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MP should chair
strategic committee**



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By Yusufu S. Bangura

First Lady signs MOU with YAWC



First Lady Fatima Bio and Daniel Osei Tutuor, Executive Chairperson YAWC Global Network

The Deputy Secretary-General of the main opposition All People Congress (APC) party, Hon. Osman Abdal Timbo has noted that it is less expensive to make peace than to prevent war. He made the above statement while dilating on the engagement they had with the Inter-Religious Council and the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion.

"If at the time we were crying these institutions have heard our cries, they should have settled it because what we were crying for would not only favour us as party, but it will favour everyone in the country. Our cries were fair, based on law which these institutions should have taken into consideration, but all our cries and challenges were left to us as opposition. So, people were describing them as opposition complaints, but our cries were legitimate and they should have looked at them during the time we were crying to avoid what is happening now as it is less expensive to make peace than to prevent war," he noted.

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LOCAL NEWS

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

The First Lady of Sierra Leone, Fatima Bio has signed a partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Young African Women Congress (YAWC) and also contested to host the 2023 Annual Continental Convocation.

The MoU was signed on Friday, August 18th at State House in Freetown.

The YWA 2023 Annual Continental Convocation is scheduled to take place from the 20th to the 24th of November 2023 at the renowned Freetown International Conference Centre (Bintumani), Aberdeen in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

While making her statement, First Lady Fatima Bio said hosting the convocation is a way of demonstrating the country's commitment to women's empowerment and leadership development.

She said participants for the events will be buying their own tickets and for five days they will be in the country's hotels and eat Sierra Leonean foods, thereby investing in the country's economy through tourism.

"So, this is an opportunity to not only showcase the brilliant women we have in Sierra Leone but also how we sell our culture, so I am therefore waiting for my All People's Congress (APC) sisters to come to parliament so that I have the opportunity to have both women of the opposition and the ruling party together with women ministers so that we will all celebrate as women of this country not just because President Bio has actually deliver in his promises to the women, but to know that we have a norm that whichever president comes to this country will know that 30% is the list they can give to the women of this country," she said.

She encouraged all to join them in their crusade of promoting Sierra Leone, adding that the initial plan was to host the event in Ghana but with the opportunities imbedded in the event, she persuaded YWAC to host the event here in Sierra Leone.

In her official welcoming address earlier on to the gathering, President of the Sierra Leone Chapter of the YAWC, Michaela Kargbo said it was a delightful moment for the YAWC and the Office of the First Lady to declare their intention to host the YAWC 2023 annual convocation.

She said the network is a fraternity of young women Africa decent living in Africa and in the diaspora, who seek to be empowered and be source of change makers and development on the continent of Africa.

Kargbo said with their headquarters in Ghana, their membership is segmented by chapters (eight operational chapters) based on countries with a common goal which involves grassroots mobilisation of women for leadership and development through advocacy, training and project.

"The vision of YAWC network is to connect all young women of Africa and diaspora to common platform for intellectual discuss, knowledge sharing for women's development and a better continent. Our mission is to empower women in a more collaborative approach, promote grassroots

First Lady signs MOU with YAWC



mobilization for the young women's leadership in Africa, and create support system for women to thrive and advance their endeavours," she stated. She said the network is strictly apolitical, non-partisan non-religious and non-racial.

She went on state that since 2016 the network has directly empowered over 2000 women through their annual convocations and empowered over 300 women at the grassroots level, with all chapters holding outreach programs in prisons, orphanages, deprived communities, senior high schools and

conflict prone zones, carried out health screening exercises, counseling, donations, mentorship, rehabilitation exercises and sensitization with over 50,000 benefiting from its outreach across Africa.

The Executive Chairperson YWAC Network Global, Daniel Osei Tutu said it as an opportunity to always highlight their voices when it comes to women's progress and development.

He said when he was in Sierra Leone in 2020, he came to know about the 'Hands Off Our Girls Campaign' through billboards in Port-Loko, which inspired him and the chapter to work with the First Lady because of her sincere and ground-breaking endeavour on women's empowerment. He said the YWAC is a congregation of young women which every woman has the right to be part of because youngness is a state of the mind.

"If you think you are young you are young and if you believe you are old you are old. So everyone has the opportunity to be part of the network," he said.

