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# Fishermen frown at ban on nighttime fishing



President Bio at the launch of the initiative in Nairobi, Kenya

**Bio to replicate Kenya's initiative on climate change**



**Omrie Golley positions agriculture as key to national economic recovery**

Omrie Golley is a household name among farmers in Sierra Leone



By Mohamed Bangura (intern)

Local fishermen at Portee Wharf have voiced their apprehensions regarding a recent announcement made by the police enforcing a ban on boats docking at wharves after 7 p.m. The above decision has sparked concerns among the fishing community, as they feared it will have a detrimental impact on their livelihoods. Mohamed Koroma, an experienced fisherman with over 30 years of expertise fishing across the country, shared his thoughts on the matter in an interview with the Concord Times. In addition to his extensive experience, Mohamed is also an active member of the Fishermen Association.

Cont. Page 2

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## COMMENTARY

# US Visa restriction: The way forward

By Ishmael Dumbuya

The United States on Thursday, 31 August, announced that it had taken steps to impose Visa ban on persons who undermined the democratic process in Sierra Leone during the June 24 presidential election

According to a statement on the US State Department website, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said the US is committed to supporting and advancing democracy in Sierra Leone and around the world.

He added that those individuals are 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.

Recently in Nigeria, a Visa

restriction was imposed on the country following allegations of election fraud. Within 24 hours of the announcement, US Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken called the newly elected President, Ahmed Tinubu that the US will and is now ready to work with the Nigerian government.

Sierra Leone has always been a close ally of the US. In all UN Security Council resolutions, Sierra Leone always supports the US in major global decisions, shunning Russia and other world powers.

Having pondered on the Visa restriction slammed on the Bio administration, here are some possible solutions to the current diplomatic stand-off.

### Soul-searching

President Bio must take an inward look within his government and the country at large as well as pinpoints areas that have undermined the tenets and provision of democratic ideals in the country. He should ensure that everyone is brought on

board his governance journey particularly aggrieved All People's Congress officials, who stated that the June 24<sup>th</sup> elections was marred with fraud. President Bio should bring them together and chat new way forward in respect to governance and developments across the country. He should promote the concept of 'market place of ideas' where no one is left behind. He should also be seen as a unifier rather than one who intimidates and terrorize people who didn't vote or supported him. President Bio should open a line of dialogue between all aggrieved parties concerned.

### Diplomatic channel

2. If President Bio cares and cherishes the ties between Sierra Leone and the US, he should appoint a diplomatic negotiator that will go to the US and chat the way forward with regard the relationship between the two countries.

The US established diplomatic

relations with Sierra Leone in 1961, following its independence from the United Kingdom. The two countries had enjoyed a warm and cordial relationship. Therefore if the President doesn't want to end the relations, he should do everything within his diplomatic capacity to cement and invigorate the ties between them.

By all indication, considering the support the US Government is providing for the Government and people of Sierra Leone, it is but worth mending fence with the world power.

I strongly agree that Sierra Leone is a sovereign state with the absolute authority to determine its fate, but that doesn't mean the government cannot adhere to good governance directives that is largely in the interest of peace and national cohesion.

As a country that can only survive on donor support, Sierra Leone cannot afford to pick up a fight with the United States.

## LOCAL NEWS

# Fishermen frown at ban on nighttime fishing

From Cover

He expressed his worries about the current economic situation, highlighting the growing challenges faced by local fishermen, including the soaring fuel prices and the increasing costs of other commodities. Mohamed emphasised the need for the government to take their concerns into account and reconsider the implementation of such laws. He firmly believes that failing to address those issues will lead to a significant negative impact on their ability to provide for their families. As a father of seven children, Mohamed understands the responsibility that rests on his shoulders.

The Chief of Portee Wharf Community, Abdulai Sesay, reiterated the importance of proper communication and consultation with the fishing community.

Expressing dissatisfaction, he stated that they should have been given a minimum of two months' notice about the ban.

He emphasised their willingness to comply with the law but stressed the need for the government to consider the implications and negative consequences that that night fishing ban could have on the community. He highlighted the significant role that fishermen play in promoting self-employment and reducing the burden of unemployment on the government.

He humbly pleaded with the authorities to reconsider their decision and find a solution that takes into account the needs of the



fishing community.

Kadiatu Kamara, a fishmonger at the wharf, also shared her concerns about the ban. As someone who depends on a percentage basis with the fishermen, she argued that the law would impact her even more than the fishermen themselves.

Being a single mother with four children, Kadiatu expressed her worry about the potential negative consequences the ban could have on her ability to support her family.

