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CONCORD TIMES

NEWSPAPER

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Public frown at current pump price, proposed EDSA tariff

Introducing the First Female Deputy General Manager at the Sierra Leone Ports Authority (SLPA)



ANAIM receives female migrants from Oman, calls for support

On Tuesday, government decided to increase the pump prices of petroleum products from Nle25 to Nle30 and as well proposed to increase electricity tariff from 11 to 23%. In this Vox Pop, Concord Times' Mohamed J. Kargbo & Aiah Kaminjah yesterday took to the streets of Freetown to gauge the views of citizens about the

twin developments.

Largely, residents of Freetown frowned at the development and consider it as more burden on the already suffering masses. They noted that the increase in the pump prices of petroleum products will make it more difficult for them to survive because prices of food and other essential commodities will also shut up.

Cont. Page 3

Chinese Embassy celebrates safe return of hijacked vessel



Ambassador Quing, Fishing vessel rep. and Government Ministers

Gabon Coup: France, EU's top diplomat react

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GUEST WRITER

By Dr. Manal Ghazzawi

Kush is a synthetic marijuana often called spice or K2. A Spice/K2 user is much more likely to experience serious adverse effects than a person smoking natural cannabis. These adverse effects may include **psychotic symptoms** such as paranoia and hallucinations, in addition to anxiety, aggression, panic attacks to name a few. Kush itself and its metabolites have a very strong binding capacity to receptors in the brain and many other organs compared to natural cannabis, which is what makes it very dangerous and very hard to get rid of by the body.

Long-term Effects of Kush

There are reported effects including reduced blood flow to the heart (myocardial ischemia), abuse of these substances can lead to severe and lasting heart conditions like, stroke, brain damage and possibly death. In as much as the use of Kush has become widely desired by Sierra Leoneans for its euphoric effect, let us be reminded of its long-term effects and the fact that it is even much more addictive and 100 times more dangerous than that of natural marijuana. Each Kush brought into the country could be potentially mixed with different chemical substances (which is unregulated and frequently changing)!

Kush Dependence

Unlike marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids like Kush frequently elicit withdrawal symptoms—some quite severe. Withdrawing from Kush/Spice can be extremely uncomfortable, with symptoms including:

- Headache.
- Diaphoresis (sweating).
- Tremors.
- Drug cravings.
- Psychotic symptoms, such as paranoia and hallucinations.
- Mood change/depression
- Suicidal ideation.

Since the overuse of Kush and its devastating effects is gaining momentum as an epidemic in Sierra Leone, it is high time a holistic harm reduction approach is adopted. Sierra Leone comprises of approximately 2.5 million youths of its 8 million population, and it is projected to increase to 4.1 million by 2050. It is known that at the age of 25 years a human brain develops fully, so we can already imagine the harmful consequences of using drugs at a very young age. It means school dropouts and poor academic achievements – a recipe for disaster for a thriving nation! If measures of harm reduction are not put in place, it means we are ready to lose the future of a promising land! It means we are to face and battle a rising endemic explosion of HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and mental illnesses to name a few. Kush or recreational drugs are not only used by the young men we see in the streets, but by women who are hiding in corners and by students (primary, secondary and college students). Ecstasy drug commonly known as “Molly” has also been introduced into the country!

What is Harm Reduction (HR) and how impactful it could be?

HR is a very wide concept and there is no one definition that fits all its principles. According to Harm Reduction International (HRI), an organization which advocates for HR worldwide, HR refers to policies,

programs and practices that aim to minimize negative health, social and legal impacts associated with drug use, drug policies and drug laws”. HRI focuses on positive change” by working with people “without judgement, coercion, discrimination” and without requirement that they “stop using drugs as a precondition of support”. HR Coalition adds that “HR is a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs”.

The use of drugs does not mean people forfeit their human rights - they remain entitled to the right to life, to the highest attainable standard of health, to social services, to privacy, to freedom from arbitrary detention and to freedom from cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, among others. HR is rooted in a commitment to addressing discrimination and ensuring that nobody is excluded from the health and social services they may need because of their drug use, their race, their gender, their gender identity, their sexual orientation, their choice of work, or their economic status. HR policies and practices are informed by a strong body of evidence that shows interventions to be practical, feasible, effective, safe, and cost-effective in diverse social, cultural, and economic settings. The Lancet Commission on public health and international drug policy (2016) identified the excessive use of incarceration as one of the greatest impacts of drug prohibition which indirectly increases the risk of violence, HIV, hepatitis C & C, overdose, discrimination of the vulnerable, and inequalities.

Multiple countries have started to move away from criminalisation. The decriminalisation of drug offences in the Czech Republic and Portugal, for instance, have been associated with significant financial savings, less incarceration, significant public health benefits, and no significant increase in drug use. The Government of Sierra Leone can learn from Portugal's and Czech Republic's success stories of the adoption of HR. It is not about formulating policies which we are very good at, but to implement those policies into a more meaningful practice.

The Importance of Community Involvement in Rendering HR Services

Harm reduction services is a public health approach that does not only involve government or health care workers alone but working with people who use drugs themselves and the community. HR works best when it meaningfully involves people who use drugs, as it serves as a tool of empowerment. Community based and community led HR is key to successful HR, as it means that the insights, inputs, and involvement of communities- who are directly impacted by policies, programs, and services- are valued. Drug users will not only be clients to HR services, but service providers, advocates, and managers. This approach is person centered, adaptable and innovative. Meaningful community led partnerships in HR are much more than an intervention, it is about social justice, by firmly putting people seen as subjects only in the driver's seat. It's much about human rights, power shifting, self-determination, as it is about health care. While community led HR services is a social justice movement, it challenges the marginalization and

Kush the Fast-Running Plague of Addiction



stigmatization of people who use drugs. Who are we to judge people who use drugs, beat them up? Forcing people to stop using Kush or any drug will make things worse, such interventions have failed in many countries and created a vicious cycle, let us think of a more pragmatic, non-judgmental, and empowering approach – the solution to fight this plague of endemic addiction. This is no longer an epidemic but an endemic situation; and it is time to ACT NOW!

After all that has been said, the question we should ask ourselves is, what could we practically do to improve the community

involvement in our local context, while authorities' arms are folded being spectators to the 'Kush Torture' show? What practical measures we can adopt to help rescue our communities! How can we impact new law reforms and policies to help save our family and friends from the damages Kush has caused? What can we do to prevent the use of Kush or any illegal drug in our communities?!

Dr. Manal Ghazzawi is a clinical pharmacist, CEO of CitiGlobe Pharmacies Ltd and KnowHep Foundation Sierra Leone. She has great passion for writing on health issues afflicted by Sierra Leoneans apart from her contribution in the fight against Hepatitis B in Sierra Leone.