By Mohamed J Kargbo

Yayah Fullah made another appearance before Magistrate Mark Ngegba of Court No 1 on Pademba Road and was remanded at the Male C5orrectional facility.

The accused was standing trial on 4 count charges to wit possession of small arms, control of small arms, concealed arms without lawful authority and kept great number of small arms without license

It was alleged on 20 April 2023 along Sowulia Police check point in the Samoko Limba Chiefdom, Bombali District, the accused was found in possession of Small arms without license.

It was also alleged that on the same date and place in Makeni the accused was found in control of small arms without license

Police did allege that on the above date and address in Makeni, the accused unlawfully concealed arms without

Accused jailed for possessing small arms

lawful authority.

It was further alleged on count four that on the above date and place in Makeni the accused person kept greater number of small arms without licenses.

The state prosecutor led in a witness to testify in court to form part of the court records and evidences.

Sulaiman Koroma identified himself as the Operation commander at Sawula checkpoint in Makeni and he did recognise the accused in respect of the matter.

He recalled on the 20 April 2023 when he was on duty.

He said the accused bulldozed through the check point with four runner and that they stopped the car and conducted a search in the car and they found a glock 17 gun pistol.

He said during the session there will be series of activities by the women like group brain storming sessions, panel discussions and the conference will serve as an opportunity to explore the tourism potential of the country and business exhibitions.

"This year's congress is going to be unique and will be different from all other convocations other countries have done. There is going to be an opportunity to enhance the investment potentials of Sierra Leone, side events with interaction with strategic ministers of Sierra Leone and other ministers of other countries," he said.

The President of Nigeria Chapter, Dr. Eunice Emmanuel, said as young woman she was very personate for change, but was never able to confront it until she join YAWC which helped her to build capacity and make significant change in her country and beyond.

"I strongly believe that the partnership of YWAC with the office of the First Lady and by extension the Government will bring development to Sierra Leone and also broaden the aspiration of young people to be able to do bigger project and network together to achieve their dreams," she said.

He further said that they conducted a search in the accused's residence at Kamanka village in Makeni and found in his room 12 glock magazine and verita ammunitions which was produced and tendered in court.

He said they searched his neighbour's room and found 178 AK47rifle bullets belonging to the accused.

He ended by saying after the search ended both the suspects and the exhibits were taken to Pamlap police station for further investigations

The accused was unrepresented in court and no bail application was made on his behalf.

Meanwhile, the state procesutor sought for a short date

The matter was adjourned to the 27th August 2023 for further hearings.

APC Timbo: It's less expensive to make peace than to prevent war

From Cover

He said during their engagement with both institutions, they were asked as to what was the problem they were having as a party and why they took position not to participate in governance issues.

He said they as a party told the visitors that the issues are not secret because they have made them known to the public.

He added that during the engagement, they explained the concerns they faced with before, during and after the June 24 elections, but most importantly they talked about the electoral malpractice that happened during the elections.

"We also made a demand to both institutions that we are not yet ready to sit only with local organisations or institutions to look into these problems because we believe that they are also part of the problems or part of the infrastructure that are not fit enough to solve these problems. These institutions are guarantors of morals, guarantors of peace, but they have never listened to our cries and they never made statement on them," he said.

When he was asked if the engagement



was to address the issue not to participate in governance issues, Timbo said the country has not yet kick-off properly on it activities, so if someone is talking about democracy, there is no democracy without opposition.

He said the institutions now thought that the country is now in a pariah state with no proper democracy that's why they wanted to talk with them.

"Thus, we should not continue to

disturbing others and said we will later settle it. We don't want that to repeat itself again in this country, so let us ensure that this is the end. That is what we are standing for as a party and we are doing this for the sake of democracy, peace and progress of this country," he said.

Timbo said they have taken a decision to engage, but that they will be willing if they have independent external arbiter or an institution that will settle them.

"Our problem is not with SLPP or President Bio, but our problem is with the government and institutions like the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone, judiciary, police, military, Office of National Security, among others because they too are part of the government and they were also part of the Election Management Bodies that conduct the elections. So, let sit with them and amend these issues. I also want to make it clear that the peace of this country is not in the hands of the Peace Commission or Inter Religious Council, but it's in the hands of the APC because we have a following, as the APC is a big party and we are strong in the capital city," he said.



