



CONCORD TIMES

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US Visa restriction for undermining democracy in Sierra Leone



Ministerial Building without elevators

Shameful! Youyi Building elevators out of operations

A New Chapter for Leone Rock Metal Group's Exportation



aiden voyage ceremony



Antony Blinken, US Foreign Secretary

he United States has placed visa restriction on persons responsible for undermining democracy in Sierra Leone, hinging the outcome of the June 24th general elections in which President Bio was declared winner.

A statement issued by the United States
Foreign Secretary, Antony J.Blinken states
that: "The United States is committed to
supporting and advancing democracy in
Sierra Leone and around the world.
Today, I am announcing a new visa
restriction policy under Section
212(a)(3)C) of the Immigration and
Nationality Act for undermining the
democratic process in the June 2023
Sierra Leone election."

Cont. Page 2

Politico trains 50 journalists on Zoonotic reporting

Climate crisis could increase conflictrelated mortality in Africa - IMF

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LOCAL NEWS

By Mohamed Bangura Intern

houses almost all Government Ministries, have been out of operations for almost two years now, Concord Times can confirm.

the building to conduct business, have gone frustrated and expressed dissatisfaction over the delay by the government to maintenance the elevators at Youyi Building, where government businesses are largely conducted.

Even the workers who report every day for work have become frustrated, stating that government has neglected the building, which serves as the face of the country.

As a result of that situation, the new Minister of Information and Civic Education, decided to be using the Ministry of Foreign Affairs facility to be conducting the weekly press briefing, an important event that informs the public about government activities.

One of the workers, who preferred anonymity, charged that it's a shame to even allow the situation to deteriorate to that level.

"The reason for this negligence is that President Bio only visited here once to see his ministers at work during his first term in office, but never did that again. Should he had visited again, he could have urged the Ministry of Works to amend the elevators," he said.

Shameful! Youyi Building elevators out of operations

Visitors to the facility are amazed that one levators at Youyi Building, which of the nation's finest edifices would be without functional elevators for almost two

Osman Fambulleh questioned as to why government always begs for financial People, especially those who always visit assistance for infrastructure and reneges on maintaining the existing ones, especially Youyi Building.

> "I visit the building every Thursday to do some practical work at the Information Ministry, 8th floor. And anytime I went up the stairs, I feel tired to do my domestic work when I returned home, so I am pleading with the government to amend the elevators for us," he cried out.

> Another worker at Youyi building, Hassan Kalokoh, said government neglecting maintenance of the Youyi Building elevators will prevent investors and other development partners from conducting business in the ministries housed in the building.

> What is the fate of the investors? Over the years, our government seems to neglect the Youyi Building. The building does not belong to either the APC or SLPP, but to us all. Our government has a moral obligation to take care of it," he said.

> Kadiatu Kamara, who sells fast food within the precinct, said she was not making much money because the elevators are not functional, thus preventing workers from

"I have customers in all of the ministries.



Ministerial Building without elevators

When the elevators were in good condition, I cooked twice a day because most of my customers come to buy food twice a day, but now they only buy once because of the elevators that are not working. I have four children and we all survive on this cookery. Now that there are no elevators in the building, most of my customers ran away because they do not normally climb the building more than twice and that makes my business more difficult. The workers

are afraid to use the stairs," she said.

"I want the Minister of Works to know that the elevators at Youyi Building need urgent maintenance. I also want to ask the government why they wait until the situation got to this point? Is President Bio not aware of it or maybe it because his office is not here that's why they have not yet amend the elevators for his ministers," she lamented.

Woman jailed for dumping new-born into toilet pit

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

atmata Kamara, a woman in her 30s, who pleaded guilty to the offense of manslaughter, has been sentenced to 24 years imprisonment for giving birth and throwing her new born baby into a toilet pit to die.

The convict, who is also a mother of three kids, has been in police custody since 2020 and was been tried by Justice Adrian Fisher for the offence of murder, until the State represented by Lawyer Solomon Christian Kekura, applied for an amendment for the charge to be reduced from murder to manslaughter, for which the convict pleaded guilty.

Fact of the case in court shows that the convict, in 2019, got pregnant for a married man and during that period, she did all she could to get rid of the pregnancy until the night she finally gave birth to the baby and decided to dump the baby into a toilet pit.

The fact further states that, the baby was later discovered in the toilet alive and was taken to the hospital where he eventually dies after 21-day.

It was alleged that, even though the convict was around, she never admitted

that the baby was hers until she was caught by the police.

The convict's statement to the police state that, she never wanted to keep the pregnancy being that the man responsible for her pregnancy was a married man.

In her plea of mitigation, the convict told the court that, what she did was done out of stress, noting that because the father of her three children was not taking care of them and that she didn't want to add more burden on her, that was why she did what she did.

In his verdict, Justice Fisher says, the act of the convict was premeditated and that there was all evidence that she wanted to get rid of the pregnancy, but because she didn't that was why she dumped the baby into the pit toilet after giving birth.

He said according to the convict, the baby slipped from her and fell into the pit while attending to nature, but evidence showed that the convict actually gave birth to the baby and later pushed him into the pit and left him there to die.

He concluded that, the crime the convict committed has a maximum sentencing of life imprisonment, but considering her plea mitigation and for the fact that she had three more kids, he was minded to reduce the sentencing.

