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CONCORD TIMES
NEWSPAPER

Vol. 17, No 140250960 Tuesday, August 22, 2023 Price: Le 2

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Niger Coup: ECOWAS rejects three-year timeframe

SILMA celebrates 2023 Onam cultural festival



Across-session of members of SILMA in group photo

The Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, has rejected the three-year transition plan proposed by the Niger Coup leader.

"ECOWAS is not accepting any prolonged transition again in the region. They have to get ready to hand over in the shortest possible time. The military aspect is very much on," Abdel-Fatau Musah, ECOWAS commissioner for political affairs, peace and security, told the BBC.

He added: "The earlier they give power back to civilians and concentrate on their primary responsibility, which is defending the territorial integrity of Niger, the better for them."

Cont. Page 4



Gen Abdourahamane Tchiani, Niger Coup Leader is buying time

Orange Money, Conex Energy strike partnership

Russia, China look to advance agendas at BRICS summit of developing countries in South Africa



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PERSONAL GLIMPSES

By: Winstanley, R. Bankole, Johnson

Who would have believed that this soon after publication of the Chief Electoral Commissioner (CEC) Mohamed Konneh's much discredited June 24th Presidential elections results, the very SLPP would have become so challenged with the kind of political impasse this country is now experiencing? And it is so dire that it has left even the Political Parties' Regulations Commission (PPRC) that supervised the electoral processes, the Judiciary that was expecting a flurry of petitions from the APC and an equally expectant Parliament that was waiting to rubber stamp the entire charade were left chagrined.

Thunderbolts

In the absence of the much anticipated petitions from the APC, it is the judiciary that would appear to have emerged the most confused, having been robbed of another opportunity to have regularized what is now being dubbed as the greatest electoral fraud by committed by the Electoral Commission Sierra Leone (ECSL) in pronouncing Mr. Bio as re-elected for a second term even whilst – according to all local and international accredited elections observers (the National Elections Watch (NEW), France, Ireland, UK, USA, AU, ECOWAS etc.) the ballots were either still being counted or in transmission to collation centers.

The judiciary were indeed robbed of another opportunity of delivering yet another "Stellar Ruling" (?) that would have simply regularized the brazen fraud suspected to have been perpetrated by the ECSL not necessarily on point of legality or case precedents, but quote unquote: "In the interest of political stability". Pundits believe this is not the very first time that the Judiciary had been sidelined by politicians. It first happened in 2018 when President Bio, probably lacking implicit trust in that body head-hunted instead for independent international jurists to come and head the three (3) Commissions of Inquiries (COIs) to look into the past Ernest Bai Koroma administration. They further opined that Judiciary was so disrespected and sidelined then that the three very COI Commissioners overruled various objections by various defense counsels, both on the legality of their status and the absence of the requisite rules to regulate the practices and procedures of those COIs as required in Sec. 150 of the Constitution.

Incidentally the Judiciary could not have been the only State institution that the APC's decision not to have appealed the presidential elections results caught napping. The same holds good for the PRC and ECSL. But the most chagrined would appear to be the SLPP MPs and the Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament.

I imagine that that decision struck all of them like multiple thunderbolt striking at the same time and on the same spot, with reverberating local and international effects.

Empirical

The APC's resilience to discountenance the Courts – on clearly empirical grounds – is resonating so well and so far, thanks to Proportional Representation (PR) electoral system introduced perforce, which means included the merciless beatings of APC MPs so that the government could have their say and way, but no thanks as well to those who clandestinely pioneered and ensured its "circumlocutious" implementation.

So where are the schemers and proponents of the PR system - the University Dons, Corporate and Cash and Carry Civil Society Technocrats (including the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists SLAJ) - that played deaf and dumb because of selfishness, and a commitment to mislead the government on the paths to confusion (and our present stalemate), even as the world and the Speaker of Parliament Dr. Abass Bundu was cautioning all of them to exercise restraints against doggedly pursuing such an unconstitutional option?

Entreaties

Irrespective of the threats embedded in his appeal and his references to deadlines, I would

have considered the Speaker's entreaties genuine if those appeals were directed to the Party's Secretariat and not directly to individuals. After all technically until and unless they have subscribed to their Oaths as MPs as will be recommended by the Party, they do not fall within his purview or control, nor should the two APC persons that are attending Parliament been allowed to do so.

I am therefore at a loss as to what the Speaker could be missing by the APC's boycott until the concerns raised by the Party over the credibility, integrity and legitimacy of the elections are addressed. Wasn't this the same Speaker under whose watch in the 5th Parliament that:

A. The Clerk of Parliament publicly ordered for APC MPs to be manhandled and thrown out of, or were involuntarily vacated from, the House of Parliament by the Police para-military wing of Operational Support Division (OSD) so that proceedings can progress?

B. Ten (10) duly elected APC MPs that were deprived from representing their peoples and replaced by the Courts with nine (9) runner-up SLPP representations without the requisite bye-elections?

C. Parliamentary decisions were ratified "on a motion of voices" instead of by balloting or show of hands when it was clear that the outcomes of those resolutions if balloted for, would not be in favour of the government?

D. APC MPs were occasionally either whisked away or invited to or invited for detentions at the Criminal Investigations Department (CID)?

Questions

So the questions that arise are:

1. What is it that the SLPP (and Speaker) are missing out on by the APC parliamentary boycott, when in fact they (SLPP) have proceeded to approve a Speaker and confirmed Presidential appointees even in their absence?

2. Didn't the SLPP boast of our sovereignty as an independent nation state with their Chairman Dr. Prince Harding going as far as labelling the entire Western donor community of nations as "Academic Dwarfs"?

3. Could it be that – thanks again to the PR system - by the APC's non-participation the international community/civilized world would never recognize or deal with a de-facto One Party State government through acceptance of a monolithic parliamentary representation in a country and world where pluralistic parliamentary representation is a democratic "sine qua non", such as in the Commonwealth, African Union, ECOWAS and African-Caribbean-Pacific organizations to name but a few?

Values

Perhaps what needs clarification at this point is that the APC has no qualms or "beefing" with the SLPP as a Party or directly against its leader President Julius Maada Bio. And that has been stated over and over again. Logically if Bio had not been pronounced as the "Winner" by the CEC as constitutionally mandated, the Hon. Chief Justice Babatunde Edwards whose constitutional mandate it is also to swear into office whomsoever the CEC declares winner after the elections, Bio would not have been sworn him into office.

Our (APC) gripe therefore (and beefing if you please) is with the CEC, and it will remain so until and unless he produces the disaggregated results pertaining to the entire June 24th multi-tier elections polling station by polling station, as he is by law obligated under Sec. 51 (1) and (2), Sec.52 and Sec. 54 (1) of the Public Elections Act of 2022. Obligated here means he cannot chose to ignore those provisions now, unless of course he has integrity issues bordering on inconsistencies, inaccuracies and irregularities of those same elections results to hide.

And rather interestingly it is on those same issues – producing the disaggregated results – that the APC finds shared values with the galaxy of local International elections observer groups (the National Elections Watch (NEW), France, Ireland, UK, USA, AU, ECOWAS etc.) that have to date refused to recognize and

congratulate president Bio, because all of them are equally convinced that his mandate to continue in office as President was stolen.