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LOCAL NEWS

Youth Minister: The future of SL is in entrepreneurship

By Ishmael Dumbuya

Minister of Youth Affairs, Mohamed Orman Bangura, has noted that the future of Sierra Leone is in entrepreneurship and agriculture, emphasising that "our generation is very lucky because we are going to have one of the most educated and innovative farmers.

Speaking on plans of the Government of Sierra Leone to provide green jobs for the youth, the Minister referred to skills that young people can get without the need to go through formal school, such as opportunities created by the internet, including e-commerce, which can create opportunities for them to sell things online.

Orman Bangura applauded President Bio's green energy vision, saying that it provides opportunities

for jobs in things like food preservation and products using solar energy and how businesses would thrive on green energy.

He also referred to aquaculture, specifically fish farming, citing the youth in fishery project, which, according to him, is the best project ever for the youth in Sierra Leone.

He revealed that with the 70 boats distributed to youth, the project has been able to develop a bank balance of over Le4billion in the account set up for the loan scheme.



Minister Orman Bangura is optimistic that Sierra Leone can be a better place with entrepreneurship

satisfaction that the country now has a formidable TVET component that gives certificates in plumbing, masonry and tractor driving, citing the Sumbuya Youth Project as an example.

In the same vein, the Minister spoke about the successes of the Car Wash Project and Youth Connect Hubs which have ensured that "no matter where you find yourself, you would be reached by the Ministry.

"President Bio has laid the foundation for jobs and that is why he always pushes for private sector investment. He has brought back a lot of investment in the mining

sector and that has created thousands of jobs," he said, adding that the country now exports vegetable oil because of a consistent approach to industrialisation.

On the issue of Job creation, he noted that the problem is that young people have limited skills but expressed

SLAJ pays courtesy call on Minister of Information

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay



SLAJ Executive and officials of the Ministry of Information

The Minister of Information and Civic Education, Chernor Bah has assured the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) that government is committed to working with SLAJ for a more viable media in Sierra Leone

Bah made the commitment during a courtesy call by the Executive of SLAJ and its affiliate bodies at the ministry's conference room, Youyi Building in Freetown

He said President Julius Maada Bio is very passionate about issues bothering on rights and press freedom, adding that his first term in office was to repeal Part 5 of the 1965 Public Order Act, which criminalizes libel.

The Information Minister said the media has a critical role to play in deepening democracy and holding duty bearers to account, adding that over the years when he was at Purposeful he enjoyed a fruitful relationship with journalists.

"We want you to be able to perform that role efficiently. We want an unhindered and unfettered media

with the enabling environment to practise. Together with SLAJ, I am sure we can design a roadmap for the development of the Sierra Leone media," said Bah.

On the issue of the subvention to SLAJ, the Minister said it's not a favour they are doing SLAJ but that they are living up to their responsibility to the media as a government.

He said President Bio's vision is clear to transform the Ministry of Information and Civic Education to bring in new technology and to engage with the media based on the highest professional slandered, and to rebrand Sierra Leone

He continued that they cannot be able to do that without a viable and excellent media institution, adding that we are in information and a disinformation age with the aid of the internet to produce fake news.

He said their responsibility is to see how they can control the space and that the meeting was the start for a better relationship with SLAJ and the media landscape in the country

SLPP MP: No opposition MP should chair strategic committee

By Jariatu S. Bangura

Member of Parliament of the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) from Moyamba District, Hon. Edward George has called on the leadership of parliament not to allow opposition MPs to chair any of the strategic committee that deals with the big 5 policy of the government.

Speaking during the debate on the presidential address to parliament, Hon. George said it is high time the leadership of parliament sat together with ministers in ensuring that they discuss issues that would take the country forward.

"This time in the big 5, we are asking the leadership of this House not to give any of those committees to the opposition, if for any reason but for us to feed the country and continue governing this country," he stressed.

He said the agriculture ministry dished out monies to farmers, but that no proper monitoring was done. He questioned the results achieved



with all the monies given out to the unknown farmers, adding that the president will not be in the position to do everything alone, that was why he appointed people of calibre for him to succeed.

