

United by
One Bank

We know our way
around finance in Africa



www.ubasierraleone.com



Follow us: Concord Times Newspaper | @Concordtimes | sl_concord_times

CONCORD TIMES
NEWSPAPER

Vol. 17, No 140250944

Monday, July 31, 2023

Price: Le 2

ALSO INSIDE

**Africell launches
over Le5b
Mega Promo**



Laywer Marraah takes ECSL to task, demands summary results for all 16 districts

By Alhaji Haruna Sani



New Information Minister, Chernoh Bah

New Information Minister to tackle cyber bullying

Lawyer and rights activist, Augustine Sorie-Sengbe Marraah has written to the Electoral Commission requesting for certified and verified district level results of the presidential, local councils and parliamentary elections held on June 24th, 2023.

While making it clear that he is writing in his capacity as a citizen of Sierra Leone and a registered voter in the last general elections, Lawyer Marraah made his request pursuant to Section 2(1) of the Right to Access Information Act, 2013.

He questioned whether the Electoral Commission Sierra Leone (ECSL) has in its custody and/or in possession of all sixteen districts certified summary results for the presidential, parliamentary and local councils elections by the respective Districts Returning Officers, pursuant to Section 92(1) of the Public Elections Act 2022

Cont. Page 3



Lawyer SorieSengbe Marraah says ECSL could save itself from public mistrust

President Bio encourages pilgrims to serve as agents of peace, unity

Kailahun stakeholders endorse ESHIA report on lot two of MRU Road Project

Budgit Sierra Leone educates journalists on their activities

ECOBANK SAVE AND WIN PROMO!

The more you Save the Greater Your Chances of Winning

ecobank.com

• Terms and Conditions Apply

Save NLE 5,000, NLE 10,000, NLE 20,000 or more and enter the draw

Op-ED

Every day the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States are working together with the African Union (AU) to make the EU-Africa partnership stronger and closer to the people of Africa and Europe. The relationship between Europe and Africa is made of unparalleled human, cultural, geographical and economic links, not incantations, promises and affirmations. At the 6th European Union (EU) - African Union (AU) Summit in February 2022, over 80 leaders from Africa and Europe met in Brussels to adopt an ambitious agenda and to sustain a partnership of peace, security, solidarity and prosperity based on equality, respect and mutual understanding.

Europe and Africa need each other to build a solid and lasting response to global and common challenges, from climate change to peace and security or economic development that affect us all. The partnership between the EU and the AU, rooted in dialogue and multilateralism, is solution-oriented and forward-looking. Europe and Africa are joint stakeholders in a multilateral, rules-based international system.

The EU and its Member States were among the first to express full support for the integration of the AU within the G20; the EU supports Africa in its ambitions to become a key global player. Together, the AU and the EU can be pillars in the defence of a rules-based world, where sovereignty, territorial integrity and the right to self-determination are safeguarded.

The EU is deeply committed to the safety and prosperity of its neighbours, as it is also a condition for our own security and prosperity and we strive to be a reliable and predictable partner.

In times of rising global food insecurity, the EU stands by its commitment to facilitate the export of grain and other agricultural products from Ukraine. We would like to repeat that from day one, the EU has exempted food and agricultural inputs (including fertilisers) from its sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation. Complementary to the Black Sea Grain Initiative, the EU has set up the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes through which almost 61 million tonnes of cereals leave Ukraine by land. While it is often quoted that only a minor percentage of

agricultural products exported from Ukraine has reached African consumers directly, the combined economic effects of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and the Solidarity Lanes have resulted in a 23% decrease in the price index for grain on the global market.

Looking beyond the immediate need to mitigate price volatility for foodstuffs on the global market, the EU will have mobilized by 2024 almost 7 billion Euro to improve food security in Africa; more than 3 billion Euro has already been disbursed. This includes the EU's contributions to the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust. Other initiatives, such as the Alliance on Sustainable Cocoa (EU, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana) are enhancing the resilience of food systems and the sustainability of agri-value chains. **In Sierra Leone, the European Union has invested more than 100 million Euro in crop diversification, supporting a magnitude of value chains, such as coco, cassava, cashew nut, palm oil, onions, etc.**

As agreed at the 6th EU-AU Summit, to strengthen quality infrastructure, nearly 150 billion Euro of investments will be mobilized by 2027 in Africa as part of the "Global Gateway Investment" strategy. These investments are already taking place today and the European Union is translating commitments made at the Summit into reality. **In Sierra Leone, the EU financed major road infrastructure, such as the Masiaka-Guinea highway with the important Magbele Bridge, the Masiaka-Bo highway, the Bandajuma to Liberia road including the Sewa, Waanje and Moa bridges. Further, the EU financed the Makene-Kabala highway and the Moyamba-Moyamba Junction road, the Mabang Bridge as well as the rehabilitation of 175 Km of feeder roads in Koinadugu, Tonkolili and Bombali. Many of these stretches lie on the Praia/Dakar/Abidjan strategic corridor, which is supported by EU's Global Gateway initiative. Electric interconnectivity is another Global Gateway objective that shall help to deepen West Africa's economic integration. Therefore, the EU co-finances the West African Power Pool, which improved availability and reliability of electricity including in Sierra Leone.**

The concrete and tangible results are here. They confirm the EU as Africa's prime partner at all levels, on trade, investments and development. Europe has been and will remain a long-standing partner of Africa - the recent renewal of the agreement with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, in existence since 1975, is just one more demonstration of our commitment.

On peace and security, notwithstanding multiple crises across the globe, the EU has sustained its support to AU and African-led peace support



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Actions say more than words - illustrations of the EU-Africa partnership

operations. Again, this translates commitments made at the 6th EU-AU Summit into action. For the period 2022-24, 600 million Euro is being allocated to these missions via the European Peace Facility (EPF), complementing support under other development instruments. An example is EU support to the African transition mission in Somalia (AMISOM/ATMIS) amounting to 2.7 billion Euro since 2007. The eleven training and assistance missions on the continent are another testimony of EU's support to African partners' peace and security objectives. Africa has and will continue to remain a key area of operations with EPF support.

While others seek to divide, the EU in its partnership with Africa seeks to deliver and foster cooperation. The commitments made by some other countries do not stand up to the test of time. Conversely, the EU and its Member states have consistently invested in Africa and facilitated the duty free access of African exports in the EU.

As a tangible sign of our willingness to engage in a partnership that concretely benefits Africa, 33 of the least developed African countries including Sierra Leone have benefitted from the most favourable customs regime, removing tariffs and quotas for all imports of goods to the EU - except arms and ammunition. As of today, the EU is by far the main trade partner of the African continent, with a total volume of 268 billion Euro in 2021 and 90% of African exports entering the European Union duty free. The EU is encouraged by the potential of the AfCFTA and has been supporting it since the beginning, contributing, under a Team Europe approach, with expertise, institutional capacity and exchanges on lessons learned.

The EU has its share of responsibility in global warming and is investing heavily to curb emissions in Europe, it also stands by the side of the countries that are victims of or are suffering from the consequences of global warming and need support in their climate transition. We are supporting the AU's Great Green Wall initiative for climate adaptation with 700 million Euro and are driving forces behind the decision to allocate 100 billion USD in special drawing rights (or equivalent contributions) to the most vulnerable

countries, particularly in Africa. The Summit for a new global financial pact held in Paris at the end of June, to which 25 African heads of states participated along with both AU and EU leadership, effectively contributed to reach that target and has paved the way to the next Africa Climate Summit to be held in Kenya in September. **In Sierra Leone, the EU will support renewable energy generation and has already been strongly supporting programmes aiming at the protection of national parks and protected areas. By financed research into more climate resilient and yield bringing crops, the EU has been helping to reduce Sierra Leone's vulnerability to Climate Change.**

In all these developments, Europe is delivering. The overall funding for development cooperation by Team Europe went up by almost 30% in 2022 worldwide, with EU assistance to Africa increasing by 11% for the period 2021-2027, when compared to 2014-2020. **For Sierra Leone, the EU committed in 2021 for the period 2021-2024 more than 245 million Euro in grants. This means that Team Europe, which includes EU and its Member States, committed to invest more than 500 million Euro in Sierra Leone.**

While the African Union and the European Union are working on the organisation of our next Ministerial meeting, where we will take stock of our joint achievements to date, as European Union we wish to reaffirm our continued determination and commitment to strengthen our partnership in solidarity with Africa, with a view to contributing together to global peace, security and prosperity.

Signed:

Ambassador of the European Union to Sierra Leone

Ambassador of Germany to Sierra Leone

Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of France

Chargée d'Affaires of the Embassy of Ireland

OPINION

By Talib Jay

She sits on a wooden bench. A plate of cassava leaves and rice on a higher bench meant to be the table. She bows her head slowly, very slowly, like a chameleon with its jerky walk, and her mouth touches the plate of rice and 'plasas' (sauce). She opens her mouth to take in some food but, suddenly, another leaf-movement of her head, bouncing backwards and forward slowly, extremely slowly, she could not grab anything.

Memunatu (let's call her so) will try again and again and again. Hungry she is, but drowsiness will not let her eat. She avoids the spoon, and like a dog, she prefers to feed directly from the plate using her mouth. For 15 to 20mins, she continues her sleepy chameleonic rocking.

