

United by
One Bank

We know our way
around finance in Africa



UBA
United Bank for Africa

www.ubasierraleone.com



Excellence & Objectivity

Follow us: Concord Times Newspaper | @Concordtimes | sl_concord_times

CONCORD TIMES
NEWSPAPER

Vol. 17, No 140250954

Monday, August 14, 2023

Price: Le 2

ALSO INSIDE

Press Secretary encourages
newsmen to popularise
Government's agenda



New Cabinet: Bio knocks out Lawrence Leema

By Alfred Koroma

Police assures tight security over planned protest



President Julius Maada Bio has on Friday 11th August announced new appointees, an announcement that saw Lahal Lawrence Leema, man perceived as one of the President's top security confidante, dropped out of cabinet position.

Leema who is the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples Party Publicity Secretary commands much popularity among the Party's young supporters of president Bio. He was appointed Deputy Internal Affairs in 2018, a position he held throughout the President's first five-year term.

But as Deputy Internal Affairs Minister Leema's popularity considerable stained as a result of his involvement in controversial security matters, facing several allegations of human rights abuse from the general public.

Cont. Page 3



Before his replacement, Lahal Lawrence Leema served as Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs since President Bio took over governance in 2018

GUMA board at work for the past 5 years

Leone Rock demonstrates commitment to education, community Development

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

Ecobank
The Pan African Bank

LOCAL NEWS

Press Secretary encourages newsmen to popularise Government's agenda

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

The recently appointed Press Secretary to State House, Solomon Jamiru Esq., has on Friday, August 11th held the first of regular State House Press Briefings, which aims at increasing visibility around President Julius Maada Bio, and the vision and priority agenda of the Presidency.

While addressing editors, station managers, and senior media practitioners at the Presidency, the Press Secretary encouraged journalists to regularly report on and analyse the delivery of the Government's five big game-changers, which includes Feed Salone, Human Capital Development, Youth Employment Scheme, Public Transformation and Tech and Infrastructure.

Jamiru said the Presidency would have loved to have as many journalists as possible but because of the essential futures and protocols that defined State House and its environment those media houses invited will represent all media houses absent.

The Press Secretary threw lights on several happenings in the country, starting from the recently concluded multi-tier elections which he said were one of the most peaceful since the country returned to multi-party democracy, the proposed review and President Bios recent trip to abroad. He also spoke on Sierra Leone's alignment to ECOWAS stands on the Niger political impasse among other key issues.

He said there has been no legal contestation on the outcome of the June 24 elections, adding that President Bio has already receive a

wide array of congratulatory messages from the ECOWAS, AU, United Nations and several nations among other organisations both locally and internationally, therefore president Bio Presidency has no legitimacy challenge.

"Let me reiterate President Bio's appreciation to the people of Sierra Leone for their massive turnout and comportment on polling day, the ECSL, other Election Management Bodies, security sector, local and international observers, development partners and all those who in diverse ways supported the June 24 multi-tier elections, considered as the most peaceful since the first post-conflict election in 2002," he said.

He went on to reassure the media family of President Bio's commitment to deepening the gains made in the last five years around freedom of expression and of the press, and broadly promoting and protecting civil and political liberties.

"President Bio's cabinet, I assume, will be the youngest in Africa. We have seen increased women's representation fulfilling the ambition espoused in the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act. It is drawn from all regions of Sierra Leone. The Cabinet is highly acclaimed locally and internationally for its rich diversity."

The Press Secretary also reminded the media of the two Extraordinary Sessions of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government held on the political situation in the



Republic of Niger in which Sierra Leone participated in both sessions. He reechoed President Bio's determination which is; we most eat what we grow and grow what we eat. He commented on recent travelling of President Bio's recent travelling to overseas and some of the benefits

derived from those trips. He said while President Bio was in Rome for a food and agricultural summit, the German Government pledges 10 Million Euro to support the school feeding programme.

The briefing was climaxed with questions and answers session.

Police assures tight security over planned protest

By Alhaji Haruna Sani



The Sierra Leone Police (SLP) has told pressmen that some residents in the diaspora have been using social media platforms to trigger demonstration in Sierra Leone, but that the police is well prepared to curtail any future protest.

"Be Rest assured that the country remains peaceful and the security sector is fully in control. Therefore, come 7th to 14th August, 2023, feel free to go about your normal lawful activities. As long as you remain a law-abiding citizen, you will be fully protected at all times," AIG Brima Jah assures the public.

AIG Brima Jah said although the police would not want to remind the public about the negative outcomes of those calls for illegal demonstrations (either in the form of sit at home or protests), yet on that occasion, they sadly and unnecessarily lost serving police officers and civilians as well as destruction of public and private properties.

He went on to state that the public should note that the calls making the rounds for protests from 7th to 14th

August 2023 are illegal and will not be tolerated.

"Their plans are to subvert the state and people are warned not to be part of these unauthorized activities as stringent measures will be taken to deter these bad plans against the stat," he warned.

The Head of Police Operations asserted that those 'miscreant' calling out people to protest have plans to use them as pawns in executing their plans to destabilize the state.

"We have stated and will continue to state that we fully recognize the right to peaceful demonstrations. However, by the provisions of the Public Order Act, recently reviewed, place a responsibility on planned demonstrators to seek clearance from the IGP. Failure to do so has serious consequences," he said.

AIG Brima Jah said as it stands; the SLP has not received any request from anyone for demonstrations, maintaining that requests for demonstrations should not be made through Social Media.

New Cabinet: Bio knocks out Lawrence Leema

From Cover

Last year, he was accused of engaging in extra judicial killings in the aftermath of the August 10 anti-government protest during the hours of the curfew declared by the Vice President to coil the violent protest that left 37 people dead.

The former Deputy Internal Affairs Minister denied the allegation, saying it's a ploy aimed at tarnishing his name and undermining the good working relationship between him and the President. But Leema, a short-tempered figure, refused to present himself for questioning by Special Investigative Committee the President established to look into the August 8, 9, 10 protest. Repeated attempts by the Committee to have the former Deputy Internal Affairs Minister provide answers on the allegations against him went futile.

His replacement did not come as a surprised. There had been growing calls from the public for President



Bio to sack him.

Leema has now been replaced by Moriba Koroma, new deputy Minister of Internal Affairs.

Koroma was appointed on Friday together with two other Deputy Ministers – Mohamed Haji-Kella, Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, and Yema Mimi Soba-Stephens, Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change.



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 Jui-Regent Rd: trailer kills two in a gruesome accident

By Alfred Koroma

A trailer carrying a container killed an Okada rider and his passenger in an ugly accident around Jui-Regent Road on Friday night. The tragedy occurs after the Okada (commercial bike rider) attempted to narrowly overtake the trailer, but was blocked by another vehicle approaching, leading to the incident which left the rider's internal organs smashed out and the female passenger behind him killed, eye witnesses say.

The incident happened around 8:30 PM on Friday, 11 August. And the driver of the trailer immediately dodges away together with those who were with him in the container loaded vehicle.

Over speeding and overtaking, often done against traffic rules is common among Okada riders within Freetown.

"To get to an interception, instead of waiting to giving way to traffic, they find a way to rover around the traffic; navigate

their way out of it and in the process present very serious danger to road users," the Speaker of Sierra Leone, Dr. Abass Bundu described Okada riding in the city during a Parliamentary Session earlier this year, stating that commercial motor bike riders are "causing tremendous havoc and danger to the public."

"Motor bike riders, like motor vehicle drivers are subject to traffic rules and are obliged to respect traffic rules. But our own motor bike riders appear to consider themselves above the law," he said.

