern was mainly to keep a distance from the reality of the suffering masses. Accountability and productivity suffered setbacks year after year. The culture was to get rich and invest abroad.

What would we, the taxpayers, spend on this cabinet annually? On average, a deputy minister is paid 25 million Leones monthly and a senior minister

probably 30 million Leones monthly. They get security guards deployed at home and a Close Protection, an official vehicle they pay for on a cost-recovery basis plus fuel, internet and other cellular benefits. Critics believe that with the number of ministers (over 30), funds waste will hit us badly. Judging from past administrations, one can readily agree. And this is where I see the gentlemen and ladies now appointed carrying a heavier burden. Theirs is to turn history around and make their historic appointment worth reading. Theirs is to prove that young blood is hot and hot for growth and development.

Our social contract with the ministers is well-defined and straightforward. All we want as a nation is simple: an effort towards an improved standard of living and the enjoyment of our inalienable

rights. What you should do as ministers is equally simple: reduce leakages. Uphold standards, including ethical values in administration. Get systems in place. Make the youths be proud of having you as ministers and be an inspiration to them. Get results, let your performance be judged by the outstanding results you deliver for the general masses and not the fancy cars you will be driving.

Previous younger ministers may have had an excuse for failing; they were like antelopes in lion's den. Here is an opportunity of mostly equals; you have no excuse to fail the nation.

While congratulating the young ministers-designate, let me remind them that we are watching. And we will be petitioning every month.

(Talib was a journalist with the Concord Times but now works with the UN).

House Speaker chides international community

From over



He urged that they should always be alert to defend and protect the country from those whose only interest is not to come and promote the development of the country, but to protect their interest.

"Forgive me if I offend anyone, but let's take back our minds to the days of slavery. The designated human capital of Africa and West Africa in particular, that was the most important resource we had at that time, was taken away and transported to North America to work in plantations. After slavery, religion was also recourse to another era of exploitation. They were the forerunners of the colonialists and what they did when the colonialists came, they focused on the natural resources of the country, plundered it, to go and develop their own industries and countries," he charged.

He recalled that after attaining independence as a country, the doors were shut by the instruments of independence, which means they can no longer come and access the resources of the country.

"So, there is now intense competition for the country's natural resources and some of them think they can access them by interfering into the domestic affairs of the country and electoral processes and thereby determine who should govern the respective countries," he further charged.

He called on opposition MPs to go to the House, if not for any other reason, but for the people that voted them in and who they promised representation.

"Having done that, for them to turn around and not come to represent their people, it will be an act of betrayal. And there can be no penalty that will suffice as a remedy to the people who have sacrificed through different means to see them in Parliament," he noted.

He reminded the House about 2007 and 2012 when some of them were extremely annoyed about them being told to go to the police after the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) protested the outcome of the elections. But at the end, they had to reconcile themselves and accepted the results willingly and allowed the process to go on.

Dr. Bundu noted that the country is bigger than any political party and that over 60 years of independence, they should take pride of themselves and learn to resolve difference among themselves and not rely on the dictates of outsiders.



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LOCAL NEWS

President Bio receives certificate of return from Chief Electoral Commissioner

President Dr Julius Maada Bio has received the Certificate of Return following his reelection in the June 24 elections from the Chairman and National Returning Officer of the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone, ECSL, Mr Mohamed Konneh.

The Commissioner described the multi-tier elections as peaceful and credible, adding that the results were reflective of the expressions of Sierra Leoneans who voted.

"His Excellency, the hard work and diligent planning in 2022 resulted in peaceful elections and the Commission is satisfied that the result is reflective of the votes of Sierra Leoneans. With pride and honour, all the Commissioners are hereby presenting you with the Certificate of Presidential Election.

Mr. Konneh also presented the Commission's 2022 Annual Report to the President, saying, "On behalf of ECSL, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you, His Excellency, for your re-election as President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, in the just concluded 24 June 2023 multi-tier elections".

He said the presentation of their annual report was in fulfillment of their duty under the law and according to the 1991 Constitution, which provides for the ECSL to submit a report on its programmes and work at least once a year to the President, a

copy of which would be laid before parliament.

"The year 2022 ended on a very sound footing and laid the foundation for the positive outcome of the June 24, 2023, multi-tier elections. The report highlights key milestones on achievements made by the commission, including the conduct of elections for Paramount Chiefs, the operationalisation of policy decisions into actions in line with the Commission's strategic plan that led to the announcement of the election date, legal reform, and voter registration."

"His Excellency, as a Commission we want to thank you and your government for funding the elections. We are grateful to ECOWAS, political parties, and our partners for their collaboration in the conduct of successful and peaceful multi-tier elections," he said.

President Julius Maada Bio said he was delighted to receive the 2022 Annual Report of the ECSL and the Certificate of Presidential Election, which, according to him, were part of the Commission's mandate with clear content on activities undertaken by the Commission in the period under review.