She would later confess that she slept with two men in the night, with each taking rounds on her. In the morning, she was paid Le.500 (roughly \$25).

She passes by the kush shack and helps herself with a roll. Her drowsiness is from combined sleepless nights and the effect of kush.

Kush is a hybrid Cannabis strain indica, which makes the consumer feels incredibly relaxed and drowsy. You smoke kush, you cloud the world, and you feel a high sense of euphoria. Temporarily, you are the King of the jungle.

This state of trance, sadly, now seems to be a permanent fixture on the streets of Freetown, shacks and ghettos around the city, its environs and beyond.

A Sierra Leonean Problem? The ready-made answer from many, including highly placed

The Kush in Bio's cabinet

persons, is that drug abuse isn't peculiar to SL. They are right. Just across neighbouring Liberia, the story is the same. The major culprits are the Yana Boys and the Zoggos (the lumpen). Did I stereotype them? No! Think about them as victims of a society with sparse and limited resources - no jobs, limited opportunities for skills training and, when training does come; they are never sustainable.

A study in the African Journal of Educational Studies in Mathematics and Sciences (Vol. 1, 2001) revealed that drug abuse was a widespread problem in Ghana. Like SL, several youths, especially students, have been admitted at the Ankafu Psychiatric Hospital. Between 2001 and 2005 alone, there were 1525 drug abusers admitted, and 25% were students (Boachie, 2005).

When people compare bad things happening in other places, does it mean we should accept the situation and do nothing about it? And why don't we compare or copy the good things in other places?

Before Kush reared its ugly head, there was 'pampers wata'. Prior, there was brown-brown, tramadol and many more. Those are for the low class. It's sad that the types of drugs that are abused are increasing. Sadder is that the victims are multiplying. The saddest part is that our attention to the situation is decreasing.

Many a time, we take videos of them in this trance-like state and post them on social media. It's so painful that our best use of smartphones nowadays is to take pictures and videos for social media consumption. People would make videos of others suffering instead of helping them out

even calling for help. We make fun of the customers seeking solace from a permanent state of deprivation.

I have not yet convened a survey nor see one on the context in SL, but it is clear that the majority of kush smokers are the jobless youth and those without descent jobs such as the poda poda apprentices, the hengman dem on Kekes and Okadas, the Tote man dem and you name them. The well-placed in society do cocaine, heroin and marijuana.

There are videos of policemen and soldiers, our security and law enforcers in this state of "I have conquered the world". We laugh about it. We consider it normal. But no! This is far from being normal. It's so unacceptable.

I have heard of younger ladies, some in their teens (15 to 17 years - in spite of Fatima Bio's Hands-off our Girls efforts), who smoke kush or take some drugs to transit to a state of sexsomnia so that they can engage in sexual behaviours with reckless abandon; hence, it is said, there is a rise in numbers of groups organizing sexual orgies - threesomes and the like.

Is this just a sense of hopelessness for our young people? How does it make you feel?

We could do better than just videos. Like a ghetto, the nation has been smoked to the extent that we are sleeping in our wings. We are not bothered. We don't take appropriate approaches to address the social and economic problems. Somehow, the kush-like smoke is thicker in government departments. The inability of the ministries of Health, Youth, Economic Development, Interior and security, among others, to team up and

tackle the kush/drug menace is the result of the metaphorical kush-like smoke that has clouded the President's cabinet for over 5years. And it's worrying.

It is time the President clears the nation of this dangerous phenomenon. Having sexual relationship with girls below 18 years was declared a state of emergency to demonstrate commitment to addressing the scourge. I will proffer a similar approach- declare drug abuse a public health emergency and marshal the right actions to combat it.

Ebola benefited from some scholastic work that has contributed to finding scientific solutions to it. Our academics and researchers should undertake a study to better understand the underlying causes and effects and what social and economic influences can be used to right the wrongs.

Promoting small and medium businesses has helped create a middle class in other countries less prone to drug abuse. Our youths have brains. With a focus on livelihood opportunities, they can trash kush into cash, literally.

What we should not do, however, is to further punish the victims. Clamping down on youths for 'kushing,' and throwing them in prison should not be part of the agenda. That would mean criminalizing substance abuse. The panacea should focus on rehabilitating victims. Provide safe houses for them and choose a path to reset their minds.

The prosecution of addicts has been an aged-old struggle with little results. Countries such as Portugal, Ecuador, Uruguay etc. that have decriminalized drugs have witnessed a decline in illicit drug use. Addiction should be treated as a public health issue instead of a moral dilemma. Perhaps only then will those in need of help be helped, and the ghettos be cleared of the illicit substances and smoke.



Travel light with **UBA Cards**



[f @UBASierraLeone](#)
[i @ubasierra_leone](#)
[t @UBA_SierraLeone](#)
[in @uba-sl](#)
[@ubasierra_leone](#)

For more information, contact us on:

+23275142718 | +23231224488 | +23280419943 | +232 90 200 200 | +232 78 200 200

[@uba_sierraleone](#)

Africa's Global Bank | www.ubasierraleone.com

LOCAL NEWS

From Cover

The democracy activist further demanded that if results are available and certified by political parties' agents, and or were made available to counting agents and observers present at the respective offices of the District Returning Officers pursuant to Section 92 (2) of the Public Elections Act 2022, they should be made available to his office.

Lawyer Marrah said as an institution whose cardinal values is transparency/openness, releasing all sixteen districts certified and verified results of the last general elections would to some extent address the mistrust and dispel misinformation regarding the electoral process and outcome undertaken by ECSL.

Prior to the 2023 June 24 elections, opposition parties, especially the All Peoples' Congress (APC) raised the red flag, questioning the integrity, creditability and impartiality of Electoral Commissioner, Mohamed

Konneh and all other commissioners. The APC even requested for the resignation of the commissioners and ordered for independent and impartial foreign body to carry a fresh electoral process including registration and voting, a demand that never saw the day.

Following the announcement of the elections results which placed incumbent Julius Maada Bio as winner with 56.7 percent in the first rounds of the elections, the APC and most of the elections observers decried the process, questioning the level of transparency in the counting process.

The APC Party made it categorically clear that they would not challenge the outcome of the results in court because they have no faith in the judiciary of Sierra Leone.

Meanwhile, major observers including the EU, National Elections Watch



and Western Embassies and APC party had urged ECSL to release the disaggregated data of the elections results by polling stations; a request that is yet to be fulfilled by the ECSL.

Lawyer Marrah is the latest voice added to the many in their request for a release of station-by-station results from the ECSL. It is but very difficult to determine as to whether ECSL will release the results as requested.

Lawyer Marrah is on record for challenging public decisions that infringe on human rights. He challenged the decision by the authorities to ban vehicular movement during the 2018 presidential and general elections and the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone ruled in his favour.

It is hoped by many that Marrah's voice or action could create impact in influencing the Electoral Commission to make available the disaggregated election results.

New Information Minister to tackle cyber bullying

By Jariatu S. Bangura

The newly approved Minister of Information and Civic Education, Chernoh Bah, has assured parliament that he will tackle the numerous incidences of cyber bullying on social media, which he said continues to put other people's character at stake.

The previous Parliament enacted the Cyber Security and Crime Act, 2021 with the intent to providing for the effective, unified and comprehensive legal, regulatory and institutional framework for the prohibition, prevention, detection, prosecution and punishment of cybercrime.

It also provides for the prevention of the abusive use of computer systems; to provide for the establishment of structures to promote cybersecurity and capacity building; to promote for



the timely and effective collection of electronic evidence for the purpose of investigation, prosecution of cybercrime; provide for the protection of critical national information

infrastructure and measures to protect critical information infrastructures among others.

On the increased cyber bullying across social media, Minister Bah said his background is human rights and that he has been working on human rights issues in his entire life.

He said in as much as he believes in information accessibility and freedom of expression, but that freedom comes with necessary responsibility.

He said the intent of the public order law was to ensure that in the exercise of those freedoms, citizens should enjoy the necessary platforms and not misuse them to demeaning others.

"We cannot put others' reputation at stake. My intention would be to expand the space. We want

information accessibility and one way to beat fake news and defeat propaganda is not to ban or limit the space but to expand the space so that citizens will have access to truthful and reliable information. They would be able to know what is fake and what is true," he said.

He said that would only happen if there is a unity of purpose and clear platforms where government could speak to citizens

On his appointment, he said: "It is a call to national duty and I take it very seriously. We are going to win the vision of the century and that of the President to let the country's information and character is not just competitive but could stand the test of time.

He assured that he would build on the solid foundation of his predecessor, who did a fantastic job in that ministry.

Inflation, others push Ecobank's operating expenses to \$563m

The group operating expenses of Ecobank Transnational Incorporated rose to \$563m in the first half of 2023, representing an 11 percent increase when compared to figures recorded during the same period in 2022.

The bank disclosed this in its half-year financial report released on Thursday.

Ecobank said its group operating expenses for the first half of 2023 was \$563m, increasing by 11 percent or 27 percent at constant currency. The higher operating expenses in the half year were driven by a mix of inflationary-driven

costs and increased staff compensation in some of our markets in line with inflationary trends.