Commercial Bike Riders or locally known in Sierra Leone as 'Okada' Riders are a significant part of the country's public transport service. During rush hours, many people prefer their movements on Okadas to avoid heavy traffic along congested roads.

But the bike riders have less or no regard for traffic rules and are one of the leading causes of traffic accidents in Sierra Leone.



Crowds of people at scene of the incident which happened around 8:30 pm on Friday

SL launches national policy, strategy to eliminate cervical cancer

The Ministry of Health, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on 9 August 2023, launched the National Policy and Strategy for the Elimination of Cervical Cancer, a five-year roadmap on eliminating cervical cancer, with a focus on scaling up the screening, treatment of women and the vaccination of young girls.



Officially launching the Strategy, Director of Reproductive and Child Health in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Tom Sesay said, Government's vision was of a Sierra Leone where cervical cancer is eliminated as a public health problem. He noted that the Strategy, which articulates the direction for cervical cancer elimination in Sierra Leone, would be the guide towards the realization of a Sierra Leone where cervical cancer is totally eliminated. He underscored the need for collective ownership and implementation of the Strategy by all relevant stakeholders.

In her statement, UNFPA Deputy Representative, Ms. Sibeso Mululuma, said the national policy and strategy to eliminate cervical cancer provided a clear roadmap for getting on the path to the prevention and even elimination of cervical cancer, and reaffirmed UNFPA's commitment to support its full implementation so as to ensure the full realization of the reproductive health of all women and girls.

"The strategy is a bold initiative to restore the health and wellbeing to women and girls by focussing not only on the scaling up of screening and treatment, but also strengthening prevention efforts through the vaccination of girls. It is a bold step taken by Sierra Leone that clearly shows the commitment of the country to promote the rights and wellbeing of women and girls and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals as well as fostering gender equality and women's empowerment," Ms. Mululuma underscored.

According to the World Health

Organization (WHO), in order to eliminate cervical cancer, countries must reach and maintain an incidence rate of below 4 per 100 000 women. Achieving this goal depends on a number of pillars and their corresponding targets, including ensuring 90% of girls are fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by the age of 15, 70% of women screened by the age of 35, and again by the age of 45 and, 90% of women with pre-cancer treated and 90% of women with invasive cancer managed.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. Binyam Hailu, from WHO Sierra Leone, said, the strategy will help bring partners and resources together towards achieving the global target of eliminating cervical cancer. WHO, he said, will support the ministry in ensuring the strategy's full implementation.

The national strategy adopts the current 2022 WHO Global strategic recommendations of 90:70:90 targets for cervical cancer elimination and adheres to public health approaches of primary, secondary, and tertiary preventive interventions across life course.

The launch of the strategy was preceded by the certification of 24 healthcare workers who had just completed a two-week intensive training in the management of cervical cancer. The training was as part of a South-South Cooperation between UNFPA and the Government of the People's Republic of China, to support the Ministry of Health in the reduction of preventable maternal deaths by improving reproductive healthcare for women and girls and strengthening prevention and treatment of cervical cancer.

Health Alert engages health workers on COVID19 vaccination

By Alfred Koroma



Health Alert officials with health workers at the engagement in Wellington

Health Alert has on Wednesday August 9 held a meeting with health workers from various community health centers providing COVID19 services within the Western Area.

Health Alert conducted the meeting on the outreach activities of health workers in providing services on COVID19 to know what is happening around health facilities in relation to COVID19 and how health workers deal with COVID related challenges in various communities.

"COVID19 is still around. It is only the emergency side of the disease that has been removed," David Joseph Allieu, Health Alert Project Officer warned health workers during the meeting. He said Sierra Leone was able to control the spread of the disease because of the experience the country had gathered in handling outbreak of similar viral diseases.

The meeting which was hosted at the Wellington Community Health Center (CHC) brought together representatives from various health centers within Freetown to give an update on COVID

Vaccination and the challenges they encounter in their various health centers. Highlighting their challenges, Saffianatu B Juannah, representing the District Health Medical Team in Cline Town stated that people are still scared of taking COVID Vaccine, thinking it will affect them badly. But she said: "The biggest challenges we have right now have to do with finance. The stipend we are given is small, and authorities have stopped supplying us face mask, sanitizers, cotton wool, gloves, tissue and hand washing materials. "There is no hand washing materials at the center."

For Hawanatu J caulker, another health worker attached to the Wellington Health Center, the misinformation that had gone around about COVID19 and its vaccines is the reason some people have still not taken the vaccines. "Some people are still denying the vaccine. Some want the card but they don't want the vaccine. We talk to some that end up taking the vaccine others don't," she said.

Also, a representative from Kingharman Road Hospital, Alice Kailondo said people only take vaccines when they want to travel overseas.

LOCAL NEWS

Leone Rock demonstrates commitment to education, community Development

In a heartwarming display of community support, Leone Rock Metal Group, a renowned mining company in Sierra Leone, has made significant contributions to education and community development in the country. Their recent endeavor involved the construction and handover of a new school which costs the company a substantial sum of NLe 120,000 to the children of Sokoya village in the Tonkolili district.

The momentous handover ceremony, which took place on Friday, 28th July 2023, was attended by various community stakeholders, including the regent chief, women's chairlady, and numerous enthusiastic villagers. The regent chief, Sorie Kargbo, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Leone Rock Metal Group for their outstanding dedication in providing education for the children of Sokoya village. The official handover of the school was conducted by Mr. Lu, the deputy general manager of Kingho Mining Company. In his poignant statement, he not only encouraged the community to prioritize education by sending their children to school but also reiterated the company's steadfast commitment to supporting the educational aspirations of the village.

Mr. Ansu, the Community Manager of Leone Rock Metal Group, highlighted the importance of Sokoya village as an operational community for the company's subsidiary, Kingho Mining Company. He emphasized that providing education to the children in the area was among their top priorities. This commitment to education not only symbolizes the group's social responsibility but also showcases their dedication to the holistic development of communities. The handover ceremony was conducted with great enthusiasm, as the community's women sang joyful songs and prepared delicious food for everyone in attendance. This camaraderie and sense of appreciation further underscored the impact of Leone Rock Metal Group's initiative on the local community.

Leone Rock Metal Group's efforts in constructing the school and their unwavering dedication to the welfare of Sokoya village are commendable. Their commitment to education and support have undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the community,



empowering its children with the tools they need to shape a brighter future. As the school doors open, a new chapter begins for the children of Sokoya village, fueled by hope, opportunity, and the generosity of Leone Rock Metal Group.

In another notable collaboration, Leone Rock Metal Group partnered with Men's Up Initiative, a youth-led organization dedicated to combating rape and violence against women and girls. Together, they organized the

highly anticipated "National Men's Conference on Rape, Domestic Violence, and Fatherhood 2023."

The conference, held in Sierra Leone, aimed to address the urgent need to tackle these pressing issues that continue to plague societies worldwide. Leone Rock Metal Group contributed to the support of the event excellently and its objectives were met as attendees pledged to prevent rape and other sexual abuses in society, further highlighting their commitment to community development.

Leone Rock Metal Group's remarkable efforts in education and community development have garnered widespread appreciation and acclaim. Their dedication to uplifting communities and addressing critical social issues serves as an inspiration for other organizations and individuals alike. With their unwavering commitment, Leone Rock Metal Group continues to make a lasting impact on the lives of Sierra Leone's residents, paving the way for a brighter and more inclusive future.





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 Budget enlightens CSOs, media on national budget

By Alusine Sesay

Budget Sierra Leone is a non-profit organization that focuses on national budget analyses for the understanding of the public.