US Visa restriction for undermining democracy in Sierra Leone

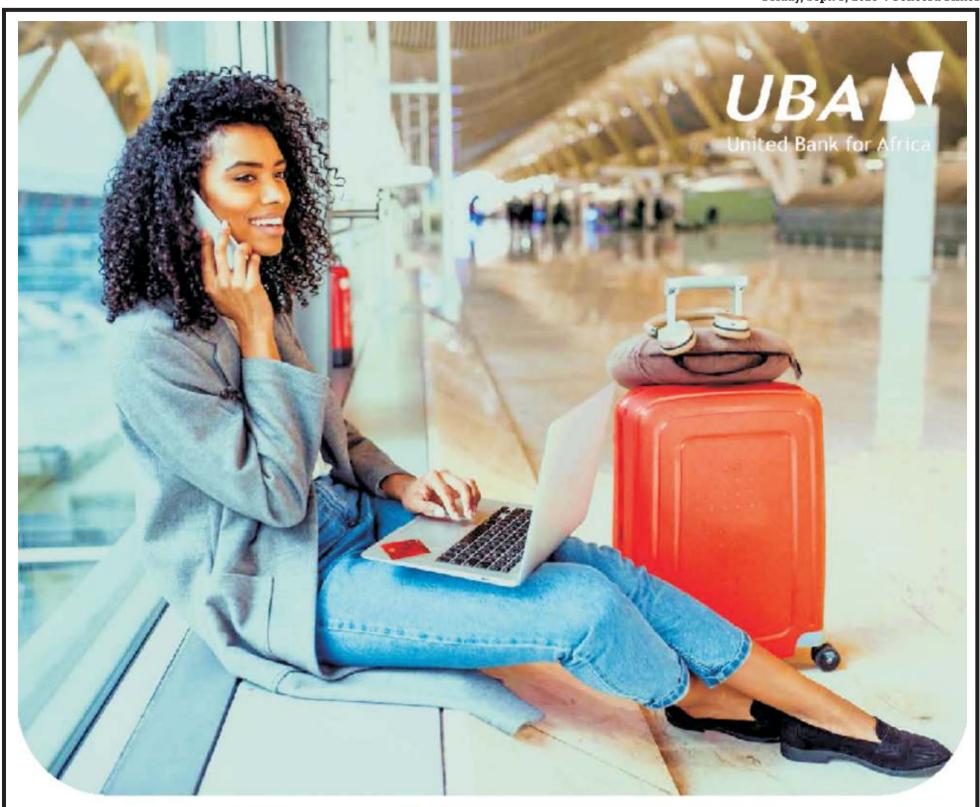
Although the statement didn't indicate names of those that will suffer the restriction, but it states that, "Under this policy, the United States will pursue visa restrictions for those believed to be responsible for, or complicit in, undermining democracy in Sierra Leone, including through the manipulation or rigging of the electoral process; intimidation of voters, election observers, or civil society organizations through threats or acts of physical violence; or the abuse or violation of related human rights in Sierra Leone."

The restriction took into consideration a broad range of persons that would be affected. "Family members of such persons may also be subject to these restrictions. Persons who undermine the democratic process in Sierra Leone-including in the lead-up to, during, and following Sierra Leone's 2023 elections-may be found ineligible for U.S. visas under this policy," the statement reads.



While many are jittery that the restrictions would apply to everyone, the statement allayed their fears that, the restriction policy announced will apply to specific individuals and is not directed at the Sierra Leonean people.

"This decision reflects the commitment of the United States to support Sierra Leoneans' aspirations to have free and fair elections that demonstrate the will of the people and strengthen democracy and the rule of law."



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LOCAL NEWS

By Yusufu S. Bangura

roject Coordinator for Torma Burn Rice Project at the Ministry of Abdulai Bu Wai, has stated that it will take couple of years for Sierra Leone to stop rice importation because the government does not have rice milling machine to process the infrastructural development and the farm rice they have harvested.

He made the above statement during an interview at the popular Radio Democracy 'God Morning Salone' program, while updating the public on the Torma Bum Rice by small-holder farmers in the riverine Project.

" One of the reasons we have not yet supplied the Torma Bum rice to the market is that we don't have rice milling machine to process the rice we have harvested and it will take a couple of years for Sierra Leone to stop rice importation. But that is something we want to address before the end of this five years or to reduce it to the minimum," he said.

He said currently, the government was importing between 50 to 60% of rice just to satisfy the needs of Sierra Leoneans, and

Project coordinator: It's will take couple of years for Sierra Leone to stop importing rice

of the work to reduce the amount of rice importation.

Wai said the project is divided into phasesproduction phases, but that they have gone far with the first phase.

He said the project aims at developing 12,500 hectares of land for rice production grassland area of Torma Bum, and that it also aims at increasing rice production in the country to help bridge the gap between local demand for rice and local production. He added that they have built warehouses, drying floor, market facilities, and rice mill and that they have also done 35km of feeder roads, moved the rice into the stores and

He said they have also fixed 4000 irrigation at Torma Bum.

Bowai said the project operates in three chiefdoms-Burns in Bonthe District,

Agriculture and Food Security, that they were certain that they can do 50% Mambolo and Samu Chiefdoms in Kambia District.

> "Before you go into any large scale production, you need to find somewhere to keep your products, you also need to have infrastructure or else you will not be able to handle what you are expecting. That's why infrastructure is very important if you want to ensure a sustainable production, especially for rice. For example, if you harvest rice and leave it like that it will get spoiled within 24 hours. That's why we need artificial driers for us to dry the rice and later store it," he said.