She joined the plea to the government to adjust the timing, allowing them more flexibility to continue their fishing activities.

A fisherman who preferred anonymity, expressed their frustration with what they perceived as hypocrisy in the journalism field.

He argued that journalists should prioritise the welfare of fishermen and not advocate for a ban on nighttime fishing.

He highlighted that a significant number of fishermen, including themselves, typically engage in nighttime fishing, returning in the morning with their catch.

He emphasised that the role of fishermen as suppliers of fish to the country cannot be underestimated and noted that a ban on nighttime fishing could have detrimental effects on millions of people who rely on affordable fish as a food source.

The anonymous fisherman asserted that their operations have always been conducted legally and have not engaged in any illicit activities.

He questioned as to why journalists would advocate for a ban on their activities, without considering the negative

consequences it could have on the fishing community and the wider population.

He stressed that fishermen play a vital role in ensuring that the country is supplied with affordable fish.

He argued that a ban on nighttime fishing would severely limit their ability to meet the demand and could result in increased fish prices. This, in turn, would have a direct impact on consumers, particularly those from lower-income backgrounds, who heavily rely on fish as a nutritious and affordable option.

The anonymous fisherman concluded by urging journalists to be more aware of the potential repercussions of their actions and called for a re-assessment of the support provided to the fishing community and for a more balanced approach that takes into account the livelihoods and contributions of fishermen in the country.

The fishing community at Portee Wharf highlights the vital role they play not only in their personal sustenance, but also in reducing the burden on the government.

With the rising costs of living and the challenging economic circumstances, it is crucial for the government to consider the concerns raised.

The plea from the fishermen echoes the need for a comprehensive assessment of the implications of the ban, and a collaborative effort in finding a solution that upholds the interests of both the fishing community and the authorities.



## LOCAL NEWS Drug peddlers warned: Stop the illegal trade now or get caught

By Joseph Sesay (Josestar-Intern)

The Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone had alerted the general public that the illegal sale of drugs is an offence and contravenes the Pharmacy and Drugs Act 2001.

In an extra-ordinary meeting held at the headquarters of the Pharmaceutical Society of Sierra Leone recently, The Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Sartie Kenneh expressed his dissatisfaction to a Mammoth gathering of pharmacy professionals about the current spate of drug resistance and addiction throughout the country and he requested for pharmacy professionals to do more in reversing the menace.

Professor Charles Senessie, Deputy Minister of Health (I), said pharmacists' role in providing rational use of medicines is crucial and implores all stakeholders to work collectively in curbing drug peddling. "We will collaborate with all stakeholders in curbing the menace and we must express concern in saving every precious life, we

cannot all stand by and do nothing," he admitted

Alhaji Michael Koroma, a pharmacy technician, calls for an engagement with the leadership of the Motor-Drivers Union.

"Most drug peddlers use ferries, buses, and other means of transportation to practice the illegal trade and we call on the leadership of that association to be sincere in engaging their membership to halt unlawful practice.

The pharmacy Board Sierra Leone re-echoes that citizens must STOP purchasing drugs from illegal sources such as buses, hawkers, etc. The board reiterates that products from unregistered sources can either be fake and unregistered or could be substandard as a result of exposure to sunlight, moisture, poor pieces of advice with drug interactions, poor counselling, non-identification of sources in instances whereby poor drug interactions occur among other issues



## Govt. to curb lateness in public offices

By Alfred Koroma



The Chief Minister, Dr. David Sengh has said government will develop technology to analyze check-in and check-out the attendance of workers in public institutions.

The Minister made the disclosure after paying a surprised visit at Youyi Building which hosts several government ministries in Sierra Leone, to engage public officials on timely attendance at workplace.

"Today, I did a surprise visit at Youyi Building to engage public officials on their timely attendance at the workplace. We'll develop technology to analyze check-in /check-out and link to HR/Payroll," the Chief Minister wrote on his Facebook

page.

If introduced, it means government would have taken workers attendance seriously as the technology will help address lateness and absenteeism and in public offices.

As part of immediate steps to curb lateness and absenteeism, the Minister gave an order for query letters to be given to all late comers/absentees who were not in the building at the time the Minister visited.

"Reform starts with us, Dr Sengh stated. Dr Sengh was appointed Chief Minister following President Bio's reelection for a second term. Before excelling to the top ministerial position, he served as Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, where he introduced several reforms.