In their drive to achieving their agenda of educating the public, Budget Sierra Leone on Thursday, 3rd August, had an engagement with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the media, in which the organization explained detail about the 2023 national budget and its implication on national development. During the engagement, officials of the organization educated the audience about the projected revenue position, expenditure streams and deficits in the budget.

For ease of understanding, the organization provided a revised version of the original budget in which they analysed the 2023 budget through infographics.

Officials of the organization highlighted that the projected total revenue amounted to NLe 13.15 billion and expenditure amounted to NLe 15.09 billion given a shortfall (Deficit) of 1.95 billion.

The audience was also educated on the supplementary budget presented to parliament by the Minister of Finance and the additional projected revenue which they say amounted to NLe 1.2 billion and an additional expenditure of NLe 3.4 billion given a Deficit of NLe 2.2 billion.

On a whole, according to Budget, the total revenue amounted to NLe 14.35 billion, expenditure amounted to NLe



CSOs and officials of Budget at the engagement

18.49 billion while deficit amounted to NLe 4.1 billion.

According to Budget, the total domestic revenue of NLe 9.35 billion cannot even finance the country's recurrent expenditure of NLe 10.9 billion without relying on loans and grants, adding that recurrent spending (wages, salaries, subsidies, transfers, interest payment, services) account for 72% of total expenditure and only 28% account for capital expenditure.

Budget is of the view that despite government's determination to invest in social services, poverty reduction and economic development including prioritising the BIG FIVE agenda of government (Food Security, Human Capital Development, Youth Employment, Infrastructure Development, Revamping the Public Service), managing such elaborate expenditures pose significant challenges due to limited financial resources, high levels of debt, low revenue generation and weak

Institutional capacity to implement and monitor government programmes.

The organization believes that, addressing the issues of limited financial resources by focusing and improving on revenue generation, improving Institutional capacity and enhancing transparency and accountability are the mechanisms that should be deployed by government to enhance effective management of our public finances.

Afrimoney partners with Conex Energy SL Ltd

By Ishmael Dumbuya

One of Sierra Leone's leading telecommunication companies, Africell, has on Friday, 11th August, partnered with Conex Energy Sierra Leone Ltd for drivers and vehicle owners to be using the Afrimoney service to purchase petroleum products in all Conex facilities across the country.

In his opening remarks, Afrimoney Director, Martison Obeng- Agyei explained that the benefits of the partnership is very much significant, adding that Afrimoney subscribers are now eligible to purchase diesel, petrol, and other petroleum products using the Afrimoney wallet.

He added that the world has moved towards digital banking and Sierra Leone won't be an exception to that. "Gone are those days when drivers and vehicle owners have to move with a substantial amount of cash to purchase petroleum products, thereby exposing themselves to theft and robbery. He indicated that



in this century, you just need to have your money on your mobile wallet to transact payments for services and at a much more faster pace.

He climaxed that Sierra Leoneans need to discredit the movement of huge amount of cash when the

Afrimoney service is available, as it prevent theft and other illicit activities.

According to Avrajit Kar, Managing Director Conex Energy SL Ltd., Afrimoney subscribers can now be able to purchase petroleum products in all Conex facilities

across the country using the Afrimoney service. He applauded the partnership with Afrimoney, calling it a step in the right direction to uplifting mobile banking in petroleum business. He emphasized that in India where he came from, people hardly move around with hard cash, noting that all transactions are done through digital money in India.

He expressed hope that the partnership with Afrimoney will thrive and eventually got people addicted to the use of mobile money which is very much safe and secured.

Joe Abass Bangura, Africell's Chief Cooperate Officer, stated that Afrimoney is geared towards revolutionizing the country from physical cash to E-cash.

He indicated that the world has moved towards digital banking and Sierra Leone shouldn't be an exception to that trend.

The partnership attracted members of the fourth estate, staff from Africell and Conex Energy SL Ltd.

MEGA PROMO

TILL JANUARY 2024

MORE THAN
LE 5 BILLION
IN PRIZES



**Recharge NLe 10 or Buy a
New Africell SIM for a chance
to win in the Daily, Weekly
& Monthly Draws**

**6 Brand New Cars, 24 TVS Motorbikes
and Thousands of Cash Prizes Winners**



NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Burkina: a radio suspended after an interview against the putsch in Niger

The government of Burkina Faso resulting from a coup d'état has decided to suspend "until further notice" the broadcasting of Radio Oméga, one of the most listened to in the country, after the broadcast Thursday of an interview "enamelled with insulting remarks against the new Nigerien authorities".

The government "assumes full responsibility for the decision to suspend from this Thursday, August 10 and until further notice, the broadcasting of Radio Oméga programs in the name of the best interests of the Nation", indicates the Minister of Communication Rimalba Jean Emmanuel Ouedraogo in a press release.

This decision follows the broadcast on Radio Oméga of an interview, during the program "L'invité de la drafting", with the spokesperson of a movement recently created in Niger which wishes to restore President Mohamed Bazoum, overthrown by a coup on July 26.

Radio Oméga, a subsidiary of the Omega Media group which also has a television channel, owned by journalist and former Foreign Minister Alpha Barry, had ceased broadcasting after the release of the press release, AFP noted.

She denounced Friday an "unfair and unfounded decision", and will "use all avenues of appeal". She considers that this suspension "without notice and without prior notification of the structure in charge of media regulation is a flagrant violation of the laws in force and an unacceptable attack on freedom of expression and freedom of the press".

The radio also claims that its suspension comes after "numerous death threats against Radio Oméga leaders and journalists from people presenting



Captain Ibrahim Traoré, leader of the coup d'état in Burkina Faso, takes part in ... - Copyright © africanews Kilaye Bationo/Copyright 2020 The AP. All rights reserved.

themselves as supporters of the government and who insistently call for the suspension of our programs".

In the interview incriminated by the government, Ousmane Abdoul Moumouni, pro-Bazoum, would have made "insulting remarks against the new Nigerien authorities", according to Mr. Ouedraogo. According to the Burkinabè government, Ousmane Abdoul Moumouni's organization "clearly militates for violence and war against the sovereign people of Niger" and the will of his movement is to put President Bazoum back in power by "all means". The transitional authorities of Burkina Faso, who came to power by a coup in September 2022, very quickly showed their solidarity with the soldiers who took power in Niger.

Several media outlets have been suspended in Burkina in recent months, including French outlets LCI, RFI and France 24. At the beginning of April, the correspondents of Liberation and Le Monde had been expelled.

Western officials: Niger junta warned they'd kill deposed president after any military intervention



Demonstrators gather outside the Nigerian embassy in Paris in support of - Copyright © africanews Sophie Garcia/Copyright 2023 The AP

A senior US diplomat says Niger's junta has told him it will kill ousted President Mohamed Bazoum if neighboring countries attempt a military intervention to restore his power, two Western officials told The Associated Press.

They spoke to the AP shortly before the West African bloc ECOWAS said it had ordered the deployment of an "intervention force" to restore democracy in Niger after its deadline on Sunday expired to reinstate Mr. Bazoum. The threat to the ousted president is raising the stakes for both ECOWAS and the junta, which has shown a willingness to step up its actions since taking power on July 26.

Niger was seen as the last country in the Sahel region, south of the Sahara Desert, with which Western nations could partner to combat jihadist violence linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group, which has killed thousands of people and displaced millions more. The international community is scrambling to find a peaceful solution to the country's leadership crisis.

Junta officials briefed US Undersecretary of State Victoria Nuland on the threat to Bazoum during her visit to the country this week, a Western military official said. A US official confirmed this information, also on condition of anonymity.

