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Civilians among military personnel arrested

SLPP North America Secretary-General blasts U.S, EU



SLPP Secretary-General,
North America Region, New
England Chapter, Albert Hinga Jusu

A reliable source at the Ministry of Defense has disclosed to Concord Times that some civilians were among the military personnel arrested for an alleged attempt to disturb the peace and security of the country.

Although the source could not disclose the number of civilians and military personnel that were arrested, he noted that the Military is conducting a joint investigation with the police and that the outcome will rightly be disclosed to the public.

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Umaru Napoleon Koroma: The missing puzzle in the mines and minerals Sector



Niger coup: Chiefs of Defence Staff of ECOWAS nations meet in Abuja

Religious leaders, tribal heads engaged on post elections peace & cohesion

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PERSONAL GLIMPSES

By: Winstanley, R. Bankole. Johnson

The military putsch of 27th July in Niger inflamed democratic passions globally, but more severely within the sub-region and Western democracies. But I suppose that – in addition to their penchant for meaningless ultimatums without meaningful deadlines in the event of a failure of compliance – was where their similarities ended. Observe the variances in their separate rhetoric (purportedly in good faith) to restore democratic normalcy.

Dissimilarities

Western democracies have varied strategic and economic interests in Africa under focus. In Niger it is two-fold: (1). To preserve and protect the supply chain and access to the second largest Uranium deposits in the world and (2). A political presence, with up to 27th July Niger being the last bastion of Western influence in the entire Sahel region. So the Westerners being more ingrained in matters of peace building, safeguards for national cohesion coupled with proven antecedents for good governance, respect for human rights, the rule of law and the privileges attendant upon them for their citizens, were tactful to urge for restraints and the unconditional release of 63-years old President Mohammed Bazoum.

The ECOWAS and AU states leaders on the other hand – empirically lacking in all of those accolades I have lavished on Western democracies; and in whom total disrespect and disregard for their citizens welfare are normal, rather disingenuously opted for belligerence by requesting the plotters to desist from their “treasonable acts”, and to hand power back to the constitutionally elected government. That was enough of a disincentive to strengthen the Junta's resolve not to budge, because no African Head of State would substitute the gallows with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist for the ring leaders among those who attempted to usurp power from them by force in the name of reconciliation.

Such glaring dissimilarities between the ECOWAS/AU and Western government approach to rapprochement should be a steep learning curve for the former. The result of which will mean that after expiry of their 15 days ultimatum – and this is based on past experiences – the less politically matured AU and ECOWAS block will (not unexpectedly) run out of ideas, except for their occasional facts finding forays in between ECOWAS Headquarters in Abuja and “Ground Zero” in Niamey for the next three or four years leaving the junta leaders remain properly ensconced in power. Contrast the ECOWAS/EU approach with that of the more politically savvy Western democracies who, to avoid such a lame duck situation were careful enough to

have only couched their own rhetoric with threats of unspecified sanctions, but without committing themselves to implementation deadlines.

Suspensions

As we anxiously await the outcomes of both approaches in the coming weeks (or months and possibly years) and either of which is likely to impact the citizens more adversely than the junta, questions have begun to be asked why – in the interest of peace – the same flexibility accorded to the Juntas in Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea wasn't now being extended to General Abdurahmane Tchiani of Niger, that would also enable him to enjoy the sweets of power for another three (3) years minimum, before handing over power to a democratic civilian regime based on the same democratic principles for which he overthrew Bazoum? These questions have deepened suspicions that the condemnations so far by the West are more in the interest of using the ECOWAS/AU to protect their continued exploitation of mineral resources in Niger – particularly by France – than in the safeguarding of the welfare, human and democratic values of the average Nigerien.

It is such suspicions that have elicited a joint statement of condemnation (by Burkina Faso and Mali to be precise), against anyone threatening the military junta in Niger with external military interventions, and committing their national security forces' tacit support to join Nigerien forces in robustly defending same should that happen. A part of that joint statement to which Col. Mamadu Dumbuya the military leader of Guinea has also subscribed to reads: *“The transitional government of Burkina Faso and Mali are deeply indignant and surprisedabout the adventurous attitude of certain leaders in West Africa wishing to use force to restore constitutional order in a sovereign nation.....and on the other hand the inaction, indifference and passive complicity of these organizations and political leaders in helping states and peoples who have been victims of terrorism for a decade and left to their fate The transitional governments stand ready and mobilized in order to lend a hand to the people of Niger in these dark hours of Pan-Africanism”*

If that adage: “What is good for the Goose should also be good for the Gander” holds true, then that statement of solidarity to me sounded the death knell for any expectation of a restoration of Mohammed Bazoum back to power. Meaning further that after a lull exceeding fifteen years, politics within the West African sub-region is looking like a “back to square-one” scenario of periodic interchanges between civilian and military governments – unless the

ECOWAS/AU quickly clarify and redirect their course and start focusing on the root causes for Coups than on the event itself. Out of sixteen states within the ECOWAS sub-region, four are now under sober Junta rule (Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea and Niger) whilst the political leadership in another two – Sierra Leone and Nigeria – are plodding on with inarguably stolen governance mandates. In the event the volatility of the west African sub-region cannot be understated, leaving the very big brother Nigeria as the next most likely candidate for an insurrection.

Traits

Given African leaders' new found hope for quick economic bailouts and recovery in Russia, Turkey and China – this trend is unlikely to change for as long as we continue to have leaders who once in power soon begin to manifest traits akin to the characteristics of the traditional Chieftaincy background from which most of them emerged such as:

1. Insatiable thirsts for power through a manipulation of the National Constitution to extend their tenures interminably
2. Total disrespect and disregard for the entrenched rights and freedoms of their citizens as guaranteed by their Constitutions – particularly the rights and freedoms of expression, association and unfettered accesses to justice and the Rule of Law – through a manifestation of the Pa-O-Pa mentality and systemic “tribalization and polarization” of the entire national political and administrative fabric within Government Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs)
3. Consistent manipulation of MDAs – particularly the Security Sector, the Judiciary, the Electoral Commission (EC) and Political Parties Regulations Authorities (PPRA) to bring them under State Capture and ensure they only do the bidding of rigging electoral outcomes in favour incumbent Heads of States – no matter how unpopular – through announcements of a fraction of globally discredited elections results.
4. Palpable disregard for the welfare of the majority of their citizens even where more than three-quarters of the population continue to wallow in poverty and squalor on account of gross mismanagement of their natural resources. For example at the time of executing the Coup in Niger and against a backdrop of that country's huge and

untapped Uranium mineral resources, World Bank indicators point to three million of Nigeriens desperately needing emergency food rations with another four million feeling shelter insecurity.

5. Raise parallel security brigades under an acronym of “Elite Presidential Guards”, whose only track record for bravery is evidenced not from war fronts, but by a brutalization of peaceful and unarmed civilians, mainly the leaders and office structures of opposition parties.

Rather interestingly as was evident in neighbouring Guinea (twice), Mali, Burkina Faso – and even dating back to the olden days of Haile Selassie, Mobutu Sesse-Seko, Laurent Kabila, Sylvanus Olympio, Muamarr Ghaddafi etc the actual ring leaders of all military coups within the African continent have always been members of those same “Elite Presidential Guards”.