## Murder & Robbery: Five sentenced to 80 years imprisonment each

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

Moses Santigie Kargbo, Chernnor Sesay, alias Tecno, Ishmael Sankoh, Michael, Kinny Ndanema, (alias Kempers), and Abdulai Bombolie Kanu, (alias Ordullay) were sentenced to eighty years imprisonment each by Justice Ivan Sesay for the offense of robbery with aggravation and murder.

The judge pronounced the sentencing after the 11-member-jury unanimously returned a guilty verdict in respect of all the three counts of conspiracy to robbery, robbery with aggravation and murder of one Mohamed Kamara.

It was alleged that the accused persons on diverse date between the 10th January, 2021 and the 13th January, 2021, at Robbery Junction, Port Loko District in the North-West Region of Sierra Leone, conspired together with other persons unknown to commit robbery and murder. Upon their arraignment the accused persons denied the entire allegations.

In order to make its case, the prosecution led in evidence a number of witnesses in support of their case including the Government Pathologist, Dr. Semeon Owiz Koroma, a police investigator and other witnesses.

In his summing up address to the jurors, Justice Ivan 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 persons as the facts in the case revealed.

He said the burden and standard of proof in all criminal trials of that 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 said the jury must know that they are the judges of fact, and the facts in the case were well within their knowledge. He said they are charged with the

responsibility to evaluate those facts in line with the law.

He said there were several elements the prosecution must establish in that case.

He further admonished the jury that the other element that the prosecution must prove is malice aforethought which must be addressed.

He said malice aforethought refers to the mental state of the accused at the time the offence was committed.

"I urge you to approach your deliberations with an open mind and consider all the evidences, arguments, and relevant instructions provided to you by the court. Only by thoroughly examining the elements of murder and weighing the evidence presented, can we arrive at a just and fair verdict," he said

He continued that the prosecution had presented its case, striving to prove the guilt of the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt. They have presented evidence, such

as the murder weapon, ballistic analysis, eyewitness testimonies, and other forensic evidence.

"As jury, it's your duty to assess the inconsistencies in a fair and impartial manner, consider whether these inconsistencies substantially undermine the credibility and reliability of the evidences presented against the accused. Inconsistencies create reasonable doubt, and it is your responsibility to carefully weigh the impact of these doubts as you deliberate," he admonished.

He concluded that the jury must consider whether the threshold had been met, and that they must remember it was better to err on the side of caution and acquit an innocent person than to wrongly convict an individual based on shaky or inconsistent evidence.

"At this juncture, I now purse and excuse you to retire to the jury room and return your verdict, which must be unanimous."

However, the jury returned with a guilty verdict for all three counts charge against the five accused persons.





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## LOCAL NEWS Bio to replicate Kenya's initiative on climate change

President Julius Maada Bio has addressed the launch of Kenya's Financing Locally Led Climate Action, FLLoCA, programme, as part of his engagement at the ongoing Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, where he congratulated the government on their innovative initiative. "I wish to congratulate my dear brother and friend, President Ruto, for successfully launching this innovative initiative — a great example of a homegrown solution to a homegrown problem. There is a cliché that every politics is local. It is also true that climate impacts are local and affect the most vulnerable people in communities and far-off localities.

"I intend to replicate the Government of Kenya's FLLoCA initiative in Sierra Leone to strengthen our 446 wards. I look forward to bilateral, South-South cooperation with our friends in Kenya to undertake the necessary assessments and formulation of a similar program in the near future.

"We hope our donor partners will be encouraged to support this learning model among African countries. Such cooperation could shorten the time for the design of various programs. It could also help countries move faster into developing bankable projects to crowd in more significant private investment flow," he said.

President Bio also stated that Sierra Leone

was amongst the 20 most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change, adding that the impact of Climate Change was real.

"We continue to experience storm surges, flash floods, and high winds, accompanied by pollution, landslides, mudslides, coastal erosion, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and increased prevalence of pests and diseases. If we do not act now, valuable ecosystems in Sierra Leone will be wiped out, and more communities will be displaced and their livelihoods destroyed," he said.

The President that Sierra Leone was implementing a coordination and reporting mechanism for all climate-related activities and projects at Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies to facilitate and coordinate the country's climate change programmes and projects to be developed in line with national programmes and the SDGs. "The range of adaptation options has been well-defined through systemic and bottom-up national-level consultative processes. The process has been a significant achievement in raising awareness, building technical and institutional capacities, and integrating adaptation concerns into national development dialogues," he concluded.

Earlier at the opening of the Africa Climate Summit, host President His Excellency Dr



President Bio at the launch of the initiative in Nairobi, Kenya

William Samoei Ruto, reminded his colleague leaders that trillions of dollars globally were looking for 'green investment opportunities' as the pressure to tackle the climate crisis heightened.