Bu Wai said they would soon go into large scale farming that should be sustainable and profitable for everyone in the country, adding that should they miss one step, the whole program will spoil and that they need to address areas of importance.

He noted that by December this year, they would start constructing the roads at Samu Chiefdom, which will be completed within



Project Coordinator for Torma Bum Rice Project, Abdulai Bu Wai

6-8 months and the irrigation will last for 18 months, adding that they were also fixing other things they needed just to aid farm production.

"We have started and we have planted up to 3000 hectares of rice, but to process it is a big challenge because we don't have the kind of equipment in the country. By next year, it will be a thing of the past and Sierra Leoneans will start seeing the Torma Burn project in a different light," he concluded.

Politico trains 50 journalists on Zoonotic reporting

By Ishmael Dumbuya

ree Media Group, publishers of Politico Newspaper, has on Wednesday 30th August 2023 ended a 3-day training for 50 journalists on reporting Zoonotic diseases.

The training took place at the Council of Churches Sierra Leone (CCSL) Hall, Kingharman Road, Freetown.

Delivering his keynote address, Professor Aiah Gbakima, a Medical Research Scientist, stated that animals provide many benefits to people. "Many people interact with animals in their daily lives, both at home and away from home," he said, adding that however, animals can sometimes carry harmful germs that can spread among people and cause illness known as zoonotic diseases or zoonoses.

He went on to state that Zoonotic diseases are caused by harmful germs like viruses, bacterial, parasites, and fungi and that the germs can cause many different types of illnesses in people and animals, ranging from mild to serious illness and even death.

Animals can sometimes appear healthy even when they are carrying germs that can make people sick, depending on the zoonotic

Professor Gbakima noted that the media has an important role to play in reporting Zoonotic diseases and that journalists should give the audience the correct meaning of words they will frequently bear and read.

He urged reporters to use straightforward and accurate explanations that are not alarming, noting that journalists should develop relationships with trusted scientists as

According to the Team Leader, STOP



A group of journalists at the training

Spillover Sierra Leone, Dr. Edward Magbity, places where humans and animals are in close

He mentioned that over the last decades, the risk of spillover of the pathogens into the human population has rapidly increased, driven by land-use change such as deforestation, the wildlife trade and wild meat consumption, climate change and the intensification of industrial animal

Dr. Magbity explained that spillover is when a disease crosses from one species to another, adding that a disease, like COVID-19, can spill' from one species to another.

Zoonotic diseases tend to spill over in

as human-wildlife contact increases and contact, such as the eating of bush meats or humans and wildlife live in closer proximity, areas where wild animals have encroached on whether through habitat encroachment or human civilization due to loss of habitat, poaching new zoonotic pathogens are bound emphasizing the One Health concept," he said

> He concluded that according to series of researches they undertook, Ebola was likely transmitted from primates to humans through hunting, trading and eating of bush meats, a research initially proven by scientists,

> Shedding light on the One Health Concept, Stella Paul, stated that the initiative is an approach that recognises that the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and the shared environment.

> She said One Health is not new, but it has become more important in recent years.

> "This is because many factors have changed

interactions between people, animals, plants, and our environment. Human populations are growing and expanding into new geographic areas. As a result, more people live in close contact with wild and domestic animals, both livestock and pets. Animals play an important role in our lives, whether for food, fiber, livelihoods, travel, sport, education, or companionship. Close contact with animals and their environments provides more opportunities for diseases to pass between animals and people," she noted.

She added that journalists and media organizations in Sierra Leone and other third world countries are well positioned to report zoonotic diseases, but are often limited by factors such as lack of information, and accurate data, as well as the expertise to interpret them resulting in reports that are not informative enough and at times lack accuracy.

Participants were taken to a field trip at the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary where they were privileged to see different chimps, focusing on their state of living and interactions, and upon their return to CCSL, they reflected on the field trip, explained what they saw, what they liked, what they learnt, and what else they were expecting to meet at the sanctuary.

The training climaxed with Isaac Massaquoi, a Media Trainer, who highlighted the techniques of reporting, fact checking and accurate reporting.

Participants also embarked on a group exercise wherein they were urged to develop story ideas on Zoonotic diseases and One

The training attracted different facilitators from the Health Ministry, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ministry of Agriculture, and a feminist representative.

LOCAL NEWS Politico trains 50 journalists on Zoonotic reporting

By Ishmael Dumbuya

journalists on reporting Zoonotic diseases or zoonoses.

of Churches Sierra Leone (CCSL) Hall, like viruses, bacterial, parasites, and Kingharman Road, Freetown.

Professor Aiah Gbakima, a Medical people and animals, ranging from mild Research Scientist, stated that animals to serious illness and even death. people interact with animals in their even when they are carrying germs

daily lives, both at home and away from ree Media Group, publishers of home," he said, adding that however, Politico Newspaper, has on animals can sometimes carry harmful Wednesday 30th August 2023 germs that can spread among people ended a 3-day training for 50 and cause illness known as zoonotic

He went on to state that Zoonotic The training took place at the Council diseases are caused by harmful germs fungi and that the germs can cause Delivering his keynote address, many different types of illnesses in

provide many benefits to people. "Many Animals can sometimes appear healthy



A group of journalists at the training

Climate crisis could increase conflictrelated mortality in Africa - IMF



This picture taken on August 6, 2023 shows a view of an area -Copyright @ africanews -/AFP or licensors

▼ limate change could fuel in other countries, the report adds. International Monetary Fund (IMF) nations. in a report published Wednesday.

and forced displacement.

and up to 14% in countries facing to elsewhere. an extreme increase in temperatures, the report says.

by the World Bank.