Gabon Coup: France, EU's top diplomat react

As events in Gabon suggest the end of Ali Bongo's 14-year rule, Libreville's partners have started to react.

French PM Elizabeth Borne said her country was closely following the situation as she spoke to French ambassadors gathered in Paris, Wednesday (Aug. 29).

"Once again, over the course of this year, you have been present as usual, and the action of the French diplomatic network has been marked by the response to several major crises including that the war in Ukraine and the coup d'état in Niger. Now, there is the situation in Gabon, that we are watching closely."

A group of military officers appeared on television early Wednesday announcing they were scrapping official election results that had handed another term to veteran President Ali Bongo Ondimba.

The EU's top diplomat Josep Borrell spoke to reporters on Wednesday morning: "Well, the news [reports] are confused. I got the news this morning early. If this is confirmed then this is another military coup which increases instability in the whole region. I cannot say more because I don't have any more information. But certainly it is an issue that will be put on the table when we will discuss."

Relatively stable until now Ali Bongo was first elected in 2009 following the death of his father, Omar Bongo Ondimba, who had ruled the country for 41 years.

Unlike Niger and two other West African countries run by military juntas, Gabon hasn't been wracked by jihadi violence and had been seen as relatively stable.

This new turn of events could prompt the EU to come up with a new Africa strategy: "The whole area; starting with the Central African Republic, then Mali, then Burkina Faso, now Niger, maybe Gabon, it is in a very difficult situation," Josep Borrell observed.

"Certainly the ministers, today the defence ministers, tomorrow foreign ministers, have to have a deep thought on what is going on there and how we can improve our policy in respect to these countries. This is a big issue for Europe."

"We call on all sides in Gabon to proceed from the basic interests of the country and the people, resolve differences through dialogue, (and) restore normal order as soon as possible," said Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin.

President Bongo is reportedly under house arrest with his family and doctors.

He suffered a stroke in 2018 and spent over 9 months recovering. During his recovery abroad, a coup attempt failed.

Bongo's son, Nouredin Bongo Valentin, among other people was arrested for charges including embezzlement of public funds and drug trafficking.



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Vox Pop with Mohamed J. Kargbo & Aiah Kaminjah

Public frown at current pump price, proposed EDSA tariff

From Cover

Florence Bull, Trader

If this EDSA tariff goes up, it will affect us greatly. I sell cold water and I use electricity to get it cold. The price for a bundle of water had gone up from Nle6 to Nle8, so there will be no profit for me. The EDSA top up we buy does not even serve us for longtime. I buy electricity credit every week so if there is an increase in the tariff it will affect my business. I am pleading with the government to look into this issue and get a rethink.



Kelly Marah, Orange money agent



I am not the only one this increase will affect, but everyone in the country, which is very bad and things are going from bad to worse every day. We were expecting progress in these five

years, but it seems like we are in the wrong direction.

Just imagine, I woke up this morning to come to work and I noticed the transportation fare has changed. At first, I used to pay Nle3 from where I stay to my working place, but today I paid Nle5 and I had to spend Nle25.

As for the EDSA tariff, this is a massive increment. Imagine I usually buy Nle100 EDSA top up and it not even serve me for a week and they want to do an increment on it. This doesn't tell well and it will affect us greatly because it will increase crime rate, as most people who cannot afford it will engage in electricity theft. I want this government to subsidize the fuel.

Mohamed Sylvanus Taylor, Pupil

This increment in fuel pump price will affect us as pupils, because for some of us, our schools are very far away from our homes. Last academic year, I used to board a school bus and pay small amount of money, but now that the prices of fuel have increased, I think what I used to pay will also change.

We know that President Bio has interest in education, so let him look into this issue and come up with a solution before the re-opening of schools, if not it will be a disaster for us.

As for the increase in electricity tariff, this will also affect our studies in many ways because it will affect our night studies, as



some of our parents are not earning much money and they will decide not to buy electricity credit. If there is no electricity at home, we can't study well.

Shake Samura, Tricycle Rider



We are not happy for the increment in fuel price because work is hard and some of us are not the owners of the tricycles. We have to pay our masters every day, but, if we can't get enough passengers we can't be able to pay. One has to also do maintenance on the tricycle and some of us are breadwinners.

Ishmael Sesay, Dealer In Electronics

It will affect me greatly because I'm dealing with electricity every day to sell cold drinks and water.

As a citizen of this country, I am pleading with the government not to increase the tariff because it will affect us greatly.



Gabriella Sesay, Trader

As you know, there has been a hike in the prices of petroleum products and EDSA has also proposed to increase the tariff, which will affect many people. The government should feel sorry for the poor masses. I do not know how they feel it, but we are feeling the pain, so we are asking that they find a way to adjust these abnormalities. Now there has been an increase in the prices of petroleum products and most people can't leave their homes to go and strive for their living.



Alhassan Turay, Trader



The proposed increase in electricity tariff will not only affect us, but it will make us not to top-up our meters again. Just imagine, from 11 cent to 23 cent, it's over 100 percent increment, so please let the government sorry for us, if not, we will perish.

Now fuel price has been increased and they are also about to increase EDSA tariff. How do they want us to live? How can we earn our living? We do not get sales as there is no money for us to survive.

So, we are pleading with the government to come to our aid by subsidizing on the EDSA tariff. If the tariff increase, it will be very difficult for us.

Alusine Kamara, Security guard

It will affect us a lot because so many people survive on electricity, especially in terms of using freezers and other things. So, if you buy top-up and it does not serve you for a reasonable period, it will affect you seriously. The present cost of living is already expensive, so we are pleading with the government and EDSA to do all they can for the tariff to remain as it is, otherwise it will make things more difficult for us in the country. There is so much hardship in the county, so of EDSA tariff increases; it will affect us a lot.



Commercial bike rider jailed 45 years for murder

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

29-year-old commercial motor bike rider, Christopher Lavalie, alias Pigeon, has been sentenced to 45 years imprisonment at the Male Correctional Centre for murder. Justice Monfred Sesay pronounced the sentencing after the 11-member jury unanimously returned a guilty verdict in respect of a one count indictment of murder.

It was alleged that the convict, on the 22nd March 2022, stabbed and murdered Josephus Cornclius Metzger at Amani Night Club, Brook Fields, Western Area of Freetown. Upon his arraignment, the accused denied the allegation.

In order to make their case, the prosecution led in evidence a number of witnesses in support of their case including the government Pathologist, Dr. Owiz Koroma, who said the death was unnatural.

In his certified medical cause of death, Dr. Simon Owizz Koroma, who performed an autopsy on the remains of the deceased, said he died as a result of stab wounds.

In her statement to the police, the accused said he was at the Amani Night Club dancing when the deceased hit him at his back, said he retaliate by hitting the deceased with a Scissors.