Goaded

Of the greatest interest to all of us is the glaring "coincidental exactitude" both in the victory thresholds projections by the Institute of Governance Reforms (IGR) for the SLPP in the same week of the Presidential elections, and that of the actual ECSL results announced to wit: (57.1%), just to stave off a run off.

Could it be that Mohammed Konneh was goaded into announcing incomplete results because their imported elections experts had warned the SLPP that going into a run-off would have resulted in a catastrophic defeat of Brig. (Rtd.) General Bio by Dr. Samura Kamara?

These are the clarifications that will emerge when Mohammed Konneh produces the disaggregated results, failing which I will not expect the APC to budge. And to the extent that President Bio himself has admitted to "logistical challenges" during the conduct of those elections, I am sure he too must be very much interested in the CEC Mohammed Konneh producing those aggregated data without further delays.

Trajectories

As you are well aware Dr. Samura Kamara, once in the affairs of every man and nation comes a moment to decide (James Russell Lowell). For Sierra Leone – "YOUR COUNTRY: YOUR RESPONSIBILITY" – that moment is now.

For too long our political class have either been deliberately trivializing government and governance issues by wrongly juxtaposing it with a Court Barry mentality, all under the expediency of "moving on". And we have indeed been "moving on" as if with charlatans on the bridge of what is clearly a rudderless ship. And that has not helped us grow as an independent nation.

We have even moved on to as low as accepting presentation of fake university degree certificates in our House of Parliament to meet eligibility criteria for presidential appointees, and further lower as even being afraid of chastising those in authority that we very well know have omitted felony. So the time to stop that is now if we are to embark on the right trajectories.

As President Bio himself (even with all his PhD background in Coup plotting) similarly asserted when expressing his disgust for Coups within the Sub-region at a recent ECOWAS Heads of States meeting and quoting him: "The fact that Coups have not been reversed in the past does not mean they should continue..... We have to put a stop to it" - Unquote.

Capitulate

In the same vein the fact that we have been overlooking falsification and distortion of elections results in this country for this long does not mean the chain of deceit should continue ad-infinitum. So to ever make the mistake of capitulating to fake peace and reconciliations overtures by the SLPP without addressing our systemic political wrongs incubated since 1961 or as evident in the just concluded elections robustly, then the blood of all Sierra Leonean lives and properties lost in fratricidal political upheavals to date will be on our collective heads. And I make no apologies for that statement.

Government and governance on an electoral mandate with credibility and integrity issues could lead to serious breakdown of law and order and even to war, because it is as treasonable an offence as military putsches and the perpetrators if found culpable, should be made to pay for it severely by a long jail terms.

So for the APC to capitulate on its demands from our position of strength is to might as well say bye-bye to even the type of crude democracy we have been practicing, because if no re-run is done even if only at the Presidential elections level, then the "Whips" with which we have been chastised by the SLPP since 2018 to date will be replaced with "Scorpions" by 2028. In other words what we as "APCians" suffered during the last 2023 elections with people being

openly intimidated and prevented from voting for the APC in the South-East in the very presence of Police Officers who demonstrated more loyalty to the SLPP than to the Constitution and with impunity will be like the "SMOKE" – Dress rehearsals if you please.

To condone these those issues now could only mean that by the next elections, we should expect to see the real "FIRE", as you can bet that by then some areas will be conspicuously demarcated as bona-fide SLPP Territories within which other parties can only venture to operate at their peril – including on polling day.

Overdrive

As a matter fact one area APC need not even countenance is the proposed 2023 Elections Review and Reforms Committee set up by the President to be headed by the Hon. Vice President Juldeh Jalloh. As a direct beneficiary of the questioned elections outcomes it is a non-starter. And that is not out of disrespect to the President on his authority and function as our Fountain of Honour, but just that if he could have had to look overseas for international jurists to come and conduct Commissions of Inquiries (COIs) on his ascendancy into the past Ernest Bai Koroma administration to ensure independence, integrity and fair play, then he must equally be prevailed upon to also seek Independent External Elections Investigators, if the APC is expected to make their own submissions thereto.

The very nomenclature of that Committee means the status quo should remain. Besides it is too fresh in our APC minds that cases are still pending in the Courts against APC members on account of clashes with a convoy of this very Vice President, when he mysteriously materialized in the then Constituency No.066 on a dedicated APC Campaign Day that resulted in serious skirmishes.

"Leaders" or "Revolutionaries" that do not intend to leave legacies are unfit to lead. So we only need to reflect on utterances of the SLPP leadership against the APC since April 2018 to understand the criticality of our situation.

Even as recently as this past July the SLPP Chairman Dr. Prince Harding was on overdrive again that:

- The SLPP would under no circumstances – neither now, nor ever – hand over political power to the APC because their entire APC Party Executives and Party rank and file are mad people

- That they (SLPP) would rather their blood flow throughout the country than contemplate handing over political power to the APC

- That even if they were constrained to ever hand over political power it is President Bio that would have to name his successor

And he flowed on like a loose cannon right in the presence of President Bio without anyone daring to restrain him, because he was making SLPP policy statements with one avowed unfinished business intent in mind: "To obliterate the APC from the political landscape of this country".

It is not in SLPP DNA to discuss peace with anyone or anybody that is a threat to their clench of political power, and that was clearly discernible in way and manner they exterminated or decapitated even their own kinsmen and women that had dared to openly manifest support for the APC in the South-East. In their narrow mindsets that constitutes the greatest betrayal, as loyalty to the SLPP Party should subsume loyalty to even the Almighty God and country.

I am heartened by your guarded responses/reactions to the Commonwealth Secretary General Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland (KC) and the outgoing American Ambassador David Reimer in their quest for peaceful dialogues, that Dr. Samura's focus has remained anchored in the restoration and safeguarding of our democracy, social justice and national unity, and sincerely hope that his pursuits of each or all of those virtues will be premised on the precondition of the CEC Mohammed Konneh producing those disaggregated results.



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LOCAL NEWS

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

The Chief Executive Officer of Mercy Ships, Gert Van De Weerdhof, has disclosed to journalists that over two thousand Sierra Leoneans will benefit from health services that would be provided by Mercy Ships in the coming days.

He made the above disclosure during a press conference on Monday 21st August, 2023 at the Ministry of Health conference room, Youyi Building in Freetown.

"The aim is to perform more than 2350 safe, free surgeries on board as well as provide training for more than 200 healthcare professionals across the surgical ecosystem. We would ensure every Sierra Leonean that enters the ships get a better medical treatment," he assured.

He said Mercy Ships' history in Sierra Leone had begun in 1992 with a visit from the first hospital ship in the fleet, the Anastasis.

He said their plan was not to stay long but that the civil war meant this return had to wait until 2001, where in addition to providing safe surgical care, volunteered alongside the community to rebuild what had been lost, such as fitting prosthetic limb, repairing wells and offering training to people whose lives and education had been caused by the conflict.

He added that in their return to Sierra Leone for the three field services in a row, 2001-2004, 2011, and now in 2023, Mercy Ships' partnership with "Sweet Salone" has remained strong even, when no ship was in port from 2005 to 2008.