As President George Opong Weah of neighbouring Liberia aptly puts it (paraphrased): *“As long as ECOWAS (AU?) tolerates institutional coups that allow lifetime presidencies or a manipulation of the electoral systems to favour such perpetuities, there will always be military coups in Africa. And we cannot be condemning military coups when we fail to condemn those who carry out institutional coups”*.

And I support George Opong Weah's conclusions that the ECOWAS/AU have to start working more for the interests of the peoples than in promoting the peace-broker ideals of those organizations. For the ECOWAS/AU to start redirecting their course at the basis for coups than on the event of coups taking place it because as at now it is not really clear in whose interests the ECOWAS/AU are working. Perhaps a starting point would be for the ECOWAS/AU to consider whether an Independent African Elections Supervision Authority should not be created to be conducting elections throughout the sub-region so as to give credibility and meaning to the term of “a level playing field” for all intending candidates, and to avoid the kind of stalemate Sierra Leone and Nigeria are currently experiencing.

For now (and particularly from recent experiences in Sierra Leone) it is looking both unrealistic and impossible for future elections within the sub-region to be ever conducted on “a level playing field” under an incumbent President that wields absolute constitutional control over a Judiciary, an Electoral Commission, a Security Sector and a Political Parties Management Authority – and all of whose heads were appointed by him. That undeniably, is a clear recipe for chaos.



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VOX POP with Yusufu S. Bangura & Blessing C. Cole

What Sierra Leoneans say about the increase in the prices of petroleum products?

Yesterday, government announced the increment in the prices of petroleum products from Le 21, 500 per litre to Le25, 000 and this development came as no welcome news to many Sierra Leoneans

In this Vox Pop, Concord Times' Yusufu S. Bangura & Blessing C. Cole on Wednesday took to the streets of Freetown to gauge the views of citizens about the current development.

Kadiatu Kamara, Trader



As a trader and a citizen of this country, the increase in the price of fuel has affected us a lot because the cost of transportation and basic communities has also increased.

Like yesterday morning, I suffered a lot to access transportation, so I am pleading with the government to intervene on our behalf for the fuel price to decrease.

Shaka Bangura, Mercury Retailer

One thing I usually said is that this country is not yet ready to move forward. For instance, fuel price has now been increased from Le21, 500 to Le 25, 000, and whenever they want to reduce the price they will only remove a cent.

I used to pay Le 5, 000 for the place where I conduct my business, but due to the increase in the price of fuel, I now pay Le 8, 000. I have some constraints to find a bike that will take me to my business area.

I am calling on the President to help us by reducing the price of fuel, so everyone will enjoy a better living.



Bockarie Jajua, Carpenter



In my own view as a Sierra Leonean, I believe that the increase in the price of fuel does not go down with us because we are expecting things to be better for us. If things like this are happening we will not be happy as we voted for us to enjoy as citizens, but things continue to be harder for everyone in the country.

I want the government to have dialogue session with those responsible to ensure that the price of fuel decreases.

Ibrahim Sorie, unemployed

As for me, the increase in the price of fuel will have negative effect on everyone's life. Never mind I don't have a car but I have to take transportation to go and pay visit to my children. If I don't have Le 20-30,000, I will not be able to visit them.

One thing I observe is that there is no price control in this country as everyday things continue to be hard for us the poor masses.



Sheik Abubakarr Sankoh, Deputy Imam at Kingtom Mosque



As for me, the hardship is not only affecting us here, but also affecting other countries. The increase in the price of fuel will also make things more difficult for us. As a poor man, the only thing I need is food. We always ask God to direct our leaders so that they can rule the country well.

Lamin Sidikqui Kamara, Bike Rider

As a bike rider, the increase in the price of fuel has affected my work greatly because if I ask a passenger to give me Le7.00 from Kingtom Bridge to St. John, that individual will not pay. We are suffering and yesterday from 8am to 2:30pm I only made Le 50,000.

I am pleading with government to help us reduce the price of fuel because we are suffering.



Abubakarr Kargbo, Keke Rider



The increase in the price of fuel has affected my work because passengers are not willing pay us the money that we asked them to pay and that makes it difficult for us riding tricycle.

Civilians among military personnel arrested

From Cover

It could be recalled that, Assistant Inspector General of Police, Brima Jah, who doubles as Director of Operations, on Monday, 31st July, informed journalists about the arrest of several senior military personnel suspected of allegedly working to undermine the peace of the country.

He couldn't either disclose the names of the personnel or the number of arrest made. He also couldn't disclose whether civilians were involved.

He said the arrest was made based on intelligence by the security on the activities of certain individuals, including senior military

officers, working to undermine the peace and tranquillity of the state and unleash violence on peaceful citizens.

"Preliminary investigations have revealed that these individuals planned to use purported peaceful protests between 7th to 10th August 2023, as a guise to unleash violent attacks against state institutions and peaceful citizens. The security sector notes with dismay, that despite continued efforts to consolidate our hard won peace and democratic gains, there are individuals at home and abroad that continue to undertake actions meant to derail the peace and tranquility of the country," he said.

LOCAL NEWS

New Tourism Minister urged to address the seaweed issue

By Jariatu S Bangura

Members of Parliament have called on the new Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Madam Nabella Tunis, to handle the influx of seaweeds along the country's beaches as it continues to destroy the beauty of the beaches. The exhibiting piles of seaweeds has badly affected fishing processes and damaged several fishing nets for fishermen. Hon. Matthew Nyuma said the seaweed could be converted into some meaningful materials including medicinal, among several others. Hon. Amara Kargbo said one of the challenges in the tourism sector is that the beaches have been flooded with seaweeds, a development he described

as horrible for the country, especially for those living around the seaside communities.

He said for far too long they have been living an ignorant lives, allowing things as they are, adding that it is high time the country converted the seaweed into something useful purposes.

He said the main route to the Tombo Wharf is not healthy as a majority of the artisanal fishermen live in that community.

Hon. Alex Rogers said the tourism sector should not only be centred in Freetown as there are other touristic sites that need attention in the provinces.

He cited the Solima tourist site in Pujehun district, among others which he said needed attention.



Tourism Minister, Nabella Tunis

U.S. Embassy, Joint Operations Center build maritime capabilities



On August 1st, 2023, The U.S. Embassy Freetown Security Cooperation team installed additional electronic equipment at the Joint Operations Center in Murray Town. This new equipment will greatly enhance the capabilities of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) Maritime Wing in monitoring threats in the coastal waters of Sierra Leone.

The Joint Operations Center monitors watercraft off the coast of Sierra Leone and determines which watercraft poses a threat and decides what action to take

against the vessel. The additional monitoring station will allow an additional set of eyes to monitor threats and calls for assistance and help prevent incidents. The equipment was donated by the United States to boost security operations in Sierra Leone.

"Working with the RSLAF Maritime Wing to upgrade their system capabilities is a must," noted Security Cooperation Chief Jeb Baker. "The safety and security of the citizens of Sierra Leone will always be a joint priority of both the Sierra Leonean and United States Governments."

Health Ministry holds induction ceremony for 110 young doctors

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), has held its first induction ceremony for one hundred and ten junior doctors that will be posted in the provincial areas.