"I want to thank you, the Chairman and



National Returning Officer, and other Commissioners and staff of the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone, for the work that you undertook in the 2023 multi-tier elections.

"You have done a great job executing your mandate. It is, above all, free and fair and the results of the June 24 elections speak for themselves. I am calling on you and other members to continue to work very hard. I thank you for delivering credible elections

and I am proud that I won the election," the President said.

President Julius Maada Bio used the occasion to appeal to all Sierra Leoneans to accept the fact that democracy was a process, adding that that event had come and gone. He said the ECSL, as an institution, was not new to what happened before, during and after the elections because they had conducted elections since the end of the war.

Disability community demands inclusion in governance

By Yusufu S. Bangura

The Sierra Leone Union on Disability Issues (SLUDI) has called on President Julius Maada Bio to include Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the governance structure, stating that they too can contribute in nation building.

They made the above call on Wednesday, 19th July, during a press conference at hosted the Milton Margai School for the Blind, Wilkinson Road in Freetown.

Speaking to the press during the event, Executive Secretary, National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD), Saa Lamin Korteque said inclusion is very important in any society as 'there is nothing about us without us' which is the principle for PWDs.

"What we have been saying over the years is that there has been exclusion for a lot of marginalised groups, but due to policies we have seen that women are coming out from that marginalisation. So, we wish similar thing for us PWDs as well. We can have policies that can drive the inclusion of PWDs across the board. Therefore, we are calling on the government to make sure that

people with disabilities are included in the governance structure," he reiterated.

He said in the last parliament, there were two PWDs representing their political parties, but unfortunately those two parliamentarians didn't return to the 6th Parliament.

He said in the local council they have three PWDS who have been elected as councillors, one in Kambia and two in Makeni.

Korteque said under the Proportional Representation (PR) System there was a missed opportunity for persons with disabilities because they were not able to get symbols.

"However, we are still hopeful that within the governance structure and due to the political will that has been exhibited so far, there will be more radical way of including PWDs in the current structure. We believe that there are other parastatals and Ambassadorial positions that we can serve as we have highly qualified and competent people within the disability landscape," he said.

While reading a press statement, National Secretary General for SLUDI, Abu Bakarr



Executive Secretary for NCPD, Saa Lamin Korteque making his call

Koroma, congratulated President Bio on his re-election.

He commended President Bio for appointing young people and women in governance, although they were yet to see the appointment of PWDs in cabinet, parastatals and ambassadorial positions. He congratulated the newly appointment Minister of Social Welfare.

"The Union is fully committed to working with the Minister of Social Welfare designate for the appointment of the chairman of the National Commission for Persons with Disability to accomplish the dreams and aspirations for the President and improve the conditions of persons with disability in Sierra Leone," he said.

LOCAL NEWS

HRC-SL engages tribal heads on abolishing FGM

By Ishmael Dumbuya

Human Rights Commission Sierra Leone (HRCSL), in collaboration with Forum Against Harmful Practices, (FAHP), with support from UNICEF and Restless Development, has yesterday 19th July engaged tribal heads and Paramount Chiefs on the dangers and harmful practices of Female Genital Mutilation as well as their roles in eradicating it. The engagement was held at the CCSL conference hall, Brookfields, Freetown.

In her opening statement, Director Gloria Bayoh explained that the purpose for organising such engagement was to create awareness and enlightened the tribal heads and paramount chiefs about their roles and responsibilities within their respective chiefdoms in ensuring that the harmful practices of FGM is either curtailed or abolished. She added that the fight against FGM started over two decades ago, but that they were yet to accomplish their targets.

The Chairman, tribal heads, Chief Saa Gbekie, stated that they as chiefs' do not frown at FGM, but are very much concerned with its harmful practices and the effects it has on their women and girls, adding that his mother was a genital excisor (Sowei), but managed to educate him. Chief Gbekie went on to state that tribal heads and paramount chiefs are very much important in abolishing FGM, as they are always consented when female mutilations are done.



Tribal heads at the engagement

"Even though we respect our traditions and customs, but the HRCSL organizing such engagements will help shed light on the harmful practices of FGM," he noted.

A representative from the Ministry of Health, Mariam Sow underscored that the health impacts of FGM is very devastating, noting that involving paramount chiefs and tribal heads in the fight is a step in the right direction.

Sow explained that the effects of FGM cannot be overrated as it causes severe pain, cutting the nerve ends and sensitive genital tissue causes extreme pain, excessive bleeding, when the clitoral artery or other blood vessel is cut, shock, swelling, infections, urination problems and most times death.

An FGM victim, Salamatu Samura from Tonko Limba, explained that the experiences she encountered during the mutilation process was back breaking and monstrous. She added that she was physically, sexually and mentally abused during the process by so called Soweis, noting that it an experience she never want to encounter again.

Driver granted 50m bail for alleged fraud

By Mohamed J Kargbo

Alimamy Sesay, a driver made his first appearance before Magistrate Mark Ngegba of Pademba Road Court No.1 in Freetown and he was granted bail.