He claimed that in the fifth Parliament, majority of MPs that were committee chairmen for five years presented nothing good to the House or reported any MDA to the Public Accounts Committee for investigation.

President of SLAJ, Ahmed Nasralla congratulated the minister on behalf of the association and promised to working with the ministry going forward.

He also informed the minister about the SLAJ AGM which will be held on 8th and 9th September and urged the minister to be part of the meeting.

He said during the AGM the Anti-

Corruption Commission will be part of the meeting to look into the affairs of SLAJ's financial activities.

President Nasralla said the biggest achievement they made over the past five years was the repeal of the 55 years libel law and during the June 2023 election SLAJ launched the first ever SLAJ manifesto in history of SLAJ

LOCAL NEWS

ECPMG and CHRDI conclude post-election engagement with community stakeholders, religious and traditional leaders

The Campaign for Human Rights and Development International (CHRDI), in collaboration with the Election Conflict Prevention and Mediation Working Group (ECPMG), has concluded post-election dialogue on promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence in Sierra Leone.

The Election Conflict Prevention and Mediation Working Group comprises the Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone (IRC-SL), the Eminent Women Peace Mediators Sierra Leone (EWPM-SL), the Campaign for Human Rights and Development International (CHRDI), and the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (EC-SL).

The goal of the group is to promote initiatives designed to strengthen and prevent violence in electoral processes and democratic institutions before, during, and after elections in Sierra Leone. As previous elections have been prone to violent behaviour, the group is charged with the responsibility of investigating threats, identifying conflict zones, and carrying out advocacy in a bid to mitigate the factors and find peaceful mechanisms.

ECPMG believes that democratic electoral processes should be inclusive, transparent, accountable, and designed to promote public confidence.

With support from Open Society Africa, the engagements in Port Loko, Tonkolili, Moyamba, Bo, and Freetown brought together community, traditional, and religious leaders, as well as the security sector, who engaged in candid and productive discussions on the topic "Promoting Social Cohesion and Community Dialogue Post-Elections



Engagement."

The aim of the engagement was to promote youth inclusion and civic participation by providing young women and men, religious and traditional leaders, members of the security sector, and community stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and materials to lead the dialogue on national unity and social cohesion in the country.

CHRDI and ECPMG believe that individuals and groups that are excluded from political processes have limited voices or power to effect the attitudes, norms, and policies that drive social cohesion in the first place.

"Civil society must play a strong role in policy design and monitoring to have informed, transparent, and participatory systems of governance, making it



more likely that cultural and other public policies and measures reflect and serve people's needs," the Chief Executive of CHRDI, Abdul M. Fatoma, said.

He stated that reducing poverty was not enough, suggesting that policy development must go beyond targeted approaches and consider broader social cohesion objectives that will reduce income inequalities as well as improve access to basic services and opportunities for decent jobs and upward social mobility.

Fostering the desired outcomes of social cohesion has been the perennial goal of the Election Conflict Prevention and Mediation Working Group, especially in countries like Sierra Leone that have suffered significantly from conflict.

"In the design of our social cohesion activities, we focus on maintaining a sense of belonging, fostering civic values, promoting trust, and enhancing social engagement with a focus on community leaders, encouraging them to play an active and positive role in society," Mr. Fatoma stated, adding that a healthy culture of peace creates space for civil society and the media to play their full roles.

CHRDI and ECPMG also believe that community dialogue is a critical lifeline to promoting peace, as it provides the perfect avenues for partnerships between different actors within the community.

ECPMG members and partners promote a culture of peace by generating understanding of different cultures and protecting the country's precious heritage.

House help incarcerated for alleged larceny

By Jeneba A Conteh

A bubakarr Conteh on Thursday 17th August 2023 made his first appearance before Magistrate Mark Ngegba of the Freetown Court No 1 and he was remanded at the Male Correctional facility in Freetown for allegedly stealing over twenty-four thousand Leones from his boss, Nabillahi Kamara

The accused was arraigned before the court on a count charge of larceny in dwelling house contrary to Section 13(1) of the Larceny Act of 1916.

The charge sheet indicated that the accused on Wednesday, 9 August, 2023, at PWD quarters in Freetown,

stole the sum of twenty-four thousand, three hundred and thirty new Leones (NLe 24,330), property of Nabillahi Musa Kamara.