He further stated that over the course

Over 2000 Sierra Leoneans to benefit from Mercy Ships



of five previous field services, Mercy Ship has partnered closely with Sierra Leone's government to impact many lives, each one leaving positive effect of their own.

He said 9,548 patients cumulatively have received surgeries from Mercy Ships over the course of the past 30 years.

He said the next chapter in this 30-year history begins with the arrival of the Global Mercy this year.

He said Mercy Ships partners with the Government of Sierra Leone to ignite hope and multiply impact further by supporting the tremendous work already in place.

Minister of Health and Sanitation, Dr. Austin Demby, said during the field service, Mercy Ships plan to operate its newest hospital ship in Freetown, to provide safe surgical and dental care, as well as advanced medical training and mentoring on board.

Minister Demby said all Mercy Ships services are provided free of charge, thanks to donors around the world

and their support of the volunteer professionals giving their time and talents.

He thanked the CEO of Mercy Ships and the team for choosing Sierra Leone as a destination for the first

Global Mercy to operate, adding that the people of Sierra Leone have been long waiting for the ship.

He said the government will be ready to give them the enabling environment for the next ten month they are going to be in Sierra Leone.

Meet the newly appointed youth commissioner

By Ishmael Dumbuya



One of President Bio's most welcomed appointments is the new Youth Commissioner of the National Youth Commission. Ahmed Aata Mansaray is a man of illustrious reputation who had stood the test of time. He was Project Manager, Youth Livelihood at the Ministry of Youth Affairs. Atata demonstrated professionalism, credibility and fairness in the exercise of his duty.

Being a man who is an academic and an intellectual, he proceeded again to Fourah Bay College where he acquired his second degree in Law. Mansaray hailed from Kenema District, later came to Freetown to pursue university studies at FBC in 2006. He graduated with a Bachelors of Arts Honors in English Language and Literature in 2011. He got to his LLB in 2017, and that gave him access to Law School and upon completion, he was called to the Bar. Prior to his appointment, he currently works with R.B Kowa & Associates at the Mendewo

Chambers.

On the 14th August, President Julius Maada Bio appointed Ahmed Aata Mansaray in accordance with Section 11 (1) of the National Youth Commission Act, 2009 as Commissioner, National Youth Commission, subject to the approval of Parliament.

The President's decision reflects the government's commitment to empowering and engaging the youth of Sierra Leone. Since his tenure at Youth Affairs, Mansaray is very much passionate about the betterment and capacitation of youths across the country.

Upon the successful approval of his appointment by Parliament, Mansaray will assume the role of commissioner, overseeing the nation's youth related policies and initiatives. He is expected to liaise with the Committee on Appointments' and the Public Service of Parliament, following arrangements made by the Clerk of Parliament.

Niger Coup: ECOWAS rejects three-year timeframe

From Cover

The US and France, which both have military bases in Niger, are backing efforts to support ECOWAS to reverse the coup. The American and French bases are part of efforts to tackle jihadist groups in the wider Sahel region.

The junta leader, Gen Abdourahamane Tchiani, who headed the presidential guard before overthrowing the government on 26 July, said the military intervention could only lead to increased Islamist insurgencies in the region.

"They seem ignorant to the fact that it is largely thanks to the professionalism and valour of the defence and security forces of Niger that Niger has remained a barrier preventing terrorist hordes from destabilizing the whole region," he said.

The coup is similar to recent takeovers in neighbouring Burkina Faso and Mali.

Gen Tchiani did not give details about the handover of power, which he says will happen within three years, but said the principles for the transition



will be discussed at a "dialogue" organized by the coup leaders.

On Saturday, an ECOWAS delegation led by former Nigerian military leader Gen Abdulsalami Abubakar and also included Nigeria's most senior Muslim leader, the Sultan of Sokoto, Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III, met with the coup leaders to settle the issue with diplomacy.

The Sultan wields enormous influence in Niger, part of which used to be in the Sokoto Caliphate, a powerful kingdom before colonial rule.

Saturday's meeting was the first between leaders of the junta and ECOWAS.

LOCAL NEWS

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

SILMA celebrates 2023 Onam cultural festival

In a colorful demonstration of its spectrum of distinct culture and traditions, the Sierra Leone Malayali Association (SILMA) on Sunday, August 20th celebrated the 2023 Onam annual festival, at the New Brookfields Hotel in Freetown.

SILMA 4th annual celebration in Freetown brought together not only members of the Malayali community but also other Indians, Lebanese and Sierra Leoneans who feast together on Banana leaves as a way of demonstrating the Indian culture.

Onam is an annual Indian harvest festival celebrated predominantly by the Hindus of Kerala. A major annual event for Keralites and the official festival of the state includes a spectrum of cultural events including sharing of love for one another.

The Onam festival commemorates King Mahabali and Vamana. According to Hindu legends, Onam is celebrated in Kerala in remembrance of the good governance under the rule of daitya king Mahabali, a mythical king who once ruled Kerala.

The celebration was marked by a classic display of cultural performances like dancing competition, artistic work display and series of games which were followed by a sumptuous meal that included 22 varieties of food items.

In her welcome speech, Mrs. Fouzy Shan, member of SILMA said Onam is an annual Indian harvest festival predominantly celebrated by the Hindus of Kerala which last for ten days and falls between August and September.

She said the festival includes cultural events like boat races, dances and special feast with a spectrum of cultural events.

In his keynote speech, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Second Secretary of the Indian High Commission to Sierra Leone explained that Onam festival commemorates King Mahabali and Vamana.

He said the legend holds jealous of Mahabali's popularity and his power, adding that the devas and gods conspired to end his reign and they sent Vamana to earth in the form of a dwarf Brahmin who trampled Mahabali to patala (netherworld). According to the India Diplomat, Vamana asked



Across-session of members of SILMA in group photo



Mrs. Fouzy Shan dining with fellow members of SILMA



Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Second Secretary of the Indian High Commission to Sierra Leone making his statement during the colourful event at the Newbrookfields Hotel in Freetown.



Shan Mathew, acting President of SILMA making his statement at the event



Savin Suhas, SILMA Treasurer, delivering vote of thanks at the end of the event



ethnic background and can be celebrated within the maximum level.

He commended the organisers for their incredible job in ensuring that the event becomes colourful irrespective of the limitations they have in Sierra Leone, which he said proves their ability to do anything within limitations.

He emphasized on the importance of unity and team work, stating that with unity and team work one can achieve great things. Mathew also applauded all members of the India Community for making the event possible.

Kishin Maithani Commercial Director, G. Shankerdas and sons said the functions celebrate Indian diversity, he said the festival emanates from the South of India while he hailed from North but that could not serve as a barrier because they are basically from the same community.

"So I deem it necessary to patronized with my Indian Brothers at least to learn from their own culture," he said.

Kishin affirmed that he comes from Malaysia where they have a very good Malayali community. "We grew up seeing those festivals from childhood, but in

Mahabali for three feet of land as his wish from the generous Mahabali.