Acting on the verdict of the jurors, Justice Sesay said the prosecution had proven their case beyond reasonable doubt.

In his summing up address to the jurors, Justice Monfred Sesay lamented on the weight and seriousness of the case and urged them not to attach emotions in their considerations, but deliver justice to both the victim and the accused person as the facts in the case revealed.

He said that the burden and standard of proof in all criminal trials of this nature is that, the prosecution must prove the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt by meeting all the elements of the offence charged.

Justice Sesay drew the attention of the jury to the autopsy report and Medical Certificate of the cause of death tendered by Prosecution Witness, Dr. Simeon Owizz Koroma, as well as the evidence of the other three witnesses.

LOCAL NEWS Introducing the First Female Deputy General Manager at the Sierra Leone Ports Authority (SLPA)

President Julius Maada Bio has vowed to include women in every spectrum of his governance. His appointment of the first female Deputy General Manager of the Sierra Leone Ports Authority (SLPA), Madam Judith Boi Kosseh is a manifestation of empowering strong women and incorporating them into central governance.

Before her historic appointment as the Deputy General Manager, she was one of the Directors at the Leone Rock Metal Group. Madam Judith as she was often referred to, was the Community Director where she was able to create good relationship between the Company and the Community stakeholders, especially Paramount Chiefs, section chiefs, youth leaders and women leaders. She equally facilitated most of the community infrastructural projects done by the company.

She comes with wealth of administrative and management experience gained from years of working as Community and Social Expert with different organizations in the United Kingdom.

Prior to moving to Sierra Leone in 2018, she has spent 7 years at The Avenue Highams Park in London as a Project Manager, where she was responsible for

planning, organizing and overseeing community programmes that are designed to redress inequalities and facilitate the personal, social and emotional development of young people between the ages of 11-25. As the Lead within the project, she took responsibility for the day to day therapeutic direction of therapy in the project. As the team leader, she was also responsible for the supervision of staff and students on work experience, and with the responsibility for their on-going formation and was also responsible for maintaining the Care Quality Commission (CQC) standards and follows safeguarding procedures. She was also responsible to oversee the effective running of the administrative and financial systems of the project.

She had earlier spent time with the Treaty Centre in London as a Senior Participation Officer, where she supported young people in delivering a range of volunteering programmes and also supporting them in developing their employability skills.

She also provided technical leadership and guidance in the implementation and management of innovative youth engagement and financial inclusion initiatives aligned with the organisation



logical framework and project impact goal.

Her role also includes the provision of oversight and guidance in the implementation of economic and financial inclusion services including trainings for the young people and other services.

She was also involved in the drive to building the technical capacity of project staff across organizations, something she said she will be doing lots off in her new role.

The soft spoken Madam Judith Kosseh a proud product of the great Mathora Secondary School in Tonkolili and the

Freetown Secondary School for Girls in Freetown. She Holds a Masters Degree in Youth and Community Work from the University of East London with a unique Bachelors Degree in Third World Development and Management. Both courses were purely driven by her desire to return home to help contribute to her country's development.

When asked what changes she is going to bring at SLPA, Madam Kosseh stated that she is going to serve as a support system to her hardworking boss, to give another face-lift to the SLPA. I feel extremely lucky to have a boss with wealth of experience in running the port, I believe coming with my administrative experience and people's and leadership development skill we will complement each other achieve a successful port operation.

She further said that SLPA is the bread basket in supporting the economy of the country and that as a dedicated support system, they are going to use more mechanisms in uplifting the economy in the country and to also achieve the dream of President Bio in developing the economy and a better conditions for all and sundry in Sierra Leone.

Chinese Embassy celebrates safe return of hijacked vessel

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

Ambassador Wang Qing, the Chinese Ambassador to Sierra Leone, has warmly welcome the safe return of a hijacked Chinese fishing vessel "Shenghai No. 2" and its crew members from the Liberian shores.

On July 22, 2023, "Shenghai No. 2" was hijacked by pirates in the territorial waters of Sierra Leone and then entered the territorial waters of Liberia. There were 6 Chinese crew members and 17 Sierra Leonean crew members on board.

"Through our joint efforts, they returned to Sierra Leone two weeks ago. I am very happy to see you back safely and well," Ambassador Qing said.

He expresses gratitude and appreciation to the Sierra Leone Government and all relevant Ministries and agencies, RSLAF Maritime Wing, and Sierra Leone Police for their great support and assistance for rescuing the vessel.

Ambassador Qing went on to state that the safe return of the fishing vessel under joint efforts is a vivid demonstration of the long-established and solid friendship between China and Sierra Leone. "There is an old saying in China, "A



Ambassador Qing, Fishing vessel rep. and Government Ministers

friend in need is a friend indeed".

He said China and Sierra Leone have always supported each other in times of need. "We are good brothers and sisters through thick and thin, share weal and woe," he affirmed.

"I want to say the Chinese Government attaches great importance the safety and rightful interests of Chinese enterprises and citizens abroad. The Embassy will always provide strong backing to you."

He lamented on the vices of piracy that occurs in the gulf of Guinea, encouraging that they should

continue to step up anti-piracy capacity building.

He said in recent years, China provided regional countries with multiple consignments of anti-piracy supplies and equipment, engaged in joint anti-piracy exercises.

The Ambassador said the Chinese military held the first symposium on the security situation in the Gulf of Guinea, in which China and the coastal countries and the Inter Regional Coordination Center for the maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea held in-depth discussions on the theme of maritime security and

reached a lot of important consensuses.

"China has also actively worked with Sierra Leone among other countries in areas, such as fishing, harbor construction, aquaculture, and fishing processing, benefiting local communities and help guarantee and improve people's livelihood, and enhance the sense of gain and security of local communities, in particular the youth.

He said fishery is a traditional and one of the major areas of cooperation between China and Sierra Leone which has mutually benefited the two nations, adding that Chinese fishing companies are the main partners of the fishery industry of Sierra Leone, and has made positive contribution to the employment and the economic and social development of Sierra Leone.

Present at the occasion are the Honorable Princess Dugba, Minister of Fishery and Maritime Resources, Honorable Muana Brima Massaquoi, Deputy Minister of Defence, Honorable Mrs. Haja Isata Abdulai Kamara, Deputy Minister of Fishery and Maritime Resources, Representatives of Chinese Fishing companies in Sierra Leone among others.

All of them speak on the Sierra Leone-China relationship and the significant roles China plays in their respective sectors.



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LOCAL NEWS

ANAIM receives female migrants from Oman, calls for support

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

The Executive Director of the Advocacy Network Against Irregular Migration (ANAIM), Sheku Bangura, has received over sixty migrant returnees at his 3E Baibureh Road office, Ferry Junction in Freetown. While giving a word of courage to the frustrated female deportees, Bangura called on the Sierra Leone Government, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and World Hope International (WHI), among other aid organisations, and individuals to come to the aid of the young women who are traumatised.