The key drivers of the expense increase were costs associated with the card business, insurance, IT licenses and related technical fees, and other administrative expenses. However, the rise in operating expenses was offset by higher revenues helping drive an improvement in the cost-to-income ratio to 54.3 percent compared with 56 percent in the prior year

In terms of revenue, the group reported net revenue of \$1,037m, increasing by 14

percent or 38 percent at constant currency.

The net revenue increase was driven by the net impact of higher interest rates on net interest incomes across markets, particularly in the Anglophone West Africa and Central, East, and Southern Africa regions, modest growth in interest-earnings assets, higher fees on cash



management and card transactions and episodic income from volatile currency movements in some of our markets.

Its net interest income generated in the first six months of 2023 was \$547m, increasing by 11 percent or 34 percent at constant currency, and the net interest margin was 4.9 percent, compared with a net interest income of \$493m and a net interest margin of 4.7 percent in the prior-year period.

Its net interest income generated in the first six months of 2023 was \$547m, increasing by 11 percent or 34 percent at constant currency, and the net interest margin was 4.9 percent, compared with a net interest income of \$493m and a net interest margin of 4.7 percent in the prior-year period.

LOCAL NEWS **Budgit Sierra Leone educates journalists on their activities**

At their Bai Bureh Road office in Freetown, Budgit Sierra Leone on Friday, July 28 educated journalists on their activities since the organization was established in Sierra Leone two years ago.

Daniel Conteh, Program Officer, told journalists that Budgit is a not profit making organization that uses technology to track and provide simplified analyses of the national budget for the understanding of the public, so as to enhance transparency, accountability and good governance. He noted that one of the key issues around national budget is that it is a complex document which people don't easily understand, so public officials use it as conduit to corrupt.

He reiterated that their work at Budgit is to analyse and simplify the document into infographics so that people can easily understand it and track the implementation of projects in their localities.

"We make budget process understandable to the public and enhance good governance," he said, emphasizing on the need for health sector accountability.

He said since they started operations in Sierra Leone, they have extended

their reach to five Regions and that they have reached over 1.5M Sierra Leoneans through their offline and online engagements on national budget.

He said they have simplified and produced two copies of the National Budget for citizens' engagement, and that their work has created significant impacts as citizens are now aware about the national budget and projects implemented in their localities.

He said as part of their work, they captured the impact of COVID-19 on citizens and small businesses as a result of the lockdown in five (5) regions (North, East West, South and North-West), through two research conducted, reviewing the COVID-19 Interventions in the country and the government's response to the COVID-19 health crisis, funds allocation, and disbursement.

"We have engaged 90 CSO through meetings, awareness raising on the national budget within five regions East, West, North, South and North-West. We are in collaboration with The Ministry of Development and the Ministry of Justice and hoping to bring the Ministry of Finance on board. We have created partnership



Program officer and Stakeholder Engagement Lead

with The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Open Government Partnership (OGP) and the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO)," he cited.

He said they have conducted capacity building workshops on the national budget with Civil Society Organisations in Makeni and provided simplified analysis of the 2020, 2021 and the 2022 national budget for citizens' engagement.

The program officer further disclosed that they have launched the Covid-19 Transparency & Accountability Project (CTAP 1) - tracked COVID-19

intervention projects.

He said they have conducted CSOs engagement in Port Loko, North-West Region and Bo in the Southern Region.

He said they conducted scoping meeting with stakeholders to understand the fiscal transparency and accountability landscape of Sierra Leone (2020).

Going forward, he said they would engage universities and other higher institutions where they would establish budget clubs and that they would also reach out to oversight committees in parliament.

To enhance transparency and accountability in the mining sector, he said plans are underway for the organisation to go into the extractives to ensure communities benefit from mining activities.

Also, Brima Sesay, Institutional and Stakeholder Engagement Lead, dilated on their activities and informed journalists that the organisation would track projects implemented under the five priority areas of the government.

He underscored the importance of information and communications and promised to enhance stronger ties with the media.

President Bio encourages pilgrims to serve as agents of peace, unity

President Julius Maada Bio has joined dozens of pilgrims for their first Jumma Prayers after they successfully performed this year's Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the holiest city for Muslims, calling on them to serve as agents of peace and national cohesion.

In his sermon the officiating Imam, Alhaji Chernor Mohamed Jalloh, expressed gratitude to the President and his government for what he described as a well-planned trip for all pilgrims, adding that since 2019 the Hajj pilgrimage had been successful because of the taskforce established by the President.

He further went on to admonish the pilgrims to preach peace and unity and avoid hate speeches that had the tendency of dividing the country.

Head of the Presidential Taskforce for this year's Hajj, Alhaji Mutada Seisay, used the occasion to first congratulate his Excellency the President on his re-election and wished him success in his term.

He thanked Vice President Dr Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh, whom, he

said, under the instruction of the President, had been supervising the taskforce to ensure successful pilgrimages.

He also thanked the Ministry of Social Welfare, which supervised the process, for working with the taskforce and the Ministry of Finance for providing funds to ensure the swift arrangement of the pilgrimage.

He stated that everything went well but was sorry to report the death of one pilgrim, who had already been buried in Riyadh, adding that two others were also hospitalised but were now recovering.

"As a taskforce, we are happy that we were able to deliver on our mandate successfully," he ended.

On behalf of the pilgrims, Haja Hawa Dabor, said they were very happy to pray with the first gentleman of the country, adding that they were so pleased with the process. She thanked the President, his Vice President and all those who ensured a smooth pilgrimage.

Welcoming the returning pilgrims, the President Dr Julius Maada Bio



said he was pleased to receive his people on behalf of the government and people of Sierra Leone, adding that it was a blessing for them to join the pilgrims to observe their first Jumma prayers.

He thanked the Vice President for supervising the taskforce and for ensuring a successful pilgrimage. President Bio used the occasion to

encourage the pilgrims to serve as agents of peace and unity and to promote a cohesive country while admonishing them to deviate from hate speeches that could divide the country.

"I'm proud to welcome you back home. I know you voted for me before you left, so thank you for your votes," he said.



Live the
Good Life
With our



FLEXIBLE LOAN!

- Zenith offers fast and easy loan
- Interest rate is very attractive
- Payment tenor is up to 36 months(3years)

HEAD OFFICE
18-20 Rawdon
Street Freetown

KENEMA
27 Kaisamba Terrace
Off Hanga Road

BO
54 Tikonko
Road Bo

WELLINGTON
282 Bai Bureh Road,
Wellington Industrial Estate

CLINE TOWN
155 Fourabay Road
Freetown

LUMLEY
15 Freetown Road
Lumley Freetown

LUNGI
F/T International
Airport, Lungi

MAKENI CASH CENTER
Ernest Bai Koroma University
of Science and Technology
Makeni Campus

....in your best interest

LOCAL NEWS

By Keifa Mohamed Jaward,
Communications Specialist, SLRA

Stakeholders of Kailahun District have endorsed the Environmental, Social and Health Impact Assessment, and the Resettlement Action Plan reports for the Mano River Union Road Development and Transport Facilitation Programme Phase IV.

This phase involves the Upgrading of the Buedu- Koindu-Guinea/Liberia Border Roads Project.

The endorsements were made in a three-day public disclosure events that were held in Koindu, Kailahun and Freetown from July 24 to 26 respectively.

The ESHIA provides the benefits and possible environmental, social and health risks, and adverse impacts associated with the implementation of road construction activities under the programme, and their respective mitigation measures. The RAP provides procedures for involuntary resettlement of project affected persons (PAPs).

The public disclosure of the ESHIA and RAP reports were in fulfillment of both the national and the African

Kailahun stakeholders endorse ESHIA report on lot two of MRU Road Project



Development Bank's safeguards requirements.

The public disclosure gives project affected communities and other interested persons the opportunity to participate in the ESHIA process and express their concerns and opinions that maybe incorporated in the final report.

During his address to stakeholders at the Kailahun District Council Hall, the Deputy Director General of the Sierra Leone Roads Authority, Ing. Alfred Jalil Momodu, said that although road construction projects are beneficial to everyone, there are some adverse impacts accompanying the project that cannot be ignored. "That is why we are here to prepare your minds and also work with you to minimize those adverse impacts and enhance the beneficial ones," he stated.

Ing. Momodu said that every development comes with a price, and that some people should be ready to pay the price for the benefit of all. "We know that some of you may have sentimental and cultural attachments to the properties that are to be demolished within the road corridor, but you have to accept the situation and move on," he encouraged.

In Koindu Town, the Executive Chairman of EPA-SL, Dr. Bondi Gavao alluded to the fact that the benefits of the road construction outweighs the adverse impacts, and assured the stakeholders that his agency shall work with SLRA to ensure the satisfactory mitigation of all adverse impacts associated with the project implementation.

The ESHIA and RAP were jointly presented by the Director of Environment

and Social Safety, Lucy Essa and the Project Manager for the MRU Road Development and Transport Facilitation Programme, Ing. Patrick James Lavalay.

In terms of the beneficial impacts of the project, the ESHIA report stated that the road project will reduce travel time and cost, improve safety, enhance the economy through trade facilitation, restore and improve security, and create jobs.

On the negative impacts, the report stated that the road construction activities has the potential to cause noise pollution, air pollution, accidents, occupational health hazards, disease transmission and involuntary resettlement.

However, the report outlined measures to be implemented to mitigate the adverse impacts, including the payment of compensation to property affected persons, regular maintenance of equipment, enforcing the use of personal protective equipment, proper disposal of waste, traffic management and awareness raising on sexually transmitted and communicable diseases, and other health problems associated with the project activities.