"Since denying gifts to Brahmin is considered a sacrilege, Mahabali agreed to fulfill Vamana's wish. In the first two feet Vamana measured the entirety of universe, leaving nowhere to place his third foot. Mahabali offered his own head to place his third feet making the wish complete. However, witnessing Mahabali's generosity, Vishnu granted the king's sole wish to visit his land and people once every year. This homecoming of Mahabali is celebrated as Onam in Kerala every year," he concluded.

Shan Mathew, SILMA acting President also spoke on the relevance of the celebrations, stating the event which is predominantly celebrated by the Hindu is also dignified by others irrespective of their financial status, cultural, religious and

Sierra Leone it is just the 4th celebration and the first one I have attended," he said.

He went on to state that India is made up of different communities and ethnic groups, but as soon as they step out of India they become one. "Even though this is might be Malayali and Kerala function, it is an incredible India function," he asserted.

In his vote of thanks, Savin Suhas, Treasurer, SILMA expressed gratitude to the entire Indian community and beyond who do not only grace the occasion, but also spend their earnings to see that the program becomes a success.

He expressed delight over the outcome of the event and prayed that the next event will be more successful than the previous ones.

Other speakers included Mrs Athira Savin, SILMA member, Deepak Kashyap, Attache Consular, Indian High Commission Office Freetown, Jobin Jose, Joint Secretary and Ullas Raveendran Nair, Secretary SILMA, all of them spoke on the relevance of the celebration and commend the organisers and sponsors.



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LOCAL NEWS Orange Money, Conex Energy strike partnership

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

With the aim to making transactions easier for fuel users in the country, Orange Money and Conex Energy Sierra Leone have launched partnership that would enable people to buy fuel from all Conex filling stations across the country. The partnership also comes with a month promotion of free one hundred liters of fuel to be won by customers who used orange money to buy fuel in any of the Conex filling Stations across the country from now till the end of August. Speaking last Friday at the launching of partnership event at Conex Brookfields Filling Station, Conex Energy Managing Director, Avrajit Kar says the partnership would go a long way in helping digitalisation transaction and also promote financial inclusion in the country. He said the system will no longer allow customers moving with huge amount of money to fill their tanks. He affirmed that they would ensure that the system is operative in all the Conex



filling stations across the country and can be used at all the time.

Chief Executive Officer of Orange Money Sierra Leone, David Mansaray says the partnership was a step in the right direction, stating that orange money is all about digitalisation and their aim is to ensure that Sierra Leone becomes a cashless society and the partnership with Conex Energy was a milestone to that direction.

He further says that, many a times people have money in their mobile wallet and yet they can't buy fuel for their cars unless they have to locate orange money agent, which is sometimes inconvenience but with the partnership they can buy up to NLe25,000 worth of fuel products.

He said the partnership will also help Conex Energy in the area of cash handling and can also tempt them to increase their time of operations during the night hours. He said there is going to be a QR code in all the Conex filling stations that will enable customers using smart phones to scan and do payment.

World Vision engages MPs on Breast-milk Act 67 arrested in Waterloo

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay



Parliamentarians, MoH staff and Partners at the engagement

World Vision International Sierra Leone, together with the Ministry of Health and United Nations Family, has engaged Members of parliament on the Breast-Milk Substitute Act of 2012. The engagement was done over the weekend at Atlantic Lumley Hotel, Aberdeen in Freetown. The Breastmilk Substitute Act will provide safe and adequate nutrition for infants by promoting breastfeeding and regulating the marketing of breastmilk substitutes and for other related matters. Country Health and Nutrition Advisor World Vision International, Saffa Andrew Koroma, said the effort in the promotion of optimal breastfeeding practice has led to improvement in breastfeeding practices with an increase rate in exclusive breastfeeding. "Breastfeeding, marked as the foundation of life, gives everyone a fair start in life. It improves the health, wellbeing and survival of women and children. As an organization, we are committed to supporting the government in improving the status of exclusive breastfeeding and other sensitive nutrition indicators," Saffa Andrew Koroma said. He continued that World Vision envisions a world where every child has the opportunity to the right of life in all its fullness, adding that good nutrition is an

essential foundation for health and development.

He said malnutrition continues to be the world's most serious health problem and the single biggest contributor to child mortality.

"Our goal is to ensure that mothers and children are well nourished across our global programming reach that includes Sierra Leone. World Vision has invested deeply in the global fight to end malnutrition, evidenced by compelling innovations addressing some of the most challenging aspects with sustainable methods," he retreated.

He continued that although breastfeeding is the mother's domain, with close support from fathers, partners, families, workplaces and communities, breastfeeding improves gender-equitable parental social protection in all its forms.

He said breastmilk substitute is associated with lower intelligence and result in economic losses of about \$302 billion annually and that there are many barriers to creating an enabling and supportive environment for women to breastfeed.

He said on the 14th December, 2020, World Vision International's President and Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Morley, committed US\$500 million to fight malnutrition, and told global

By Ishmael Dumbuya

The Head of Media and Communication at the Waterloo Police Division, ASP Allieu Jalloh, has told Concord Times that, in an intelligence-led raids spearheaded by the Local United Commander, CSP Ibrahim M Sama, a total of sixty-seven (67) people, comprising ten (10) women and fifty-seven (57) men from various addresses within Waterloo (Tombo junction, 555 park, Gbeyshan, Deep-Eye Water) and Madina Wallahi village in Tombo, have been arrested in ghettos and criminal hideouts.

According to ASP Jalloh, a huge quantum of Kush and Cannabis Sativa, together with equipment (scale, scissors, plastic bags, etc.)

used in the processing and sales of the narcotics, were arrested by the police as exhibits.

He said the police demolished several makeshift structures where the drug peddlers and users assemble.

The Crime Officer of Waterloo, ASP Joseph B. Lansana, assured everyone that the arrested persons will appear at the Magistrates' Court, King Yard, Waterloo, on Monday the 21st of August, 2023.

It could be recalled that 37 other people were arrested earlier last week at Waterloo after they were charged with various Public Order Act Offenses, such as the possession of Canabis Sativa and Kush

Drug peddlers confess in court

By Mohamed J Kargbo

Two accused persons, Yusuf Kargbo and Santigie Kargbo made an appearance before Magistrate Hadiru Daboh of the Ross Road Court No 3 for possession of drugs described as Kush.

They pleaded guilty to the offense when the charges were read to them by the court registrar.

Both accused were charged with two counts of unlawfully possession of Kush contrary to Section 3 (a) of the National Drugs Control Act 2008.

nutrition leaders that eliminating malnutrition especially for women and girls, is a top priority for the organization. Chief Nutritionist MoH, Matron Masry Fullah, assured the partners and the parliamentarians that they were working closely with the health workers across the country to sensitize mothers about the value of breastfeeding. She said the ministry will continue to

According to the charge sheet, the first accused, Santigie Kargbo, on Wednesday, 9 August, 2023, at No.3 Mill Street, Freetown, was found in possession of one hundred and fifty five (155) raps of kush, weighing 103 grams without lawful authority.