Threats from both sides are aggravating tensions, but hopefully they are moving closer to a dialogue, said Aneliese Bernard, a former US State Department official specializing in African affairs and now director of Strategic Stabilization Advisors, a risk advisory group. "However, this junta has escalated its actions so rapidly that it is possible that it will do something even more extreme, as it has been the case so far," she warned.

Nine leaders from the 15 West African member countries gathered in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, on Thursday to discuss next steps. Speaking after the talks, the president of the ECOWAS commission, Omar Aliou Touray, said he could only reaffirm the decisions taken by "the military authorities of the sub-region to deploy a force of 'community intervention'".

Funding has been discussed and "appropriate action has been taken," he said. Omar Aliou Touray blamed the junta for the difficulties caused by the sanctions imposed on Niger and said that

further measures would be taken jointly by the European Union. "It's not one country against another. The community has instruments that all members have subscribed to," he said.

A former British army officer who worked in Nigeria told The Associated Press that the ECOWAS declaration could be seen as the green light to start pulling together their forces with the aim of restoring constitutional order. Regarding the use of force, the officer said there was currently nothing in place other than the Nigerian forces. Without catalysts and support from other regional armies, Nigerian forces are unlikely to enter the country.

The junta cut ties with France and exploited popular grievances against the former colonial power. She also sought help from Russia's Wagner Group, which operates in a handful of African countries and has been accused of committing human rights abuses. Moscow is using Wagner and other channels of influence to discredit Western nations, says Lou Osborn, investigator of All Eyes on Wagner, a project focused on the group.

The tactics include using social media to spread rumours, mobilize protests and spread false narratives, Ms Osborn says. She cited a message posted on Telegram on Wednesday by an alleged Wagner agent, Alexander Ivanov, claiming that France had begun the "mass abduction of children" who could be used for slavery and exploitation. sexual exploitation. Neither the Russian government nor Wagner responded to AP's questions.

Meanwhile, Niger's estimated 25 million people are feeling the impact of the sanctions. Some areas of the capital, Niamey, have only limited access to electricity and power cuts are frequent throughout the city. The country receives up to 90% of its electricity from Nigeria, which has cut off part of the supply.

Since the coup, Hamidou Albade, 48, said he had been unable to operate his shop in the suburbs of Niamey because there was no electricity. He also works as a taxi driver, but he lost business because many of his foreign customers left. "It's very difficult, I stay at home doing nothing," he said. He nevertheless supports the junta. "We are suffering right now, but I know the junta will find a way out of the crisis."

Construction of vital power dam in Niger halted due to sanctions

The construction of the \$800M Kandadji hydroelectric project in Niger has been halted by the Chinese contractor Gezhouba Group which claims that most of its funds have been frozen due to the current sanctions after the coup.

In a letter dated 7th August, the group said it would halt operations and lay off its workforce. They added that they will re-deploy workers again if finances are secured.

The dam, upon completion, is expected to boost the country's grid by 50%.

Niger's population has experienced a vast lack of electricity with only 4.3 million people having access to energy as 90% of its population uses

wood as a source of energy.

The recent sanctions by the regional Economic Community of West African States ECOWAS has cripple Niger's economy with donor and other multinational organizations cutting off their links.

The dam was also expected to help control the Niger River which will make downstream irrigation possible during the prolonged dry seasons.

Its construction was under discussion since the 1970s.

The dam was expected to be completed in March 2026 and produce over 130MW of electricity that would be distributed both internally and in the neighboring countries.

'Our priority is to save lives' says coast guard intercepting migrants off Tunisia's coast

Tunisia's eastern coast, notably the port city of Sfax, has become the main launching point for migrants, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa, to get to Italy and other parts of Europe in small boats.

The Tunisian National Coast Guards spent 24 hours at sea intercepting and rescuing an ever-increasing number of migrants. Mouh detailed the operation on Thursday (Aug. 10).

"Since the beginning of this month until now, in just ten days, the centre's maritime sector has arrested around 3,000 migrants, 90% of whom are Sub-Saharan and the remaining 10% Tunisian."

According to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, boat crossings across the central Mediterranean is the main route for irregular migrant entries to Europe. This route is also the most dangerous, figures by the International Migration Organization show.

"Our first priority is to save human lives. There's no doubt about that. You have seen that during these 24 hours we have carried out several

rescue operations. There were three boats that broke down, whose passengers were rescued, and the rescue operations were not easy for us." Italy's PM enlisted the EU's help to forge a deal with Tunisia in a bid to stop the migrant boats in exchange for economic and other aid.

In the north African nation, tensions have risen between the local population and migrants, culminating last month with the forced expulsions of migrants.

Human rights organizations, Libyan authorities and migrants themselves have accused Tunisia of violating international law with the mass expulsions across its borders.

Tunisia's interior minister, Kamel Fekih, conceded on August 2nd that small groups of sub-Saharan migrants trying to enter the country are pushed back into the desert border areas with Libya and Algeria, but labelled as "false allegations" claims by the U.N., humanitarian groups and migrants themselves of mistreatment.

Air France extends the suspension of its flights to Mali and Burkina

Air France has extended "until August 18 inclusive" the suspension of its flights to Mali and Burkina Faso and Ouagadougou "following the coup d'état in Niger and because of the geopolitical situation in the Sahel region", the airline said on Friday.

The carrier announced on Monday a suspension of its flights to Mali and Burkina Faso until Friday inclusive, shortly after the closure of the airspace of neighbouring Niger.

The Malian and Burkinabè authorities gave their support to the perpetrators of the July 26 coup in Niger. The West African countries of ECOWAS gave the green light on Thursday to the use of

force to restore the ousted President Mohamed Bazoum, without however excluding diplomatic means to resolve the crisis.

The closure of Niger's airspace is forcing companies to make large detours to reach Europe, lengthening flight times.

Air France says it is "in contact with the French authorities" to monitor "permanently the evolution of the geopolitical situation of the territories served and overflown by its aircraft" and recalls that "the safety of its customers and its crews is its absolute priority."

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

■ Terms and Conditions Apply

ECOBANK SAVE AND WIN PROMO!



The more you **Save** the
Greater Your Chances
of **Winning**



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

ecobank.com

Ecobank
The Pan African Bank



Call for Applications

Business development support for Women-led cooperatives and MSMEs

Deadline: 15th August 2023

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with partners initiated a Growth Accelerator Programme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in 2022. The Growth Accelerator is a programme that aims at supporting 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 have been 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 target women-led cooperatives and MSMEs.

This call is for viable and ambitious women-led cooperatives and MSMEs with innovative business ideas to be supported by the Growth Accelerator Programme.

Who can apply?

- Women-led cooperatives and women-led formal MSMEs from anywhere in Sierra Leone.
- Operating in sectors including Agriculture, Education, Health, Environment and Energy.
- Registered in accordance with the legal requirements of the Government of Sierra Leone.
- Should have an innovative business idea with positive social impact in Sierra Leone.

How to apply:

Applications from prospective women-led cooperatives and MSMEs from anywhere in Sierra Leone should be submitted online on <https://forms.gle/Fr6kw8yGsuRrfVsy9>

Submission Deadline: The deadline for applications is 5:00pm Sierra Leone time on Tuesday, 15th August 2023. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

ATM Cardless Transaction

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

Cardless Withdrawal



World Vision is a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

World Vision International Sierra Leone (WVSL) has been operational since 1996 assisting communities with various interventions in health, education, child protection, water & sanitation and livelihoods.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (CONSULTANCY SERVICE)

RFP Ref: WVSL-FY23/RFP0005/2023-08

World Vision International Sierra Leone (hereinafter called WVSL) intends to hire the services of a qualified Service Provider for the **Provision of World Vision International Sierra Leone Staff and Group Personal Accident Medical Insurance Services** for which this Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued.