"These women have suffered the blunt of irregular migration; most of them were recently released from prisons where some spent over a year for no just cause which have left them frustrated," he pleaded.

He called on all to come to their rescue and help resettle them in order to avert them from falling into prey of drug abuse which is currently

a serious concern in the country.

Bangura said after spending huge sum to embark on the risky journey, all of the migrants returned empty handed and their families and societies rejected them outright.

Sharing her tiresome experience with Concord Times, Haja Conteh who was a certified welder and bid weaver said she was motivated by her maternal aunt who had travelled to Kuwait and was doing well, "but my own travelling was rather ill-fated and have plunged me in regrets.

Conteh said she spent nine months in prison, out of the two years six months she spent in Oman. "I was reported by my master to the police after I felt sick and could no longer effectively perform the house chores including car wash and farm work I used to do. I was arrested and imprisoned for breach of contract according to the police," she lamented.

For Emma Fofanah, she was a successful fish monger until she was



deceived three years ago by her friends who lured her into the journey that turned her into a mere slave..

Most of the returnees shared similar ordeal with this medium and called on government and other

organisations to come to their aid.

"Upon our return, our parents, husbands, friends, neighbours, and the society in general have rejected us, we needed help now than ever before, so please come to our aids," most of the women wailed.

Internal Affairs Minister: We are taking a human centric approach in the war against Kush

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

Minister of Internal Affairs, Maj-Gen Rtd

David Taluwa has stated that the fight against Kush drug in the country would be done with human centric approach and not violence, adding that victims of the drug need more help than violence.

He was speaking at the Ministry of Information and Civic Education weekly press briefing in Freetown, while providing update on his ministry's position in the fight Kush drug in the country and called on people to abstain from using violence against drugs victims.

He said the strategy paper they have presented to the cabinet includes training of personal that will help in the fight against Kush drugs, cutting off of the drug supply chain, ensuring that there is no other drugs emerge in the country and also try to build the capacity of the rehabilitated victims with skill training.

He said instead of arresting and taking those victims to jail, they would rehabilitate and capacitate



Maj-Gen Rtd David Taluwa

them with skills that will empower and keep them off the use of drugs.

Acting Executive Director of Advoc-Aid, Juliet Kaikai, said the approach to fighting the Kush has not been the way it should be, because lot of the arrest that have been made are the addict and not the manufacturers.

She said they have in records of over 60 addicts that have been convicted and sent to jail, but no manufacturer has been arrested.



Guild of Editors - Sierra Leone

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Public Notice

Increase in Advert Pricing for Newspapers

24th March, 2023.

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

Black & White

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

Coloured

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

The cover price remains the same.

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

Your cooperation is highly solicited.

Signed:

Donald Theo-Harding

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Sex, lies and social networks: in Africa, women politicians face misinformation



Kenyan politician and Member of Parliament (MP), Millie Odhiambo, speaks - Copyright © africanews WALTER DHADHLA/AFP

A few weeks after her appointment to the Kwale County Assembly in southeastern Kenya, Judy Kengo found herself in the eye of the storm: a retouched photo purporting to show her kissing another woman emerged on social networks. "See, there's your leader. What kind of role model is she for our daughters?" commented one Internet user.

For Judy Kengo, the intention behind the dissemination of this manipulated photo was clear: to force her to resign from her position in this region, which is among the most conservative in the country. Such attacks are not uncommon in Africa, experts told AFP: many women wishing to enter politics face online disinformation campaigns aimed at dissuading them from running or discrediting them in the eyes of voters.

To resist, you need "thick leather", says Judy Kengo. Refusing to be intimidated, the 35-year-old elected representative has formed a team to respond to smear campaigns on social networks.

"Politics has always been a male-dominated field, and to get into it, you have to be very aggressive," she explains.

For a woman, the exercise proves tricky. "If you're aggressive in the way you approach issues, people will say you're too aggressive or you're a loudmouth," she points out. "It's not the same for our male counterparts."

- "Fear" -

More intense during election season, "the sexualized attacks are very crude and clearly aimed at undermining the idea that they are qualified" for a position, explains Kristina Wilfore, co-founder of the NGO #ShePersisted ("She Persisted"), which fights sexist misinformation and abuse online.

A study in which the organization participated showed that during the 2022 Kenyan general elections, social networks enabled "hateful rhetoric against women to flourish", Kristina Wilfore points out.

The damage is real. Even when false information is verified and corrected, "it still leaves the feeling that women have no place in certain public spaces", she laments.

On the African continent, women hold just 24% of the 12,100 parliamentary posts, according to a 2021 study by the pan-African "Women in Political Participation" project.

In Kenya, where the constitution requires at least one-third of seats in the National Assembly to be held by women, this quota has never been reached. "Many women are afraid to enter the public space, especially the political space, because of (these) problems," Kenyan MP Millie Odhiambo tells AFP.

"Women avoid (political) careers, (ed. note) altogether, or else they avoid leaving a digital footprint, having any activity on the internet," confirms Kenyan political analyst Nerima Wako-Ojwa.

- Nudity and sextape -

In Rwanda, entrepreneur and opponent Diane Rwigara saw photos of herself purporting to show her naked circulated on the internet just days after announcing her candidacy for the 2017 presidential elections.

She later told CNN that the images had been retouched and were part of a smear campaign to prevent her from running against President Paul Kagame, the country's strongman, in power since 2000.

Her candidacy was subsequently rejected due to alleged forgeries in her application. A court acquitted her of these "unfounded" charges in 2018.

Last April, former Kenyan senator Millicent Omanga faced a wave of calls to resign as deputy minister after two videos of an alleged sex tape appeared on social networks.

AFP traced one of the videos, which came from the account of a non-professional adult film actress. Ms. Omanga never made any public comment on the subject and did not respond to AFP's requests.

Artificial intelligence

Many experts warn: these false accusations, generally with sexual connotations, risk becoming more and more frequent with the rise of artificial intelligence.

In 2019, the app DeepNude, which virtually undresses women, was scuttled after an outcry over the possibilities for abuse it offered. But similar processes subsequently remained available, notably via encrypted messaging.

"Social networks have the primary responsibility to ensure that online spaces are not used (...) with the aim of causing harm," says Leah Kimathi of the NGO Kenyan Council for Responsible Social Networks. However, the African continent remains largely exposed to the excesses of social networks. "Their business models, with algorithms, amplify disinformation online, making it viral to make profits," she underlines. And "the platforms invest far less in security and safety in Africa compared to the rest of the world."

Africa: the 7 military coups over the last three years

Africa has experienced seven coups since August 2020, before the one underway on Wednesday in Gabon.