More than half of these countries. climate change, are in Africa.

prices, the IMF warned.

persistent" in fragile countries than December.

conflicts in countries with the A week before the first African most fragile political contexts Climate Action Summit, the IMF and lead to an increase in the number urged leaders in a blog post to come up of related deaths, estimates the with solutions for the most vulnerable

While climate change is not directly people are affected by natural pathogens into the human population identified as a trigger for war, the disasters in fragile states than in has rapidly increased, driven by land-IMF considers that it "significantly other countries. Disasters in fragile use change such as deforestation, the aggravates conflicts and related states displace more than twice the wildlife trade and wild meat difficulties", such as famine, poverty, population of other countries," it said, consumption, climate change and the read on the blog.

By 2060, conflict-related deaths could According to the IMF, these countries agriculture. increase by 8.5% as a proportion of the could face 61 days per year where Dr. Magbity explained that spillover is population in states experiencing temperatures exceed 35 degrees on when a disease crosses from one species "fragility, conflict and violence" (FCV) average, four times more than to another, adding that a disease, like

"Extreme heat, and the more frequent to another. extreme weather that comes with it. In total, 39 countries, home to nearly will endanger human health and hurt in places where humans and animals a billion people and 43% of the world's productivity and jobs in key sectors are in close contact, such as the eating poorest people, are classified as FCV such as agriculture and construction," of bush meats or areas where wild the report continues. institution.

The summit organized from disproportionately affected by September 4 to 6 in Nairobi will have the challenge of addressing the More than 50 million people in these climate emergency and future issues researches they undertook, Ebola was countries could in turn suffer from related to it for the 1.4 billion likely transmitted from primates to hunger by 2060 due to the decline in inhabitants of the African continent, a humans through hunting, trading and food production combined with rising first step before the round of eating of bush meats, a research negotiations of the climate change initially proven by scientists. Economic losses resulting from scheduled for the United Arab Shedding light on the One Health climate shocks are more "severe and Emirates in November and Concept, Stella Paul, stated that the

that can make people sick, depending on the zoonotic disease.

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He mentioned that over the last "Each year, three times as many decades, the risk of spillover of the intensification of industrial animal

COVID-19, can 'spill' from one species

"Zoonotic diseases tend to spill over animals have encroached on human civilization due to loss of habitat, emphasizing the One Health concept," he said

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Abubakar Tarawally (intern)

END Sierra Leone is set to hold a female leaders conference, which, according to them is a thoughtfully crafted platform designed to unite and strengthen the capabilities of female leaders across Sierra Leone.

The upcoming Female Leaders Conference is scheduled on the 5th and 6th of September 2023, at the Freetown City Council Auditorium.

Briefing newsmen about the proposed female leaders conference on Thursday at the Gem Hall on John Street in Freetown, Brima Mansaray, acting head of Governance Program SEND SL, said the female conference reflects SEND Sierra Leone and its donor in their unweaving dedication to creating an environment, that is characterize by equality and inclusion that focus on ethical and transformative leadership.

Reading from a press release, Mansaray said their main goal is to collectively address some of the key challenges that shape the country's future, and carefully responsible and transformative leadership that is vital for good governance in Sierra Leone. He

LOCALNEWS SEND SL to capacitate female leaders across Sierra Leone



further that the conference will

serve as a platform for Positive nurture ethical, responsive, discussions, a catalyst for Women's Empowerment, and a driver for gender equality.

Petty trader jailed for manslaughte

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

dama Bangura, a petty trader at Wilberforce, was Lyesterday, August 31st sentenced to 12 years in prison for killing one Madia Bockrie. Bangura pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter.

According to court records, the convict had already spent six years in prison and that as at the time she was taken into custody, she was already pregnant and had given birth her third to the child.

The particulars of the case states that, the convict on 7th day of November, at Wilberforce in Freetown, had a fight in which he killed the deceased.

The convict till her conviction was standing trial before Justice Adrian Fisher on one count of murder contrary law, a charge that was amended by the court after the application of the State Counsel, Solomon Christian Kekura, for it to be reduced to manslaughter.

deceased died of fractured skull, broken spinal cord and sustained several injuries, even though the convict denied fighting with the deceased.

In her plea mitigation, the convict asked for the court to temper justice with mercy, noting that she didn't wish for what happened.

In his sentencing statement, Justice Members of Parliament, Fisher said he had listened to the plea including the female Paramount mitigation of both the convict and her legal representative, noting that in a situation where a life is lost, such case should be treated seriously.

He said the convict denying that she didn't go into physical fight with the deceased was not true; because evidence showed that she hit and kicked the deceased severally and medical examination also showed that the deceased died due to injuries that were inflected on her including fractured skull, injured spinner cord and others.

"This conference serves as a platform for positive discussions, a catalyst for women's empowerment, and a driver for gender equality. It goes beyond political differences to foster dialogue and engagement that promotes unity and shared progress among appointed and According to the medical report, the elected female leaders throughout Sierra Leone," he reads.