He said Africa was holding the key to accelerating decarbonisation of the global economy, adding that they as leaders were not just continent rich in resources, they were also a powerhouse of untapped potential, eager to engage and fairly compete in the global markets.

"Consider this: every year, Africa needs to generate approximately 30 million new jobs to accommodate its rapidly expanding workforce. These are not just numbers; these are 30 million opportunities to build our future, 30 million dreams that can be fulfilled through climate-proof avenues of growth and 30 million steps toward shared prosperity. The examples I have shared with you are not mere statistics; they are pragmatic routes for Africa to not only participate in the global economy but to excel and grow," he said.

## CSOs trained on combating corruption

By Jeneba A Conteh



Participants at the training

Human Rights Defenders Network Sierra Leone, has on Wednesday, 30th August, in partnership with Restitution Impact Limited, organised a one-day training for civil society organisations on combating corruption in Sierra Leone.

The training took place at the Methodist Church Hall, Kingharman Road in Freetown.

The training was focused on the theme 'Combating Corruption with a Human Rights Based Approach in Sierra Leone and Developing a National Anti-Corruption Strategy led by civil society.

Chairman Board of Directors, HRDN-Sierra Leone, Solomon Sogbandi, thanked the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany for supporting

## Man jailed six months for obtaining stolen property

By Jeneba A Conteh

One 29-year-old Mohamed Bangura of Cow Yard in Freetown has been sentenced to six months imprisonment for obtaining three cartoons of dried fish. He was sentenced by Magistrate Peter Geogra of the Pademba Road Court No.6 in Freetown.

The accused was before the court on one count of obtaining goods by false pretenses contrary to section 32 (1) of the Larceny Act 1961.

Police alleged that Mohamed Bangura

on Saturday, 26th August, 2023, at Moa Wharf in Freetown, with intent to fraud, obtained from Umu Sheriff three cartoons of dried fish valued two thousand five hundred and fifty new Leones (Nle2,550), by falsely pretending that he was sent by Isatu Sheriff to collect same, knowing it to be false.

After the charges were put to the accused, he pleaded guilty and asked the Bench to temper justice with mercy on him.

them.

He described the workshop as a novelty in a way to fighting corruption in Sierra Leone.

He said the fight against corruption is not an easy task and that it is the brain behind under development and it affects the social economic growth of the country.

Representative of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, Peter Bayo, said one of the roles of the commission is to help the fight against

corruption in the country.

He added that the commission also has the responsibility to advise government on laws and how the state should respect human rights based on the kind of approaches government takes on human rights issues.

Director of Restitution Impact Limited, Chris Duckett, gave a brief background of their activities in Sierra Leone, adding that they support government on how to retrieve stolen property.





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## LOCAL NEWS

# Omrie Golley positions agriculture as key to national economic recovery



In what has been a welcoming initiative to many farmers across the country, Golley Agriculture Development Sierra Leone Limited has successfully completed the training of over 200 locals across the country on the use of dripping irrigation in modern day farming. The company is now putting modalities in place to secure lands for active commercial farming, so as to earnest food production and sufficiency in the country. Under the supervision of its CEO, Ambassador Omrie Golley, the company was able to train at least fifty (50) mostly women and youths in each of its four Agriculture Demonstration Centres across the country. It could be recalled that in a series of ceremonies between 8th-14th November 2022, Sierra Leone's former Ambassador to the Republic of South Korea, initiated the construction of agric-education centres in different parts of the country. The idea of the project then was to introduce a new agricultural system based on drip irrigation technology, perfected in Israel, to enable crop production continuously throughout the year,

instead of seasonally.

The four agric centers were constructed in Port Loko City in the Northwestern Region, Bumbuna Town in the Northern Region, Gelehun Town in Bo District Southern Region, and Belabu Town in Kenema City Eastern Region. The 4 locations have been carefully selected to serve as demonstration centres for people of the 4 provincial regions of Sierra Leone. A fifth (5th) center is under construction and near completion at the northern regional headquarter of Makeni City.

Partnering with one of the most famous experts in the use of modern drip irrigation technology called Netafim from Israel, Golley Agriculture Development has placed this modern technology at the forefront of its plans to increase agricultural production and food security throughout the country. Dripping kits, at the centre of this advanced firm of agricultural technology, were purchased months ago to fast track production.