- Niger -

On July 26, 2023, the military announced that they had overthrown President Mohamed Bazoum. General Abdourahmane Tiani becomes the new strongman of the country.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) announced on August 10 its intention to deploy a regional force to "restore constitutional order", while continuing to favor the diplomatic route. The military proposes a transition period of "three years" maximum before returning power to civilians.

- Burkina Faso: two putsches in 8 months -

On January 24, 2022, President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré was ousted from power by the military. Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba was inaugurated president in February.

On September 30, Damiba was in turn dismissed from his position by the military. Captain Ibrahim Traoré was invested as transitional president until a presidential election scheduled for July 2024.

- Sudan -

On October 25, 2021, soldiers led by General Abdel Fattah el-Burhan chased out the transitional civilian leaders, who were supposed to lead the country towards democracy after 30 years of dictatorship of Omar al-Bashir, himself deposed in 2019.

Since April 15, 2023, a war due to a power struggle between General Burhane and his former deputy Mohamed Hamdane Daglo has killed at least 5,000 people in the country.



This video grab taken from Gabon 24 on August 30, 2023 shows Gabonese soldiers - Copyright © africanews -AFP

- Guinea -

On September 5, 2021, President Alpha Condé was overthrown by a military coup. On October 1, Colonel Mamady Doumbouya became president.

The military has promised to return the place to elected civilians by the end of 2024.

- Mali: two coups in 9 months -

On August 18, 2020, President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was overthrown by the military, a transitional government was formed in October.

But on May 24, 2021, the military arrested the president and the Prime Minister. Colonel Assimi Golla was inaugurated in June as transitional president.

The junta has committed to returning the place to civilians after the elections scheduled for February 2024.

Gabon: President Ali Bongo under house arrest, according to military putschists

Gabon's President Ali Bongo Ondimba is "under house arrest" surrounded by his family and doctors, and one of his sons has been arrested, notably for "high treason", the military behind a coup d'état announced on Wednesday morning.

"President Ali Bongo is being kept under house arrest, surrounded by his family and doctors", according to a statement read out on state television by the military of the Comité de Transition et de Restauration des Institutions (CTRI).

Noureddin Bongo Valentin, son and close adviser to the head of state, Ian Ghislain Ngoulou, Mr. Bongo's chief of staff, Mohamed Ali Salio, his deputy chief of staff, Abdul Hosseini, another presidential adviser, Jessye Elia Ekogha, special adviser and presidential spokesman, as well as the number one and two members of Mr. Bongo's all-powerful Gabonese Democratic Party (PDG) "are under arrest".

Bongo "have been arrested", continued the army colonel, who had read out a communiqué during the night announcing that the military were "putting an



Gabonese President Ali Bongo Ondimba waves as he leaves the Elysee Palace - Copyright © africanews ERIC FEFERBERG/AFP or licensors

end to the regime".

They have been arrested for "high treason against the institutions of the State, massive misappropriation of public funds, organized international financial embezzlement, forgery, falsification of the signature of the President of the Republic, active corruption and drug trafficking", he added.

Gabon coup: Ali Bongo calls for help, says "I don't know what is going on"

Gabon's deposed president, Ali Bongo Ondimba has called on his "friends all over the world to make noise" while under house arrest following a coup in the central African country. A video from an anonymous source shows Bongo distressed and making a plea for help.

"I'm Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of Gabon and I'm to send a message to all the friends that we have, all over the world to tell them to make noise, to make noise, for the people here have arrested me and my family. My son is somewhere, my wife is in another place and I'm at the residence" Bongo said.

"Right now, I'm under residence (arrest, ed.) and nothing happening, and nothing is happening, I don't know what... what's going on. So, I'm calling you to make noise, to make noise, to make noise really. I'm... I'm thanking you, thank you," he concluded.

Military officers announced on Wednesday morning that they were overturning the government, in an apparent coup targeting President Ali Bongo Ondimba who has been in power for 14 years and whose re-election was just announced. His family has ruled the oil-rich African country for over 55 years.

While the officers made their televised statement announcing the cancellation of the vote results one of the officers said "all the institutions of the republic" had been dissolved.

The address was read by an officer flanked by a group of a dozen army colonels, members of the elite Republican Guard, regular soldiers and others.

It came moments after the national election authority said Bongo, 64, had won a third term in Saturday's election with 64.27 percent of the vote. Bongo was first elected in 2009 following the death of his father who had ruled the country for 41 years.

The announcement came in the middle of an overnight curfew and amid a nationwide internet shutdown, imposed by Bongo's government as polling drew to a close on Saturday to prevent the spread of "false news" and possible violence. Internet was restored on Wednesday morning after the TV address.

"Today, the country is going through a serious institutional, political, economic and social crisis," the officer said on TV channel Gabon 24.

He said the recent election "did not meet the conditions for a transparent, credible and inclusive ballot so much hoped for by the people of Gabon."

"We have decided to defend peace by putting an end to the current regime," the officer said, adding that he was speaking on behalf of the "Committee for the Transition and Restoration of Institutions".

"To this end, the general elections of 26 August 2023 and the truncated results are cancelled," he added.

Calls to boost food security to protect Congo Basin as summit kicks off in Kinshasa



Dr. Million Belay, General Coordinator of AFSA (Advocates for food sovereignty in Africa) on Aug. 29, 2023. - Copyright © africanews AFSA via Facebook

A summit in Dr Congo's capital aimed at protecting central Africa's rainforest kicked off Tuesday. It is attended by activists and politicians.

Calls to boost food security at DR Congo rainforest summit

Delegates convened under the theme "Reconciling Food Production with Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Emergency in the Congo Basin."

The forests of central Africa represent the planet's second-largest carbon sink after the Amazon, covering 1.62 million square kilometres (more than 625,000 square miles).

Several speakers highlighted the needs of people living near the forest at the opening of the three-day

summit.

"I think it's very important that we think about, especially for the Congo Basin, the relationship between forest conservation, climate change and food systems. Because if we don't address the issue of food systems, we cannot address the issue of conservation because people will destroy the forest in search of food."

The summit is attended by over 200 participants "from the Congo Basin Region, partners in Africa, and international allies" according to organizers Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA).

The summit aims to "embark on crucial discussions and collaborative efforts to envision and shape a sustainable and resilient future for the Congo Basin and its inhabitants," Charles Mulozi, AFSA's advocacy and campaign coordinator said in a video published on Facebook.

AFSA is a "broad alliance of different civil society actors that are part of the struggle for food sovereignty and agroecology in Africa."

The Democratic Republic of Congo is home to 60 percent of the vast Congo Basin rainforest, is one of the world's poorest countries.