The induction ceremony was organised by the ministry at the Family Kingdom Resort, Aberdeen in Freetown. The ministry also presented and donated 42 ultrasound devices to major hospitals across the country.

Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Clinical Services, Dr. Mustapha Kabba, disclosed that the doctors constitute those who graduated last year as well as those who did this year.

Dr. Kabba emphasised the need for a smooth transition, which he said must be supported with a deliberate effort to ensuring that the junior doctors succeed in their career.



Junior Doctors at the induction ceremony

He also mentioned that the ceremony was important because it created the platform for the ministry to explain what is expected of the doctors.

He recounted that those that graduated last year were posted to different regions.

He further revealed that backlogs rent allowance was taken into consideration. "Each and every doctor will receive \$ 150 USD as rent allowance per month," he disclosed.

"The funds came from an

anonymous donor and it will serve for three years, and it will cover rent allowance for 50-60 doctors that will be posted in the rural areas," he disclosed. In his keynote address, Minister of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), Dr. Austin Demby encouraged the junior

doctors to always put on their white coat while at the hospital, for according to the Minister, that is what makes them stand out.

"You should wear that coat with pride," he told the doctors.

Minister Demby revealed that the Ministry would have to figure out how to reclaim that dignity that comes out of the recognition of doctors.

The Minister urged junior doctors to make the necessary sacrifice for their country, thereby contributing to building it and making it better.

"The future of the country is in your hands, so create the future that you want while we create the space for you," he added.

Minister Demby further emphasised the need for Sierra Leone as a nation to build its own institutions and make them strong.



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LOCAL NEWS SLPP North America Secretary-General blasts U.S, EU

Secretary General of the Sierra Leone People's Party, North America Region's New England Chapter, Albert Hinga Jusu, has charged that "the European Union, Carter Center and US Ambassador to Sierra Leone David Reimer allegedly induced and seduced senior military officers to overthrow the President Julius Maada Bio in the just aborted coup." Speaking to this press from Boston, USA, Albert Hinga Jusu observed that "even before the first ballot was cast in the June elections, the European Election Entrepreneurs, Ambassador Reimer and Cater Center had engaged in political intrigues, exploited the diplomatic community in opportunistic, manipulative, vicious & devious ways for 'regime change' in Sierra Leone." According to Secretary General Albert Hinga Jusu, "Ambassador David Reimer, the EU and Cater Center made themselves the catalyst for the regime change. Unfortunately, they have refused to change even after the people have spoken." Mr Jusu maintained "the triumph of democracy and enthronement of the wishes of the people which translate into the re-election of President Julius Maada Bio was a slap in their face. Instead of refrigerating the ingredients of our democracy, this guy and accompanying institutions have polluted it."

Secretary Albert Jusu describes the June 24th general election "as a watertight election that will go down in history as one of the most peaceful,

most free, most fair and most transparent election in the history of elections in Sierra Leone."

He further stated that "the result announced by the Electoral Commission is the collective dream, national aspiration and prayer of the people of Sierra Leone. Yet, some egocentric villains in the diplomatic community became the parochial voice of the dysfunctional opposition APC and futilely attempted to stop a president destined for greatness."

Albert Hinga Jusu recollected that "When you lament about 'statistical inconsistencies' that do not exist, you lay the foundation for turmoil; you hold the country to ransom with impunity and unbridled arrogance."

He reiterated "and the ignorant army officers were listening to you, Ambassador David Reimer, Cater Center and European Union. You were so determined to impose your clumsy, alcoholic, dubiously klepto-induced candidate on us that you sacrificed the safety of the citizens of Sierra Leone. Not even the peace and stability of our country could dwarf your naked quest."

Referring directly to the US Ambassador and others, Mr Jusu echoed "Ambassador David Reimer, the army has been following the fog of your propaganda. The soldiers are privy to the Carter report riddled with ridicule. The sepulcher bashers of truth in the military heard the savage rumours of the European Union." In the midst of all this Albert Jusu asks the rhetorical question "What else would you expect?" He



furthered "Only a deluded citizen will fail to see the dreadful hate these diplomats have for peace & stability in Sierra Leone. Today, Ambassador David Reimer, the European Union and Cater Center are the problems we have in the country. They fertilized this coup and had the coup plotters succeeded, they would have quoted Ambassador Reimer, the EU and Cater Center to justify their disruption of democracy." Your election credibility chorus has hoodwinked your listeners into believing that you mean well for Sierra Leone. No. You do not. We have no standard by which to measure the disaster that a successful coup would have brought on Sierra Leone fueled by your election fraud rhetoric. The voices of truth from UN, ECOWAS, AU, Commonwealth et al you have silenced and replaced with election denial incantations. You would have

recruited Abach traders, manipulated them into believing that jumping on the streets and assaulting police officers is legitimate. Do you really see through the sham you have been selling in the name of election observation? When you see an APC politician, you see lie and deceit in human flesh, yet you were chasing the cloned APC executives for briefings like a sniffer dog around cocaine.

Secretary Albert Jusu believes "these guys will go down in history as vultures of diplomacy who inflicted fatal wounds on our democracy. You will be remembered as perverted political jackals who bastardized our clean and fair electoral process."

Albert Hinga Jusu concludes "You will continue to sink into the abyss of moral debauchery as long as your policies are egged on sinister motives. In your leadership we were pregnant with hope but we have a miscarriage of justice. You put Sierra Leone between the blades of your political guillotine and these coup plotters would have chopped our heads off. Just in case you have forgotten: Osama Bin Laden did not fly the planes into the World Trade Center but he was as guilty as those who did it. Donald Trump did not march to the Capitol on January 6th but he is as guilty as those who did it. You may not have plotted to over His Excellency Rt Brig Julius Maada Bio; the constitutionally and legitimately elected president of the Republic of Sierra Leone but you are as guilty as those who did it."

Umaru Napoleon Koroma: The missing puzzle in the mines and minerals Sector

By Samuel Glazer Thomas

Many people whom I have interacted with would often describe me as a pessimist or rather too controversial a figure. In truth, I am neither of the two characterizations. What is however true about me is the proclivity to see white and call it white.

Today, I am zeroing in on one of President Julius Maada Bio's appointees...Umaru Napoleon Koroma as Deputy Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources. The extractive industry as many would call it is a ruthless terrain...one which can swallow you up if you are not made of sterner stuff with requisite credentials. These credentials don't necessarily come with academic or professional qualifications. They come with a certain pedigree that would not only give you an edge over investors and other significant others in the industry, it will equally account for a larger proportion of the achievements



you will make as a veritable servant of the state.

However, a quick scan of Umaru Napoleon Koroma's credentials will give us a clearer perspective on why I believe he is the proverbial 'missing puzzle' in President Bio's efforts to sanitize the minerals sector. From holding a post graduate degree in Dispute Resolution from the University of London, the unassuming former Deputy Minister of Justice specialises in International Commercial and International Investment Law. His first two degrees in Political Sciences and Law respectively may have heralded and positioned him for greater things in life but his dedication to his legal

practice sets him apart from others.