The training of local farmers in the selected agricultural development centres had taken centre stage in this new modern initiative with beneficiaries being adequately trained and after the training period, being effectively equipped to manage their own local farms. The vision and direction of the



project is to properly train locals in the various stages of agricultural production such as planning, growing, storing and distributing carefully selected food products, through the use of modern agricultural techniques and management systems, thereby increasing production and quality and reducing costs. A variety of food products such as corn, cucumber, pepper, cabbage, macadamia nut, tomatoes etc, have already been successfully planted at the various centres around the country, as part of the initial pilot targets and harvesting and sales have been done. The company is also now putting modalities in place for genuine partnerships in agriculture food production across the country. Already, a

team of experts from the company have identified lands for commercial farming. These lands will be installed with the most modern irrigation systems to enable perennial farming of selected identified crops. Meanwhile, Ambassador Omrie Golley's initiative continues to receive countrywide approval with the various stakeholders being very impressed with training aspect, not only assisting local farmers but even school going pupils as part of their agricultural science curriculum. This is why the communities have voluntarily decided to let out their lands to the company as a form of long-term lease for commercial farming, thus creating job and employments for locals.

## Africa Climate Summit: Commonwealth Secretary-General intensifies climate finance campaign

Alhaji Haruna Sani

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, has expressed desire for the need to ramp up global support for greater climate finance commitments at the Africa Climate Summit, taking place from 4 to 6 September in Nairobi, Kenya.

According to a press release issued by the Commonwealth Secretariat, the summit, held under the theme 'Driving Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World', is a critical juncture for the African continent to mobilise action in the lead up to the UN Climate Change Conference COP28 in November.

Vulnerable countries and populations in Africa are particularly exposed to the impacts of climate change, such as unpredictable weather patterns and more extreme weather, which affects millions of lives, livelihoods and homes.

It is further outlined in the presser that the Secretary-General is scheduled to meet with various Heads of State from the region as well as world leaders in Nairobi, including the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, to advocate actions that will unlock billions in climate finance to support vulnerable nations, as well as improve access to those funds.

Those includes delivering on the annual commitment of US\$100 billion in climate finance promised to developing nations since 2009, and the operationalisation of an inclusive and fit for purpose Loss and Damage Fund, which was agreed last year at COP27 to help vulnerable countries cope

with the devastating impacts of climate change.

The Secretary-General said: "I urge leaders, the international community, the private sector and civil society – together, we must all step up and drive this transformation. The means and the solutions to realise our ambitions under the Paris Agreement are already available to us – there is no excuse for a delay in action. Ignoring the consequences of inaction will hurt the most vulnerable the hardest, not to mention the generations that follow."

The Secretary-General is leading a delegation of senior experts from the Commonwealth Secretariat, who will also be sharing key insights and best practices garnered from flagship programmes such as the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH), the Commonwealth Blue Charter, the Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition Agenda and the Commonwealth Living Lands Charter: A Call to Action on Living Lands (CALL), including their enhanced focus in supporting the Africa region.

The letter also inform all that today, 5th September, the Secretary-General will take part in a high-level panel alongside the President of Somalia, H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the President of Mozambique H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi and the Vice President of Colombia H.E. Francia Elena Marquez Mina, focusing on unlocking the potential of a "regenerative blue economy" in Africa and globally.

During the mission, the Secretary-General will also hold a dialogue with environment



and climate ministers from across the Africa region, to discuss expectations and key concerns ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference COP28.

Discussions will feed into the first ever Commonwealth Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting, to take place in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly meetings in New York on 21 September.

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 56 independent and equal sovereign states. Its combined population is 2.5 billion, of which more than 60 per cent is aged 29 or under.