After every presentation at the three locations, stakeholders were granted the opportunity to seek clarifications, propose better alternatives to those outlined in the reports and engage in an open poll to approve or disapprove the reports.

The residents and stakeholders of the project communities and other interested persons that were present at the public disclosure events in all three locations overwhelmingly approved the project in the presence of representatives from EPA-SL, Anti-Corruption Commission, Civil Society and the media.

During his vote of thanks, the Paramount Chief of Kissi Teng Chiefdom, Emmanuel Nyama Ganawa III expressed his delight to know that the road that has, for decades, been a major challenge to the movements of people and goods in Kailahun District is about to be upgraded to asphaltic surface layer.

The members of Parliament representing the project communities in Kailahun District, Honourable Emilia Lolloh Tongi and Sahr Tengbeh applauded the reports and urged SLRA, MRU and AfDB to fast track the project implementation process for the road works to be completed during the tenure of the current government.

The EPA-SL is expected to present the final reports to its Board of Directors for approval before the African Development Bank provides the funds for the actual implementation of the project.

Africell launches over Le5b Mega Promo

By Yusufu S. Bangura & Blessing C. Cole

One of Sierra Leone's leading telecommunication companies, Africell, has on Friday 28th July officially launched the Africell Mega Promotion at the company's boardroom, Wilberforce, Freetown.

The master of ceremony, Africell Media Officer, Abdul Aziz Kamara said they always have their subscribers at heart, hence they always provide them better opportunities.

Shedding lights on the promotion, Africell Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Joe Abass Bangura explained that the Mega Promotion is the biggest and one of its kind in the telecommunication business, adding that as market leaders they are breaking the pace in communication.

He added that the Mega Promo will run for six months, starting from July 31st and ends in January 2024. He underscored that winners of the promotion are entitled to 6 New Suzuki Cars, 24 TVs motorbikes, and over 1,800 people will win cash prize. He said the whole promotion is worth over 5 billion old Leones.

He reflected on some of Africell's promotions since they started operations in 2005, such as the Le1 Billion promotion some years ago among others that have impacted the lives of hundreds of Sierra



Star prices

Leoneans.

John Konteh, Head of Media and Communication at Africell, highlighted that subscribers should recharge NLe.10 on a daily basis and get a chance to be qualified for the draw.

He noted that the raffle will be done on radios, TVs, and Facebook from Mondays to Saturdays wherein 10 subscribers will win cash prize of Nle 100 every day.

He indicated that during the weekly draws, subscribers will win one motorbike every week, win car on a monthly basis, and the cars won will be licensed by Africell.

He admonished subscribers to be aware of scammers who might want to call to



Staffs of Africell launching the promotion

inform them that they've won.

He emphasised that the MEGA promotion will not stop the ongoing promotions such as the "Win Kopo."

"We will continue to be extra ordinary innovative, all other promotions will continue and our draws is always transparent and it will be done live on TV," John Konteh said.

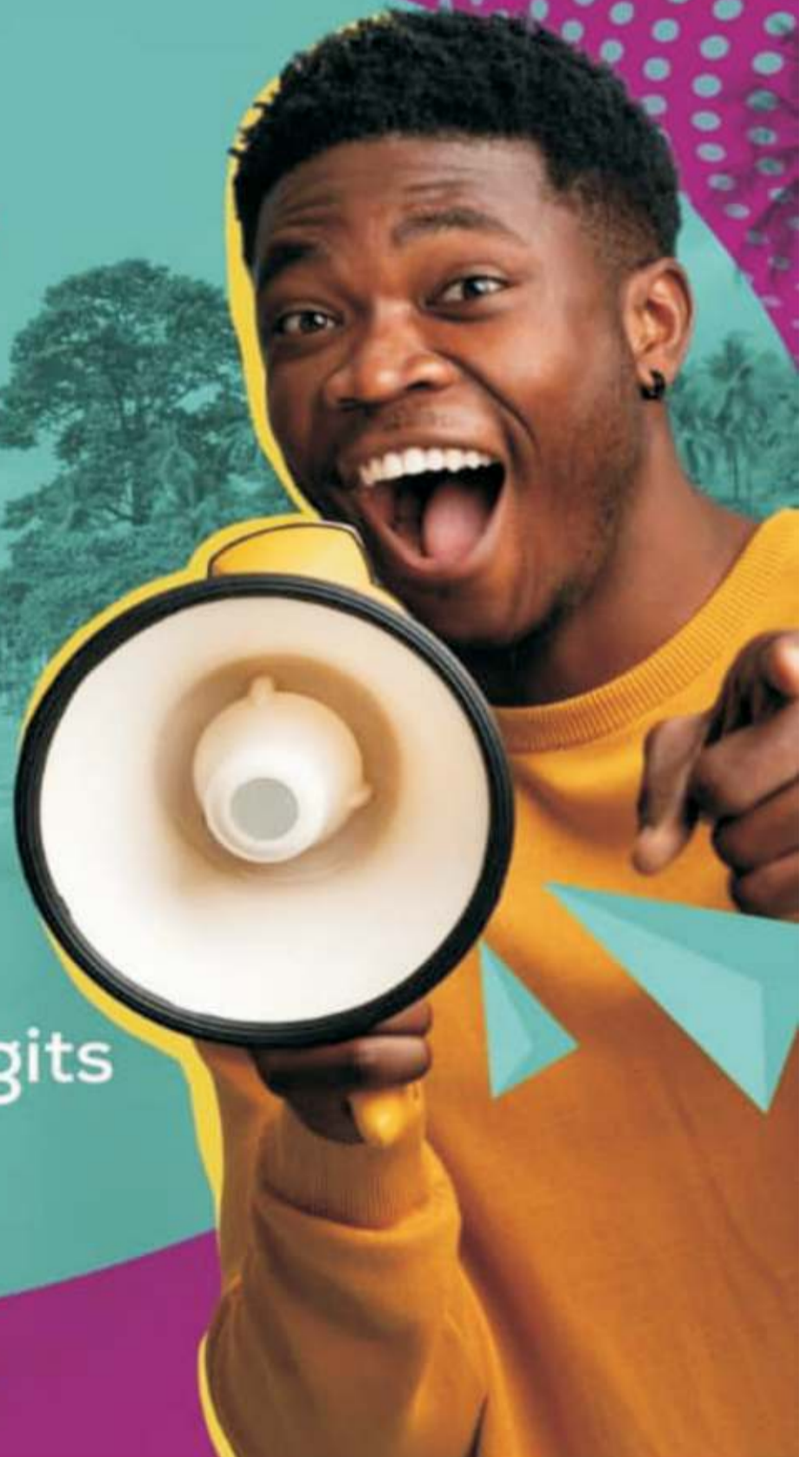
The Event Manager at Africell, Nancy Toure encouraged people to buy an Africell sim, as it will heighten their eligibility to win.

She added that the promotion is geared towards giving back to the people of Sierra Leone, noting that Sierra Leoneans have massively supported Africell in its growth and sustainability in the country.