The accused person was standing trial on a count charge of fraudulent conversion, contrary to Section of 20 (1) (iv) (a) of the Larceny Act 1916.

According to the particulars of offence, on Thursday, 22nd June, 2023, at the Shell Lorry Park, Kissy in Freetown, fraudulently converted to his own use or benefit certain property, fifteen pieces of three inches P.E complin pipes valued fifteen thousand Leones (15,000), entrusted to him by Alex Ikechukwe for the purpose of delivery.

When the charge was read and

explained to him by the court registrar, the accused person pleaded not guilty to the allegations.

The prosecutor, Sergeant 9939 Mohamed Lahai sought for a short adjournment date for him to bring in his witness to testify in court.

Meanwhile, Magistrate Ngegba granted the accused person bail in the sum of fifty thousand New Leones, with two sureties in like sum.

He ordered that the sureties should be resident in the Western Area and should produce valid identity card depicting his or her address in Freetown.

He said the bail should be approved by the Deputy Assistant Registrar.

The matter adjourned to the 25th July 2023 for further hearing.

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Guinea suspends agricultural exports to preserve stocks

Guinea's ruling junta has suspended the export of several agricultural products, including rice, potatoes, and palm oil, for six months to preserve its "food sovereignty" and "social peace".

This decision is linked to the concern to preserve stocks before the next harvests, and "not at all" to the expiry on Monday of the agreement between Moscow and Kiev, which allowed Ukraine to export cereals, notably to Africa, despite the war, the Guinean Ministry of Trade said.

"We are entering a (lean) period. We need to replenish our reserves to ensure food sovereignty and social peace", a trade ministry official told AFP on Tuesday.

The suspension of exports concerns around fifteen staple foods (rice, onions, potatoes, dried chilli peppers, fresh chilli peppers, aubergines, okra, fresh tomatoes, taro, cassava, maize, cassava, and maize flours, yams, sweet potatoes, and palm oil), the ministry said in a statement dated Monday and sent to AFP on

Tuesday.

Exports of these products are "prohibited for a period of six months", on pain of fines or even criminal prosecution, it warned.

Guinea, one of the poorest countries in the world despite its rich subsoil (iron, bauxite, and gold in particular), usually exports these agricultural products to many West African countries.

On Monday, Moscow refused to extend the cereals agreement signed with Ukraine in July 2022 under the aegis of the United Nations and Turkey, and subsequently extended several times, denouncing the obstacles to trade in fertilisers and Russian products.

This agreement allowed Ukrainian cereals to be exported via the Black Sea despite the Russian invasion, to the benefit of African countries in particular.

Guinea has been ruled since 2021 by a junta that seized power in a putsch. Under international pressure, the military agreed to hand over power to elected civilians by the end of 2024.

World Champion Tobi Amusan charged with missing drug tests, Risks Suspension



FILE - Tobi Amusan, of Nigeria, wins the women's 100-meter hurdles final - Copyright © africanews Ashley Landis/Copyright 2022 The AP. All rights reserved

World-record hurdler Tobi Amusan says she has been charged with an anti-doping rules violation for missing three drug tests in the span of 12 months.

The Nigerian posted the news on her Instagram account Tuesday and said she would fight the charges.

"I am a CLEAN athlete, and I am regularly (maybe more than usual) tested by the AIU," she wrote, in referencing the Athletics Integrity Unit, which oversees doping issues in international track and is the agency that charged her with the violation.

At the world championships in Oregon last year, Amusan stunned a still-arriving crowd by setting the world record with a time of 12.12 seconds in the semifinals of the 100-meter hurdles.

She came back about 90 minutes later to win the gold medal in 12.06, but that time did not go into the record books because there was too strong a

tailwind.

"When I watched the record, I was like 'Whoa, who did that?'" Amusan said of her reaction upon seeing her time pop up on the scoreboard.

Amusan went to college at Texas El-Paso and had been training partners with Nigerian UTEP alum Blessing Okagbare. Okagbare is serving an 11-year ban for multiple doping violations, stemming from a federal investigation into an El Paso doctor who pleaded guilty to distributing human-growth hormone and other banned substances.

Missing three doping tests can result in a two-year ban, though exceptions can be made for different circumstances.

Amusan said she was tested "within days" of her third missed violation and had faith the matter would be resolved in time for her to compete at next month's world championships.

BRICS: Putin will not attend summit in South Africa

Russian President Vladimir Putin will not attend the BRICS summit in South Africa in August, South Africa's presidency said on Wednesday.

The summit will instead be attended by Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, alongside the leaders of Brazil, India, China and South Africa. In a statement, the South African presidency said the decision was reached "by mutual agreement" between the two countries.

Putin's possible attendance at the summit had presented a diplomatic dilemma for South Africa. The Russian President is under arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged war crimes linked to the war in Ukraine.

As an ICC member, South Africa would be obliged

to arrest Putin were he to appear in person at the summit.