As a lawyer, Umaru Napoleon Koroma made outstanding representations in a number mining dispute and by the time he became Deputy Minister of Justice, he was well grounded to conveniently handle a mining dispute between the government of Sierra Leone and the Gerald Group after a mining lease agreement with SL mining was terminated by the government of Sierra Leone. While his short one year stint as Chairman for the National Commission for Privatization may have further exposed him to governance and investment as he oversaw the operations of more than 12 parastatals, Umaru Napoleon Koroma is a fierce negotiator with an uncompromising attitude towards individuals or organizations with the proclivity for byzantine shenanigans. He is unapologetically patriotic!!

If the mining sector is about regulation....in line with the Mines and Minerals Act; if Mining is about

investment and negotiations; if all those highly commendable and people centered mining and lease agreements during President Bio's first five year tenure were done with significant contributions from our new Deputy Minister of Mines; can we then conclude that the appointment of a firebrand lawyer in the person of Umaru Napoleon Koroma was a masterstroke by the President? Oh yes, it is!!

In Sierra Leone, several mining deals have not only gone bad in the past, but have led to dangerous stalemates between citizens, investors and governments. And this was due to the apparent lack of involvement of competent legal professionals in these deals. In Umaru Napoleon Koroma, the government and people of Sierra Leone are assured of excellent governance architecture in the mining sector and I say this with no hesitation. Indeed, the missing part of the puzzle is here. Congratulations Mr Deputy Minister!!

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Combating Corruption through a Human Rights Approach

Corruption has long been a detrimental force undermining the progress and development of nations across the globe. Sierra Leone, like many other countries, faces significant challenges in tackling this pervasive issue. However, a beacon of hope shines through as the Human Rights Defenders Network Sierra Leone (HRDNSL) partners with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to spearhead a six-month campaign to combat corruption using a human rights-based approach. This unique collaboration aims to address corruption's root causes, promote transparency, and protect the rights of the people of Sierra Leone.

A human rights-based approach to combating corruption recognizes that corruption is not merely an isolated crime but a violation of the fundamental rights and dignity of individuals. This approach views corruption as a barrier to social justice and sustainable development and aims to ensure that all actions taken to address corruption are in line with international human rights standards.

The HRDNSL and the ACC acknowledge that combating corruption cannot be achieved solely through punitive measures and investigations. Instead, the campaign will focus on empowering the people of Sierra Leone to be active participants in the fight against corruption, emphasizing education, awareness, and advocacy as key pillars of the project.

Objectives of the campaign would be the following however it is not limited to the under mentioned...

1. **Awareness and Education:** The first and foremost objective of the campaign is to raise awareness about corruption's detrimental impact on society. Educational programs will be conducted in districts, various communities, and public forums to foster a better understanding of corruption and its ramifications.
2. **Empowerment of Citizens:** The campaign aims to empower citizens to play an active role in fighting corruption. Training sessions will be conducted to equip individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to identify and report corrupt practices confidently.
3. **Strengthening Institutional Capacity:** The partnership between HRDNSL and the ACC will focus on enhancing the ACC's investigative and enforcement capabilities. Specialized training and capacity-building workshops will be conducted to ensure more efficient and effective handling of corruption cases.
4. **Protection of Whistleblowers:** Whistleblowers play a crucial role in exposing corruption. The campaign will work towards establishing a robust mechanism to protect whistleblowers from retaliation and ensure their safety and confidentiality.
5. **Engaging Civil Society:** Recognizing the significance of civil society in holding institutions accountable, the campaign will actively involve civil society organizations in monitoring and advocating against corruption.
6. **Promoting Transparency and Accountability:** Transparency and accountability are essential in curbing corruption. The campaign will work towards promoting transparency within government institutions and encouraging public officials to be accountable for their actions.

The six-month campaign will be divided into various phases, each targeting specific aspects of corruption and its human rights implications. HRDNSL and the ACC will collaborate to design and implement tailored interventions based on the unique challenges faced by different regions and communities within Sierra Leone.

Community outreach programs will be organized to engage directly with citizens, creating a sense of ownership and collective responsibility in the fight against corruption. Additionally, radio broadcasts, social media campaigns, and public service announcements will be utilized to reach a broader audience and encourage public participation.

A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework will be put in place to measure the campaign's impact. Data will be collected regularly to assess the effectiveness of different strategies and identify areas that require further improvement. The success of the campaign will be determined not only by the number of corruption cases prosecuted but also by the level of awareness and engagement among citizens.

The partnership between the Human Rights Defenders Network Sierra Leone and the Anti-Corruption Commission marks a pivotal moment in the fight against corruption in Sierra Leone. By adopting a human rights-based approach, the campaign seeks to address the underlying causes of corruption while promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. With dedication, collaboration, and community empowerment, this six-month program has the potential to sow the seeds of positive change and pave the way for a more just and corruption-free future for Sierra Leone. This is made possible with support from the German Embassy under the project title "Combating Corruption with a Human Rights Approach in Sierra Leone."

The Human Rights Defenders Network Sierra Leone is a coalition of civil society organizations and individuals working to promote and protect human rights in Sierra Leone.

Religious leaders, tribal heads engaged on post elections peace & cohesion

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma



Participants at the meeting

The Conflict Prevention Group has engaged religious leaders and tribal heads to discuss steps that will promote social cohesion and community dialogue on post elections issues in the country.

The Conflict Prevention Group, which was set up by the current Chairman and National Returning Officer of the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (EC-SL), Mohamed K. Konneh, comprises of three organisations, including the Campaign for Human Rights and Development International CHRDI, the Inter-Religious Council and Eminent Women Peace Mediators.

Speaking during the event held yesterday, Wednesday, August 2nd, at the Freetown City Council Conference Hall in Freetown, Executive Director of CHRDI, Abdul Fatorma, said they thought around how to choose the first batch of people they should engage after the elections and that they came to the conclusion that they should engage religious leaders and tribal heads.

He explained that before the elections, they engaged market women, people living with disabilities, youth and the security sector, and that the engagement contributed to the peaceful conduct of the June 24 general elections. He said it is clear that there is tension among citizens after the elections, which is why they have decided to engage the religious and traditional leaders to see how they can engage their constituents for the purpose of peace and cohesion in the country.

He observed that there will be no promotion of peace and cohesion

without the involvement of those two groups.

He said over the years, the powers of the chiefs have declined but that they are working hard to ensure that their powers are restored.

Chairman of the National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED), Kalilu Totangi, said his office was established to help people know their rights and responsibilities, adding that in governance every political party is important because they all work for the development of the state.

He said tribal heads and religious leaders are needed to help restore peace in their various communities and that they were currently having engagement with people across the country.