After the charges were read and explained to the accused by the Court Clerk he pleaded not guilty of the offense.

Led in evidence by ASP Ibrahim Mansaray, the complainant identified himself as a public servant and recognised the accused as his househelp and has been working for him since 2022.

The witness said he kept the sum of twenty-four thousand, three hundred and thirty new Leones in an envelope inside one of his bags and he

counts the money every day.

He said on the 9th August 2023 in the afternoon hours, he was at home and decided to check for the money in his bag, but unfortunately could not find it.

He further narrated that he raised alarm about the theft and his younger sister Kadija Kamara told him that she heard his room door closed and when she checked she was surprised to see the accused coming out of the room.

He said when the alarm was raised the accused went out and later returned to the house.

He said upon the accused return he

asked him about the money but at first denied and later admitted that he took the money.

The witness said he then asked the accused to return the money but told him that he gave the money to one Mohamed who lives at Mountain Cut. He said he then took the accused to the CID headquarters and made a report and later made statement to the police.

He noted that the accused at the police station was asked by the police to show where Mohamed was, but he refused.

The accused was unrepresented in court and so he cross examined the witness by himself.

He was remanded in custody until 24 August 2023.



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Tender documents: tender documents will be sent to those who expressed an interest, following the close of the EOI period.

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Sowies: We want Bio to protect us against Anti-FGM campaigners

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

The National Sowie Council, traditional women leaders, in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Women are Free to Choose (SLWAFC) are calling on President Bio to protect them against Anti-FGM campaigners. They made the call on Friday, 18th August, 2023, during a press conference hosted at the Obasai Hall, Regent Road in Freetown. Dr. Sia Fuambai Ahmadu, the CEO of SLWAFC, said they acknowledged and thanked President Bio for his commitment and proven track record in advancing the course of women and girls in the country. She said the Bondo/Sande Society historic national convention, which was held in February 2018, brought together over three thousand Sowies and traditional women leaders representing every chieftdom in every district. She said at the conference she was asked by the council to be the official spokeswoman for the advancement of Bondo and Sande society in Sierra Leone. He said Sowies all over the country wanted to inform the Bio administration about their concerns and hopes that in his

second term he will protect the Sowies and the future of Bondo and Sande societies in the country. She continued that both female and male circumcision have the same meaning and purpose in traditional societies, noting that Bondo and Sande do not practise female genital mutilation. She noted that just because opponents equate female circumcision with FGM does not mean they have to believe or accept their prejudices. "We are making it clear to our government here in Sierra Leone as well as the local and global media, the international community including Western feminists, African feminists and so-called feminist NGOs that Bondo and Sande societies do not practise FGM," she said. "We claim the same legal loopholes and exemptions as white women and their underage daughters in Western countries undergo the same or parallel procedures under rebranded names. As such, references to FGM, whether in the Maputo Protocol, or convention on the rights of the child or convention on the elimination of all discrimination against Women, have nothing to do with us."



Dr. Sia Fuambai Ahmadu, the CEO of Sierra Leone Women are Free to Choose (SLWAFC) and the Sowies

She called on the Bio administration to help them uphold the very practices that their ancestors originated and being imitated by Western women and their daughters. "Our leadership gathered in the thousands five years ago to declare our resistance to FGM campaigns,

policies and laws, and 200 of our members have come together today to call for an end to the harassment, intimidation and persecution of the vast majority of women in Sierra Leone by Western feminist neocolonialists and their anti-FGM agenda," she said



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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.

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- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Holder of a valid Sierra Leone heavy equipment license
- Must be self-directed and able to complete projects task with limited supervision
- Perform any other related task as deemed necessary.
- Perform all the tasks strictly adhering to company safety rules and regulations

B) DOZER OPERATOR X 12

Qualification and Experience:

- 3-5 years' work experience in operating a dozer machine.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Holder of a valid Sierra Leone heavy equipment license
- Must be self-directed and able to complete projects task with limited supervision
- Perform any other related task as deemed necessary.
- Perform all the tasks strictly adhering to company safety rules and regulations

C) DUMP TRUCK OPERATOR (CAT 773 E & SANY SKT 1055) X18

Qualification and Experience:

- Senior Secondary School Certificate
- At least 3-5 years' Experience, preferably in driving heavy Duty Trucks
- Good Oral and Written Communication Skills
- Holder of A valid heavy-duty Sierra Leone licence
- Must be able to build and maintain stock piles and dumps by moving materials to design specifications in a safe and efficient manner
- Perform all the tasks strictly adhering to company safety rules
- Knowledge in Wheel Loader (992K) is an advantage

D) EXCAVATOR OPERATOR X12

Qualification and Experience:

- Senior Secondary School Certificate
- 3-5 years' work experience in operating an excavator (Digger) machine
- Good Oral and written communication skills
- Holder of a valid heavy-duty Sierra Leone licence
- Must be self-directed and able to complete project tasks with limited supervision
- Perform any other related task as deemed necessary.
- Perform all the tasks strictly adhering to company safety rules

E) WHEELLOADER OPERATOR-980 X3

Qualification and Experience:

- Senior Secondary School Certificate
- At least 3-5 years' experience, preferably in driving heavy-duty trucks
- Good oral and written communication Skills
- Holder of A valid heavy-duty Sierra Leone licence
- Must be able to build and maintain stock piles and dumps by moving materials to design specifications in a safe and efficient manner
- Dig and load materials as required in a safe and efficient flow in the dig zone
- Loading of Train wagon is an added advantage
- Perform all the tasks strictly adhering to company safety rules

F) ROLLER OPERATOR X 6

Qualification and Experience:

- 3-5 years' work experience in operating a roller machine.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Holder of a valid Sierra Leone heavy equipment licence
- Must be self-directed and able to complete projects task with limited supervision
- Perform any other related task as deemed necessary.
- Perform all the tasks strictly adhering to company safety rules and regulations

G. ASSISTANT SURVEYOR

Essential Job Functions:

1. Conduct end of month volumetric pit surveys and waste dumps surveys.
2. Assist in ensuring that all pits are mined to design
3. Assist in ensuring that all waste materials are dumped to design.
4. Update Pit topography or surface for drill whole design.
5. Stake out drill holes, panel limits and fix temporary bench marks
6. Maintain all survey equipment as they are indispensable tools for Survey work progress.
7. Acquire technical advice from mine surveyors to improve job efficiency and to add to knowledge.
8. Perform all the tasks strictly adhering to company safety rules and regulations.

Qualifications and Experience: Minimum Senior Secondary School and Certificate in surveying preferably in the sciences. At least 2 years' experience in mining operations, excellent oral and written communication skills.

H) SURVEY ASSISTANT (3 Persons)

Essential Job Functions:

- Conduct daily pit surveys.
- Stake out drill holes, Ore block set out and fix temporary bench marks
- Maintain all survey equipment as they are indispensable tools for Survey work progress.
- Accurately carrying out any other task as directed by mine surveyor
- Strictly adhering to company safety rules and regulations.

Qualifications and Experience: Minimum Junior Secondary School. At least 2 years' experience in mining operations, excellent oral and written communication skills.

Interested candidates are requested to forward their application including cover letter and updated CVs to the Human Resource Office, BCM Sierra Leone Ltd via Email: bcmrecruitmentsl@gmail.com or the Nearest Kingho Employment Office

These Positions can lead to career progression within the company for the right motivated person.

Qualified Women are encouraged to apply.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for written and practical test.

Closing date for all applications is on the 21st August, 23

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Burkina Faso: ex-minister sentenced to 7 years in prison for "misappropriation of public funds"



An African migrant holds his hands up displaying mock hand cuffs during a protest - Copyright © africanews Ariel Schall/AP

Vincent Dabilgou, Burkina Faso's former Minister of Transport, was sentenced on Thursday to eleven years in prison, seven of them firm, for "embezzlement of public funds", "illicit enrichment" and "money laundering", AFP has learned from judicial sources.

Mr. Dabilgou was a minister from 2018 to 2022, under the presidency of Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, overthrown by a putsch in January 2022.

The Ouagadougou High Court found Mr. Dabilgou "guilty" of "embezzlement of public funds", involving 1.12 billion FCFA (around 1.7 million euros), "illicit enrichment", "money laundering" and "concealed financing of a political party", notably the New Time for Democracy (NTD), the party he chairs. He will also have to pay a fine of 3.3 billion FCFA (4.7 million euros) and the activities of

his party have been suspended.