WVSL now invites a qualified Consultant to provide proposals for the following Services:

- **Provision of World Vision International Sierra Leone Staff and Group Personal Accident Medical Insurance Services.**

Details on the required service, Terms of Reference (TOR), evaluation and instructions to the service provider/consulting firms can be below:

Scope:

- The successful insurance company shall provide a comprehensive health insurance plan that covers medical, dental, vision, and wellness services for our staff. The plan should also provide cover for dependent family members, including spouse and children.
- The scope of medical services will include outpatient care, emergency medical services, hospitalization, surgical procedures, maternity care, mental health services, and preventive healthcare.
- The plan should also provide cover for prescribed medicines, laboratory and diagnostic services, physical therapy, rehabilitative services, and long-term care.
- The insurance provider should also be able to provide necessary ancillary services, such as transportation, to support medical treatment where necessary.

Pre-Existing Conditions:

- The selected insurance company must provide coverage without excluding any pre-existing conditions of the insured staff and their dependents.

Networks of Providers:

- The insurance company should have an extensive network of high-quality healthcare providers including primary care physicians, specialists, hospitals, pharmacies, and ancillary service providers within WVSL areas of Operation.

Claims Management:

- The insurance company should have an efficient and effective claims management process that ensures timely

and accurate reimbursement of claims.

Customer Support:

- The insurance company should have a dedicated customer support team that is available 24/7 to handle inquiries, assist, and resolve any issues that may arise from staff and their dependents.

Cost and Fees:

- The insurance company should provide a clear and detailed pricing structure for the proposed services. All costs and fees should be inclusive of any additional charges.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE & SKILLS:

Desirable:

Experienced in providing Medical Insurance Coverage for organizations within Sierra Leone.

A strong understanding of multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for service delivery in rural communities

Strong belief and value for most vulnerable children

Strong ability to produce quality reports on time

Ability to remain flexible in a constantly changing environment

NB: Kindly indicate if your total cost is inclusive of any local taxes.

CAPABILITY STATEMENT

The response must include a statement of capability covering the following:

- Valid business registration document
- Valid NASSIT clearance certificate
- Valid tax clearance certificate
- Audited financial statements for the past two financial years
- Evidence of experience in conducting relevant services
- A brief company profile and a summary of relevant experience.
- A summary of the proposed health insurance plan, including services, network of service providers, coverage options, costs, and fees.
- Proof of accreditation, licensing or business/company registration

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on the below criteria:

- Technical competence
- Evidence of experience
- Proof of accreditation and License
- Pricing

Completed Proposals should be addressed to:

The Supply Chain Manager
World Vision International Sierra Leone
No. 35 Wilkinson Road
Freetown-Sierra Leone

The Proposals must be delivered by hand or via email to WVSL at 35 Wilkinson Road, Freetown, Sierra Leone or to email address: musa_mansaray@wvi.org by 14:00 GMT on or before the 30th August 2023.

No late proposals will be accepted.



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 of multi-partner and multi-sectoral planning in a country. The Global Fund will support the CCM to build on their national health systems, 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. The national consultant will identify existing national health structures, governance mechanisms and platforms responsible for coordinating the health sector and disseminate 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. The consultant will map each identified platform's position within the national systems and in relation to the CCM. The consultant will also support the CCM in developing a Positioning plan based on three main phases (refer to the Positioning Guidance Note): Knowledge Coordination Sustainable Structure

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

For the transition context, understand the transition lens and how it fits within Positioning. Undertake a desk review of relevant documents. Interview key stakeholders at the national level. Map existing national health structures. Develop a summary report. Organize consultation meeting (virtual, face to face or a combination of these). Support the CCM Evolution Task Force, CCM Executive Committee and CCM Secretariat to develop a CCM Positioning plan.

Deliverables: Mapping of existing national health platforms. Brief summary report. Content: The map should show the positioning of the CCM and other national structures and their relationships within the national health sector. An executive summary of key findings, conclusions, options and next steps (including activities for inclusion in baseline assessment work plan - optional based on country context).

Table with 2 columns: (0-4 pages), Power Point Presentation. Content: Key findings and conclusions from the mapping exercise. Plan with cleared outlined deliverables, steps and timeline.

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. The consultant will work in close collaboration with the CCM representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society, and/or communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases.

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: Advanced degree in public health, finance, public administration or business administration, or related field. B. Experience: Solid experience in developing partnerships in political environments and in managing complex issues and deliverables at country, regional and international levels. C. Competencies: Rich professional experience, including a track record of working in strategy and policy analysis, program planning and management, and/or equivalent experience. Solid understanding and experience of strategic, organizational, financial and management issues. Solid understanding of the Sierra Leonean context. Solid understanding of the Global Fund processes and of its funding model. Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

Desirable: At least 3 years of professional experience (international or national) working in planning and management in the humanitarian sector. Experience in public health and disease program management with focus on HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Documented experience of coordination across multiple stakeholders. Languages: 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: Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications. Robust understanding of governance matters. 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, NGO, 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 18th August, 2023. To Apply: Send a Letter of Intent (LOI), Updated CV with three (03) referees to ccmstrat@secrectariat@yahoo.com. The recruitment process will abide by CCM SL Conflict of Interest Policy.



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.

Introduction: The national consultant will support with preparations for pre- and post-Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) meetings for key populations, civil society, and/or communities of people living with and/or affected by HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

Overview: Engagement of key populations, people living with and/or affected by the three diseases, civil society and community representatives is a key principle that guides the activities of a CCM. Such engagement should continue throughout the life cycle of the CCM, from its inception to its final review and evaluation. The CCM should establish a mechanism to engage with these constituencies in a way that allows their input and voice to be heard. To amplify the participation and voice of a CCM's key populations, civil society and people living with and/or affected by the three diseases constituencies, this assignment will enhance their preparation and participation both prior to and during CCM meetings. The national consultant will provide technical support and be provided by a national consultant based independently by the CCM or in consultation with existing regional civil society networks.

Objectives: 1. Amplify the participation and voice of representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society, and/or communities living with and/or affected by national HIV, TB and malaria (referred to as 'key populations'). 2. Build capacity among the civil society constituencies to effectively prepare for and participate in CCM meetings.

Scope of Work: Understand the principle of engagement and its relationship to other positions/principles such as Positioning and Oversight. Undertake a desk review. Obtain relevant CCM documents, conflict of interest management policies, civil society communication/information of civil society constituencies, calendar of activities. For transition contexts, the positioning plan should also be reviewed, where it exists. Meet with relevant CCM members to understand the scope of work, timelines and to gather background for the program. This includes, but is not limited to, representatives from key populations and/or affected by the three diseases CCM Secretariat CCM Executive Committee or Leadership. Support preparation of up to 4 CCM meetings (engagement, oversight, technical documents, etc.). Receive key information from the CCM Secretariat in advance. Support representatives to prepare for meetings by understanding agenda items and key documents in advance, with their constituency in mind.

Deliverables: Report (maximum 3 pages) on meeting outcomes and next steps. Key findings, including bi-directional feedback, outcomes from facilitations for each of the meetings. CCM to agree on deliverables which may include the following: Work plan with activities to improve the quality of pre-post meeting preparations. Preparation 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. Quarterly reports (prior to CCM meetings) summarizing decisions made at CCM meetings and follow-up actions by representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society, and/or communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases. Evidence of functional and effective bi-directional accountability/feedback communication channels and tools for rapid sharing of data/information by key populations, civil society, and/or communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases to their constituencies. Summary report, including communication gaps, recommendations to strengthen bi-directional feedback, outcomes from facilitations for each of the meetings.