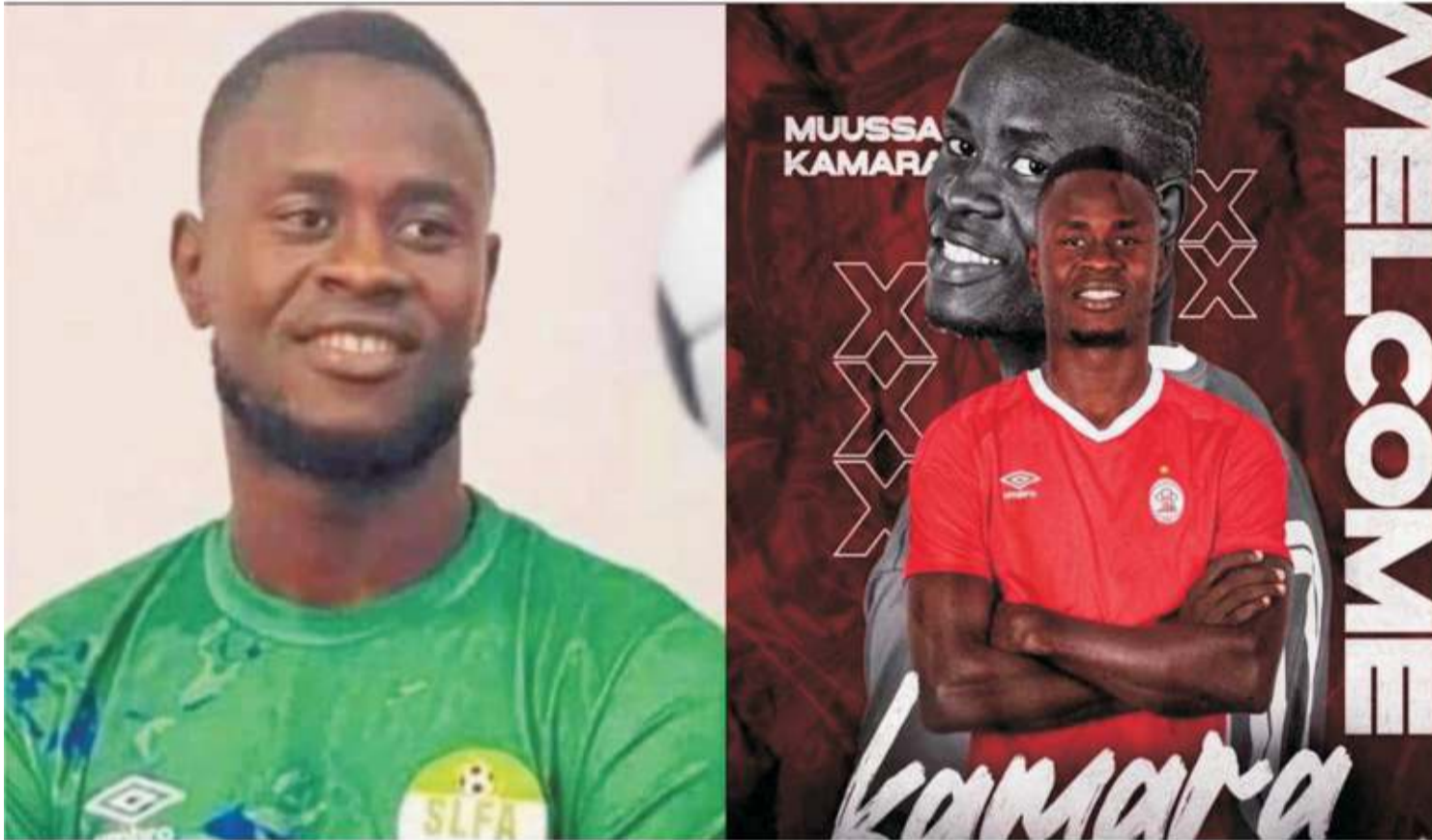


HOW TO TROSS EDSA

- Dial *161#
- Select option 2 (Pay Bills)
- Select option 2 (EDSA)
- Select option 2 (Tross EDSA)
- Select option 3 (Request for Tross EDSA)
- Enter your 4 digits Afrimoney pin



Musa Tombo's career may collapse prematurely



our top flight league for Bo Rangers until the end of June 2023.

The season-long loan to Bo Rangers ended with three matches left for the end of the league. Following this, Al-Ittihad immediately requested Musa to return to Libya to see out his 'contract'. However, Musa has stated categorically that he is not returning to Libya, reiterating his earlier concerns raised.

In a bizarre twist earlier, Musa had traveled to Europe three times and returned on all those occasions. In those instances, however, he

Like him or loathe him, hardly has any footballer in the recent history of Sierra Leone been a fan favourite like Musa Tombo. His prowess on the field has been phenomenal. A back-to-back golden boot winner for two clubs in the country's top league.

That notwithstanding, the goal-scoring maestro has had several issues (mainly off-field) with his club, Bo Rangers FC, which led to the Premier League back-to-back champions terminating his contract on 31 August 2022.

Following that severance, Musa immediately traveled to Libya in an effort to join a certain club known as Al-Ittihad.

However, upon his arrival in the North African nation, things didn't go as planned. He had a myriad of concerns regarding his sojourn in the country mainly security, and vowed not to honour his 'contract' until those concerns had been adequately addressed. In fact, it is alleged that he even threatened to harm himself if he wasn't allowed to return to his home country.

Musa was later allowed to return home as the club was cognisant of the bad publicity they would attract if he was to carry out his threat. His return home became a public discourse especially as he began exhibiting apparent signs of a mental health challenge including running in his birthday suit in full glare of the public a grave self harm. His situation became worrying, and he needed help. Then came in the Bo Rangers Manager, Babadi Kamara, whose sole objective was to save Musa's life and rescue his promising career from crumbling.

Babadi immediately reached out to Al-Ittihad to secure the services of Musa. A mouthwatering season-long loan deal was struck; Musa was going to kick the round leather once again in

was released unconditionally by the clubs, apparently because of his peculiar situation. Sadly, the same can't be said of the Libyan side who continue to demand their pound of flesh from Musa. They have refused to extend his loan to Bo Rangers and are demanding \$200,000 for a permanent sale for a player they didn't pay a dime for.

Bo Rangers are not inclined to pay such an amount for Musa even though their Chairman may want to rescue Musa's career. In effect, Musa is going to be denied the opportunity of representing Bo Rangers in the CAF Champions League for the second consecutive season due to a stalemate with the Libyan outfit.

This is a litmus test for our football authorities including the new Minister of Sports. This is the case of a talented albeit mercurial player who was apparently hoodwinked into a 'contract' by an agent Ronald Okokobe who, like almost all football agents, is only interested in money - in this case Musa's money.

Musa's issue deserves escalation to football governing bodies like CAF and even FIFA. It is probably akin to budding unsuspecting African kids who are taken to Europe by greedy people on the promise of footballing success, just for them to be abandoned in slave-like conditions.

Our authorities should protect this young lad from exploitation. Clearly he is a victim! He desires to play at home and for now that seems to be his best interest. And that must be respected!

It is hoped therefore that Musa's issue will be resolved in the best interest of the player. So that he wins and, by extension, Sierra Leone wins

Welcome to Ecobank XpressPoint



Visit any of our agent locations to:

1. Deposit Cash
2. Make Withdrawals
3. Transfer Funds
4. Open an Xpress Account
5. Pay Bills
6. Buy Airtime

#EasyBanking
#NoYagba



For all our Xpress Services



Ecobank
The Pan African Bank

Request for Proposals

Technical Partner for Growth Accelerator Programme to support women-led cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Sierra Leone

Deadline: 4th August 2023



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sierra Leone initiated a Growth Accelerator Programme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in 2022. The Growth Accelerator aims to support the growth of innovative, viable, and ambitious MSMEs with transformative economic impact through improved access to finance with a specific focus on women and youth-led enterprises in Sierra Leone. During the first year of implementation, a number of informal and formal MSMEs were supported through access to investments from UNDP in form of grants to grow their enterprises, provision of technical assistance, business mentorship and coaching.

The second cohort for 2023 will support growth of innovative, viable, and ambitious women-led cooperatives and MSMEs. In this regard, UNDP seeks services of a technical partner to support in the management of the Growth Accelerator Programme focusing on women-led cooperatives and MSMEs in Sierra Leone. The deadline for submitting bids is 4th August 2023 at 11:00 PM Sierra Leone time.

This specific tender is managed via the new supplier portal system of UNDP Quantum. Interested organizations (Firms, CSO/NGO/Academia/Foundation) should submit their bids following instructions on the UNDP procurement website (https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_negotiation.cfm?nego_id=8822).

Bids must be submitted directly in the system following this link: <http://supplier.quantum.partneragencies.org> using the profile you may have in the portal. In case you have never registered before, you can register a profile using the registration link shared via the procurement notice and following the instructions in guides available in UNDP website: <https://www.undp.org/procurement/business/resources-for-bidders>. Do not create a new profile if you already have one. Use the forgotten password feature in case you do

UNION TRUST BANK LTD

- ◆ No card, Just your Mobile Phone.
- ◆ Send money to any Mobile Number.
- ◆ One-Time password for Cash-out.
- ◆ 24/7 Access

ATM Cardless Transaction

Cardless Withdrawal



Because we need each other.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR: INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT AGRICULTURAL / AGRO FOCUSED FEASIBILITY STUDY

Location	Sierra Leone – three districts of Koinadugu, Falaba and Bombali
Application Deadline	7 th August 2023
Contract Type	Individual Consultancy – for proposed project Feasibility Study in Sierra Leone
Working Language	English
Expected Start Date	As soon as a Suitable Candidate is identified
Contract Period	1.5 months (August – mid-Sept) months with the possibility of an extension

OBJECTIVE AND TASKS OF THE CONSULTANCY

a) Purpose of the Consultancy

In consultations with ChildFund International Research & Learning team and ChildFund Sierra Leone's Partners and staff, the consultant will conduct a Feasibility Study in two districts in Sierra Leone to study the cultivation and processing of cassava for food security and income promotion of smallholder groups in the country.

The results of this feasibility study will be a critical input to write a project proposal to the German Government which will promote cassava cultivation and processing for food security and income promotion of smallholder groups in the districts of Koinadugu, Falaba and Bombali. Cassava as a staple food and its processed products fufu, gari & starch have become very important in SL; to participate in value creation, the supply of smallholder production must be consolidated and commercialized in production communities. The proposed project intends to support the establishment and management of production communities, training of smallholder farmers (groups) in child protection, production, storage, investment and access to credit, market access. Goals are increased secure income, and improved food security in the environment of the agricultural production community. Target groups for the proposed project are: 40 production communities with 1600-2000 smallholders and their environment, the project's local implementing partners are Daindemben Federation and Munafa M'patie Federation. The Consultant will be expected to provide a weekly summary of the status report to the supervisor outlining all the achievements and plans for the following week, including areas where support is needed.

ChildFund Sierra Leone's Programs & Sponsorships Director is responsible for the overall management of the consultancy. Technical support and assistance will be provided by the ChildFund International Research & Learning Director and Senior Research Advisor.

b) Specific Tasks to be performed by the Consultant

Project-specific criteria for feasibility studies

The feasibility study should present the context of the planned project at all relevant levels (micro-, meso-, macro-) and incorporate essential, project-relevant data on the initial situation.