Four other people, including two of Mr. Dabilgou's former colleagues at the Ministry of Transport, also received prison sentences ranging from six to eleven years and heavy fines.

The court also ordered the confiscation of the former minister's assets, in the amount of the sums embezzled to the Treasury, and declared him ineligible for five years.

The NTD, a former presidential party, took 13 deputy seats in the 2020 legislative elections, up from 3 in 2015.

On September 30, 2022, a coup d'état brought Captain Ibrahim Traoré to power in Ouagadougou, overthrowing Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Damiba, who had led the first putsch toppling President Kaboré a few months earlier.

DR Congo: Children pushed into worst cholera crisis since 2017

A spike in conflict and displacement in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo is pushing children into the worst cholera crisis since 2017, warns UNICEF.

Across the country, there have been at least 31,342 suspected or confirmed cholera cases and 230 deaths in the first seven months of 2023, many of them children. The worst affected province, North Kivu, has seen more than 21,400 confirmed or suspected cases, including more than 8,000 children under 5 years, according to the Ministry of Public Health.

This compares to 5,120 total cases in all of 2022, with 1,200 for children under 5 years. "The size of the cholera outbreak and the devastation it threatens should ring alarm bells," said Shameza Abdulla, UNICEF DRC Senior Emergency Coordinator, based in Goma. "If urgent action is not taken within the next months, there is a significant risk that the disease will spread to parts of the country that have not been affected for many years."

There is also the danger it will continue to spread in displacement sites where systems are already overwhelmed and the population – especially children – is highly vulnerable to illness and – potentially – death. Displaced families have already been through so much.

In a similar situation in 2017, cholera expanded to the entire country, including the capital city, Kinshasa, leading to almost 55,000 cases and more than 1,100 deaths.

The DRC – which shoulders the worst displacement crisis in Africa and among the worst

globally, with more than 6.3 million displaced people across the country – has seen more than 1.5 million people, including over 800,000 children, displaced in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri provinces since January 2023.

The displacement camps are generally overcrowded and overstretched, making them ripe for cholera transmission. For example, families living in displacement camps around the provincial capital Goma are facing a massive shortage of water and sanitation: Almost 300,000 people, including 183,000 children, lack access to sufficient water; fewer than a third of people have access to a latrine, meaning 159 people have to share a single latrine.

In-depth investigations by the Ministry of Public Health in May and June in households with cholera cases in North Kivu's four biggest hotspots found that between 62 per cent to 99 per cent of cholera-affected households – depending on the hotspot and week of investigation – were families that had been displaced this year.

The survey also showed that families living in cholera hotspots face multiple other health risks, including malnutrition and lack of access to prenatal care and vaccinations. UNICEF is calling for US\$ 62.5 million to scale up its prevention and response activities to the cholera and WASH crisis over the next five months, which seeks to reach 1.8 million people, including 1 million children, with safe water, hygiene kits, latrines, medical supplies, and child-friendly cholera care. Currently, the appeal is just 9 per cent funded.

Kenya: ban on churches accused of murdering starving worshippers

Kenyan authorities have banned five churches, including that of a pastor accused of inciting more than 400 followers to fast to death, according to a government document made public on Friday. The Associations Registration Office said the license of self-proclaimed pastor Paul Nthenge Mackenzie's Good News International Church had been cancelled on May 19.

The self-proclaimed pastor had urged followers of his movement to fast until death in order to "meet Jesus", a case which shocked Kenyans after the discovery of corpses in the Shakahola forest near the coastal town of Malindi.

To date, 425 bodies have been found in this forest.

Although most of the victims died of starvation, autopsies have also revealed that some, including children, were strangled, beaten or suffocated.

The authorities have also banned four other churches, including the New Life Prayer Centre and Church run by Mackenzie-linked televangelist Ezekiel Odera.

Odera is under investigation on charges of murder, aiding suicide, radicalization and money laundering.

His arrest in April followed the discovery of human remains in the Shakahola forest.

Prosecutors linked the two preachers, but Odera was released on bail in May, while last week a court extended Mackenzie's detention by 47 days



Self-proclaimed pastor Paul Nthenge Mackenzie (L), who set up the Good News - Copyright © africanews SIMON MAINA/AFP or licensors

pending further investigation.