It was further alleged that the second accused, Yusuf Kabia, on Wednesday 9 August 2023, at No.3 Mill Street, Freetown, was found in possession of eighty (80) raps of kush weighing 40.3 grams without lawful authority.

working with parliamentarians to see how they can put more effort in ensuring that women get proper understanding about breastfeeding

The Parliamentarians present promised their commitment to the Ministry of Health and its partners, that they will ensure that the Act reaches to their people.



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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

HRW accuses Saudi border guards of killing hundreds of Ethiopian migrants

Saudi border guards fired "like rain" on Ethiopian migrants trying to cross into the Gulf kingdom from Yemen, killing hundreds since last year, Human Rights Watch said in a report Monday.

The allegations, described as "unfounded" by a Saudi government source, point to a significant escalation of abuses along the perilous route from the Horn of Africa to Saudi Arabia, where hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians live and work.

One 20-year-old woman from Ethiopia's Oromia region, interviewed by HRW, said Saudi border guards opened fire on a group of migrants they had just released from custody.

"They fired on us like rain. When I remember, I cry," she said.

"I saw a guy calling for help, he lost both his legs. He was screaming; he was saying, 'Are you leaving me here? Please don't leave me'. We couldn't help him because we were running for our lives."

HRW researcher Nadia Hardman said "Saudi officials are killing hundreds of migrants and asylum seekers in this remote border area out of view of the rest of the world," according to a statement.

"Spending billions buying up professional golf, football clubs, and major entertainment events to improve the Saudi image should not deflect attention from these horrendous crimes," she said.

A Saudi government source told AFP that the allegations were unreliable.

"The allegations included in the Human Rights Watch report about Saudi border guards shooting Ethiopians while they were crossing the Saudi-Yemeni border are unfounded and not based on reliable sources," said the source, who requested anonymity.

The New York-based group has documented abuses against Ethiopian migrants in Saudi Arabia and Yemen for nearly a decade, but the latest killings appear to be "widespread and systematic" and may amount to crimes against humanity, it said.

Last year, United Nations experts reported "concerning allegations" that "cross-border artillery shelling and small-arms fire by Saudi Arabia security forces killed approximately 430 migrants" in southern Saudi Arabia and northern Yemen during the first four months of 2022.

In March that year, repatriation of Ethiopians from Saudi Arabia began under an agreement between the two countries. Ethiopia's foreign ministry said about 100,000 of its citizens were expected to be sent home over several months.

The HRW report said there was no response to letters it sent to Saudi officials.

But the Huthi rebels who control northern Yemen alleged "deliberate killings of immigrants and Yemenis" by border guards, in response to a letter from HRW.

According to the rights group, migrants said Huthi forces worked with people smugglers and would "extort" them or keep them in detention centres where they were "abused" until they could pay an "exit fee".

The Huthis denied working with people smugglers, describing them as "criminals".

In 2015, Saudi officials mobilised a military coalition in an effort to stop the advance of the Iran-backed Huthis, who had seized the Yemeni capital Sanaa from the internationally recognised government the previous year.

Yemen's war has created what the UN describes as one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with millions dependent on aid.

Many of the abuses described by HRW would have occurred during a truce that took effect in April 2022 and has largely held despite officially expiring last October.

The HRW report draws from interviews with 38 Ethiopian migrants who tried to cross into Saudi Arabia from Yemen, as well as from satellite imagery, videos and photos posted to social media "or gathered from other sources".

Interviewees described 28 "explosive weapons incidents" including attacks by mortar projectiles, the report said.

Some survivors described attacks at close range, with Saudi border guards asking Ethiopians "in which limb of their body they would prefer to be shot", the report said.

"All interviewees described scenes of horror: women, men, and children strewn across the mountainous landscape severely injured, dismembered, or already dead," it said.

Other accounts described forced rape and beatings with rocks and iron bars.

HRW called on Riyadh to end any policy of using lethal force on migrants and asylum seekers, and urged the UN to investigate the alleged killings.

5 things to know about Zimbabwe

Five things to know about Zimbabwe, a landlocked country in southern Africa rich in gold and minerals, ahead of Wednesday's presidential and legislative elections. Mugabe 37 years in power

Hero of independence

Robert Mugabe led

the country for 37 years, as Prime Minister (1980-1987) then as President (1987-2017). He seduced first by a policy of reconciliation with the white minority, and his social and educational policy.

But he established an authoritarian regime very early on, with a brutal repression of his opponents. From the 2000s, he caused the economic collapse of his country, with his agrarian reform marked by the violent eviction of thousands of white farmers to redistribute the land to under-equipped and insufficiently trained black farmers.

Dropped by the army, he was forced to resign in 2017, at the age of 93. His former lieutenant and successor Emmerson Mnangagwa, nicknamed "the Crocodile" for his ruthlessness, is seeking a new mandate at the age of 80 in the August 23 election.

Economic slump

Former breadbasket of the region and endowed with rich mineral resources (platinum, gold, diamond, nickel), the country saw its agricultural production fall after the agrarian reform of the 2000s. A deep economic crisis persists, marked in particular by hyperinflation, mass unemployment and a lack of liquidity.

After several years of contraction, Zimbabwe experienced a recovery in 2021 with 8.5% growth, slowed to 3% in 2022 according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Its more than 15 million inhabitants continue to face soaring prices. After soaring in 2020, inflation had slowed to 175.8% by June 2023, according to official figures, but some economists put it at around 1,000% instead.

By 2008, hyperinflation had reached such



A man walks past a wall displaying portraits of Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa. Copyright © africanews Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi/AP

dizzying levels that the central bank was forced to issue a hundred trillion Zimbabwean dollar note, which has since become a collector's item.

Zimbabwe remains under Western sanctions for corruption and rights abuses.

Exodus of qualified personnel

The country, whose education system has long been envied in Africa, is experiencing an exodus of qualified personnel, particularly in the health and education sectors.

Nearly 1,800 nurses - more than 10% of public hospital staff - have emigrated in 2022, mainly to the United Kingdom, a former colonial power, where salaries are ten times higher.

Overpopulated elephants

After neighboring Botswana, Zimbabwe has the second-largest elephant population in the world, which is increasing by +5% per year. Its 100,000 pachyderms are almost double the capacity of its parks, according to conservationists.

This overpopulation leads to more and more frequent accidents, between the majestic animals and the villagers near reserves. Wild animals, including elephants and crocodiles, claimed 68 lives in 2022 and 29 since the start of 2023, authorities said.

famous female writers

A figure of feminism, Tsitsi Dangarembga became famous in 1988 with "Nervous Conditions" ("A fleur de peau"), the first book published in English by a black Zimbabwean woman.

Other Zimbabwean authors such as NoViolet Bulawayo or Petina Gappah have acquired international notoriety.

Before them, the British novelist Doris Lessing,

Over 2 million children in Niger need humanitarian aid



Pupils follow a lesson in a classroom at the Sakoiria school in Niger. Copyright © africanews OLYMPIA DE MAISMONT/AFP or licensors

More than two million children are "in need of humanitarian aid" in Niger, a country destabilized by a recent coup and undermined by jihadist violence, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Monday, in a statement sent to AFP.

"More than two million children have been affected by the crisis and are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance," the organization said.