> He informed the press that the conference will be shooting for 300 participants, which will comprise- 166 councilors from across Sierra Leone, and across all political Parties, 42 female Chiefs MPs, 21 female ministers and their deputies, 13 deputy mayors and Chairpersons will be in attendance.

> "Our vision is one where female leaders armed with knowledge, insight and skills from this conference, actively contribute to the country's decision making processes," he read.

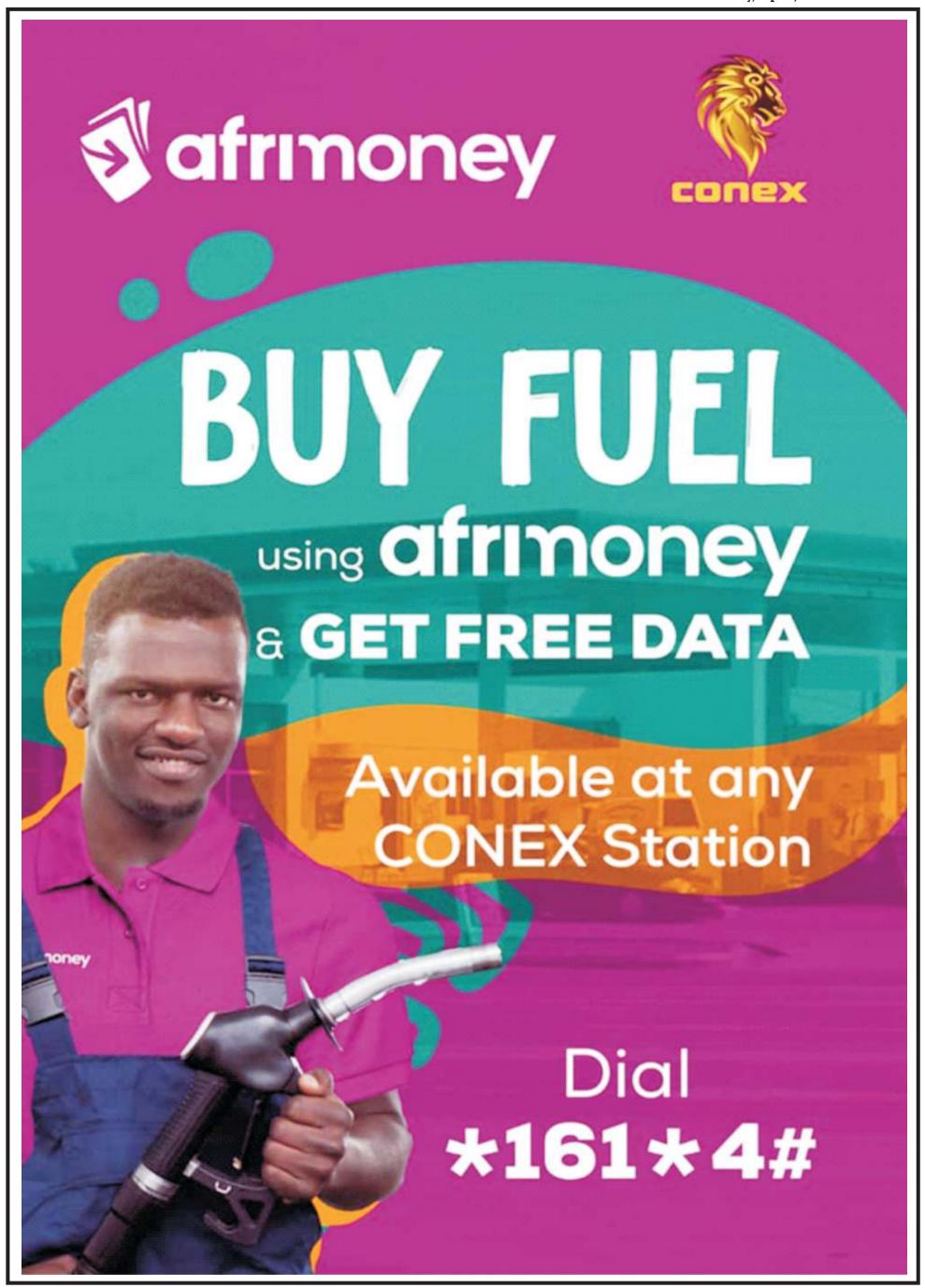
Wurie Kargbo, Communications Manager SEND Sierra Leone said the Conference's schedule

includes panel discussions on transformative and ethical leadership, nurturing resilience and mental well-being among female leaders.

Kargbo emphasized the importance of ethical and transformative leadership in shaping the nation's journey towards equitable development for all persons, including the marginalized and vulnerable in Sierra Leone.

Advocacy Advisor, Alhaji Musa Kamara, explains that the bedrock of SEND Sierra Leone is built on dialogue, Collaboration, and Capacity building. He emphasize that the conference is never a platform for political dialogue and that attendees will only be there in their capacity as female leaders.

" We proudly extend an invitation to female leaders across various sectors-from politics and business to academia and civil society, with the principle of collaboration, Empowerment, and collective progress.



LOCAL NEWS

n August 23, 2023, a momentous occasion took place at the anchorage outside Rizhao Port in Shandong Province. The naming and maiden voyage ceremony of LEONE FORTUNE, a CAPE-size vessel under Leone Rock Metal Group, marked a significant milestone for Leone Rock Metal Group's iron ore exportation.