Kinshasa has faced criticism for launching an auction last year for oil and gas blocks, some of which are in sensitive forest areas.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

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Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL)

OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown-Sierra Leone



VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

The Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) has administrative independence and aims to achieve high levels of effectiveness, accountability, neutrality and efficiency necessary to ensure autonomy as mandated by law. In light of this, the Commission therefore advertises the following vacancies for the conduct of **Village Head Elections**:

CATEGORY A

1. KIT OPERATOR

Responsibilities

Searches to confirm voter details in the Voter Verification Kit
Allocates registered voters to centers in the village

Qualification/Requirement:

Minimum of five (5) WASSCE; Teacher's Certificate or Ordinary Diploma from a recognized institution.
Experience in elections related activities and INEACE Certificate is added advantage.

Must be computer literate

Interpersonal skills, integrity and ability to adapt to situations.

2. CONFIRMATION CLERK

Responsibilities

Records confirmed voter detail in the VHE (Village Head Elections) confirmation /Allocation slip
Signs the VHE /allocation slip.
Stamps the VHE confirmation /allocation slip

Qualification/Requirement:

Minimum of five (5) WASSCE; Teacher's Certificate or Ordinary Diploma from a recognized institution.
Experience in elections related activities and INEACE Certificate is added advantage.

Must be computer literate

Interpersonal skills, integrity and ability to adapt to situations.

3. QUEUE CONTROLLER

Responsibilities

Directs registered voters who are in the queue to vote verification kit operators
Gives special assistance to registered voters who are persons with disability and special needs (aged, lactating mothers, pregnant women etc
Helps to maintain order in the queue.
Encourages registered voters to complete the process and collect their confirmation allocation slip before leaving the center.

Qualification/Requirement

Minimum of 3 WASSCE with legible handwriting

CATEGORY B

4. POLLING STAFF

Polling Centre Manager

Responsibilities

Fills in the identification details of staff of the centre from the list given to him/her
Hands over the Polling Staff Identification Badge to the staff concerned
Receives electoral materials for the centre
Records in his/her Journal, all relevant incidents including complaints, names of staff, party/candidate agents, observers, SLP in charge.
Supervises all polling staff
Trains polling staff
Ensures that all Presiding Officers work with team to prepare and set up the polling station for voting before 7:00am.
Ensures that polling staff, voters, Candidate Agents, Observers adheres to polling procedures
Supplies necessary Election materials to all polling stations as required (Record in MTF accordingly)
Ensures that directional signs are correctly placed to direct voters and relevant stakeholders to the polling centre
Ensures that voting and counting take place in an orderly manner and according to procedures
Collects/retrieves all necessary Election materials from all Presiding Officers in respective polling stations for onward delivery to District Elections Office
Completes all necessary forms for the Polling Centre
Uses the polling centre FVR & ECSL app in Android Tablet to identify and direct voters
Uses the ECSL app in the Android Tablet to input data from all presiding Officers irrespective polling stations for onward transmission to data centre
Performs any other official duty as instructed by supervisors

Qualification/Requirement

Minimum of five (5) WASSCE; Teacher's Certificate or Ordinary Diploma from a recognized institution.
Experience in elections related activities and INEACE Certificate is added advantage.

Must be computer literate

Interpersonal skills, integrity and ability to adapt to situations.

5. Polling Centre Queue Controller

Responsibilities

Uses "first voters name to last voters name tags" for respective polling station registers to direct voters to correct polling station in the centre
Ensures voters with special needs (person with disabilities, aged, nursing and pregnant women) have priority in the queue
Performs any other official duty as instructed by supervisors

Qualification/Requirement

Minimum of 3 WASSCE with legible handwriting.

6. Presiding Officer (PO)

Manages the assigned Polling Station

Ensures that the correct quantity of sensitive materials like ballot papers and nonsensitive materials are promptly supplied to polling station

Trains polling staff (together with Polling Centre Manager)

Ensures that all polling staff, political party/candidate agents, observers and voters adheres to polling procedures

Accurately account for all polling materials particularly ballot papers

Uses the RRF to accurately account for the ballot papers (and votes) at the polling station

Gives polling station data to PCM for entry into the ECSL app in the ECSL Android Tablet for transmission to Data Centre

Uses the MTF to return all relevant polling materials to the PCM

Records in his/her Journal, all relevant incidents including complaints, names of staff, party/candidate agents, observers, SLP in charge.

Ensures that all documentation required for the Polling Station is completed correctly

Performs any other official duty as instructed by supervisors

Qualification/Requirement:

Minimum of five (5) WASSCE; Teacher's Certificate or Ordinary Diploma from a recognized institution.

Experience in elections related activities and INEACE Certificate is added advantage.

Must be computer literate

Interpersonal skills, integrity and ability to adapt to situations.

6. Polling Station Queue Controller

Uses "first voters name to last voters name tags" for his/her polling station register to direct voters to correct polling station in the centre

Ensure that only authorized persons are allowed to enter the Polling Station.

Controls the entrance and exit of the Polling Station

Ensures that queue is maintained in an orderly manner throughout the day

Ensures that voters with special needs: (person with disabilities, aged, nursing and pregnant women) have priority in the queue

Performs any other official duty as instructed by supervisors

Qualification/Requirement

* Minimum of 3 WASSCE with legible handwriting.

7. Voter Identification Officer (VIO)

Uses the Final Voters Register to identify/verify voters

On the "Gender Disaggregated Data Form" or Gender Tally Sheet;

Records tally of men and women and PWDs that take part in voting

Checks voter for traces of indelible ink on left index finger or any other marked finger if the voters has already voted

Verifies the presence of each voter on the Register of Voters

Ensures that the voter sign/thumbprint against his/her name on the Register of Voters

Directs the voter to the Ballot Paper Issuer

Performs any other official duty as instructed by supervisors

Qualification/Requirement

Minimum of 3 WASSCE with legible handwriting

8. Ballot Paper Issuer (BPI)

Responsibilities

Collects Village Head Election ballot papers from the Presiding Officer

Uses the ECSL validating stamp to make the Village Head Election ballot papers valid by stamping it at the top right-hand corner of the back

Validates the Village Head Election ballot papers using the ECSL validation stamp

Issues the Village Head Election ballot papers to the voter and instructs on how to mark them

Directs the voter to a vacant voting screen and points out the Village Head Election ballot boxes

Issues the Tactile Ballot Guide to voters with special needs for the Village Head Election

Performs any other official duty as instructed by supervisors

Qualification/Requirement

Minimum of 3 WASSCE with legible handwriting

9. Ballot Box Controller

Responsibilities

Makes sure that voters exiting from the first voting screen go directly to the Village Head Election ballot box

Guards the Village Head Election ballot boxes to ensure that all voters deposit their ballots in the ballot box

Inks the left index finger of voter

Directs the voter to exit the polling station

Performs any other official duty as instructed by the presiding officer

Qualification/Requirement

Minimum of 3 WASSCE with legible handwriting

In addition to the qualified /requirement above, all candidates under consideration should:

be citizens of Sierra Leone;

be registered voters

speak local languages, where possible.

should be above 18 years

Equal Opportunity Employer

All positions in the Commission are advertised on an equal opportunity basis.