"Before the recent civil unrest and political instability in Niger", UNICEF already estimated in 2023 "at 1.5 million the number of children under

5 suffering from malnutrition, including at least 430,000 suffering from deadliest form of malnutrition".

According to UNICEF, these figures may increase "if food prices continue to rise and an economic downturn hits families, households and incomes".

In addition, "electricity shortages" - already frequent in Niger and multiplied by the sanctions imposed on the country by the Economic Community of West African Countries (ECOWAS), in response to the coup - affect the cold chain and can compromise the effectiveness

Gabon: Opposition cries foul over rule change to vote ahead elections

Gabon's main opposition parties, who have lined up behind a single candidate to challenge Ali Bongo Ondimba in next week's presidential vote, on Sunday urged a boycott of legislative contests the same day, after a last-minute change to voting rules.

Former education minister Albert Ondo Ossa secured the backing of the Alternance 2023 opposition grouping on Friday, hoping to unseat Bongo, whose family has ruled the oil-rich West African state for 55 years.

Last month, however, Gabon's electoral commission announced that any vote for a local deputy would automatically be a vote for that deputy's presidential candidate.

The move was denounced by critics as favouring the ruling Gabonese Democratic Party (PDG), since Ondo Ossa is not backed by any single party, and therefore will not have corresponding candidates for the parliamentary vote.

During a rally in Libreville broadcast on social

media, Ondo Ossa and Alternance 2023 officials warned of an "unfair vote" that violated the separation of executive and legislative powers.

They urged a boycott of the parliamentary elections, calling instead "to vote only for the president" and to "throw the legislative ballot sheets in the trash".

Ondo Ossa had already told AFP on Friday that if elected, "I will dissolve parliament and convene new elections" for the body.

Launched in January, Alternance 2023 brings together six opposition groupings in a bid to defeat Bongo, who took over from his father Omar Bongo Ondimba in 2009 and announced his re-election bid in July.

The president was narrowly re-elected in 2016, with just 5,500 more votes than rival Jean Ping, who claimed the election had been fixed.

Bongo suffered a stroke in 2018 and spent months on the sidelines recovering, leaving the opposition to question his fitness to run the nation.

of "infant vaccines" stored in health structures.

UNICEF recalls that it "continues to provide humanitarian assistance to children throughout the country". However, it warns that its "vital supplies remain blocked at the various entry points of the country", such as at the border with Benin.

The UN organization "launches an urgent appeal" to the "actors" of the crisis to guarantee access to

Niger for humanitarian workers and supplies, and asks "donors to protect humanitarian funds from multilateral or unilateral sanctions".

Niger, destabilized by a coup on July 26, is one of the poorest countries in the world and depends economically and energetically on foreign countries. It has also been undermined for several years by jihadist attacks in the west and south-east.

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Republic of Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone Productive Social Safety Net and Youth Employment Project (P176789)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

SYSTEMS & NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR SYSTEMS AND NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

1. Background

In March 2022, the World Bank approved the Social Safety Net and Youth Employment Project (PSSNYE). The PSSNYE is an IPF of US\$40.0 million equivalent, with an expected project implementation period extending over five years (closing June 30, 2027). It will provide much needed technical and financial support to the GoSL to advance the agenda of social protection and jobs.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) of the PPSNYE is: "to improve access to social safety nets and income generating opportunities for targeted beneficiaries".

The project consists of activities continuing from the Social Safety Net Project (SSN) as well as new ones such as the provision of Economic Inclusion Support, entrepreneurship support package and activities implemented in new settings such as public works in urban areas.

The project tackles key constraints faced by different segments of the population. The different components of the project were designed to collectively benefit the different target groups and where they fall within the socioeconomic spectrum in the country. Component 1 (cash transfers) targets current or previous extreme-poor households, who constitute about 12.8 percent of Sierra Leone's population, mainly reside in rural areas and are highly likely to be in areas further affected by climate change. The public works component targets eligible youth aged 18–35 from extreme-poor, poor, and climate-vulnerable households in urban and rural areas to provide income and employment support through public works activities aimed at improving climate resilience. The entrepreneurship component targets eligible youth ages 18–35 in urban areas from poor and non-poor households with some level of education to provide them with business training and grants and connect them with relevant opportunities for employment and empowerment through a youth portal. Finally, the project also provides for the implementation of emergency cash transfers (ECTs) targeting the segment of the population increasingly vulnerable to climate change-induced natural disasters and other types of shocks to support them through ECTs and the Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC). In terms of the resource envelope, US\$17 million will be targeted to extreme-poor households, US\$4 million to vulnerable population at risk of facing shocks and natural disasters, another US\$3 million to youth from extreme-poor and poor households in rural areas, and US\$9 million to youth from urban poor and non-poor households in urban areas.

The project is composed of five components as follows:

- Component 1. SSN Cash Transfers and Provision of EI Support (US\$21 million equivalent)
- Component 2. Productive LIPWs and Life Skills Support for Youth (US\$6 million equivalent)
- Component 3: Employment and Entrepreneurship Support for Youth (US\$6 million equivalent)
- Component 4: Systems Development, Institutional Strengthening and Project Management Support (US\$7 million equivalent)
- Component 5: Contingent Emergency Response Component (US\$0)

Component 3b supports the design and implementation of the activities related to the youth platform in collaboration with NaYCOM, with support from NaCSA, NSPS, youth councils, local councils, nonstate actors, and the private sector organizations. Through this sub-component, the project will also coordinate strategic meetings and decision-making between relevant partners during implementation of the youth-related components of the PSSNYE.

The Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Youth Affairs – the

implementing agency- is therefore seeking the services of a Systems and Network Administrator with whom it can work with to co-ordinate and oversee the implementation of the sub-component.

2. Purpose of the assignment/objectives of the position:

To write, develop, format in the content management system and upload content for the Youth Sector, MDAs and other development partners.

To write, collaborate with employing agencies and review blog posts, web content, newsletters, video content, as well as technical content.

3. Duties and Responsibilities of the Systems and Network Administrator

- Provide technical support to all project staff and beneficiaries.
- Install and configure software and hardware.
- Manage network servers and technology tools
- Set up accounts and workstations in all project operational areas.
- Monitor performance and maintain systems according to requirements.
- Troubleshoot issues and outages.
- Ensure security through access controls, backups and firewalls.
- Upgrade systems with new releases and models
- Develop expertise to train staff on new technologies.
- Build an internal wiki with technical documentation, manuals and IT policies
- Closely work with the Content Developer to upload all vacancies and articles.

4. Qualifications and Experience

- University's degree in IT, computer science, or related field of study.
- A minimum of 5 years of Proven experience as a System Administrator or similar role
- Strong understanding of computer network infrastructure.
- Ability to implement, administer, and troubleshoot network infrastructure devices.
- Knowledge of application transport and network infrastructure protocols.
- Ability to create network diagrams and documentation for design and planning network communication systems.
- Experience with databases, networks (LAN, WAN) and patch management.
- Knowledge on system security (e.g., intrusion detection systems) and data backup/recovery.
- Ability to create scripts in Java, Python, Perl or other language.
- Familiarity with various operating systems and platforms.
- Resourcefulness and problem-solving aptitude.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Any professional certification is a plus.
- Women and physically challenged between the ages of 22-35 years are strongly encouraged to apply.