A predominantly Christian country, Kenya is faced with the uncontrolled proliferation of churches and sects whose unscrupulous leaders border on criminality.

Previous attempts by the government to control these movements have met with fierce opposition, with critics denouncing a breach of constitutional guarantees concerning the separation of church and state.

There are 4,000 registered churches in Kenya, a country of 53 million inhabitants, according to government figures.

Many, led by charismatic pastors, preach the so-called prosperity gospel, calling on the faithful to make substantial donations to their church in return for the promise of an improvement in their own financial situation.

Kenyan sets himself on fire over cost of living



An opposition supporter holds burnt wood from a burning barricade built from - Copyright © africanews Ben Curtis/Copyright 2017 The AP. All rights reserved.

An unidentified man set himself on fire on Thursday, in Mombasa allegedly to protest the harsh economic challenges facing millions of Kenyans.

He had climbed on top of a statue in the middle of a busy roundabout before setting himself alight.

The rising cost of living amid a business slowdown and job cuts has pushed millions of Kenya into despair.

The man was incensed by locals who claimed that he was setting himself on fire because he had stolen some goods.

In a video that emerged online, the man was seen

pouring liquid suspected to be a flammable substance on his body before lighting himself.

A police officer based in Mombasa confirmed the incident to local media.

The man was rescued and taken to the nearby Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital, where he is being treated.

The rise in the cost of living has primarily been linked to surging fuel prices, persistent drought conditions, and the depreciation of the Shilling.

Kenyans have previously taken to the streets to protest against the high cost of living.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

More than 300,000 Sudanese refugees seek sanctuary in Chad

Over 300,000 refugees have fled Sudan's conflict seeking safety and refuge in Chad, joining the 580,000 already there.

"Chad has been generously welcoming in Sudanese refugees, but Chad itself is a low-income, crisis-affected country," says IRC president and CEO, David Miliband.

According to the UNHCR, 90 per cent of those arriving from Sudan are women and children. One-fifth of young children who have arrived in Chad are experiencing acute malnourishment, which is potentially life-threatening.

"The fact that women and children make up such a large proportion of the new arrivals in Chad is particularly worrying because they are often the most vulnerable groups in conflict situations," explains Aleksandra Roulet-Cimpric, the IRC's

country director in Chad. "Women and children are at greater risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse, and they may also face difficulties accessing basic necessities such as food, water and healthcare."

Despite the urgent need to support Sudanese refugees arriving in Chad, international donors have fallen short of funding the humanitarian response in the country.

"Out of the requested \$226 million USD to respond to this crisis, only a mere 11 per cent of the required funding has been raised," explains Mwit Mungania, the IRC's emergency country director in Chad. "Urgent action is needed to bridge this funding gap and ensure that the necessary resources reach those in desperate need."

The ECSL 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:
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 or **090 077 109**

Mon-Fri 8am - 5pm

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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**

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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 Uggun Freetown

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Email: sierralionebroadcasters22@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

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(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)

SILBA regrets any inconvenience this may cause.

END

Signed:

Daniel M. Amara
Secretary General

Approved By:

Stanley Bangura Jr.
Chairman

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FAO **MBSSE** **GUMA VALLEY WATER COMPANY** **NACSA**
GTB **CARE INTERNATIONAL** **MTHIE** **ACTIONAID** **SAVE THE CHILDREN**
SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS **NASSIT** **SIERRA LEONE POLICE** **SLRA**
EPA **SIERRA LEONE BREWERY** **SLTC**
RMF **MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS** **NJALA UNIVERSITY**
SOS CHILDREN VILLAGE **ACC** **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE** **MMCET CHAI**
TRANSFAPAY **STAR TIMES**
CRS **ACTION AGAINST HUNGER** **WORLD VISION** **UBA**
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SELL **MINISTRY OF ENERGY** **NRA** **SLAJ**
SIERRA BAY HOTEL **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE** **NEMS**
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STATISTIC SIERRA LEONE **PPRC** **CHASL** **STANDARD BUREAU**
MARITIME **WORLD BANK** **AFRIGAS** **RADISSON BLU HOTEL**
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES **PLAN INTERNATIONAL**
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