Women and Persons with Disabilities that have the requisite qualification and experience are encouraged to apply.

All applications should be deposited at the Electoral Commission District Office in the Western Rural - Waterloo

The District Elections Manager,
Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL)
Chukuma Johnson Drive
Waterloo

Closing date for receipt of applications is Tuesday 12th September 2023

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



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are as follows:

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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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TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF MOBILE DEVICES (TABLET)

Timeline:

	Item	Date
1	ITT Published	30 th August 2023
2	Closing date for clarifications	5 th September 2023
3	Closing date and time for receipt of Tenders	11 th September 2023– 1:45pm -GMT
4	Deadline for Submission	12 th September 2023

Interested bidders can collect the tender document:

1. At Jhpiego Office, 1 Sonia Drive Hill Station from the 30th of August 2023 - 12th of September 2023

Background

Since its founding in 1973, Jhpiego has been innovating to save the lives of women and families worldwide

Jhpiego creates and delivers transformative healthcare solutions that save lives. In partnership with national governments, health experts, and local communities, Jhpiego builds health providers' skills and develops systems that save lives now and guarantee healthier futures for women and their families.

Jhpiego through the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and funding from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) continue to provide innovative and evidence-based interventions across 30 high volume sites in 4 high burden districts of Sierra Leone to meet the UNAIDS 95.95.95 target for HIV epidemic control.

Jhpiego is seeking for a vendor to supply the following:

Item Description	Specification
Mobile Devices	Tablets

General Requirements

1. Must be registered to conduct business and in compliance with governmental tax regulations in Sierra Leone.
2. Jhpiego retains the right to reject, cancel, negotiate, amend, split, and accept any offer, without consideration of the lowest offer.
3. This is an invitation to potential bidders and is not a promise or obligation that Jhpiego will contract with bidders through the submitted offers.



Invitation for Bids

Sierra Leone
August, 2023

Re: Construction of Boreholes with Irrigation System- SLE-2000001544-0011-W-NCB

1. The Government of Sierra Leone has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Adaption Fund (AF), OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and Toni Blair Institute (TBI), the financing of which is being administered by IFAD towards the cost of **Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (AVDP)** and intends to apply part of the financing for the purchase of these goods. The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD's approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD's rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with the **Agricultural Value Chain Development Project**.

2. The goal of AVDP is livelihoods and climate change resilience of rural farming households in Sierra Leone improved, while the **project development objective (PDO)** is to promote agriculture as a business for enhanced incomes and reduced rural poverty, among 42,985 rural households. The AVDP will be implemented nationwide over a six-year period. A value chain development approach will drive the implementation process, supported by the application of a robust targeting strategy to ensure the inclusion of the rural poor in both the implementation of project activities and the sharing of the benefits and priority attention to enhancing climate resilience among the project beneficiaries.

3. The employer now invites sealed bids from eligible entities ("bidders") for the execution and completion of **Construction of Boreholes with Irrigation System which are being bid as a unit price contract based on the bill of quantities**.

4. This IFB is open to all eligible bidders who wish to participate. Subject to the restrictions stipulated in the bidding document, eligible bidders may associate with other bidders to enhance their capacity to successfully carry out the works.

5. The works, and the contract/s expected to be awarded, are divided into four lots as follows:

LOT NO	DISTRICT	CHIEFDOM	COMMUNITY
1	BO	Kakua	Fanima Kpoala (Legacy)
	MOYAMBA	Fakunyia	Moyamba Junction
2	FALABA	Dembeya Musaia	Koromasilaia
	KOINADUGU	Warawarayagala	One Mile
3	PORTLOKO	Kafu Bullom	Madina Senesia
	PORTLOKO	Kafu Bullom	Rowal
	KONO	Nimikoro Chiefdom	Norway
4	KENEMA	Nongowa Chiefdom	IDA Section
	KENEMA	Nongowa Chiefdom	Mano Junction
	KAILAHUN	Buedu	Bayama Section

Bidders have the option to bid for any one or more lots. The Purchaser retains the right to award a maximum of two Lots to a bidder.

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

7. Please note that a pre-bid conference will be held as described in the Bid Data Sheet ("BDS"), Section III of the bidding document on 8th September, 2023 at 11:00 GMT <https://bit.ly/prebidconfborehole>

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

Account Name: Agriculture Value Chain Development Project
Account No: 014-001-107-861-136-462

Bank: Commerce and Mortgage Bank

9. Bidding documents can be obtained by sending an e-mail with a copy of the payment slip, giving full contact details of the bidder and the subject of procurement, to avdpmpu@gmail.com. This will also ensure that the bidders receive the bidding document by email or hard copy (at the following address), as well as any updates regarding the bidding document

10. Bids must be delivered electronically to the PMU via the following link and in the manner specified in the bid data sheet – instructions to bidders 23.2, no later than 20th September, 2023 at 12:00 GMT. Link: <https://bit.ly/boreholesub>

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

12. Bid security in the form of a Bank Guarantee. The amount and currency of the Bid Security shall be SLE60,000 per Lot and shall be expressed in lots. Bid Security from community and village banks and Bid Bond from insurance companies are not acceptable

13. There will be a virtual bid opening via ZOOM on 20th September, 2023 at 12:30 GMT.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Project Manager
Agricultural Value Chain Development Project
23 Torwama Road-Bo
Southern



TENDER NOTICE FOR THE PRINTING OF HIV DATA-CAPTURING TOOLS

Timeline:

	Item	Date
1	ITT Published	30 th August 2023
2	Closing date for clarifications	5 th September 2023
3	Closing date and time for receipt of Tenders	11 th September 2023- 1:45pm -GMT
4	Deadline for Submission	12 th September 2023

Interested bidders can collect the tender document:

1. At Jhpiego Office, 1 Sonia Drive Hill Station from the 30th of August 2023 - 12th September 2023

Background

Since its founding in 1973, Jhpiego has been innovating to save the lives of women and families worldwide

Jhpiego creates and delivers transformative healthcare solutions that save lives. In partnership with national governments, health experts, and local communities, Jhpiego builds health providers' skills and develops systems that save lives now and guarantee healthier futures for women and their families.

Jhpiego through the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and funding from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) continue to provide innovative and evidence-based interventions across 30 high-volume sites in 4 high burden districts of Sierra Leone to meet the UNAIDS 95.95.95 target for HIV epidemic control.