On Tuesday, South African president Cyril Ramaphosa asked permission from the ICC not to arrest Putin, according to a local court submission published on Tuesday. Ramaphosa said that arresting Putin would amount to a declaration of war.

The Kremlin responded on Wednesday saying Russia did not tell South Africa that arresting Putin on an ICC arrest warrant would mean "war".

South Africa has refused to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine, saying it is neutral and favours dialogue. However, the country has been criticised by Western powers for its closeness to Moscow.

At least 34 passengers killed in bus accident in Algeria's south, 12 injured

At least 34 people were killed when a passenger bus collided head-on with a commercial vehicle and burst into flames in the country's southern desert Wednesday, Algerian officials said.

One of the North African country's deadliest road crashes in years also left 12 others injured, many with burn wounds, Algeria's civil defence agency said.

Unverified media images showed the mangled and charred hull of the bus after the accident which occurred at around 4:00 am (0300 GMT) near Tamanrasset, about a 2,000-kilometre (1,250 miles) drive south from the capital Algiers.

Local media reported burnt bodies were recovered from the bus wreck, near the town of Outoul, 20 kilometres west of Tamanrasset, deep in the Sahara.

The civil defence agency said the bus was carrying passengers between Tamanrasset and Adrar, a town of about 2,000 residents to the northwest. Footage broadcast by local media showed the bus going up in a massive ball of flames.

Other images shared by Algerian media show rescuers at the scene, near the two burnt vehicles that were involved in the accident.

Authorities did not immediately elaborate on the circumstances of the deadly crash or what had caused it. Deadly roads

Speed is the main cause of road accidents in the country, according to a government road safety agency.

There was no official comment on the accident. Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune is currently in China for a state visit.

Mohamed Boudraa, the governor -- locally known as wali -- of Tamanrasset, visited the local hospital where the 12 injured were being treated, the official APS news agency reported.

It said they suffered serious burns.

Provincial officials also arrived at the site of the accident to oversee rescue operations, APS said.

Algeria recorded nearly 23,000 road accidents in 2022, leaving 3,409 people dead and more than 30,000 injured, according to the country's road safety chief Nacef Abdelhakim.

Tamanrasset is an important transport hub for the movement of people and goods from Algeria's far south to the coastal north.

The region, near the borders of Mali and Niger, is also a key transit point for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa hoping to reach Europe via Algeria.

In December 2020, a car crash near Tamanrasset killed 20 people and injured 11 others, most of them African migrants.

Nigeria: ECOWAS discusses democratic transitions and security

Four countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) discussed democratic transitions and security in the region in Nigeria on Tuesday, the organization said.

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu, who was elected ECOWAS President last Sunday, held talks in Abuja with officials from Niger, Guinea-Bissau and Benin. They notably discussed security in Mali after the withdrawal of the UN mission (MINUSMA), created in 2013 to support the country threatened by the jihadist push.

At the end of June, the UN Security Council put an end to the MINUSMA peacekeeping mission at the request of the Malian military junta, which is critical of Westerners and which has moved closer to Russia.

Three of the 15 member countries of ECOWAS -- Mali, Burkina Faso, and Guinea -- are today ruled by military juntas, after a recent series of military coups (five since 2020).

At the same time, the jihadist groups Al-Qaeda and Islamic State have gained ground in the Sahel, extending their attacks south to countries in the Gulf of Guinea.

Supported by Niger, Nigeria, Benin, and Guinea-Bissau have set up a tripartite commission to find alternative security solutions after the withdrawal of the UN mission in Mali, including the possible deployment of soldiers from countries of ECOWAS.



Members await the arrival of dignitaries during a joint press conference by - Copyright © africanews Ben Curtis/Copyright 2023 The AP. All rights reserved

On behalf of this task force, the President of Benin, Patrice Talon, will soon travel to Mali, Burkina Faso, and Guinea to discuss security and democratic transitions after the coups, indicated Omar Aliou Touray, President of the ECOWAS Commission, to the press in Abuja.

The four countries meeting in Abuja "reaffirmed their support for rapid democratic transitions in these countries", he added. In terms of security, "they are committed to providing a solid response", referring to the possible deployment of troops from ECOWAS countries, he added, without further details.

Last December, the ECOWAS countries decided to create a regional force dedicated to intervening not only against jihadism but also in the event of a coup. But few details have emerged since about its Constitution and funding, which still need to be clarified.

Schools in Kenya closed over demonstrations called by the opposition

With police deployed, streets deserted and schools closed, Kenya was gearing up for another tense day of opposition protests on Wednesday.

The government has promised to respond firmly to any excesses, following deadly violence at previous rallies.

The Azimio coalition, led by veteran politician Raila Odinga, has called for three consecutive days of demonstrations starting today against the policies of President William Ruto, whom they accuse of exacerbating the rising cost of living in this East African country.

"We call on Kenyans to (...) take back their country before this dictatorship takes firm root", Azimio said in a statement on Tuesday.