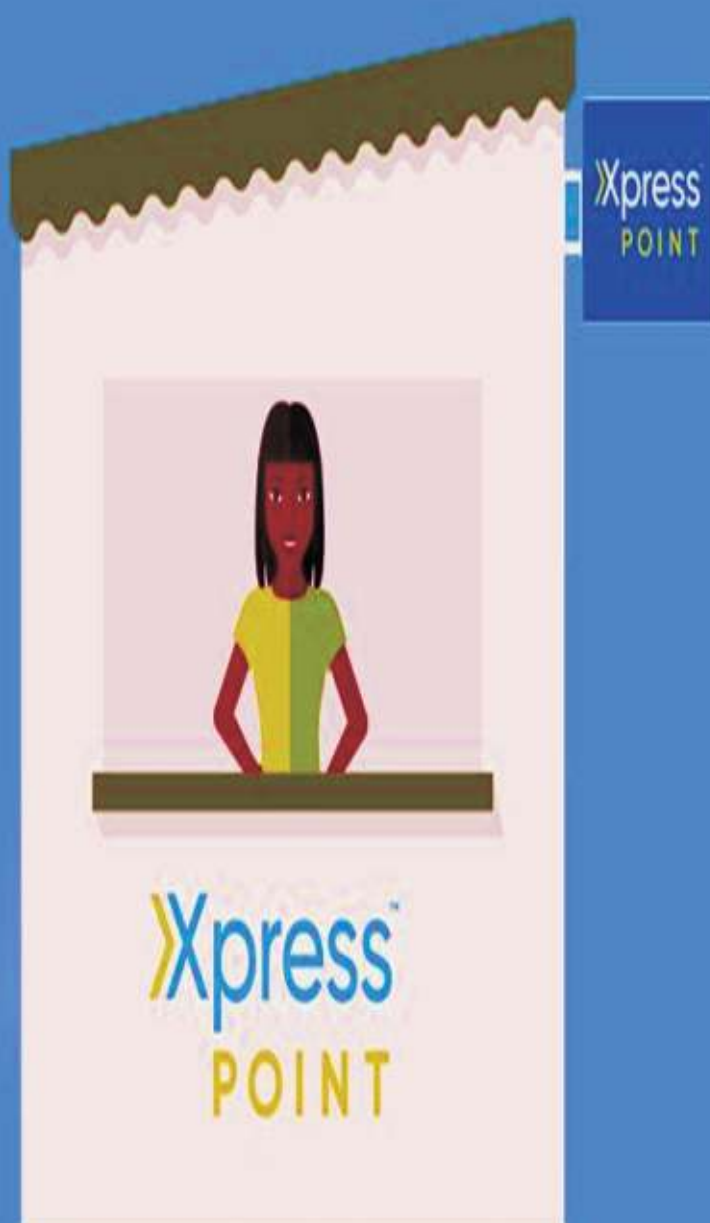
Representative of Eminent Women, Ebun James-Dekam, said the country is too small to be fighting each other and that everybody should be working now to promote peace and cohesion.

She said they also work together to promote peace and cohesion between former President Ernest Bai Koroma and current President Julius Maada Bio in 2012.

Also speaking, the Chairman for the Tribal Heads, Sahr Gbekie, said such kind of meeting was timely and very important for the promotion of peace and cohesion in the country and called on every Sierra Leonean to have trust and respect state institutions.

He said civic education is very important because it helps to let people know their customs and traditions and also help them especially the children to know their responsibilities.

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

UN continuing efforts to restore order in Niger as foreigners evacuated

France, Italy and Spain announced evacuations from Niger for their citizens and other European nationals Tuesday, concerned that they risked becoming trapped by a military coup that won backing from three other West African nations also ruled by mutinous soldiers.

Two unarmed French military transport planes, which left from southern France, were on the ground at Niamey's airport by late afternoon Tuesday, and a third was expected, according to the French Joint Defense staff.

There was no immediate information on the number of evacuees they would transport.

France's Foreign Ministry cited recent violence that targeted its embassy in Niamey, the capital, as one of the reasons for its decision to offer evacuation flights to several hundred of its citizens and other Europeans.

Spain's Defense Ministry announced preparations to evacuate more than 70 nationals and Italy also said it was arranging a flight.

Germany's foreign office said its citizens in Niger should check whether their stay there is necessary and if not they should "take the next available opportunity to leave."

The evacuations come during a deepening crisis sparked by the coup last week against Niger's

democratically elected president, Mohamed Bazoum.

His apparent overthrow is a blow for Western nations that were working with Niger against West African extremists.

The West African regional body known as ECOWAS announced travel and economic sanctions against Niger on Sunday and said it could use force if the coup leaders don't reinstate Bazoum within one week.

ECOWAS suspended all commercial and financial transactions between its member states and Niger, as well as freezing Nigerian assets held in regional central banks.

Niger relies heavily on foreign aid, and sanctions could further impoverish its more than 25 million people.

Both the United States and France have sent troops and hundreds of millions of dollars of military and humanitarian aid in recent years to Niger, which was a French colony until 1960.

The U.S. will consider cutting aid if the coup is successful, the State Department said Monday.

Aid is "very much in the balance depending on the outcome of the actions in the country," said department spokesman Matt Miller. "U.S. assistance hinges on continued democratic governance in Niger."

Nigerian Stowaways who survived 14 days on Ship's rudder rescued in Brazil

Four stowaways have endured a dangerous ten-day journey across the vast Atlantic Ocean on a cargo ship, hanging to a tiny space above the rudder.

The daring voyage covered a staggering 5,600 kilometers (3,500 miles) and unfolded under risky conditions that tested their resilience.

Their ordeal began when the courageous quartet embarked on the hazardous trip, seeking the prospect of a better life far from their homeland.

However, their pursuit took an alarming turn when they exhausted their limited supply of food and drink merely ten days into their hazardous venture.

The courageous four resorted to desperate measures, by sipping the seawater that crashed just meters below them. Their resolve and sheer willpower allowed them to endure an additional four days of agony on the open ocean.

The plight of the four caught the attention of Brazilian federal police patrolling the southeastern port of Vitoria saving the four from the clutches of the merciless ocean.

The risky journey of these four underlines the risks some migrants are prepared to take for a shot at a better life.

"It was a terrible experience for me," said 38-



Brazilian federal police offering water to the four Nigerian stowaways - Copyright © africanews twitter- @readthevoyage

year-old Thankgod Opemipo Matthew Yeye, one of the four Nigerians, in an interview at a Sao Paulo church shelter. "On board, it is not easy. I was shaking, so scared. But I'm here." The Reuters quoted in a report.

Their relief at being rescued soon gave way to surprise.

The four men said they had hoped to reach Europe and were shocked to learn they had in fact landed on the other side of the Atlantic, in Brazil.

Two of the men have since been returned to Nigeria upon their request, while Yeye and Roman Ebimene Friday, a 35-year-old from Bayelsa state, have applied for asylum in Brazil.

Both men said economic hardship, political instability and crime had left them with little option but to abandon their native Nigeria. Africa's most populous country has longstanding issues of violence and poverty, and kidnappings are endemic.

Former Ivorian nationalist president Henri Konan Bedie dies at 89

Ivory Coast's nationalist former president Henri Konan Bedie, who had not excluded the possibility of a return to power even in his latter days, has died aged 89, his party said.

The "Ivory Coast Democratic Party-African Democratic Rally (PDCI-RDA) is deeply saddened" to announce the "sudden death" of Bedie in hospital in Abidjan Tuesday, it said in a statement.

A crowd had begun to gather outside his residence in the capital, an AFP journalist said.

A career politician born in 1934 to a family of cocoa planters, Bedie was the chosen successor to Ivory Coast's founding father Felix Houphouët-Boigny, who ruled over the west African nation from independence from France in 1960 until his death in 1993, aged 88.