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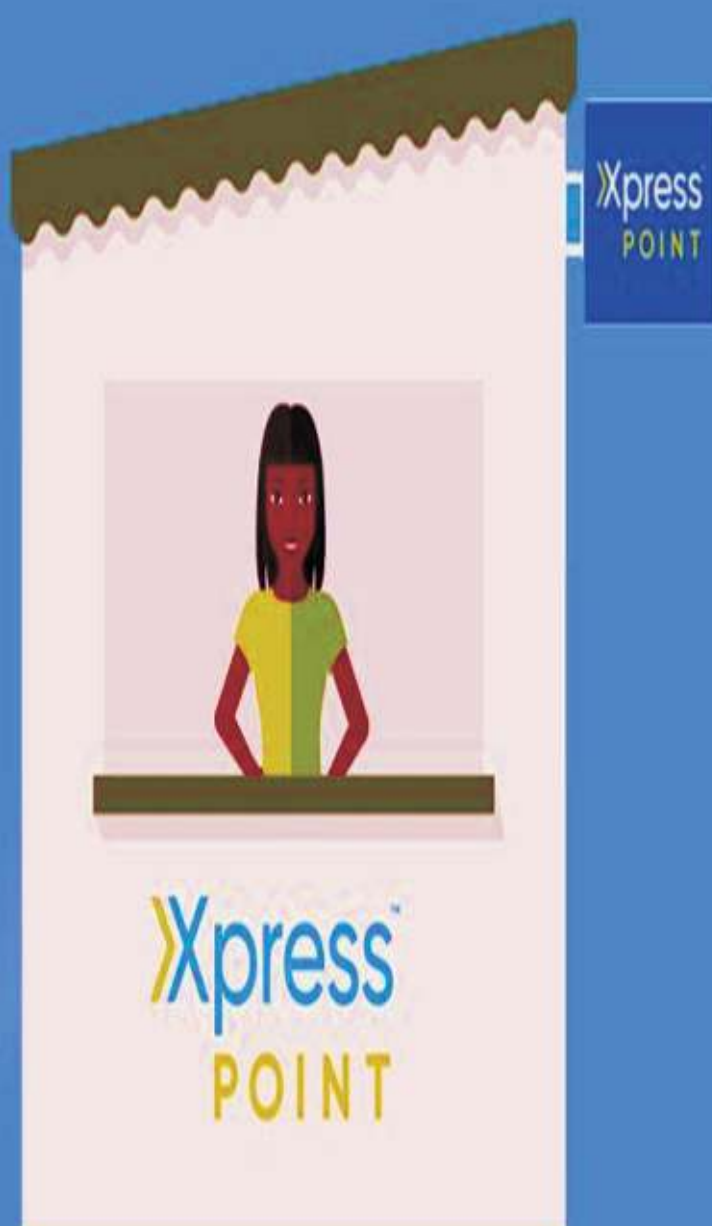
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The Commonwealth admitted Gabon and Togo as its 55th and 56th members respectively at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in June 2022. Prior to this, Rwanda was the last country to join in 2009.



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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

## Niger reopens its airspace after almost a month's closure



An aircraft on the tarmac at Bristol International Airport, England, Sunday ... - Copyright © africanews BARRY BATCHELOR/AP

The military regime that emerged from a coup in Niger decided on Monday to reopen its airspace to commercial flights, which had been closed since 6 August, according to the official Niger News Agency (ANP). "The airspace of the Republic of Niger is open to all national and international commercial flights", said a spokesman for the Ministry of Transport, quoted by the ANP, adding that ground services had also resumed. "Airspace is still closed to all operational military flights and other special flights, which are only authorised subject to prior authorisation from the competent authorities", he added. On 6 August, Niger announced the closure of its airspace "in view of the threat of intervention from neighbouring countries", as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) threatened military intervention to restore the

elected president Mohamed Bazoum, who was overthrown by a coup d'état on 26 July. Niger's land and air borders were closed by the military the day after they took power, then reopened with five neighbouring countries on 2 August: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Libya, Mali and Chad. However, certain flights with special authorisations were able to continue to serve the country. However, some flights with special authorisations were able to continue to serve Niamey airport, the country's capital. Niger continues to suffer from the sanctions imposed on the country by ECOWAS to bring the ruling military to heel. The UN has warned that regional sanctions and the closure of borders are "greatly affecting Niger's supply of vital food and medical supplies"

## Gabon's Gen. Oligui Nguema sworn in as 'transitional' head of state

Gabon's new military leader was sworn in as the head of state Monday (Sep. 04) less than a week after ousting the president whose family had ruled the Central African nation for more than five decades. Gen. Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, took the oath in the presidential palace in front of a packed, boisterous room of government officials, military and local leaders in Gabon's capital, Libreville. Oligui is a cousin of the ousted President Ali Bongo Ondimba, served as a bodyguard to his late father and is head of the republican guard, an elite military unit. Speaking to applause and standing ovations Monday, Oligui said the military had seized power without bloodshed and promised to return power to the people by organizing free, transparent and credible elections. "With the new government, made up of experienced people, we're going to give everyone a chance to hope," he said. The mutinous soldiers who toppled Bongo last week said he risked leading the country into chaos and they then "unanimously" designated Oligui president of the transitional committee. Bongo, who had been president for 14 years, was ousted hours after being declared the winner of a vote that was widely seen as rife with irregularities and lacking transparency. The speedy swearing-in of Oligui will create perceptions of legitimacy and consolidate his power to deter potential opponents from challenging his rule, said Maja Bovcon, senior analyst at Verisk Maplecroft, a risk assessment firm. "It is also likely intended as a means to restore investor confidence by conveying the message that he will not waste time in returning to business-as-usual and democratic rules," she said. However, the fact that he plans to rewrite the constitution and electoral code means that the