This foundation is used to develop an analysis evaluating the extent to which the proposed approach can contribute to solving the problem for the beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

Furthermore, a critical examination of the project should be provided, with respect to the OECD DAC evaluation criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

Furthermore, recommendations for adjustments to the specific project concept, including impact matrix and project measures, should be formulated as concretely as possible. The stakeholders involved, opportunities and risks, as well as suggestions for the range and scope of monitoring on outcome and impact measurement, should be considered.

DELIVERABLES

The Consultant will have three deliverables:

Inception Report delineating the feasibility study design and methods

Draft Feasibility Study Report

Final Feasibility Study Report

Structure of the study and guidelines:

The Consultant will follow the format below in the design of the feasibility study and the development of the study report; the following questions should guide the design and report:

Purpose and use of the feasibility study

What is the project objective (outcome) that will be assessed for feasibility? How conducive is the context (sector, components, project regions) with regard to the projects' objective?

What additional questions should the feasibility study address concerning the design and implementation of the intended project?

How does the feasibility study fit into the project plan in terms of shared learning?

Methodology

What participatory methods, tools, and resources will be used for data collection and analysis?

Which, and how many stakeholders will be involved? What are their backgrounds and interests?

Initial situation and problem analysis, on macro- meso- and micro-levels

What current problems of the beneficiaries have been identified relevant to the proposed project? Which of the causes of these problems will be prioritised and addressed in the project?

What existing local potential, structures (institutions, networks, umbrella organizations etc.) and social mechanisms can be built on? What gaps have been identified in the system?

Are there any approaches or results from previous development measures? If yes, how can they be extended?

What other circumstances, for example conflict dynamics, must be taken into account in the context of?

Local project partner in the partner country

Which organisation(s) have been selected as local project partner(s), and why? Who suggested the idea for the project? How will the project improve the local project partner's ownership?

Do any formal agreements exist between the stakeholders? To what extent have existing agreements between stakeholders been formalised?

Are the partners' resources and strengths, both individually and at an organisational level, well understood?

What relevant professional, methodological and political competencies, both at an individual and an organisational level, will be further developed?

Beneficiaries and other stakeholders (on a micro-, meso- and macro-level)

How are the direct beneficiaries selected, and by whom? What criteria exist for selecting these beneficiaries?

What is the composition of each beneficiaries? How homogeneous or heterogeneous is the beneficiaries with regard to factors such as gender, ethnic origin, age, sexual orientation, language, and capacity, and to what extent must the project take this into account?

What potential does each beneficiary have for self-help? How well are the beneficiaries equipped for self-help? How can local problem-solving capabilities be improved?

Do the beneficiaries and other stakeholders have a common understanding of the problems, prioritising process and objectives of the project? Do the interests of other stakeholders align? Do any conflicts of interest exist?

How strong is the various stakeholders' support for the project, for example, in terms of their own contribution? In what ways might they influence the project? The Consultant will use the following guiding questions (based on the OECD DAC evaluation criteria identified above) to assist in designing the content of the study.

Relevance – To what extent is the planned project doing the right thing?

Will the planned project approach address a key development problem or a significant developmental bottleneck in the partner country or region?

Are the focus, priorities and objectives (approach) of the planned project clearly defined and aligned with the beneficiaries?

To what extent do the intervention objectives and design adequately take into account the specific needs of the

beneficiaries and any structural obstacles in the project region, partner/institution, or policy programs?

Are the norms and standards of the approach compatible with those of the beneficiaries?

Is the project designed to be conflict-sensitive (Do No Harm Principle)?

Coherence – how suitable is the intervention?

How consistent are the planned activities with human rights principles (inclusion, participation), and any conventions or relevant standards/guidelines?

To what extent do synergies and connections exist between the planned project and other interventions by the same stakeholder (organisation) and other stakeholders?

What similarities or overlaps exist between the beneficiaries and projects implemented by other stakeholders in the same context? To what extent does the intervention add value and avoid duplication?

Effectiveness – which project approach is best for achieving the objectives?

Are the cause-effect relationships (including assumptions) plausible? What negative effects might arise?

Is the chosen methodological approach suitable and sufficient for achieving the project objective? Are alternatives required?

At what level (multi-level approach) do you anticipate implementing additional measures to increase effectiveness?

How will changes be measured? What indicators (fields) are most suitable?

Efficiency – is the proposed project's planned use of funds a cost-effective method to achieve its objectives?

To what extent can the planned measures be implemented with the envisaged funds and personnel in the proposed time period?

To what extent can the envisaged spending be allocated cost-effectively, and are the investments, operating expenses and personnel in proportion to the intended goals?

Impact (significance) – what contribution does the planned project make to achieving higher-level development policy impact?

What particular contribution does the project objective (outcome) make to the overall objective (impact)?

To what extent does the planned project build structures, set examples and have a broad im-pact? On what levels will norms or structures be changed?

Sustainability – to what extent will the positive impact remain once the project has ended (without additional external funding)?

How can the sustainability of the results and impact be ensured and strengthened (structurally, economically, socially and ecologically)?

What long-term capacities will be established in the beneficiaries to enable them to continue the implemented measures independently?

What positive changes (role behaviour, mechanisms, networks, etc) will be of long-term benefit to civil society?

What personal risks for those implementing the project, or institutional or contextual risks, may influence the sustainability of the project? How can these be minimised?

Finally, the Consultant will include in the evaluation report, answers to the following questions:

On the basis of the main findings, and the evaluation according to the OCED DAC evaluation criteria, what concrete suggestions can be made or incorporated into the project concept in its specific context?

What components, if any, are missing from the project concept to make the cause-effect relationships more coherent and to sustainably achieve the planned objectives? What planned components are not suitable or may have a negative impact, and for what reasons?

Can the assumptions of cause-effect relationships be supported?

What findings and project-relevant data from the study are suitable for inclusion in the project logic (impact matrix of the project proposal)? What are the recommendations for possible impact monitoring and data collection

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATION OF THE CONSULTANT

The following are the required Technical Skills, Qualifications and Experience of the consultant are:

A Ph.D or Masters degree focused in Agricultural Economics.

Proven experience conducting Feasibility Studies in Agriculture and Agro-processing or other related technical content areas

Proven experience in qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods

Strong report-writing skills

Fluency in written English language required

Excellent representation, planning, and management skills

Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively as a team member, cultures, and offices.

Demonstrated experience using Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint)

Strong conceptual, analytical and strategic capability.

Availability between August 2023 – October 2023

Ability to travel within the four districts in Sierra Leone

Commitment to ChildFund's values and willingness to abide by Child and Young people Safeguarding Policy and hold others accountable.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

First Installment payment of 50% will be made after the approval of the Inception Report, the next 25% after the approval of the draft report and the final 25% after the approval of the final version of the report.

Processing and payment shall be made within 30 days of receipt of the invoice, with a 5% of the professional fees will be retained by ChildFund Sierra Leone as withholding tax and a certificate for the same issued to the Consultant.

Expected deliverables	Installment Payment structure
Inception Report delineating the feasibility study design and methods	50%
Draft Feasibility Study Report	25%
Final Feasibility Study Report	25%

ETHICS AND SAFEGUARDING

The Consultant will be expected to adhere to ChildFund International's Child and Youth Safeguarding Policy which ensures that the rights of those participating in data collection or analysis are respected and protected.

APPLICANTS ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE

A brief summary of the consultant's capability to meet the objectives of this consultancy as well as qualifications as outlined in this document.

Resume not more than 7 pages

Share example reports of previous work done relating to this Call for the consultancy and or work previously undertaken

Provide at least three reference contacts of previous contracts or employers.

All applications received by the submission date will be reviewed by a selection committee against these Terms of Reference.

Applicants should submit documents through the email: SierraLeoneProcurement@ChildFund.org and copy: bsartie@childfund.org with email clearly marked with the title of "External Consultancy".

Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis until a suitable candidate is identified. ChildFund International reserves the right to withdraw the advert at any time once it finds a suitable candidate for the consultancy. Closing date for submission of complete applications is 7th August 2023

Only applicants with complete documents will go through the selection process. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

ChildFund Sierra Leone is committed to a workplace culture that promotes diversity, equity and inclusion in all its forms.




DRIZILIK

KAM JOIN WI PATNA PROGRAM!

Enji up to 30% bonya
we yu kostoma win.