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. The consultant will work in close collaboration with the CCM representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society, and/or communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases.

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 and/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 engage populations most vulnerable to and/or affected by HIV, TB and malaria and community representatives, encourage participation, keep people's attention and keep the discussion moving.

Ability to synthesize and summarize strategic information. Ability to coach/mentor. Good analytical and documentation/report writing skills. Strong communication skills with key populations, civil society, and community representatives. Demonstrated commitment to the role of communities in responses to HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria, and the principles of meaningful community engagement and participation. Demonstrated expertise and experience of consulting with multi-stakeholder bodies in the areas of civil society organizations engagement, management, support and/or facilitation for the rapid sharing of data/information by key populations and/or affected by HIV, TB and malaria and community representatives. Working level of English as well as knowledge of the local language (particularly the one most widely spoken by key population representatives).

Optional qualifications, expertise and competencies: Increased knowledge/experience of the Global Fund grant architecture and management process. Demonstrated knowledge/experience of CCM governance related issues. Experience in successful provision of technical assistance in the short and medium term. Demonstrated understanding of civil society constituencies' role in the Global Fund.

Date Posted: Wednesday 26th July 2023. Deadline for receipt of application: Friday 18th August, 2023. To Apply: Send a Letter of Intent (LOI), Updated CV with three (03) referees to ccmstrat@secrectariat@yahoo.com. Preference will be given to consultants who are living with and/or affected by the three diseases /or key populations themselves/or working with Key Populations. During the recruitment process, the CCM SL will abide by its conflict of Interest Policy.

Facilitate debriefs from CCM meetings. Conduct a facilitated discussion of the results achieved/decisions made during CCM meetings by the CCM and its Committee related to civil society engagement, key populations and/or affected by the three diseases and community with respective constituencies. Discuss and finalize the agenda to be raised in the next CCM meeting. Develop engagement or communication plan, tools and materials for key populations, civil society, and/or affected by the three diseases to their constituencies - based on needs of representatives. Engagements/communication plan, tools and materials for key populations, civil society, and/or affected by the three diseases to their constituencies - based on needs of representatives. Information-sharing and exchange pre- and post-meeting.

The information here should be bi-directional i.e., from the relevant CS constituency members to their counterparts and vice versa. Develop a summary report with key findings, including bi-directional feedback, outcomes from facilitations for each of the meetings. Report (maximum 3 pages) on meeting outcomes and next steps.

Deliverables: CCM to agree on deliverables which may include the following: Work plan with activities to improve the quality of pre-post meeting preparations. Preparation 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. Quarterly reports (prior to CCM meetings) summarizing decisions made at CCM meetings and follow-up actions by representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society, and/or communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases. Evidence of functional and effective bi-directional accountability/feedback communication channels and tools for rapid sharing of data/information by key populations, civil society, and/or communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases to their constituencies. Summary report, including communication gaps, recommendations to strengthen bi-directional feedback, outcomes from facilitations for each of the meetings.

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. The consultant will work in close collaboration with the CCM representatives of key and vulnerable populations, civil society, and/or communities living with and/or affected by the three diseases.

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 and/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 engage populations most vulnerable to and/or affected by HIV, TB and malaria and community representatives, encourage participation, keep people's attention and keep the discussion moving.

Ability to synthesize and summarize strategic information. Ability to coach/mentor. Good analytical and documentation/report writing skills. Strong communication skills with key populations, civil society, and community representatives. Demonstrated commitment to the role of communities in responses to HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria, and the principles of meaningful community engagement and participation. Demonstrated expertise and experience of consulting with multi-stakeholder bodies in the areas of civil society organizations engagement, management, support and/or facilitation for the rapid sharing of data/information by key populations and/or affected by HIV, TB and malaria and community representatives. Working level of English as well as knowledge of the local language (particularly the one most widely spoken by key population representatives).

Optional qualifications, expertise and competencies: Increased knowledge/experience of the Global Fund grant architecture and management process. Demonstrated knowledge/experience of CCM governance related issues. Experience in successful provision of technical assistance in the short and medium term. Demonstrated understanding of civil society constituencies' role in the Global Fund.

Date Posted: Wednesday 26th July 2023. Deadline for receipt of application: Friday 18th August, 2023. To Apply: Send a Letter of Intent (LOI), Updated CV with three (03) referees to ccmstrat@secrectariat@yahoo.com. Preference will be given to consultants who are living with and/or affected by the three diseases /or key populations themselves/or working with Key Populations. During the recruitment process, the CCM SL will abide by its conflict of Interest Policy.



 The ECSSL Payment Call Center is contacting ad-hoc polling personnel to:

- 1 Confirm important information needed to process their payments.**
- 2 Share essential details about the payment process and locations.**

Call for more info:
 **090 077 108**
 or **090 077 109**
Mon-Fri 8am - 5pm

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A:
Valid ID & Phone Number



 **PAYMENT OF AD HOC POLLING STAFF**
Specific District Call Center Numbers
 are as follows:

1. **Bo:** 090077135; and 090077159
2. **Bombali:** 090077143; and 090077152
3. **Bonthe:** 090077138; and 090077139
4. **Falaba:** 090077162
5. **Kailahun:** 090077133; and 090077141
6. **Kambia:** 090077149; and 090077163
7. **Karene:** 090077158
8. **Kenema:** 090077142
9. **Koinadugu:** 090077148; and 090077144
10. **Kono:** 090077134; and 090077136
11. **Moyamba:** 090077153
12. **Port Loko:** 090077140; and 090077154
13. **Pujehun:** 090077137
14. **Tonkolili:** 090077147
15. **Western Rural:** 090077155; and 090077157
16. **Western Urban:** 090077132; 090077145; 090077146 and 090077156

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A:
Valid ID & Phone Number



Guild of Editors - Sierra Leone

C/O MRCG 145 Circular Road, Freetown.
Email: editorsguild94@gmail.com Mob: +23276653596

Public Notice

Increase in Advert Pricing for Newspapers

24th March, 2023.

The general public is hereby informed that the Guild of Newspaper Editors - Sierra Leone (GoNE-SL) has reviewed the advert pricing for newspapers as follows:

Black & White

No.	Description	Old Price (NLe)	New Price (NLe)
1	Quarter Page (¼)	700	800
2	Half (½)	800	1,200
3	Full Page	1,000	1,500
4	Centre Spread	2,000	3,000

Coloured

No.	Description	Old Price (NLe)	New Price (NLe)
1	Full Page	2,500	3,000
2	Centre Spread	5,000	6,000

The cover price remains the same.

Please note that the new pricing takes effect on Monday, 3rd April, 2023.

Your cooperation is highly solicited.

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

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

SIERRA LEONE BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION
Motto: Victory in Solidarity
48 Jenner Wright Road Uppan Freetown
Tel: +232 76638022/+232 76694543/+232 76640162/+232 76646165
Email: sierraleonebroadcasters22@gmail.com



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 (SiLBA) 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

- Jingle - Jingle slot - NLe 35.00 per minute
- Public notice - NLe 30.00 per 50 words
- (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

- Jingle - Jingle slot - NLe 20.00 per minute
- Public notice - NLe 20.00 per 50 words
- (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)

SiLBA regrets any inconvenience this may cause.