transition period will likely take months, if not years. Bongo had served two terms since coming to power in 2009 after the death of his father, who ruled the country for 41 years, and there was widespread discontent with his family's reign. Another group of mutinous soldiers attempted a coup in 2019 but was quickly overpowered. Nine members of the Bongo family, meanwhile, are under investigation in France, and some face preliminary charges of embezzlement, money laundering and other forms of corruption, according to Sherpa, a French NGO dedicated to accountability. Investigators have linked the family to more than \$92 million in properties in France, including two villas in Nice, the group says. The idea of a long transition isn't something that appeared to bother Gabonese who attended the inauguration Thursday. "We are turning the page of 55 years of an oligarchy. For Gabon it is a new start, the end of a one political party governance without real benefits for the Gabonese people," said Desire Ename publisher for a local media outlet. It would be acceptable for the junta to transition within three years, he said. Gabon's opposition candidate, Albert Ondo Ossa, wouldn't comment on the inauguration but told The Associated Press last week that the government needed to return to constitutional rule and he didn't consider the president's ousting to be a coup but rather a "palace revolution" in order to continue the Bongo's family's reign. The former French colony is a member of OPEC, but its oil wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few — and nearly 40% of Gabonese aged 15 to 24 were out of work in 2020, according to the World Bank. Its oil export revenue was \$6 billion in 2022, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

## South Africa: Inquiry reveals no arms deal with Russia as claimed by U.S. ambassador to SA

An independent investigation has concluded that there is no evidence that South Africa supplied weapons to Russia for the war in Ukraine, despite accusations from the United States, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Sunday (Sep. 03). "In recent months, statements from various [sides] have used these accusations to question South Africa's commitment to its position on the Russia-Ukraine conflict," Ramaphosa said in an address to the nation late on Sunday. In a press conference in Pretoria, the US ambassador, Reuben Brigety, claimed on May 11 that South Africa provided weapons to Russia through the Russian ship Lady R, which docked at the Simon's Town naval base, in Cape Town (southwest), in December last year. "We (the U.S.) are confident that weapons were loaded into that vessel, and I would bet my life on the accuracy of that assertion," Brigety said. He called South Africa's "arming" of Russia "fundamentally unacceptable." "Amongst the things that we noted, were the docking of the Russian Cargo ship Lady R in Simons Town, between December 6th and December 8th, 22, which we are confident uploaded weapons, ammunitions onto that vessel in Simons Town as it made its way back to Russia." Ramaphosa established an independent inquiry in the aftermath of the accusations and appointed retired Judge Phineas Mojapelo as chair of that panel. "From its investigation, the panel found no evidence that any cargo of weapons was loaded for export onto the ship Lady R. The panel found that there was no evidence to support the claim that the ship transported weapons from South Africa destined for Russia," the head of state emphasized in his speech. During the course of its work, the panel visited the Simon's Town naval base and obtained sworn testimony from nearly fifty people at all relevant levels of Government, while more than one hundred documents were submitted for review.



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa at the Vice President's official residence in the U.S. Naval Observatory compound in Washington, Friday, Sept. 16, 2022. - Copyright © africanews Manuel Balce Ceneta/Copyright 2022 The AP. All rights reserved.

Detrimental effect of accusations "The accusations levelled against our country had a detrimental effect on our currency, our economy and our position in the world," the president stressed. One of the consequences of Brigety's comments was a dip in the value of the country's Rand. "The panel established that the ship docked at Simons Town to deliver equipment that had been ordered for the South African National Defense Force in 2018 by Armscor," Ramaphosa added. The panel's full report will not be released to the public: "Given the fact that the evidence given to the panel was classified and the fact that revealing the details of the equipment offloaded could jeopardize the work and safety of South Africa's forces in various deployment on the continent, I have decided not to release the panel's full report."

## Comorian president wants to accelerate intra-African trade

Accelerate the construction of a large African trade zone free of customs duties in particular... This is what Comorian President Azali Assoumani, who this year holds the presidency of the African Union, is committed to. Since its entry into force in 2021, the African Continental Free Trade Area is still far from its objectives. "This year, I have made it my mission to accelerate the construction of the African Continental Free Trade Area, which represents a great opportunity and will bring enormous benefits to Africa. Africa will also help countries outside of the region.