5. Mode of Application

All applications in writing should be accompanied by up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV) and supporting documents with the names and addresses of three referees, one of which should be the last or current employer and addressed to:

The Human Resource Department, Ministry of Youth Affairs, 24 Scan Drive off Spur Road Freetown.

Please indicate clearly on the envelop (in the case of hard copy application) or in the email subject heading and attachment (in the case of electronic applications) the post for which application is made.

6. Duration:

The Systems and Network Administrator shall be engaged with the project for a period of one year with possibility of extension based on performance and continue need.

QUALIFIED WOMEN ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

Closing Date

The Closing Date and time for receipt of applications is 31st August, 2023.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS
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EMPLOYMENT PROJECT (P176789)
RE- ADVERTISEMENT

1. Background

In March 2022, the World Bank approved the Social Safety Net and Youth Employment Project (PSSNYE). The PSSNYE in an IPF of US\$40.0 million equivalent, with an expected project implementation period extending over five years (closing June 30, 2027). It will provide much needed technical and financial support to the GoSL to advance the agenda of social protection and jobs.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) of the PSSNYE is: "to improve access to social and safety nets and income generating opportunities for targeted beneficiaries".

The project consists of activities continuing from the Social Safety Net Project (SSN) as well as new ones such as the provision of Economic inclusion Support, entrepreneurship support package and activities implemented in new setting such as public works in urban areas.

The project tackles key constraints faced different segments of the population. The different components of the project were designed to collectively benefit the different target groups and where they fall within the socioeconomic spectrum in the country.

The project is composed of five components as follows:

- Component 1: SSN cash Transfers and Provision of EI Support (US\$21 million equivalent)
- Component 2: Productive LIPWs and Life Skills Support by youth (US\$6million equivalent.
- Component 3: Employment and Entrepreneurship Support for youth (US\$6 million equivalent)
- Component 4: System Development Institutional Strengthening and project management Support (US\$7 million equivalent)
- Component 5: Contingent Emergency Response Component (US\$0)

The Ministry of Youth Affairs will be implementing component 3b support the design and implementation of the activities related to the youth platform collaboration with NaYCOM, with support from NaCSA, NSPS, youth council, local councils, non-state actors, and private sector organizations. Through this sub-component, the project will also coordinate strategic meetings and decision -making between relevant partners during implementation of the youth -related components to the PSSNYE.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs – is seeking the services of suitable qualified Sierra Leoneans to fill in vacant positions to oversee the implementation of the sub-component 3b

1. PROJECT COORDINATOR

Duties and Responsibilities

The Project Coordinator will be tasked with managing, co-coordinating and overseeing the PSSNYE project and ensuring its timely preparation and implementation. The MOYA PSSNYE Project Coordinator also ensure co-ordination between the PIU and other relevant implementing ministries/agencies and beneficiaries including NaCSA ACC, FCC, Slat-SLEtc. With the overall aim of ensuring appropriate preparation and implementation of the Project. The project coordinator will take measures available to him/her to ensure preparation and implementation of the Project activities and achievement of its project development objectives, in compliance with deadline and costs listed in the NaCSA procurement and the financial management team.

Main Duties:

The Project Coordinator shall:

- Ensure the effective and flexible coordination, management, and implementation of the project with other MDAs and public institutions.
- Ensure that project beneficiaries are well informed and involved in all project activities;
- Ensure effective administration and financing of the project, including timely submission of application for project funds.
- Ensure timely disbursements and efficient use of project funds
- Supervise the all other staff under the MOYA component and
- Ensure timely and effective coordination and communication with NaCSA and the World Bank Country management Team Specifically.

Scope of Work:

Project coordinator will have the following scope of work:

- Organize, co-ordinate, integrate, and monitor operation of the MOYA component of the PSSNYE project and
- Ensure timely preparation and implementation of the project documents such as Procurement Plan, Annual Work Plan, as well as other relevant documentation, and drafting and submission of project progress reports to NaCSA and the World Bank country Team.
- Manage preparation and implementation of the project activities and co-corporation with other institutions to ensure timely and sound accomplishment of the Project s activities and achievement for the establishment of youth employment platform.
- Oversee day-to-day activities of the PSSNYE PIU at MOYA, evaluate performance and operational effectiveness (including evaluation of staff and feedback on their performance), of project staff.
- Develop and supervise implementation of standardized administrative and operating procedures

for the PIU, including but not limited to maintenance of record-keeping and data storage systems, accounting and reporting formats for financial transactions of the project procurement and contract monitoring system, etc.

- Oversee all operations and project activities including (a) fiscal activity and budgeting, (b) procurement management and implementation (c) monitor and managing /evaluating program activities and (d) reporting to the World Bank on related fiduciary and technical aspects.
- Report to Hon Minister of Youth Affairs and NaCSA on a regular basis in accordance with the guidelines on reporting under the sections of procurement, financial management, and project Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E), and formulate policies and planning recommendations;
- Build and sustain strong relationships with key partners and stakeholders in both the private and public sectors, including upload of contents on the platform
- Track and monitor results of end beneficiaries against in accordance with the Project Results Framework and M&E guidelines as specified in the project Implementation plan, and take corrective actions as needed;
- Supervise the fiduciary management (procurement and financial management), and administration of the project,
- Prepare and submit quarterly project progress reports to NaCSA and the World Bank

Qualifications and Other Requirements:

a) Academic Qualifications

- Candidates for the position of project Coordinator should have a strong knowledge of Project Management and general knowledge of Information and Communication Technology (ITC) The prospective candidate should have
- An advance degree in project management and /or Information technology or any related discipline
- Significant prior experience, including senior leadership and management positions, in relevant operations for a minimum of 7 years, with strong working experience in technology related activities.

b) Knowledge, Skills and Ability Requirements

- Strong leadership capabilities and a demonstrated record of successful leadership of multi-disciplinary teams
- Considerable knowledge of World bank funded project and procurement guidelines
- Considerable knowledge of IT Enable Services and web based applications, architecture and infrastructure;
- Working knowledge of personal computers including word processing and spread sheet applications
- Ability to handle stakeholders tactfully, and diplomatically.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with project team members, NaCSA, World Bank, PIU staff, vendors and the beneficiaries.