Representatives of Leone Rock Metal Group (LRMG), the vessel management company and the entire crew gathered with joy and excitement to witness the ceremony of LEONE FORTUNE. This vessel's specific mission is to ship the iron ore from Sierra Leone to China. The commencement of its maiden voyage signifies the group's commitment to increasing production capacity and enhancing international competitiveness. contributing to the construction of a complete industrial chain of "production, transportation, and

The LEONE FORTUNE, with a total length of 289 meters, a width of 45 meters, and a full draft of 18.18 meters, boasts a capacity of 174,000 tons. the vessel is fitted with desulfurization tower equipment, demonstrating its commitment to low carbon emissions and environmental protection.

The successful maiden voyage of LEONE FORTUNE signifies that LRMG has established a crucial link in the entire mining industry chain in Sierra Leone with the global market. This achievement paves the way for the smooth implementation of the second phase of project construction and the realization of LRMG's five-year development plan. By increasing its own capacity, Leone Rock Metal Group aims to make positive contributions to its long-term and steady development. The emergence of LEONE FORTUNE not only represents growth and expansion but also symbolizes hope and the beginning of a brilliant journey for the company and the mining industry in Sierra Leone.

shareholder representatives, group leaders, leaders of shipping management companies and crew members

The commissioning of LEONE FORTUNE aligns with the grand blueprint for China-Africa

A New Chapter for Leone Rock Metal Group's Exportation





cooperation. The ship's role in transporting Sierra Leonean iron ore to China strengthens the economic ties between the two nations. Leone Rock Metal Group's vision of becoming an international comprehensive resource development enterprise underscores the importance of this partnership in facilitating growth and prosperity.

The successful maiden voyage not only opens up new opportunities for LRMG but also reinforces the strong bond between China and Sierra Leone. As LEONE FORTUNE embarks on its journey, it sets the stage for future growth and development in both the group and Sierra Leone, further solidifying their position and competitiveness in the global mining industry.



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Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone(ECSL)



OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown-Sierra Leone

VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

he 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

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

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

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

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

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

Performs any other official duty as instructed by supervisors

Oualification/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

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

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

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

Minimum of 3 WASSCE with legible handwriting

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

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

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

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

The District Elections Manager,

Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL)

Chukuma Johnson Drive

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

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



THE SALONE PAYMENT SWITCH (SaPS)

YOU CAN USE ALL LOCAL BANK ATM CARDS ON UTB'S ATM TERMINAL

Di Betteh Bank Na Salone

NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

EU's Borrell says the coup in Gabon followed the country's flawed polls

U foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, said on achieve power, that is also an irregular way to arrive Thursday that the military coup in Gabon in power. could not be compared to the crisis in Niger.

Bongo was announced as the winner on Wednesday, Niger. officers said they had seized power and placed him

Borrell said they intervened after the now ousted president won an unfair election.

"Naturally, military coups are not the solution, but we In Niger, the president was democratically-elected, must not forget that in Gabon there had been elections full of irregularities," he said.

weapons are not needed. If I cheat in the elections to Omar.

Borrell was speaking as EU foreign ministers were People in Gabon went to the polls on Saturday to due to discuss how to help west Africa's ECOWAS vote in general elections. But after President Ali regional group handle the 26 July military takeover in

> The EU and ECOWAS both firmly oppose the Niger military's overthrow of President Mohamed Bazoum, but Borrell argued that the similar dramatic events in Gabon were not comparable.

while in Gabon, the Bongo family has ruled the oilrich country for close to 60 years. Ali Bongo took over "There are military and institutional coups, where as president in 2009 following the death of his father

Gabon: "important to preserve stability", says Morocco

orocco has insisted on "the importance of preserving stability" in the Central African country after the military coup that removed the Gabonese president from power on Wednesday. Morocco is "closely following developments in the situation in the Gabonese Republic," said the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a brief press release.

The Shereef kingdom "underlines the importance of preserving the stability of this brother country and the tranquility of its population", continues the press release.

"Morocco trusts in the wisdom of the Gabonese nation, its strong forces, and its national institutions, to move towards a perspective allowing it to act in the best interests of the country, to safeguard the achievements made, and to respond to the aspirations of the brother Gabonese people", he concludes.

Morocco and Gabon maintain close and privileged relations, notably due to the ties of friendship between King Mohammed VI and President Ali Bongo Ondimba.

The Moroccan sovereign and the Gabonese president - who was placed under house arrest in Libreville — have been friends since childhood.

At the end of 2018, Ali Bongo chose Morocco to continue a period of convalescence and Due to the coup, the airline Royal Air Maroc canceled rehabilitation at the Rabat military hospital after being hospitalized in Saudi Arabia following a stroke. Mohammed VI visited him.

The Moroccan monarch regularly visits Gabon for months at the start of the year in his residence on the election, according to witnesses.



A picture released by the Moroccan Royal Palace shows Morocco's King Mohammed VI -Copyright @ africanews -/AFP

Pointe-Denis peninsula, and the two heads of state had an official meeting on February 15 in Libreville. Ali Bongo owns a villa in the palm grove of Marrakech , according to Gabonese and Moroccan media

Gabon has been among Morocco's main allies in Africa since the reign of King Hassan II, a close associate of Omar Bongo, the father of the ousted

In a message of congratulations on the occasion of Gabon's National Day on August 17, Mohammed VI recalled his attachment to "the development of the strategic partnership which unites our two countries and is distinguished by its exemplary nature"

its flight scheduled for Wednesday to Libreville.