For the government, these demonstrations are "nothing more than a threat to national security".

On Wednesday morning, public schools remained closed, at the request of the authorities, in the country's three major cities: the capital Nairobi, Mombasa (south) and Kisumu (west).

The usually busy streets of Nairobi were empty, security forces were deployed at several points in the city, and many shops kept their curtains down, AFP journalists observed.

This is the third time since early July that the opposition has organised such days of action. During the previous

one, on 12 July, rallies were banned by the authorities and were marred by looting and clashes between demonstrators and the police.

At least nine people were killed and more than 300 arrested. The police, who fired tear gas and live ammunition, were strongly criticised for their crackdown on the demonstrators.

On Tuesday, Interior Minister Kithure Kindiki said that the authorities had deployed "all available resources" to ensure that the scenes "we witnessed (...) do not happen again".

In a joint statement on Tuesday, thirteen Western countries, including the United States and the United Kingdom, expressed their concern at the "high levels of violence" during the latest demonstrations, urging the various parties to "resolve their differences peacefully".

Elected in August 2022 on the promise of reviving the economy and supporting the most disadvantaged, President Ruto enacted a finance bill introducing new taxes at the beginning of July, despite criticism from the opposition and the population.

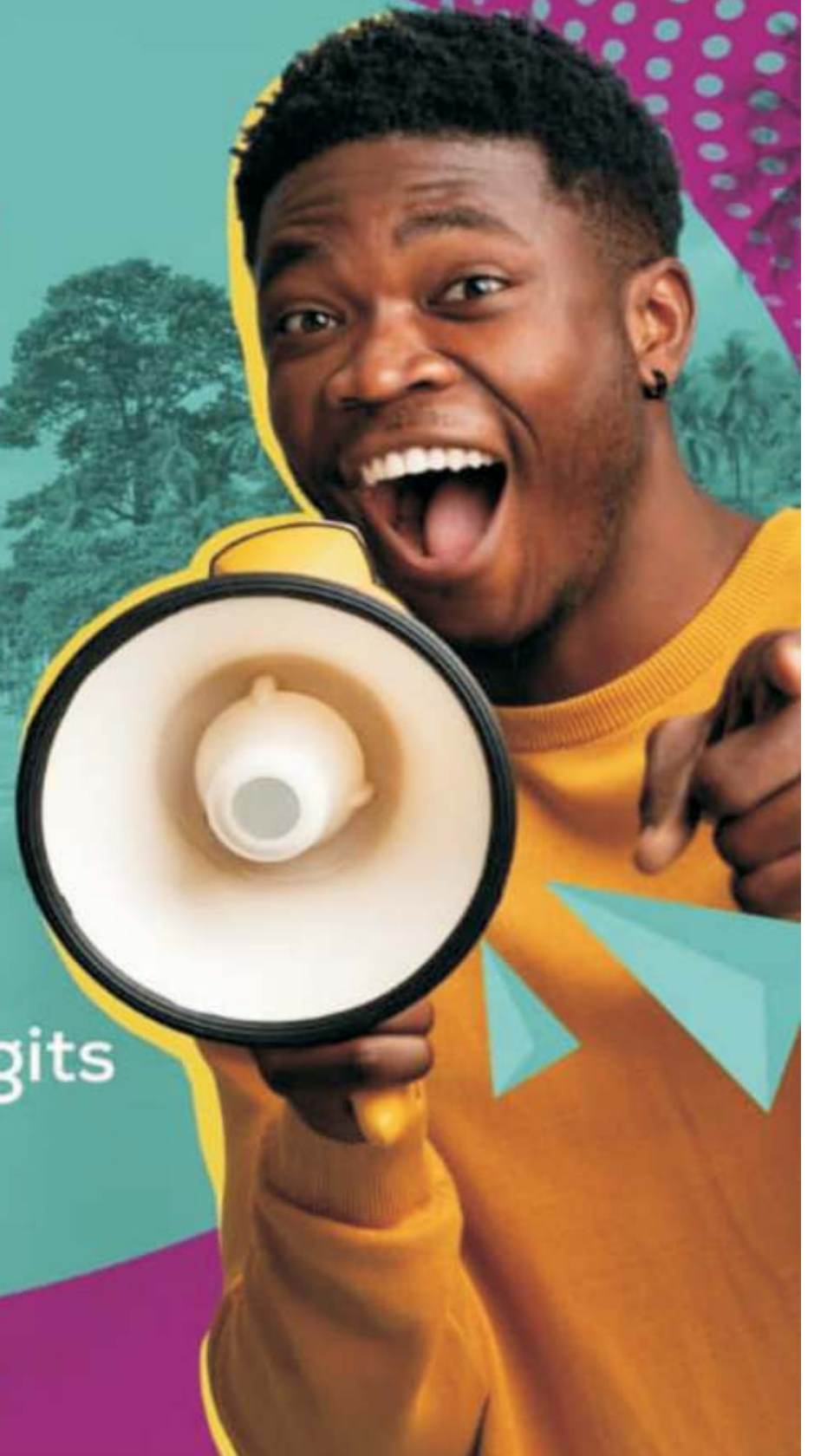
Kenya, the economic powerhouse of East Africa, is facing high inflation and a large debt, contracted in particular under the presidency of Uhuru Kenyatta, of whom William Ruto was Vice-President.