2. CONTENT DEVELOPER

Purpose of the assignment/ objective of the position:

- To reach, prepare write, upload and edit digital content platform.
- To write, collaborate with employing agencies (public and private employers of youth) and review blog posts, web content, newsletters, video content, as well as technical content

Duties and Responsibilities of the Content Developer

- Create contents strategies for MOYA
- Write creative and Unique content as well as come up with innovative ideas
- Collaborate with employing agencies for vacancies to be shared for posting in the platform
- Work in collaboration with the Systems/Network Administrator and regional District bloggers
- Rewrite old content from the website to include new contents.
- Write technical content for the youth Sector and its partners on Youth Empowerment
- Overseeing the sharing of content across various departments mainly on social media
- Optimize content for keywords that perform in top search results
- Review all contents including adverts before publishing on the web
- Stay up to date with various methods to create engaging and attractive content

Qualification and Experience

- University's degree in Marketing, Journalism, Mass communication, or related field
- A minimum of five (5) years professional experience working as a Content developer, Content Creator, or a similar position
- A portfolio of publications
- Familiarity with working with Content Management Systems such as Word Press, wix, etc.
- Working experience in copywriting of graphic developing will be an advantage
- Ability to work in teams as well as independently as and when required
- Proven research skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to multitask and set priorities
- Outstanding problem-solving skills
- Exceptional attention to detail
- Outstanding presentation skills
- Good time management skills

Mode of Application

All applications in writing should be accompanied by an up to date Curriculum Vitae (CV) and supporting documents with the names and address of three referees, one of which should be the last or current employer and addressed to the Human resource Department, Ministry of Youth Affairs,

24 Scan drive,
Off Spur Road, Freetown

Please initiate clearly on the envelope the post for which application is made.

QUALIFIED WOMEN ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE TO APPLY.

THE CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATION IS 31ST AUGUST 2023



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- § 30 Ports USB Hub
- § Installation and Configuration
- § Main Core 1M-USB Pin DC Power Cable 5V 2.1A

- § Suppliers must be registered with National Revenue Authority

Expressions of interest: all expressions of interest must be received by VSO on the 25th of August, 2023 by 1500 hours and must be submitted electronically (emailed) to the following email address: frances.sesay@vsoint.org. The EOI must include a contact name, company name, company address, phone and email address.

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

VSO reserves the right not to award a contract/agreement to whosoever is not deemed fit.

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LOCAL NEWS

Russia, China look to advance agendas at BRICS summit of developing countries in South Africa

Russia and China will look to gain more political and economic ground in the developing world at a summit in South Africa this week, when an expected joint dose of anti-West grumbling from them may take on a sharper edge with a formal move to bring Saudi Arabia closer.

Leaders from the BRICS economic bloc of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa will hold three days of meetings in Johannesburg's financial district of Sandton, with Chinese premier Xi Jinping's attendance underlining the diplomatic capital his country has invested in the bloc over the last decade-and-a-bit as an avenue for its ambitions.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will appear on a video link after his travel to South Africa was complicated by an International Criminal Court arrest warrant against him over the war in Ukraine. Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will be at the summit alongside Xi.

The main summit on Wednesday - and sideline meetings Tuesday and Thursday - are expected to produce general calls for more cooperation among countries in the Global South amid their rising discontent over perceived Western dominance of global institutions.

That's a sentiment that Russia and China are more than happy to lean into. Leaders or representatives of dozens more developing countries are set to attend the sideline meetings in Africa's wealthiest city to give Xi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who will represent Putin in South Africa, a sizeable audience.

One specific policy point with more direct implications will be discussed and possibly decided on - the proposed expansion of the BRICS bloc, which was formed in 2009 by the emerging market countries of Brazil, Russia, India and China, and added South Africa the following year.

Saudi Arabia is one of more than 20 countries to have formally applied to join BRICS in another

possible expansion, South African officials say. Any move toward the inclusion of the world's second-biggest oil producer in an economic bloc with Russia and China would clearly draw attention from the United States and its allies in an extra-frosty geopolitical climate, and amid a recent move by Beijing to exert some influence in the Persian Gulf.

"If Saudi Arabia were to enter BRICS, it will bring extraordinary importance to this grouping," said Talmiz Ahmad, India's former ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Even an agreement on the principle of expanding BRICS, which already consists of a large chunk of the developing world's biggest economies, is a moral victory for the Russian and Chinese vision for the bloc as a counterbalance to the G-7, analysts say.

Both favor adding more countries to bolster a kind of coalition -- even if it's only symbolic - amid China's economic friction with the U.S. and Russia's Cold War-like standoff with the West because of the war in Ukraine.

Nations ranging from Argentina to Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Indonesia and United Arab Emirates have all formally applied to join alongside the Saudis, and are also possible new members.

If a number of them are brought in, "then you end up with a bigger economic bloc, and from that a sense of power," said Prof. Alexis Habiaryemye of the College of Business and Economics at the University of Johannesburg.

While Brazil, India and South Africa are less keen on expansion and seeing their influence diluted in what's currently an exclusive developing world club, there is momentum for it. Nothing has been decided, though, and the five countries must first agree on the criteria new members need to meet. That's on the agenda in Johannesburg amid Beijing's push.

"BRICS expansion has become the top trending

issue at the moment," said Chen Xiaodong, China's ambassador to South Africa. "Expansion is key to enhancing (the) BRICS mechanism's vitality. I believe that this year's summit will witness a new and solid step on this front."

The U.S. has stressed its bilateral ties with South Africa, Brazil and India in an attempt to offset any outsized Russian and Chinese influence emanating from BRICS. In the buildup to the summit, the State Department said that the U.S. was "deeply engaged with many of the leading members of the BRICS association."

The European Union also will closely follow happenings in Johannesburg, but with almost sole focus on the war in Ukraine and the bloc's continued effort to draw united condemnation for Russia's invasion from the developing world, which has largely failed so far.

With Xi, Lula, Modi and Ramaphosa coming together, European Commission spokesman Peter Stano said the EU was calling on them to use the moment to uphold international law.

"We look forward to their contribution to make Putin stop his illegal, destabilizing behavior," Stano said.

If a BRICS foreign ministers meeting in Cape Town in June, the precursor to the main summit, is anything to go by, there will be no public criticism of Russia or Putin over the war. A planned protest by the Amnesty International rights group and the Ukrainian Association of South Africa outside the Sandton Convention Centre will likely be the only condemnation heard.

If anything, Russia might see the summit as an opportunity to leverage some favor.

Having halted a deal allowing the passage of grain out of Ukraine last month, Putin might use the BRICS gathering to announce more free Russian grain shipments to developing countries, as he has already done for several

African nations, said Maria Snegovaya, senior fellow at the Europe, Russia, and Eurasia Program at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

It would allow Putin to demonstrate "goodwill" to the developing world, Snegovaya said, while cutting Ukraine out of the process.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin would have "full fledged participation" in the summit despite appearing on a video link and would make a speech.

What's also likely to be aired regularly over the three days in Johannesburg is the developing world's gripes over current global financial systems. That has streamlined in the months and weeks leading up to the summit into a criticism of the dominance of the U.S. dollar as the world's currency for international trade.

BRICS experts are generally united in pointing out the difficulties the bloc has in implementing policy due to the five countries' differing economic and political priorities, and the tensions and rivalry between China and India.

But a focus on more trade in local currencies is something all of them can get behind, said Cobus van Staden, an analyst at the China Global South Project, which tracks Chinese engagement across the developing world.

He sees BRICS pushing a move away from the dollar in regional trade in some parts of the world in the same way he sees this summit as a whole.

"None of this is the big sword that's going to slay the dollar. That's not the play," said van Staden. "It's not one big sword wound, it's a lot of paper cuts. It won't kill the dollar, but it's definitely making the world a more complicated place."

"They don't need to defeat the dollar ... and they don't need to defeat the G-7. All they particularly want to do is raise an alternative to it. It's this much longer play."



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

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