On Saturday, violent clashes between Gabonese demonstrators and Moroccan police officers in front of and inside the Gabonese embassy in Rabat private stays. He stayed there for almost three during the counting of the votes for the presidential

Niger's junta instructs police to expel French ambassador

iger's military junta that seized power last month on Thursday said it had revoked the French ambassador's diplomatic immunity and instructed the police to expel him. Sylvain Itte visa and that of his family have also been cancelled.

He had been told by the junta last Friday that he had 48 hours to leave the country in response to actions taken by the French government which it said were "contrary to the interests of Niger"

But the deadline passed on Monday without Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Monday that the ambassador would stay in Niger despite pressure from the military regime. And he reiterated Paris' support for ousted democratically-elected president Mohamed Bazoum.

The French government said it does not recognise the coup leaders as the country's leaitimate rulers.

Since toppling the president, the junta has leveraged anti-French sentiment among the population to shore up its support.

South Africa: Authorities vow to investigate deadly fire and bring culprits to book

he cause of a deadly fire that engulfed a fivestorey building in Johannesburg, taken over for illegal housing remains under investigation. City and regional officials visiting the scene have vowed to hold those responsible accountable for the overnight blaze.

If there is an official of the city who would be found to have contravened or to have neglected their responsibilities, heads will roll," says Lebogang Maile, MEC for Human Settlements and Infrastructure Development for Gauteng.

More than 70 people including children zere kileld in the fire on Thursday morning according to Johannesburg city's emergency services.

Another 52 were injured in what is on track to become one of the deadliest fires worldwide in recent years. Bodies were discovered piled up at a security gate that was closed preventing people escaping the blaze, an official said.

City authorities said the building in a deprived crimeridden area had been turned into illegal housing after being abandoned

Most of those living there were foreigners, one resident said.

"We have now 73 fatalities and 52 people injured who were transported to various healthcare facilities for further medical care," Emergency Management Services spokesman Robert Mulaudzi said.

At least seven children were among those killed by the flames, the youngest under two years old, he said. Some were left burned beyond recognition.

"I'm grateful to be alive, there was a lot of us running, trying to find the fire exit and a lot of people eventually died because of the smoke inhalation," said Kenny Bupe, a survivor caught up in the blaze while visiting

The 28-year-old told AFP he was part of a group that managed to break open a locked fire escape gate and run to safety, while others "jumped out" of the windows to save themselves.

Firefighters at the scene have put out the flames and are "busy with damping down", while search and recovery operations are ongoing, Mulaudzi said.

"We are moving floor by floor conducting these body recoveries," he told local broadcaster ENCA.

An AFP reporter at the scene said emergency services were continuing to bring charred bodies out of the building, laying them down under blankets and sheets on the street outside.

"It is indeed a sad day for the city of Johannesburg... over 20 years in the service, I've never come across something like this." Mulaudzi said.

It was not immediately clear what caused the blaze, which broke out overnight.

Mgcini Tshwaku, a member of the city's mayoral committee in charge of public safety, said candles used for lighting inside the structure were a likely

- Security gate closed -

The building, which has been evacuated, is in what used to be the business district of South Africa's economic hub and was used as an informal settlement, Mulaudzi said, suggesting many may have been squatting there illegally.

"Inside the building itself there was a (security) gate which was closed so people couldn't get out," said Tshwaku.

"Many burned bodies were found stashed at that

Fire trucks and ambulances were parked outside the red and white building with burned-out windows which has been cordoned off by police, as a small crowd of onlookers gathered.

Paramedics assisted survivors, some looking bruised and visibly in pain, as two women on a nearby street consoled each other as they cried.

"The scene this morning was a mess, there were bodies on the ground everywhere," said Noma Mahlalela, 41, a resident, adding most people living at the premises were foreigners

Authorities estimated more than "80 shacks" were set up inside.

"The fire spread very quickly affecting different levels of the building because of the combustible materials used," said Mulaudzi.

Illegal occupation of disused buildings in Johannesburg's city centre is widespread, with many said to be under the control of criminal syndicates who collect rent from occupants

South Africa — the continent's most industrialised economy - attracts millions of migrants, many undocumented, from other African nations

The blaze was the deadliest in the country in recent years and one of the worst worldwide

In December, a fuel tanker blast near Johannesburg killed 34 people, while in June, flames ripped through a dilapidated building in the city and killed two children under 10 who were locked in an apartment. Speaking outside the premises, Johannesburg mayor Kabelo Gwamanda, sent his condolences to the victims' families describing the incident as a

All survivors are being cared for, regardless of their nationality, authorities said.

Mali adopts new mining code to raise gold concessions ownership



A gold miner pans for gold in Koflatie, Mali, on October 28, 2014, a mine located a few miles from the border with its southwestern neighbour Guinea Copyright @ africanews SEBASTIEN RIEUSSEC/AFP

all has passed a new mining code allowing the state to take up to 30 percent stakes in new mineral projects and collect more revenues from the vital industry.

Junta leader Assimi Goita signed the code into law on Monday (Aug. 28), his office announced on social media Tuesday (Aug. 29).

Mali is one of Africa's leading gold producers.

It is also boasts manganese and lithium -- two minerals key to the global energy transition -- though these have not been extensively explored.