CONTACT US

 **080 732 720**

 PLEASE GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY

DRIZILIK
MERCURY INTERNATIONAL
AFFILIATE PROGRAM BRAND AMBASSADOR

ALL CREDIBLE INSTITUTIONS HAVE ADVERTISED IN
CONCORD TIMES

FOR ADVERT PLACEMENT CALL: +232 76 694292/+232 99 822587 E-mail: concordtimes100@yahoo.com

Follow us: Concord Times Newspaper @Concordtimes sl_concord_times

LEGAL AID BOARD **TRANSCO** **HIV/AIDS**
BRAC **ACCESS BANK** **MINISTRY OF YOUTHS AND SPORTS**
FAO **MBSSE** **GUMA VALLEY WATER COMPANY** **NACSA**
GTB **CARE INTERNATIONAL** **MTHIE** **ACTIONAID** **SAVE THE CHILDREN**
SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS **NASSIT** **SIERRA LEONE POLICE** **SLRA**
EPA **SIERRA LEONE BREWERY** **SLTC**
RMF **MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS** **NJALA UNIVERSITY**
SOS CHILDREN VILLAGE **ACC** **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE** **MMCET CHAI**
TRANSFAPAY **STAR TIMES**
CRS **ACTION AGAINST HUNGER** **WORLD VISION** **UBA**
MINISTRY OF FINANCE **ADB** **DSTV** **AUDIT SERVICES**
SELL **MINISTRY OF ENERGY** **NRA** **SLAJ**
SIERRA BAY HOTEL **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE** **NEMS**
MARIE STOPES **SEA COACH EXPRESS** **GIZ**
SLRSA **NATCOM** **OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT** **SALWACO** **WATERAID**
SALCAB **ECOBANK** **LAPO MICRO FINANCE (SL) LTD**
HRC **NPPA** **BSL** **SOLTHIS** **OXFARM** **AHF**
MIC **MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT** **UTB** **SLCB** **RCB**
MERCURY SL **UNDP** **WHO** **M.R. DISTILLERIES** **IGR**
OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY **AFRICELL** **MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**
NMA **ZENITH BANK** **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**
NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD **KENEMA CITY COUNCIL** **EUROPEAN UNION** **SMEDA**
STATISTIC SIERRA LEONE **PPRC** **CHASL** **STANDARD BUREAU**
MARITIME **WORLD BANK** **AFRIGAS** **RADISSON BLU HOTEL**
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES **PLAN INTERNATIONAL**
PRA **FAWAZ BUILDING MATERIALS** **ECOMED** **PARTNERS IN HEALTH**
PEE CEE & SONS **SMALL ARMS** **SLWREC**
KINGHO MINING COMPANY **PPRC** **MOTT MACDONALDS**
NEC **NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD** **NPPA** **EBK UNIVERSITY** **JUDICIARY OF SIERRA LEONE**

Bake some festive treats this Christmas!

Padi
You Padi the Kitchen

Ready, Steady, Bake!

Padi
You Padi the Kitchen

"The fondest memories are made when gathered around the table."

Padi
You Padi for life

Spaghetti Jollof. You can use Padi items to cook it and it will taste delicious, promise!

Padi
You Padi the Kitchen

ARE YOU

TEAM KETCHUP

OR

TEAM MAYO

Padi
You Padi the Kitchen

Enriched with / Enrichi **Vitamin A & D**

Proudly made in Sierra Leone

Padi
You Padi the Kitchen

Padi, sharing is caring 😊

Padi
You Padi the Kitchen

Mama Mia!

Padi Spaghetti, strands of deliciousness!

Padi
You Padi the Kitchen

Daddy you are my best Padi!

Padi
You Padi the Kitchen

Spread the love!

Padi
Margarine
You Padi the Kitchen

I followed my heart and it led me to the kitchen.

Padi

Truly Natural & Healthy

Good Morning Padi
Premium Black Tea
Finest Ceylon blend

Padi
You Padi the Kitchen



The Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism Sierra Leone (CCM SL) Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) with Procurement Number: GF CCMSL/2023/003 Terms of Reference for National Consultant to support CCM SL Positioning during the period Monday 4th September to Tuesday 31st October 2023

Context: The Global Fund's Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) Policy outlines that the CCM should be positioned at the highest level responsible for multi-sector and multi-sectoral development planning in a country. The Global Fund encourages all countries to build on their national structures, wherever possible, and to position the CCM and/or CCM functions within existing health platforms to contribute to central coordination of health programs, investments and pandemic preparedness.

Scope/Objective: The national consultant will identify existing national health structures, governance mechanisms and platforms responsible for coordinating the health sector and disease-specific issues. For the transition context, this should have an added focus on key national stakeholders that are most appropriate for strengthening transition planning, preparedness, implementation, and overall efforts to strengthen sustainability.

Tasks and Metrics: The national consultant is expected to perform the following tasks: Task 1: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 2: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 3: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 4: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

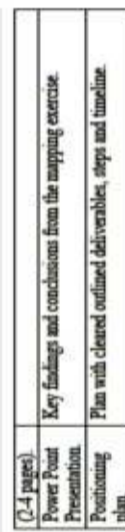
Task 5: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 6: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 7: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 8: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 9: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.



The Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism Sierra Leone (CCM SL) Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) with Procurement Number: GF CCMSL/2023/002 Terms of Reference for National Consultant to support CCM SL Engagement during the period Monday 4th to Tuesday 19th September, 2023.

Context: The national consultant will support with preparation for pre- and post- country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) meetings for key populations (HIV, tuberculosis and malaria).

Scope/Objective: The national consultant will support with preparation for pre- and post- country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) meetings for key populations (HIV, tuberculosis and malaria).

Tasks and Metrics: The national consultant is expected to perform the following tasks: Task 1: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 2: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 3: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 4: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 5: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 6: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 7: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 8: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 9: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.



The Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism Sierra Leone (CCM SL) Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) with Procurement Number: GF CCMSL/2023/001 Terms of Reference for National Consultant to support CCM SL Engagement during the period Monday 4th to Tuesday 19th September, 2023.

Context: The national consultant will support with preparation for pre- and post- country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) meetings for key populations (HIV, tuberculosis and malaria).

Scope/Objective: The national consultant will support with preparation for pre- and post- country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) meetings for key populations (HIV, tuberculosis and malaria).

Tasks and Metrics: The national consultant is expected to perform the following tasks: Task 1: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 2: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 3: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 4: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 5: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 6: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 7: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 8: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Task 9: Undertstand and become familiar with the principle of Positioning. Metric: Positioning & Learning module completed.

Table with 2 columns: Facilitate referrals from CCM, Vertical meetings conducted by disease meetings. Results achieved, decisions made at the meeting, Bi-directional communication on the issues raised and decisions made by CCM and its Constituents related to civil society, and/or people living with and/or affected by the three diseases and community with respective constituencies.

Table with 2 columns: Develop a summary report with key findings, including recommendations to strengthen bi-directional feedback outcomes from facilitations for each of the meetings.

Deliverables: CCM to agree on deliverables, which may include the following: Work plan with activities to improve the quality of pre-post meeting preparations, documents and speaking notes summarizing the position(s) of representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society, and communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases.

Reporting Lines: The consultant will report to the CCM Management Committee, the Chair CCM Sierra Leone and the Executive Secretary/Country Coordinator CCM Sierra Leone.

Level of effort (LoE): The consultant will be required to support pre- and post-preparations for at least three (03) CCM (or relevant CCM committee) meetings between Monday 4th to Tuesday 19th September 2023 (3 days per week for three (03) hours each day).

Qualifications: Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree required, with social science, public health, population studies or orientation highly desirable.

Experiences and competencies: At least 3 years of experience working with key populations, people living with and/or affected by the three diseases, civil society and community groups.

Ability to synthesize and summarize strategic information. Ability to coach/mentor. Good analytical and documentation/report writing skills.

Optional qualifications, expertise and competencies: Demonstrated knowledge/experience of the Global Fund grant architecture and management process. Experience in the short and medium terms.

Date Posted: Wednesday 26th July, 2023

Deadline for receipt of application: Friday 11th August, 2023

To Apply: Send a Letter of Interest (LOI). Updated CV with three (03) referees to consultant@ccmsl.org.sl

Table with 2 columns: (2-4 page) Power Point Presentation, Key findings and conclusions from the mapping exercise.

Reporting Lines: The consultant will report to the CCM Management Committee, the Chair CCM Sierra Leone and the Executive Secretary/Country Coordinator CCM Sierra Leone.

Level of effort and period of performance: The consultant has 25 LoE to be used over a period of 2 months i.e., September to October 2023.

Candidate Profile: A. Qualifications: Essential: Advanced degree in public health, finance, public administration or business administration, or related field.

B. Experience: Essential: Solid experience in developing partnerships in political environments and in mediating complex issues and deliverables at country, regional and international levels.

C. Competencies: Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications. Robust understanding of governance matters.

Language: Working level of English as well as knowledge of the local language (particularly the one most widely spoken by key population representatives) are a requirement for this role.

Technical skills: High degree of organization, initiative and political awareness.

Knowledge of public health issues. Strong interpersonal skills and proven ability to communicate and interact with high-level officials from the government, NGOs, UN agencies and the private sector.

Strong writing, presentation and communication skills and IT competencies are essential. Ability to lead a team and set priorities while handling multiple tasks simultaneously.

Previous development experience and/or background with government or private sector desirable.

Date Posted: Wednesday 26th July, 2023 6th July 2023.

Deadline for receipt of application: Friday 11th August, 2023

To Apply: Send a Letter of Interest (LOI). Updated CV with three (03) referees to consultant@ccmsl.org.sl

The recruitment process will abide by CCM SL Conflict of Interest Policy.

Table with 2 columns: Facilitate referrals from CCM, Vertical meetings conducted by disease meetings. Results achieved, decisions made at the meeting, Bi-directional communication on the issues raised and decisions made by CCM and its Constituents related to civil society, and/or people living with and/or affected by the three diseases and community with respective constituencies.

Deliverables: CCM to agree on deliverables, which may include the following: Work plan with activities to improve the quality of pre-post meeting preparations, documents and speaking notes summarizing the position(s) of representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society, and communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases.