Bedie served as president from 1993 until 1999

Tunisia: President Kais Saied fires Prime minister Najla Bouden

Tunisian President Kais Saied sacked Prime Minister Najla Bouden on Tuesday shortly before midnight, without giving any explanation, replaced by a former senior Central Bank executive, Ahmed Hachani, whom he asked to "overcome colossal challenges".

No official explanation was given but several local media highlighted President Saied's displeasure with a number of shortages in the country, particularly of bread in state-subsidized bakeries.

Kais Saied "terminated the functions" of Prime Minister Najla Bouden, who had been the first woman to lead a government in Tunisia, according to a press release and a video from the Tunisian presidency released Tuesday shortly before midnight.

The new head of government was an executive at the Central Bank, and studied at the Faculty of Law of the University of Tunis where Kais Saied taught constitutional law, said the person concerned on Facebook.

Mr. Hachani, completely unknown to the general public, was immediately sworn in before

President Saied, according to the video from the presidency.

At the end of the ceremony, Mr. Saied wished him "good luck in this responsibility" taken "in a specific situation". The president stressed that "there are colossal challenges that we must overcome with a solid and strong will, in order to protect our homeland, our state and social peace".

In recent days, several meetings have taken place within the government and between the president and ministers around problems of shortages of subsidized bread in several regions.

According to media, Mr. Saied, who recently said that "bread is a red line for Tunisians", fears a repeat of the bread riots which left 150 dead in 1984 under Habib Bourguiba.

In Tunisia, since the 1970s faced with a low-wage economy, the State centralizes the purchase of a large number of basic products (flour, sugar, semolina, coffee, cooking oil) before reinjecting them into the market at affordable prices.

Kenya suspends Worldcoin cryptocurrency, data protection probe

Kenya announced on Wednesday that it was suspending the Worldcoin cryptocurrency, whose verification system is based on iris recognition, pending the outcome of investigations into "the security and protection of data" collected by the company.

Launched at the end of June in Germany by OpenAI boss Sam Altman, the Worldcoin system is also under investigation by European regulators, notably in France and Germany.

Worldcoin is intended to become a kind of blockchain-based digital passport, enabling users to prove their identity online without sharing personal data. To obtain this sesame, users must undergo an iris scan by an "orb", a biometric device designed by Worldcoin.

On Wednesday, the Kenyan Ministry of Home Affairs announced in a statement that it was "immediately suspending Worldcoin activities until the relevant government agencies certify the absence of any risk to the public."

This cryptocurrency is enjoying a certain degree of success in this East African country, plagued in particular by sustained inflation.

On Tuesday, in the capital Nairobi, several thousand people lined up in shopping malls and the main conference center to undergo an iris scan before receiving the equivalent of 7,000 shillings (45 euros) in virtual currency, an AFP journalist observed. Most people then immediately resold their "tokens".

"Concerned about the activities (of Worldcoin) which is involved in registering citizens through the collection of eyeball/iris data", the government said it had launched investigations "to establish the authenticity and legality of the activities, the security and protection of the data collected and how the collectors intend to use the data".

Contacted by AFP, Worldcoin has not yet reacted to



An advertisement of Bitcoin, one of the cryptocurrencies, is displayed on a - Copyright © africanews Kin Cheung/Copyright 2021 The AP. All rights reserved

the suspension.

In the crosshairs of several European regulators, this cryptocurrency is not yet available in the United States, where the authorities are trying to better regulate the sector.

Worldcoin spent three years developing its project, and two million people signed up during the test phase to obtain a digital passport dubbed "World ID".

In April, BuzzFeed reported on the anger of some of them, who feel trapped by the company's promises after agreeing to scan their irises. Interviewed by the news site, Worldcoin co-founder Alex Blania admitted that communication could have been "better in some cases".

Some 1,500 "orbs" will be deployed worldwide to enable millions of other users to sign up, according to the Worldcoin website.

The value of the token, initially \$1.70, jumped to \$3.58, before falling back to \$2.37, according to CoinMarketCap.

when he was overthrown by the military in the country's first-ever coup.

Dubbed the "Sphinx of Daoukro" after his native town and economy with words, Bedie demonstrated a skill for political survival. He tried unsuccessfully to return as president in 2000, 2010 and 2020.

"For us in the PDCI, age is an asset. Age unites experience and also competence," Bedie told journalists ahead of the October 2020 presidential election, which was won by current President Alassane Ouattara amid an opposition boycott. Bedie came third with 1.7 percent of the vote.

Bedie, whose rivalry with Ouattara dates back three decades, had not ruled out running in the country's next presidential election in 2025.

Bedie's main influence on national politics had been to promote "Ivoirite" (Ivorian-ness) -- the notion of a national identity and national economy in a country with dozens of ethnic groups.

The nationalist policy discriminated against immigrants in favour of people with two Ivorian parents, affecting countless workers on the country's cocoa plantations.

Bedie and other political leaders had tried to use the measure to prevent Ouattara, who was held to have a father from neighbouring Burkina Faso, from running for president in 1995.

The measure was contrary to Houphouët-Boigny's sustained efforts to uphold unity, and played a part in the armed conflict and turmoil that erupted in 2000 and ended in 2011.

Bedie came third in the 2010 presidential elections, behind Ouattara and the incumbent Laurent Gbagbo.

He supported Ouattara in the post-election crisis, and for his first six years in power, but fell out with him again.

The wily octogenarian had been able to discourage all attempts by younger generations to replace him within his party, which had nominated him as its candidate for the 2020 ballot.

A party executive said he was "a fine tactician who weathered all storms" and was able to convince "the young guns" of the PDCI to support him again.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP



The advertisement features a woman with dark curly hair wearing a purple sweater, standing at an ATM and holding a smartphone to the screen. The background is a light blue wall with a yellow horizontal stripe. In the top left corner, there is a white sign with a blue icon of a smartphone and the text "UNION TRUST BANK LTD". In the top right corner, a dark blue rounded rectangle contains four bullet points, each preceded by a yellow diamond. To the right of this rectangle, the words "Cardless Withdrawal" are written in a white, cursive font. At the bottom, the title "ATM Cardless Transaction" is displayed in large, bold, yellow letters with a blue outline.

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Niger coup: Chiefs of Defence Staff of ECOWAS nations meet in Abuja

The chiefs of staff of the countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are meeting from Wednesday to Friday in Abuja on the subject of the putsch in Niger, announced Tuesday evening the regional organization in a statement. West African leaders meeting in an extraordinary summit on Sunday in the Nigerian capital condemned the putsch and gave the putschists a week to restore ousted President Mohamed Bazoum to his duties, reserving the possibility of resorting to force. She had thus announced a meeting of the chiefs of staff of the member countries to come. The leaders had also announced the upcoming appointment of a representative who would be dispatched to Niger to submit their demands.