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Press Release EMTECH releases its Web-3 enabled Central Banking Digital Currency Innovation Kit for fintechs

...EMTECH's Beyond Cash or (BYDC) is a CBDC Simulator built on Hedera layer 1 protocol with pre-built APIs that simplify the integration of digital cash in fintech products across various use cases.

EMTECH, an award-winning software company and first-of-its-kind Modern Central Banking Infrastructure provider, today announced the public release of its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) Innovation Kit for fintechs and financial service providers looking to test new fintech solutions and business models with Central Bank Digital Currency.

With over 10 trillion of paper cash in circulation and over 93percent of central banks exploring and piloting CBDCs introducing a digital version of cash, the CBDC Innovation Kit provides fintechs a set of tools with which to begin their discovery of the possibilities of a digital cash infrastructure.

Leveraging a public distributed ledger technology (Hedera Hashgraph) as a layer 1 protocol and ERC-20 standard for tokenization, EMTECH's simulated token called "Beyond Cash" is used for the purpose of innovation projects with fintech ecosystems. The CBDC Innovation Kit makes BYDC accessible via developer-friendly APIs for a "Bring Your Own App" ecosystem model and comes with pre-built dashboards for users as they run their tests.

The APIs allow a fintech company to embed BYDC wallets via their app, test various types of transactions and pull wallet and transaction data from the ledger. This is the company's first CBDC offering to help Fintechs understand what's in it for them with CBDC.

"We're extremely proud to officially announce this flagship CBDC offering for fintechs. Our point of view has been consistent: enabling central banks to safely deploy their CBDC as a digital cash infrastructure, not just a software application can drive inclusion, interoperability and resilience by embracing the growing fintech ecosystems.

From payments, savings to

lending and investments, from rideshares to remittances. Imagine if the US\$10 trillion or more of paper cash floating in the world was issued digitally, used and accounted securely, in real time and seamlessly. Imagine what fintech apps could do for cash users." said EMTECH Founder and CEO, Carmelle Cadet.

"By creating a simulator with the generic name "Beyond Cash" and pre-built APIs ready to use, we bring modern central banking closer to fintechs and we help our central bank clients validate what's possible as part of their exploration."

"This is a first for EMTECH, and with a beta launch earlier this year, we saw the interest from fintechs who signed up for our Innovation Kit. Even without a live CBDC deployed, there's a lot of capacity to build on fintech side as well. We are eager to help explore new possibilities with CBDCs coming down the pipe. Those who get ahead of the curve have much to gain," said Tunji Odumuboni, Executive Director, Africa at EMTECH.

CBDC is objectively a hot topic in finance today. There are many questions and theories on what CBDCs are and are not. In our design, we take seriously the concerns on privacy and controls. By launching this innovation kit, we believe we can help showcase how we're designing for trust and adoption. Once established, the industry can solve challenges for the billions of people out of the banking system such as, lack of access to capital and high cost of cross border payments. - Gbemi Munis, Director Of Product at Product.

Despite their broad inclusion in Central Bank strategies, the impact of CBDC on economic and financial systems remains relatively unknown. Introducing them could present significant risks, such as issues with monetary policy transmission, efficient functionality of payment systems, and overall financial stability. To reduce these variables, Central Banks must understand the implications of various CBDC configurations.

CBDC's Innovation Kit creates the opportunity for fintechs and other financial service providers to test those configurations in their own app much faster and with little to no risk.

Fintechs can read more on: www.emtech.com/cbdcinnovationkit

About EMTECH

EMTECH builds the next generation API-First Central-Banking Infrastructure. EMTECH provides software, data and services that connect central banks to other regulators and financial services providers. Our platforms power regulatory data exchange, currency issuance and currency movement in financial markets.

Founded and Led by a former IBM Blockchain Executive who worked on the first CBDC to be deployed in the world, EMTECH is a market leader in modern central banking infrastructure. EMTECH is a diverse global firm leveraging technology to make financial ecosystems inclusive and resilient by design. For more information visit www.emtech.com and follow on Twitter and LinkedIn.



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Ecobank
The Pan African Bank



Independent Procurement Review Panel
3 Wellington Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Email: WWW.IPRP.gov.sl



17th July, 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

IPRP CONCLUDES INVESTIGATION INTO COMPLAINT BROUGHT AGAINST THE FREE EDUCATION PROJECT SECRETARIAT AND GRACE MACK ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

The Independent Procurement Review Panel (IPRP) has concluded the matter **between the Free Education Project Secretariat under the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary School Education (RESPONDENT) MBSSE and Grace Mack Engineering and Construction Freetown, (Appellant).**

Based on the summary of facts, the Free Education Secretariat advertised a bid in September, 2022 in local newspapers, inviting Competitive Expression of Interest (EOI) for construction of classrooms, Admin Blocks and Wash Facilities in Kono District lot 10.