Reporting Lines: The consultant will report to the CCM Management Committee, the Chair CCM Sierra Leone and the Executive Secretary/Country Coordinator CCM Sierra Leone.

Level of effort (LoE): The consultant will be required to support pre- and post-preparations for at least three (03) CCM (or relevant CCM committee) meetings between Monday 4th to Tuesday 19th September 2023 (3 days per week for three (03) hours each day).

Qualifications: Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree required, with social science, public health, population studies or orientation highly desirable.

Experiences and competencies: At least 3 years of experience working with key populations, people living with and/or affected by the three diseases, civil society and community groups.

Ability to synthesize and summarize strategic information. Ability to coach/mentor. Good analytical and documentation/report writing skills.

Optional qualifications, expertise and competencies: Demonstrated knowledge/experience of the Global Fund grant architecture and management process. Experience in the short and medium terms.

Date Posted: Wednesday 26th July, 2023

Deadline for receipt of application: Friday 11th August, 2023

To Apply: Send a Letter of Interest (LOI). Updated CV with three (03) referees to consultant@ccmsl.org.sl

The recruitment process will abide by CCM SL Conflict of Interest Policy.

Table with 2 columns: Facilitate referrals from CCM, Vertical meetings conducted by disease meetings. Results achieved, decisions made at the meeting, Bi-directional communication on the issues raised and decisions made by CCM and its Constituents related to civil society, and/or people living with and/or affected by the three diseases and community with respective constituencies.

Deliverables: CCM to agree on deliverables, which may include the following: Work plan with activities to improve the quality of pre-post meeting preparations, documents and speaking notes summarizing the position(s) of representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society, and communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases.

Reporting Lines: The consultant will report to the CCM Management Committee, the Chair CCM Sierra Leone and the Executive Secretary/Country Coordinator CCM Sierra Leone.

Level of effort (LoE): The consultant will be required to support pre- and post-preparations for at least three (03) CCM (or relevant CCM committee) meetings between Monday 4th to Tuesday 19th September 2023 (3 days per week for three (03) hours each day).

Qualifications: Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree required, with social science, public health, population studies or orientation highly desirable.

Experiences and competencies: At least 3 years of experience working with key populations, people living with and/or affected by the three diseases, civil society and community groups.

Ability to synthesize and summarize strategic information. Ability to coach/mentor. Good analytical and documentation/report writing skills.

- Easy to use merchant payment.
- Person to person (P2P) or person to business (P2B) payment.
- Make payment using mobile phone.
- Total visibility of your transaction

Head Office: 2 Howe Street, Freetown, PMB 1237, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Mobile: 077 713533, 077630832, 088 635750



Traditional Sports Scribe Meets U.S. Rep to Secure Support



In a heartwarming effort to preserve and celebrate traditional sports and games around the world, Shammi Rana, the Secretary General of the International Council of Traditional Sports and Games (ICTSG), recently met with the dedicated U.S. Representative Mike Levin at the Los Angeles, California. Mr. Levin, known for his commitment to important causes and his constituents in California's 49th congressional district, warmly welcomed the endeavor.

The meeting brought together two passionate advocates of cultural heritage preservation through traditional sports and games: Advocate Sartaj Singh Sekhon, a valued member of the ICTSG Advisory Committee, and Vansh Rana, an influential advisor to the ICTSG Youth Committee. Dr. Asif Mahmood, a prominent leader in the Democratic Party of Los Angeles, facilitated the gathering, adding his support to the cause.

The heart of the meeting revolved around securing support from the United States for an ambitious UNESCO project dedicated to safeguarding and promoting traditional sports and games worldwide. Shammi Rana, a true pioneer in the preservation of these cherished traditions emphasized the profound importance of cultural activities in shaping identity, fostering unity, and preserving heritage for future generations.

Mr. Rana's opening words set the tone for a heartfelt discussion. "In the delicate tapestry of our human heritage, traditional sports represent the threads of our past, interwoven with the aspirations of our future," he passionately expressed, highlighting the significance of these cultural treasures.

During the meeting, Secretary General Rana underscored the essential role of the UNESCO project in raising awareness about traditional sports and games' importance. He stressed the need for collective efforts to protect these invaluable intangible assets from fading away amidst the challenges posed by modernization and globalization.

Advocate Sartaj Singh Sekhon, renowned for his expertise in cultural heritage laws, provided

valuable insights. His recommendations revolved around fostering international partnerships for information exchange and empowering local communities actively involved in preserving traditional sports and games through capacity-building programs.

Vansh Rana, as the youth committee advisor at ICTSG, brought a fresh and dynamic perspective. He emphasized the importance of engaging the younger generation as active participants in preserving these cherished traditions. "Empowering the youth as torchbearers of our cultural heritage will invigorate our cultural landscape and kindle a shared sense of identity," Mr. Rana passionately stated, inspiring those in attendance.

Representative Mike Levin acknowledged the significance of the cause and wholeheartedly pledged his support to the UNESCO project. He commended the dedication of ICTSG to preserving diverse cultural expressions through traditional sports and games. Levin assured Shammi Rana, Advocate Sartaj Singh Sekhon, and Vansh Rana of his commitment to advocate for the cause at the highest levels of government and international organizations.

The meeting also witnessed the presence of several other prominent figures, including Mr. Javaid Akhtar, a respected businessman known for his contributions to the tire industry through Tire Gem, and Maqsood Ahmad, the distinguished entrepreneur behind Wheel Mart. Sumeet Chadha, a renowned financial advisor representing the World Financial Group, and Sunny Randhir Singh, a prominent figure in sports and cultural preservation, were also present, showing their unwavering support for the UNESCO project.

Shammi Rana expressed gratitude and admiration for the Biden administration's decision to rejoin and support UNESCO, highlighting the significance of international collaboration in preserving the world's cultural heritage. He commended the renewed commitment to protecting cultural diversity and fostering mutual understanding on a global scale.

As the meeting concluded on a positive note, all attendees expressed optimism about the success of the UNESCO project and the continued growth of traditional sports and games worldwide. The event marked a significant step forward in the mission to safeguard and celebrate the richness of cultural expressions inherent in traditional sports and games.

With the collaboration between ICTSG and the United States gaining momentum, the world eagerly anticipates the positive impact this alliance will have on the preservation and promotion of traditional sports and games for generations to come. Together, they embark on a journey to uphold the tapestry of our shared cultural heritage, ensuring its vibrant colors remain for the delight of future generations.

Cricket: Sierra Leone work magic over Uganda in World Cup Qualifier

Sierra Leone's Junior Patriots emerged from a hopeless angle with the last ball of the match to miraculously defeat Uganda by a lone wicket in the ongoing ICC African Division 1 World Cup qualifier in Tanzania.

The search for the second win from four matches in the tournament was almost over for the West African lads' thanks to the rescue of the late-order partnership of Ibrahim Sesay and Aliya Kamara as they took vital singles to gash the shackles and follow the Kenneth course. Sierra Leone won the toss and elected to bowl first, limiting the Ugandans to 137 runs all out in 49.3 overs.

Batting, Uganda's skipper Mutagana Fahad lead the charge with 48 runs followed by Olipa Gerald faced new balls, posting 26 off 79 balls for a 32.92 strike rate.

Omara Ronald (18 runs), and Brian Asaba (12 runs) led Uganda to 137 as the remaining six suffered low scores and clean ducks with 20 extras.

Replying, Sierra Leone hit 138 for the loss of nine wickets in 50 overs.



The chase, slow and grinding, brought Alusine Turay for 25, George Sesay for 37, Raymond Coker for 20, Ibrahim Sesay for 14 (not out), and Aliya Kamara for 11 (not out), conceding 21 extras. Sierra Leone's Raymond Coker won Player of the Match.

Sierra Leone's Bakayoko delighted over Dundee move



Sierra Leone International striker, Amadou says he is delighted to join Scottish Premier League side, Dundee FC on a season-long loan.

Following the club's official announcement about the signing of the striker, the former Bolton forward said he is looking forward to the new challenge.

Bakayoko said, "I am delighted to be able to come and play for this club in the Scottish Premiership and I am looking forward to the challenges ahead. I am looking forward to working with the manager and coaching staff. It is always nice to be wanted and I will give my best to the club the fans and myself."

Dundee manager Tony Docherty told the club website, "Amadou is someone that we feel we have been monitoring all summer and was someone that came to our attention

through our contacts down South. At 27 he is a hungry player, he did well in terms of his overall play and goal-scoring whilst at Coventry and Bolton. We've had him up and he's looked round the facilities, as he had other suitors in England but he has decided that he wants to come to Scotland and join us.

We want to have a blend of strikers at the club, what Amadou will bring is his physicality, he's a very good link player and good with his back to goal. We feel he will complement the existing strikers that we already have at the club. He's a target man who is big and strong and will link the play."

The 6ft 4 centre-forward is the Scottish club on a season-long loan deal from Forest Green Rovers, subject to International Clearance.

The 27-year-old Bakayoko came through the ranks at Walsall and went on to play 93 times for The Saddlers, he had loan spells with Southport, AFC Telford United and Worcester City whilst signed to Walsall. He then spent time with Coventry City firstly in English League One and then the English Championship after they gained promotion. He then moved to Bolton Wanderers before joining Forest Green.

Amadou has been capped six times for the Sierra Leone National Team and has scored once.