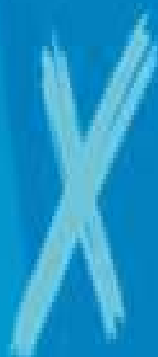
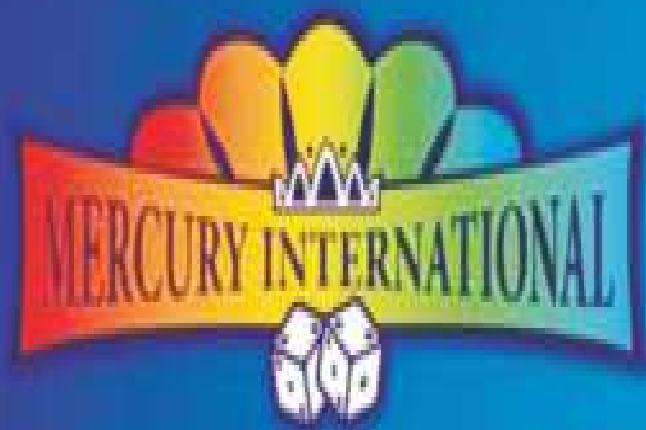
An ECOWAS delegation, led by former Nigerian President Abdulsalami Abubakar, is also due to visit Niger on Wednesday, a senior official from the West African organization and a military official from Niger said on condition of anonymity.



On Monday evening, Burkina Faso and Mali, neighbors of Niger and also governed by the military, showed their solidarity with the putschists by saying that any military intervention to restore Mohamed Bazoum would be

considered "a declaration of war" on their two countries, and would lead to their withdrawal from ECOWAS, "as well as the adoption of measures of self-defense in support of the armed forces and the people of Niger".

They added, in a joint statement, that they "refuse to apply" the "illegal, illegitimate and inhuman sanctions against the people and the authorities of Niger" also decided on Sunday by ECOWAS in Abuja.



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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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PRESS RELEASE

INCREASE IN COST OF RADIO COMMERCIALS

Mile 91 Town, 25th March 2023

The National Executive and General Membership of the Sierra Leone Broadcasters Association (SLBA) wish to inform the public that the Association has unanimously resolved to increase the cost of radio commercials.

The decision was reached at a national consultation meeting held at Mile 91 Town, Tonkolili District, on Saturday, 18th March 2023, as part of the efforts to meet the current inflation rates and other statutory obligations in the country.

This decision will enhance quality in service delivery and sustainability in the operations of radio stations across the country.

It should be recalled that this is the only increment in commercials announced by radio stations in 12 years.

The Association therefore craves the understanding and patronage of the public.

The new commercial quotation which will take effect on 1st May 2023 shall be as follow:

FREETOWN

1. Jingle - Jingle slot - NLe 35.00 per minute
2. Public notice - NLe 30.00 per 50 words
3. (a) Cost for 30 minutes airtime, between NLe 750.00 and NLe 1,250.00 (Depending on the coverage of the Radio station)
- (b) Cost for 1hr airtime, between NLe 1,500.00 and NLe 2,500.00 (Depending on the coverage of the Radio station)

PROVINCIAL

1. Jingle - Jingle slot - NLe 20.00 per minute
2. Public notice - NLe 20.00 per 50 words
3. (a) Cost for 30 minute airtime: between NLe 500.00 and NLe 750.00 (Depending on the coverage of the particular Radio station)
- (b) Cost for 1hr airtime: between NLe 1,000.00 and NLe 1,500.00 (Depending on the coverage of the particular Radio station)

SLBA regrets any inconvenience this may cause.

END

Signed:

Daniel M. Amara
Secretary General

Approved By:

Stanley Bangura Jr.
Chairman

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PRA FAWAZ BUILDING MATERIALS ECOMED PARTNERS IN HEALTH
PEE CEE & SONS SMALL ARMS MOTT MACDONALDS
KINGHO MINING COMPANY PPRC
NEC NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD NPPA EBK UNIVERSITY JUDICIARY OF SIERRA LEONE

INT'L SPORT

Manchester United 'are edging closer to sealing a deal for Sofyan Amrabat worth £22m plus add-ons'

Manchester United is close to agreeing a deal to sign Fiorentina midfielder Sofyan Amrabat, according to reports.

The Red Devils were keen to sign the Moroccan during the January transfer window but the Serie A side were reluctant to sell him.

United instead opted to sign Marcel Sabitzer on loan from Bayern Munich but their strong interest in Amrabat has remained.

According to Gazzetta, United and Fiorentina are closing to agreeing a £22million deal for the 26-year-old. The report states Amrabat is keen to join Erik ten Hag's side and the Italian side have accepted he will leave, with plans to replace him underway.

Securing the services of Amrabat would allow United to strengthen their capabilities in central and defensive midfield, and the club have previously registered their interest in a number of alternatives

in the position.

The club's fruitless pursuit of Barcelona's Frenkie de Jong last summer fell through in its final stages, with the player unwilling to leave the Camp Nou just three years after his long-desired move to the Camp Nou.

Amrabat had a sparkling season both for his club and his country, after playing a key role in helping Morocco make historic progress at the World Cup in Qatar.

Their fourth-place finish marked the highest-ever for an African nation, and came on the heels of landmark wins against Belgium, Spain, and Portugal.

Amrabat also helped guide Fiorentina to the Europa Conference League final where they lost to West Ham in Prague last month.

He had Barcelona chasing his signature but their financial



restrictions meant a proposed loan deal never materialised during winter.

United have already strengthened their midfield with the signing of Mason Mount, who joined from Chelsea for £60m.

Goalkeeper Andre Onana has also joined the club last week following the departure of former No 1 David De Gea.

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

Kylian Mbappe: Paris Saint-Germain grant forward permission to speak to Al Hilal after world-record bid

Paris Saint-Germain have granted permission for Kylian Mbappe to speak to Al Hilal after the Saudi club's world-record £259m bid.

The French champions have put Mbappe up for sale and left him out of their squad for the pre-season tour of Japan and South Korea, having made it clear they only want to include players who are committed to the club.

Al Hilal's record-breaking offer is not the only one PSG have received. They have been approached with a mix of offers for Mbappe, including cash plus players, but Al Hilal have shown their intention by tabling the world-record bid.

PSG believe at least five clubs are interested in signing Mbappe, with Tottenham among them.

There is said to already be a "hot market" for the France captain, with the interested clubs including Chelsea, Manchester United, Inter Milan and Barcelona.

PSG will listen to any offer and all proposals to sell Mbappe, and if it was left to the French champions they would just sell him to the highest bidder, although other clubs will struggle to come anywhere near Al Hilal's offer.



The forward has one year remaining on his contract and is unwilling to sign a new one, with PSG believing he has already agreed to join Real Madrid for free next summer.

The 24-year-old will not play for PSG again if he does not extend his contract.

However, real may now be tempted to make a formal bid for the player to make sure they do not miss out on him again.

PSG are determined not to lose Mbappe - who reportedly cost more than £150m when he signed from Monaco - for nothing.

Interested clubs have been alerted to the fact that PSG are even willing to loan Mbappe out for the season.

However, Mbappe is willing to dig his heels in, sit on the sidelines next season and leave for Madrid on a free transfer next summer.

The France forward will receive a loyalty bonus of £51.6m if he is still a PSG player on August 1, with his contract stating he is due the bonus in instalments, subject to certain conditions.

PSG insiders are urging Mbappe to speak to Al Hilal, with the Parisians viewing a switch to Saudi Arabia as a win for all parties, especially if the player only moves for just one season. Mbappe would get his PSG loyalty bonus, Al Hilal signing-on fee and massive wages, as well as a "free transfer" move to Madrid next summer, when he would get a £160m signing-on fee, plus more massive wages.