The Appellant submitted a bid on 22nd December, 2022 expressing interest to construct classrooms, Admin Blocks, as well as Wash Facilities.

After the expression of interest, the Appellant was invited to a bid opening by the procurement committee of the Respondent. Bids were opened in the presence of bidders.

During the bid opening, the Complainant alleged that Yorma Engineering and Construction Services did not include Power of Attorney which was a conditional precedent to be full filled.

The Appellant furthered that his entity complied with the said requirement, and after the evaluation process, the respondent in a letter dated on 28th April, 2023 informing the appellant that his entity was unsuccessful in the evaluation process.

The IPRP held a day hearing providing opportunity for both parties in the said matter and the panel holds that:

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

Conclusions:

- Ø The Panel finds that the Power of Attorney was included in the bid data sheet and was not a condition for disqualification of the bidder.
- Ø The Appellant had issues in understanding the technical language used in the bid document which led to his inadvertent non compliance with simple instructions especially the aspect of bid instruction that require bidders to have HND as a qualification for one of its core staff instead of OND, validity as well as bid security validity.
- Ø The Complainant ESHS Management Strategies and implementation plan was not detailed and ranked him

partially responsive as well as mobilization schedule not provided and ranked partially non – responsive. However, claimed he submitted methodology instead of mobilization schedule. Under technical requirement, the complainant was ranked non- responsive as site organization was not provided.

- Ø The Evaluation Committee of the Procuring Entity did not observe stringent procurement guidelines thereby allowing bidding institutions to progress from technical to financial evaluation stage though certain criterion were not fully met.
- Ø The Panel finds that the complainant did not meet the qualification condition for HND but submitted an OND and was considered partially responsive. In procurement either the bidder is responsive or none – responsive. Rating of bidder partially responsive was merely at the discretion of the procuring entity without recourse to the law governing public procurement laws of Sierra Leone.
- Ø The Panel hereby orders that the previous winner be awarded the contract.
- Ø The Panel having listened passionately to both parties, with further factual review of the complaint, the Panel finds that the Appellant has no case as he flouted the instructions of the ITB and section 21(1), 21 (5) of the Public Procurement Act of 2016.
- Ø The Free Education Project Secretariat should endeavor to do due diligence during their evaluation of bids thereby allowing bidder (s) (is or are) qualified to progress to the next stage in a bid to prevent confusion.

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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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 srl-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 \(ungm.org\)](https://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



Orphanage Complex, Kissi Town, Waterloo

19th July, 2023

Attendees

- 1. Fikret Guler - Director & President
- 2. Osman S. Dumbuya - Board member

Extra Ordinary Resolution

The board unanimously agreed at a meeting of the Board of Trustees:

- 1. That the **AFRICA HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOUNDATION** with Registration number **SL071119AFRICO6725** be wind up as a company.
 - 2. And that Mr. Fikret Guler being the Director & President, coordinates with the company's legal representative to gazette this resolution and publish on national newspapers as provided for in the company Act of 2009
- There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned till further notice.

[Signature]

Fikret Guler
Director & President

[Signature]

Osman S. Dumbuya
Member

Cc: The Registrar, Cooperate Affairs Commission
File

Tell: +232 76 644 266
Email ahrfsierraleone@gmail.com



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

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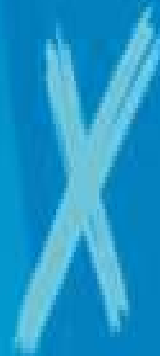


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INT'L SPORT Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's return to Chelsea is delayed again

Chelsea have pushed back Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's return date again amid interest in the striker from Marseille.

Aubameyang was due back at Cobham today, a revised date Chelsea had given some of their out-favour players last week to allow extra time to resolve their futures and explore potential moves.

But Aubameyang was informed he can instead report back to Chelsea's Cobham training ground on Tuesday. Romelu Lukaku is also expected back on Tuesday having similarly had his planned return delayed from last week, as is Hakim Ziyech.

Chelsea have been in talks with Juventus and Al-Hilal over a deal for Lukaku, though his previous preference, Inter Milan, have ditched their pursuit of the Belgian striker.

Aubameyang was not due to be part of the Chelsea squad flying out to America on Monday for their pre-season tour.



© Getty Images

Man United are set to begin talks over striker Rasmus Hojlund with Atalanta this week



Manchester United will pick up talks with Atalanta over striker Rasmus Hojlund this week.

Paperwork is still being exchanged on Monday on the club-to-club agreements for Inter Milan goalkeeper Andre Onana.

But with the fee expected to be closer to £41m all in, United have a little more in their budget to throw at the deal for Hojlund.