Jhpiego is seeking a vendor to supply the following:

Item Description	Specification
Printing of various HIV HIV-capturing tools	HIV Data Capturing Tools

General Requirements

1. Must be registered to conduct business and in compliance with governmental tax regulations in Sierra Leone.
2. Jhpiego retains the right to reject, cancel, negotiate, amend, split, and accept any offer, without consideration of the lowest offer.
3. This is an invitation to potential bidders and is not a promise or obligation that Jhpiego will contract with bidders through the submitted offers.



TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SAFE SPACE MATERIALS FOR KEY POPULATION DROP-IN CENTERS (KP-DICs) (FURNISHING OF SAFE SPACES)

Timeline:

	Item	Date
1	ITT Published	30 th August 2023
2	Closing date for clarifications	5 th September 2023
3	Closing date and time for receipt of Tenders	11 th September 2023- 1:45pm -GMT
4	Deadline for Submission	12 th September 2023

Interested bidders can collect the tender document:

1. At Jhpiego Office, 1 Sonia Drive Hill Station from the 30th of August 2023 – 12th of September 2023

Background

Since its founding in 1973, Jhpiego has been innovating to save the lives of women and families worldwide

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Jhpiego through the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and funding from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) continue to provide innovative and evidence-based interventions across 30 high-volume sites in 4 high burden districts of Sierra Leone to meet the UNAIDS 95.95.95 target for HIV epidemic control.

Jhpiego is seeking a vendor to supply the following:

Item Description	Specification
Supply of Safe Space Materials for Key Population Drop-in Centres	Furniture and other office equipment

General Requirements

1. Must be registered to conduct business and in compliance with governmental tax regulations in Sierra Leone.
2. Jhpiego retains the right to reject, cancel, negotiate, amend, split, and accept any offer, without consideration of the lowest offer.
3. This is an invitation to potential bidders and is not a promise or obligation that Jhpiego will contract with bidders through the submitted offers.





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Gold Coast Mayor continues campaign to host 2026 Commonwealth Games

Gold Coast mayor Tom Tate is said to continue his campaign to have the 2026 Commonwealth Games held in the Queensland city, asking a federal Senate inquiry to call a round table to discuss options.

According to News.com.au, Mayor Tate resolve comes despite Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk immediately dismissing the request so the state can prioritise the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

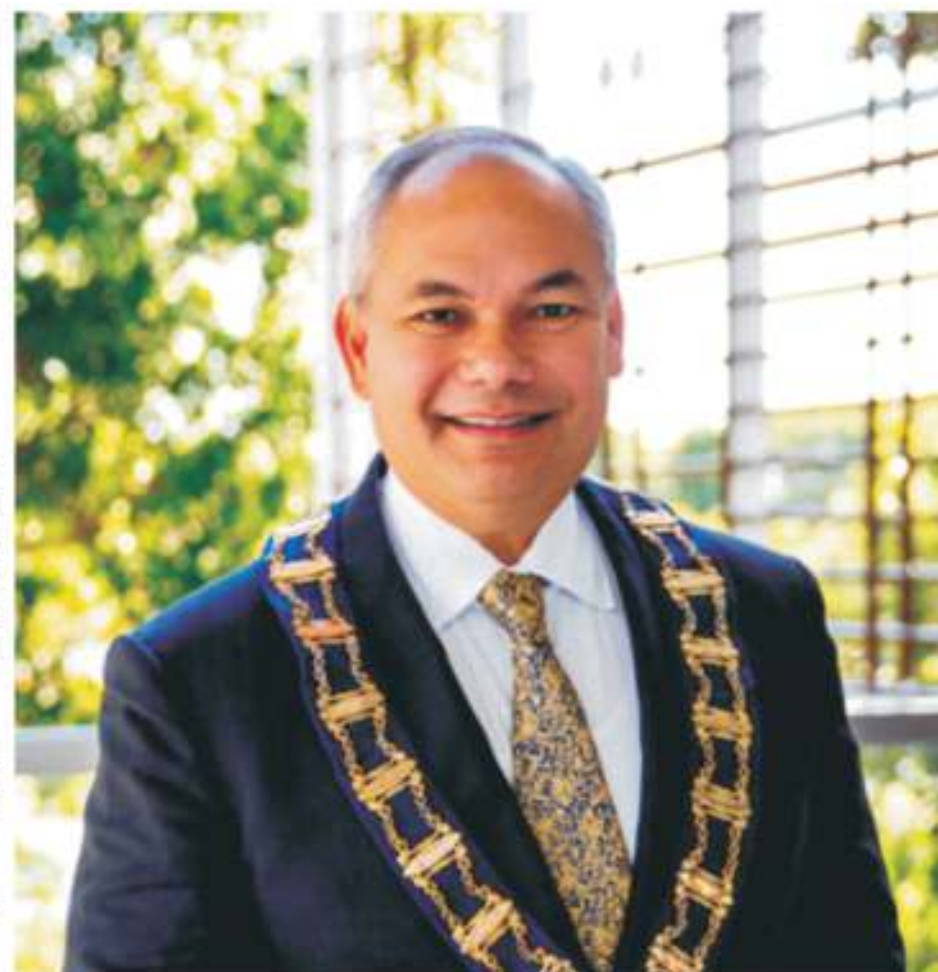
"Mr Tate estimated hosting costs to be between \$750m to \$1bn, given the city has remaining infrastructure from when it hosted the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

The mayor said he had written to Ms Palaszczuk on Friday, and while he has yet to receive a response, he believed there was a 70 per cent chance of his bid succeeding if he was able to secure a round table meeting," the website reported.

"I'm confident that we can resurrect it and deliver a Commonwealth Games," he said.

"I don't want a yes straight away. I just want to prove my point."

While he said sports that required dedicated infrastructure would likely be removed from the program, Mr Tate backed his council's ability to host the event, and said they already



hosted 14 events every week.

Appearing at a federal inquiry into Australia's preparedness to host Commonwealth, Olympic and

Paralympic Games on Monday, Mr Tate told the committee he still believed the Gold Coast was a viable choice.

Volleyball: Sierra Leone secures 2023 World Tickets



The Sierra Leone U-21 beach volleyball team have secured their tickets to compete in the International Volleyball Federation, FIVB World Beach Volleyball Championship in Thailand later this year.

The Sierra Leonean lads settled for the Bronze medal at the just concluded 2023 CAVB U21 Beach Volleyball Championship in Morocco on Wednesday.

Favourites, Mozambique defeated Sierra Leone by 2 sets to 1 (19-21/29-27/15-10) with Mozambique setting up a final clash with The Gambia who defeated Egypt.

President of Sierra Leone Volleyball Association Ahmed Khanou said: "It's Bronze here in Casablanca and a place in November's FIVB Under 21 Beach Volleyball World Championships in Thailand."

Meanwhile, the Nigeria women's team settled for a silver medal as Morocco beat them 2-1 (13-21, 21-15, 18-16) in a highly intense match at the beach resort in Casablanca.