Meanwhile, PSG would get some return on their investment in the player and the Mbappe saga would end, while Madrid would get the player they want next summer as planned on a free transfer.

In addition, Al Hilal and Saudi Arabia would get one of the best players in the world, albeit for just one season.

"It's all well and good the club giving Al Hilal permission to speak to

Kylian Mbappe - but does Mbappe want to speak to Al Hilal? So far there has been no indication Mbappe is interested in moving to Saudi Arabia at this stage of his career.

"A lot of people are saying, 'he only wants to go to Real Madrid, Al Hilal and all these other clubs are wasting their time'. But these Saudis, the sovereign wealth fund and PIF are the same people who have effectively just bought golf. They just bought a whole sport, pretty much.

"They're the same people who offered Tiger Woods \$700m to sign up with the LIV Golf tour. If they can afford to spend \$700m on Tiger Woods, who is past his best and approaching the end of his career, why wouldn't they throw enormous sums at Kylian Mbappe, who a lot of people would say is the best player in the world at the moment?

"There are some incredible numbers flying around. Some US outlets are reporting that Al Hilal are offering Mbappe something like €700m for one season and saying he can then go and move to Real Madrid. That is not something I've seen. All I know for sure is this offer was made from Al Hilal to PSG on Saturday for €300m."

<https://www.skysports.com/football/news>



Cricket: Sierra Leone, Tanzania & Nigeria relegated to ICC Division 2



International
Cricket Council



ICC U19 MEN'S
CRICKET WORLD CUP
AFRICA QUALIFIER 2023 TANZANIA



FINAL POINTS TABLE

No.	Team Name	M	W	L	Tie	N/R	PTS	NRR
1	Namibia U19	5	4	0	0	1	9	1.75
2	Kenya U19	5	3	1	0	1	7	0.01
3	Uganda U19	5	2	2	0	1	5	0.35
4	Sierra Leone U19	5	2	3	0	0	4	-0.70
5	Tanzania U19	5	1	3	0	1	3	-0.47
6	Nigeria U19	5	1	4	0	0	2	-0.61




 @crickettanzania // Tanzania Cricket Association

Sierra Leone U19 Cricket team have been relegated to the ICC Division II after failing to finish amongst the top three nations at the just concluded ICC Africa Men's U19 Cricket World Cup qualifiers in Tanzania.

Despite defeating Nigeria and Uganda, the Young Patriots were punished by the tournament host, Tanzania in their final match to wash away their hopes of staying in the top division.

Also, early defeats to Kenya and eventual champions Namibia all hampered Sierra Leone's progress as they finished fourth place in the group with four points from five matches, sitting a point above Tanzania and

two more above West African brothers, Nigeria.

The Walvis Bay Salt Eagles of Namibia lead the pack handsomely going undefeated in the tournament and were able to secure the only available slot to represent Africa at the Men's U19 Cricket world cup next year in Sri Lanka.

Namibia finished with nine points followed by Kenya in second place with seven points and Uganda with five points.

Meanwhile, flawless Namibia will be awarded the last ticket for Africa having emerged top of the group. Nigeria has lost the opportunity to play on the global stage and also lost Division 1 status thus being relegated to Division 2 in the Africa pathway

Sierra Leone Judokas return from Switzerland training camp

Sierra Leone Judoka pair, Marima Koroma and Francis Massaquoi have both returned home after training camp in Fiesch, Switzerland.

Koroma and Massaquoi were among 350 athletes and coaches from over 70 countries who attend the youth training camp in Fiesch, Switzerland.

Presenting the duo to the National Olympics Committee Sierra Leone (NOC-SLE) President, Prince Sualley, the Sierra Leone Judo Association President, Idriss Massaquoi thanked the NOC-SLE and the Olympics Solidarity for the opportunity given to the Association and the athletes. He said the training camp was timely and as well helpful for the athletes as it helps them hone their skills in preparation for upcoming

competitions.

He said: "As an Association we are grateful and as well proud of our athletes, they have set the pace for others to follow imagine after attending a training camp in Switzerland they are back home to continue their training as we prepare for the World Championship.



Sierra Leone referees to officiate in CAF Women's Champions League Qualifiers



Sierra Leonean FIFA badged referees, Humu Marah (Central), and Precious Adama Amara (Assistant) have both been appointed by the West Africa Football Union (WAFU) Zone A to officiate in the 2023 TotalEnergies CAF Women's Club Championship Qualifiers in Liberia.

The referee duo will be joined by Coach Hannah Conteh (Technical Study Group) for the tournament that will host four teams in Monrovia, Liberia.

Both Marrah and Amara recently successfully underwent the 2023 FIFA Member Association Course for elite referees in Sierra Leone and are three of the most outstanding and excelling female officials in the country with a high level of fitness and professionalism.

According to the Sierra Leone Football Association, Coach Hannah Conteh, who is a veteran national team player and currently a qualified coach, will form part of the tournament's Technical Study Group with the mandate to identify meritorious women of the matches in the said qualifiers.

This year's WAFU Zone A Qualifiers is scheduled to take place from the 7th to the 13th of August 2023 in Monrovia, Liberia. The tournament will feature four teams from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali, and Senegal, all

vying for a chance to advance to the next stage of the competition.

The qualifiers are scheduled to kick off on August 7, 2023. The opening match of the day will see Liberia's defending champions, Determine Girls, take on As Mande from Mali. The day will conclude with a match between Senegal's As Dakar Sacre Coeur and Sierra Leone's Mogbewmo Queens.

On August 9, 2023, As Mande of Mali will face off against Sierra Leone's Mogbewmo Queens, while As Dakar Sacre Coeur of Senegal will battle it out against Liberia's Determine Girls.

The highly anticipated WAFU Zone A Qualifiers will culminate on August 12, 2023, with a match between Senegal's AS Dakar Sacre Coeur and their French counterpart, As Mande. Hosts Determine Girls will wrap up the competition by taking on neighbouring team Mogbewmo Queens from Sierra Leone.

In another development, CAF has appointed high-profiled Sierra Leonean Match Commissioner Prince Kai Sa'Quee to preside over Match-day 6 of the 2023 TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations between Mali and South Sudan, on the 8th September 2023 in Bamako.

This should be an example to other athletes and Judo as an Association we are ready not only to participate at the bigger stage but to compete."

The President of the NOC-SLE said the training camp is just the beginning of many things to come for the athletes. Prince Sualley said: "We are so pleased that these athletes went to training camp and are back, this is a big step in stone for them, for us and for the Association and it is something we are proud of." "One of our main problems in sports over the years has

been how we retain our sporting talents, we lose our athletes in these big games and that gives us headache to start afresh and this is something we want to put a stop to. We are trying to break that cycle and the return of the Judokas is a very good message to other athletes and Associations out there," the NOC-SLE President.

The training camp in Switzerland was led by Beijing 2008 bronze medallist Sergei Aschwanden, who shared his vast knowledge and experience with the young athletes. Accompanying the athletes were 70 coaches, also benefiting from the camp. "This is a fantastic place to be. Seeing them in the evenings having a good time, laughing and sharing their experiences is incredible. They are already friends now and it will help the development of judo," Sergei pointed out. Amongst the participants was Olympic Solidarity-backed athlete Francesco Auferi (MLT), who will be competing in Nanjing.