The Italians have rebuffed offers of players in return so far as they value the Dane at £86m in the current market where young centre forwards are at a premium.

According to Mail Sport's Simon Jones in Monday's Transfer Confidential, the reality is an offer around £65million may bear fruit but it's still high for a 20-year-old striker

who scored just ten goals for Atalanta last season.

Hojlund has a short term representation deal with SEG, the same agents as Erik ten Hag, and has made it clear he wants to join United. With 25-year-old Marcus Rashford agreeing a new five year contract, Hojlund's arrival would allow United to consider offers for Anthony Martial and send Mason Greenwood out on loan.

They expect offers for Galatasaray target Fred, Donny van de Beek and Scott McTominay which will open the door for Fiorentina's Sofyan Amrabat. Liverpool have not stepped up for the Dutch-born Moroccan metronome as yet and United could get a deal done for around £25m.

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

He joined Chelsea last summer under Thomas Tuchel but found himself increasingly underused and overlooked under Graham Potter while also being omitted from the club's squad for the Champions League knockout stages.

Aubameyang's reputation remains strong on the continent and he has been subject of interest from a number of major European clubs, with Champions League qualifiers Marseille emerging as contenders for his signature.

They are in talks with Chelsea over a move for Aubameyang who has played previously in France for Dijon, Lille, Monaco and St Etienne.

He has been among the Premier League players wanted by clubs in Saudi Arabia.

Aubameyang still has an initial year left on the contract he signed when he joined Chelsea which is worth over £200,000-per-week.

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

Manor Solomon: Tottenham sign winger from Shakhtar Donetsk

Tottenham have signed Manor Solomon from Shakhtar Donetsk on a on a five-year deal.

The 23-year-old Israel winger spent last season on loan at Fulham, where he scored five goals in 24 appearances.

Solomon becomes Tottenham's fourth signing of the summer after winger Dejan Kulusevski, goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario and England midfielder James Maddison.

The deal is reported to be a free transfer.

Tottenham finished eighth in the Premier League last season and missed out on European qualification.

Solomon joined Fulham on loan from Shakhtar after exercising a Fifa rule allowing Ukraine-based players to



suspend their contracts.

The rule, applying to players who are not Ukrainian nationals, was introduced by the world governing body following the invasion by Russia. Solomon's performances helped Fulham to a 10th-placed Premier League finish and manager Marco Silva was keen to keep him.

He has 35 caps for Israel and has scored seven goals since making his international debut in 2018.

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



Former Sierra Leone, Horoya AC midfielder Dies in Ivory Coast



Former Leone Stars international, Horoya AC and CI Kamsar central midfielder, Abu Bakarr Mansaray aka Robinho D Match has been reported dead in Ivory Coast through illness.

The 29-year-old sensational midfield maestro had lot of spell with premier league clubs in Sierra Leone having played for FC Johansen, FC Kallon, Old Edwardians, and Ports Authority.

Before leaving Sierra Leone for neighbouring Guinea, the late Mansaray was part of the Water Front Boys; Ports Authority squad that last played in the CAF Champions league preliminary qualifiers against Guinean champions, Horoya AC in 2012.

In Guinea Abu Bakarr Mansaray represented Horoya AC in the CAF Champions league and CI Kamsar in the CAF Confederations Cup respectively.

Mansaray capped once for the Sierra Leone senior national team Leone Stars, and made his debut in 2015 in Sierra Leone 4-0 defeat to Iran in an international friendly.

In June 2011, Mansaray was invited for trial by Swedish top division club, Kalmar FF.

According to the invitation letter signed by the club's director, Svante Samueleson, the trial is scheduled to run from August 1



to October 31, 2011. The invitation letter reads: "Our club would like to invite Abu Bakarr Mansaray to Sweden to train with our team for the period of August 1 to October 31, 2011."

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NOC-SLE Dele meets IOC in Switzerland

President of the National Olympic Committee of Sierra Leone (NOC-SLE) Prince Sualley yesterday leads a five-man delegation to Switzerland as they start a 3-day work visit at the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Headquarters, Olympic House in Geneva.

The opening day engagement is a Meeting with Olympic Solidarity with the area of NOC Management being discussed as the main topic.

The NOC-SLE President and team are expected to do a presentation to IOC as part of today's event.

The meeting will continue with a Meeting with NOC Relations and the main topic to engage is Institutional Relations & Governance.

Today's meeting will climax with a courtesy visit to the IOC President, Thomas Bach at the Olympic House followed by a guided tour of the Olympic House.

The other members who accompanied the NOC-SLE President includes; Unisa Deen Kargbo-Treasurer, Ms Marie Deborah Tarawallie-President, Sierra Leone Fencing Association, Victor Edward Amara Ex-



officio II, Bai Bangura-Project Manager and Martin Momoh Bangura- Head Legal and Ethics Commission.

This is the first time over decades in the

history of the Sierra Leone Olympics that a delegation from the NOC-SLE is making such a visit to the world Olympic governing body, the IOC.