END

Signed:

Daniel M. Amara
Secretary General

Approved By:

Stanley Bangura Jr
Chairman



Invitation for Bids

Sierra Leone
August, 2023

Title Construction of Grain Stores and other Ancillary Facilities
No. SLE-2000001544-0010-W-ICB

- The Government of Sierra Leone has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Adaption Fund (AF), OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and Toni Blair Institute (TBI), the financing of which is being administered by IFAD towards the cost of Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (AVDP) and intends to apply part of the financing for the purchase of these goods. The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD's approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD's rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with the Agricultural Value Chain Development Project
- The goal of AVDP is livelihoods and climate change resilience of rural farming households in Sierra Leone improved, while the project development objective (PDO) is to promote agriculture as a business for enhanced incomes and reduced rural poverty, among 42,985 rural households. The AVDP will be implemented nationwide over a six-year period. A value chain development approach will drive the implementation process, supported by the application of a robust targeting strategy to ensure the inclusion of the rural poor in both the implementation of project activities and the sharing of the benefits and priority attention to enhancing climate resilience among the project beneficiaries.
- The employer now invites sealed bids from eligible entities ("bidders") for the execution and completion of Construction of Grain Stores and Ancillary Facilities which are being bid as a unit price contract based on the bill of quantities.
- This IFB is open to all eligible bidders who wish to participate. Subject to the restrictions stipulated in the bidding document, eligible bidders may associate with other bidders to enhance their capacity to successfully carry out the works.
- The works, and the contract/s expected to be awarded, are divided into four lots as follows:

LOT NO	Lot Description	District	Chiefdom	Village	Lot ID
1	Construction of Grain Stores and other Ancillary Facilities in Kenema and Kono Districts	Kenema	Niawa	Sendumie	SLE-2000001544-0010-W-ICB-A
		Kenema	Nongowa	Burma iii	
		Kenema	Nongowa	Kambuwabu	
		Kenema	Nongowa	Foindu	
		Kono	Tankoro	Tongoro	
		Kono	Fiama	Moidema	
2	Construction of Grain Stores and other Ancillary Facilities in Bo and Pujehun Districts	Bo	Bongor	Bendu	SLE-2000001544-0010-W-ICB-B
		Bo	Jaiama	Koribondo	
		Bo	Boama	Yamandu	
		Pujehun	Galliness	Blama Massaquoi	
		Pujehun	Kpanga	Gombu	
3	Construction of Grain Stores and other Ancillary Facilities in Bonthe and Moyamba Districts	Bonthe	Sogbini	Naijeh	SLE-2000001544-0010-W-ICB-C
		Bonthe	Jong	Mattru Jong	
		Bonthe	Jong	Moyowa	
		Moyamba	Fakunya	Moyamba Town	
		Moyamba	Fakunya	Falaba	
		Moyamba	Fakunya	moyamba junction	
4	Construction of Grain Stores and other Ancillary Facilities in Kenema and Kono Districts	Kailahun	Kissi Tongi	Plotou	SLE-2000001544-0010-W-ICB-D
		Kailahun	Luawa	Nyandehun	
		Kailahun	Luawa	Mambabu	
		Kailahun	Kissi Tongi	Bayama/Fenesu	

Bidders have the option to bid for one or more lots; but they will only be contracted for one. However, in the event that a bidder wins more than one lot, the lot with the higher price will be awarded to the bidder; if the lots are of the same value, any one of the lots will be awarded to the bidder.

- A contractor will be selected using the international competitive bidding (ICB) method in accordance with the IFAD Procurement Handbook accessible at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. The ICB process will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.

- Please note that a pre-bid conference will not be held

- Bidders interested in submitting a bid shall purchase the bidding document against payment of a non-refundable fee of SLE500 or 25 USD. Payment shall be made to the Agricultural Value Chain Development Project through Western Union Money Transfer, RIA, MoneyGram (Attention Debora F. Bangura) or in the following account:

Account Name: Agriculture Value Chain Development Project

Account No: 014-001-107-861-136-462

Bank: Commerce and Mortgage Bank

- Bidding documents can be obtained by sending an e-mail with a copy of the payment slip, giving full contact details of the bidder and the subject of procurement, to avdppmu@gmail.com. This will also ensure that the bidders receive the bidding document by email or hard copy (at the following address), as well as any updates regarding the bidding document.
- Bids must be delivered electronically to the PMU via the following link and in the manner specified in the bid data sheet - instructions to bidders 23.2, no later than 21st September, 2023 at 12:00 GMT.

Link: <https://bit.ly/BidSubStore>

- Bidders should be aware that late bids will not be accepted under any circumstance.

- Bid security in the form of a Bank Guarantee. The amount and currency of the Bid Security shall be \$9000 per Lot and shall be expressed in lots. Bid Security from community and village banks and Bid Bond from insurance companies are not acceptable

- There will be a virtual bid opening via ZOOM on 31st September, 2023 at 12:30 GMT.

Link to join Bid Opening: <https://bit.ly/BidOpenStores>

- For any further clarification, please contact the above email address:

GUMA board at work for the past 5 years



Guma Board during its inaugural meeting in September 2019

Company is being expanded and currently implementing a 3-year Water Operators Partnership Program funded by the European Union and UN Habitat in partnership with Ghana Water Company Limited and VEI (a consortium of water utilities in the Netherlands); with the aim to make the unserved visible and build the capacity to engage and transform the unserved to be served in a sustainable way.

She said the partnership aims to contribute towards the SDG 6 targets by embracing the "leave no one behind" principle by fully catering for low-income communities and customers.

The Board Chairman said the ProPoor and Community Services Unit is current operating about 272 Street Taps, 572 Community Tanks, 55 Solar Powered Boreholes and has a fleet of over 10 bowlers to cart water to underserved and unserved communities at a subsidized rate borne by the Company.

The Guma Board Chairman further explained that one of their key oversight functions is to ensure that the Company gives quality services to customer and improve on the Company's revenue generation. In this regard, she informed that the Company's customer base has grown by 8% in the last 5 years from 23,498 in 2018 to 25,408 in 2022. She also informed that Billing went up by 23% from Le 35 billion in 2018 to Le 43 billion in 2022 and Collection by 45% from Le 22 billion in 2018 to Le 32 billion in 2022.

On project implementation, Hon. Myers said several projects have been completed during their stewardship; these include the Government funded Aberdeen - Lumley Beach Road Water Supply Project which restored water supply to Freetown's most attractive touristic area in 2019; and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Threshold Program under which the District Metering Areas at Aberdeen and Kingtom were done as well as the Result Based Financing Program and Staff Capacity Building activities.

Other projects completed during the past 5 years include the Freetown Emergency Recovery Project (FERP) and the Freetown Water Supply Rehabilitation Project sponsored by the World Bank and Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) respectively; these projects rehabilitated or replaced critical components at the Babadorie Reservoir at Regent, the Guma Dam and Treatment Plant at Mile 13 with the primary objective of improving the infrastructure resilience and access to water supply.

Hon. Myers said the Freetown Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan and Investment Studies Project - the roadmap to achieving 100% water supply access in the Western Area has been completed and a donors' investment forum was held in December 2022 to mobilize the necessary financial investments to address both the immediate and long-term water supply projects for the Western Area.

The Board Chairman also disclosed that the ongoing Freetown WASH and Aquatic Environment Revamping Project (WASHAERP) under which the new Angola Town Water Supply Systems and the Babadorie Reservoir



Board inspecting project works at Lakka (28/9/22)



Board and Management Retreat, February 25th - 26th 2022

Expansion and Rehabilitation Works are being implemented is seeking to increase access to water supply by 15%, and sanitation by 7%, in the Western Area. The Project will also develop water sources in 18 communities around the Western Area Peninsular.

She said community gravity scheme projects such as the Mambo/Hamilton and the Waterloo Water Supply projects which will improve on the access to water supply in these communities are nearing completion and will soon be commissioned.