Mali produced 72.2 tonnes of gold in 2022, including six tonnes by artisanal gold panners, then-mines minister, Lamine Seydou Traore, said in March.

Gold accounts for 25 percent of the national budget, 75 percent of export earnings and 10 percent of GDP, he added.

Mali's mining sector is dominated by foreign companies, including the Canadian firms Barrick

Gold and B2Gold, Australia's Resolute Mining and the British Hummingbird Resources.

They have continued to operate despite political instability and an expanding jihadist insurgency. Mali's junta, which seized power in 2020, has made

sovereignty a key priority.

Boosting the national budget The mining code reform could boost the national budget by 500 billion CFA francs (\$820 million), economy minister Alousseni Sanou said this month. The new mines minister, Amadou Keita, said the state hoped the mining industry would eventually contribute to between 15 and 20 percent of GDP.

The reform allows the government to hold up to 10 percent equity in new projects with the option to buy an additional 20 percent during the first two years of commercial production.

And it allows the Malian private sector to hold up to five percent.

The new code also removes tax exemptions for mining companies during operations.

According to the economy minister, exemptions on petroleum products and equipment represent about 60 billion CFA francs a year.

The junta had for months championed the proposed reform, pledging to make "gold shine for Malians".

"Mali's demand for higher stakes in mining projects... reflects a wider trend across the continent where resource-rich countries, impacted by the knock-on effects of global shocks, aim to increase their control over the mining sector," Mucahid Durmaz, an analyst with Verisk Maplecroft, said in a

But, he added, the Malian government is "walking a tightrope" and must be "cautious not to scare away

Rwanda, Cameroon make major changes in their military positions after Gabon coun

wanda and Cameroon have unveiled significant shifts in their security forces, impacting senior military personnel.

In Rwanda, President Paul Kagame retired hund of soldiers, coinciding with the advancement of young soldiers within the nation's security framework. New generals have also been appointed to lead army divisions situated across the country

The Rwanda Defense Force (RDF) released a statement disclosing Kagame's approval of the retirement of twelve generals, eighty-three senior officers, and six junior officers. Additionally, eighty-six senior non-commissioned officers will be retired. About 678 soldiers retired as their contracts concluded, with 160 others medically discharged.

Prominent figures from Rwanda's 1994 liberation war. including Gen. James Kabarebe, Gen. Fred Ibingira, and Lt. Gen. Charles Kayonga, are among the retirees. Both Kabarebe and Kayonga previously held the position of chief of defense staff of the Rwandan army. On the same day, Kagame elevated several young officers to the rank of colonel and designated new generals to lead military divisions. Other retirees encompass Lt. Gen. Frank Mushyo Kamanzi, currently



lembers of the Rapid Intervention Battalion (Bataillon d'Intervention Rapide, BIR), -Copyright @ africanews -/AFP or licensors

Rwanda's ambassador to Russia, and Maj. Gen. Albert Murasira, a former defense minister

In June, Kagame appointed Juvenal Marizamunda as the new defense minister, succeeding Albert Murasira. who had held the role since 2018.

In parallel, Cameroon's President Paul Biya, one of Africa's longest-serving leaders, enacted fresh appointments within the Defense Ministry's central administrative unit, as outlined in a decree shared on social media.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP







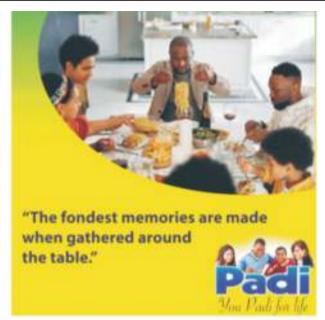












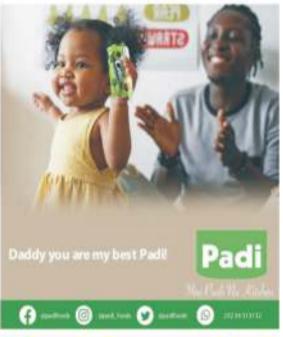




















Guild of Editors - Sierra Leone

C/O MRCG 145 Circular Road, Freetown.

Email: editorsguild94@gmail.com Mob:+23276653596

Public Notice Increase in Advert Pricing for Newspapers

24th March, 2023.

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

Black & White

No.	Description	Old Price (NLe)	New Price (NLe)
1	Quarter Page (1/4)	700	800
2	Half (½)	800	1,200
3	Full Page	1,000	1,500
4	Centre Spread	2.000	3,000

Coloured

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

The cover price remains the same.

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

Your cooperation is highly solicited.

Signed: Donald Theo-Harding Chairman, GoNE-SL

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

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PRESS RELEASE

INCREASE IN COST OF RADIO COMMERCIALS

Mile 91 Town, 25th March 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

FREETOWN

- 1. Jingle Jingle slot Nte 35.00 per minute
- 2. Public notice NLe 30.00 per 50 words
- (a) Cost for 30 minutes airtime, between NLe 750,00 and NLe 1,250(Depending on the coverage of the Radio station)
 - (b) Cost for 1hr airtime, between NLe 1, 500, 00.and NLe 2,500.00 (Depending on the coverage of the Radio station)

PROVINCIAL

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

SiLBA regrets any inconvenience this may cause.

END

Signed:

Approved By:

Out-

Daniel M.Amara

Stanley Bangura Jr

Secretary General

Chairman

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