Hon. Myers disclosed that under the Millennium Challenge Corporation Result Based Financing (RBF) Activity, Guma was able to raise its monthly revenue collection from an average of Le 1.8 billion to Le 2.5 billion in 2020 and that collection is now averaging 4.5 billion. She added that the Company was also able to lay 11.5km of pipe line of various sizes to replace the numerous spaghetti pipes that are causing huge wastages for the company; 897 saddle-connections were done and 1,710 leakages were repaired.

Hon. Myers said Guma received rapturous commendations from Ndeye Koroma, the then Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Coordination Unit (MCCU) for its brilliant performance during the Result Based Financing (RBF) program and the Threshold Program as a whole.

"We have been able to improve the financial viability and operational efficiency of Guma; we have also been able to successfully implement the RBF activity with Guma, that has seen it perform above the target set for it. This is not something the MCCU did, this was an achievement by Guma itself because it had good leadership in place."

The incentive received from the RBF Scheme is being utilized by the company to improve on its commercial and engineering operational efficiency in line with the Company's capacity building programs.

Other projects that have been completed since 2018 includes the IMATT Community Water Supply Project which is currently benefitting about 20,000 persons resident in the IMATT and Hill Cut Road Bridge communities funded by the Foreign Commonwealth Development Office, Tombo Water Supply project implemented by UNICEF that is now serving over 40,000



Hon. Myers and FCDO's Kobi Bentley (10/6/22)

population in the fishing village and the Upper Philip Street (Wellington) Water Supply Scheme.

The Guma Board Chairman disclosed that the company recently concluded its second Aquarating Assessment, which is an international standard for assessing water and wastewater services developed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), in cooperation with the International Water Association (IWA).

She said Guma scored 10.16% in 2015, but due to the improvements the company has made over the years in its operations, it was able to score 31.21% in 2022. Hon. Myers said Guma should be proud of the improvements made as the highest score for any utility in Africa is 34% and the highest score for the rest of the world is 50%.

On Catchment Protection, she said Guma has been a whistle-blower and as a result of President Bio's intervention in April 2022, a contingent of soldiers and police personnel are now deployed at the Guma Dam and Number 2 River community to ensure that the incidences of deforestation in the Western Area National Forest Park is put to a stop. She said "Guma will continue to support the effort of the Government through the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Water Catchment, Mangroves and Forests to ensure that the Western Area National Forest Park is protected at all time".

The Guma Board Chairman said the Company has also made tremendous effort to secure some 95% of its facilities across Freetown when it embarked on a massive fencing project in September 2020 as a first step towards bringing water supply to deprived communities.

She said fencing of some of the Company's facilities such as the East Area office, the Hill Station Circular Reservoir, the Central Area office, Tower Hill Reservoir, Hill Station Cylindrical Reservoir, Hill Station Braithwaite Tank, Babadorie Reservoir, G-Gate Compound at Hill Cut Road, Allen Town Treatment Plant, Hill Cut Road Reservoir, Circular Tank adjacent British Council and Break Pressure Tank opposite IPAM at Tower Hill have all been completed.

Hon. Myers disclosed that the Company launched a Le 1 billion Staff Welfare Loan Scheme in November 2020, from which many staff from all cadres have benefitted. "This is a first in the company's history and is serving as a motivation for positive staff performance".

She went on to state that under their watch, the Company is now leveraging ICT and has acquired about 40 new vehicles and rehabilitated 13 old ones. Hon. Myers added that Hand and Power tools, Compressors, Jack Hammers, Forklift Trucks, Motor Cycles, etc., have also been acquired to improve on the work place environment coupled with health and safety safeguards.

On the strategy to achieving 100% access to water services in the Western Area, Hon. Myers said they will work together with the Management; and the focus will still be on reducing Non-Revenue Water by extension of submains and removal of spaghetti service pipelines, water conservation through metering and implementation of the Freetown Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan and Investment Studies Roadmap.

Concluding, Hon. Bintu Myers, thanked the management of Guma Valley Water Company during the past 5 years.



Hon. Myers and Minister Philip K. Lansana (29/9/21)

Guma Communication Unit 10/8/23

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of Guma Valley Water Company, Hon. Bintu Myers, has stated that they are a very proactive Board and do not limit their roles to sitting in the office and reading reports: "We believe in going to the field and seeing things on a first-hand basis so as to be able to make informed decisions."

The Chairman expressed her warm appreciation for the members of the Board saying that they are the right people with the right mindset to strategically take Guma Valley Water Company to the next level.

Speaking on the achievements of the Board during the past 5 years, Hon. Myers said they took up office with the sole aim of transforming Guma Valley Water Company into a viable entity with the support of a very committed Management led by Ing. Maada S. Kpenge.

"For the past 60 months, we have been assiduously working to meet company's key corporate goal; to provide access to safe, affordable and sustainable water for all by 2028 as embedded in the Company's Strategic Performance Improvement Plan 2018 - 23".

The Chairman affirmed that the Board has been holding regular quarterly meetings where they take strategic decisions to improve on access to water supply in the Western area. She continued that it only during the Covid 19 period in 2020 that Board meetings were suspended due to the health concerns.

Dates for Board meetings

- 19th September 2019, 16th October 2019, 18th December 2019,
- 2020 - Board meetings suspended due to Covid 19.
- 24th March 2021, 23rd June 2021, 22nd September 2021, 15th December 2021.
- 21st March 2022, 30th July 2022, 28th September 2022, 14th December 2022.
- 9th March 2023, 17th May 2023.

Hon. Myers explained that her Board organized the first ever Board and Management Retreat in the history of Guma Valley Water Company in February 2022, with the theme "Creating A Sustainable Water Supply Service in the Western Area", to look at the company's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges with a view to chart the way forward.

The Board Chairman said there has been considerable improvements in terms of service reliability and predictability as a result of the robust daily rationing schedule that has been in place since April 2019; "customers and consumers now know the days and times they should receive water supply and they will call if there are any delays especially in our opening times".

She averred that a robust maintenance and leakage control measure has been ongoing for several years now to eliminate spaghetti connections by laying submains in various communities across Freetown. This exercise has drastically reduced the numerous leakages and ensured that the distribution mains can retain more water resulting to more people receiving the service.

Hon. Myers explained that the ProPoor and Community Services Unit of the



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

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
You Padi the Kitchen

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

Padi
You Padi the Kitchen

Truly Natural & Healthy

Padi Premium Black Tea

Padi
You Padi the Kitchen

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**
CARE INTERNATIONAL **MTHIE** **ACTIONAID**
SIERRA RUTILE **SAVE THE CHILDREN**
SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS **NASSIT** **SIERRA LEONE POLICE**
EPA **SIERRA LEONE BREWERY** **SLC** **SLRA**
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS **NJALA UNIVERSITY**
RMF **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** **WATERAID**
SALCAB **ECOBANK** **LAPO MICRO FINANCE (SL) LTD**
HRC **NPPA** **BSL** **SOLTHIS** **OXFARM** **AHF**
MIC **UTB** **SLCB** **RCB**
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT **ORANGE**
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** **MOTT MACDONALDS** **SLWREC**
KINGHO MINING COMPANY **PPRC**
NEC **NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD** **NPPA** **EBK UNIVERSITY** **JUDICIARY OF SIERRA LEONE**

Published by Concord Times Communications, 44, Edwards Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone www.slconcordtimes.com

Editor: Alusine Sesay +232 78 385923; opinion@slconcordtimes.com Advertisement: +232 79 355725, +232 76 694 292 advert@slconcordtimes.com

Follow us: Concord Times Newspaper @Concordtimes sl_concord_times