Taking the example of Comoros, we need to create favorable investment conditions, so that investments are not limited to local areas, but can also flow to countries like Madagascar and Tanzania. This will create healthy competition within the African Continental Free Trade Area. This is very important," said Azali Assoumani. With high customs duties, administrative hassles, and a lack of tax harmonization: trade between African countries remains complicated. According to a 2014 African Union study, shipping a vehicle from Japan to Ivory Coast would cost three times less than shipping the same vehicle from Ivory Coast to Ethiopia.

## Uganda detains man suspected of planning bomb attack on church



An Ivorian bomb disposal expert of the FRAP special unit (Force de Recherche d'Assaut de la - Copyright © africanews SIA KAMBOU/SIA KAMBOU

Police in Uganda said on Sunday they had foiled a bomb attack on a cathedral in the capital Kampala and arrested the man suspected of trying to activate the explosive device among worshippers. Hundreds of people were evacuated from the Rubaga Miracle Centre cathedral after the man tried to enter with an explosive device, said police spokesman Patrick Onyango. "We carried out a controlled detonation of the improvised explosive device consisting of nails, a motorbike battery, a charger and a telephone handset that was to be used in the attack," he told reporters outside the cathedral. He said police had tracked the 28-year-old after

receiving a tip-off about a possible attack on a place of worship, and found a bomb in his rucksack when he was arrested. Police are looking for three other men, the suspect having indicated that he may have had accomplices. The perimeter of the cathedral was cordoned off; sniffer dogs and members of bomb squads inspected the area but no threat was detected. "The terrorist was a few metres from the entrance but the security forces intervened and he was arrested before he could enter the church and detonate the bomb", evangelical pastor Robert Kayanja told AFP. The pastor is a public supporter of President Yoweri Museveni. According to a police note seen by AFP, the police had been warned of a possible attack in busy places, including churches and shopping centres. In June, jihadists from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) militia, which has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, killed 42 people, including 37 pupils, in a secondary school in western Uganda close to the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. It was the deadliest attack in Uganda since the double bombing in Kampala in 2010, which killed 76 people in a raid claimed by the Somali-based Islamist group Shebab. Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP





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## THE SALONE PAYMENT SWITCH (SaPS)

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Department: Africa Global Operations/ Impact Malaria  
Based in Freetown, Sierra Leone  
Reports to the Country Representative

#### Who We Are

Population Services International (PSI) is the world's leading non-profit social marketing organization. We are a diverse group of over 5,000 entrepreneurial development professionals located in over 40 countries committed to making it easier for all people to lead healthier lives and plan the families they desire. PSI is using its global presence and 50+ years of experience to help reimagine healthcare. We are working to shape market systems, shift policy and funding, and strengthen global capacity to better support consumer empowered healthcare.

#### Join us!

We are looking for a Director of Finance and Administration to provide overall technical and management leadership, guidance and oversight of the organization's operations, finance, grants, and contract's portfolio. She/he will be the custodian of financial, accounting, IT, branch operations, supply chain, grants, and contracts process to ensure PSI Sierra Leone is compliant with donor and PSI global finance, budget, procurement, grants, and compliance standards and that the processes enable PSI Sierra Leone achieves its strategic priorities. In addition, to strong technical knowledge and experience, the Director of Finance and Administration will be a key leader within the organization whose leadership style should reflect high Emotional Intelligence (EI) and their ability to lead while nurturing talent. The Director of Finance and Operations will be working closely with the Country Representative and Chief of Party for the Impact Malaria Project.

Sound like you? Read on.  
Your contribution

#### Strategic Leadership and Oversight Role

- Provide direction and strategic leadership to the organization's finance, IT, supply chain, branch operations, grants, and contracts portfolio to ensure that operational processes efficiently support program objectives.
- Ensure that the finance, IT, supply chain, grants and contracts systems and process align with PSI Sierra Leone's Strategic Plan and priorities.
- Ensure that PSI Sierra Leone policies and procedures align with PSI Global Services Finance, Procurement, Grants and Contracts policies, procedures, and requirements, and proactively identify and manage any potential conflicts to ensure compliance with the necessary regulations.
- Design and maintain internal systems that ensure accurate and timely reporting on financial performance of the organization.
- Consistently demonstrate a leadership style that reflects high emotional intelligence, nurtures talent, and reinforces the right tone at the top of the organization.
- Promote and demonstrate an ethical environment, in line with PSI's values of honesty and acting with integrity.
- Supervise and provide leadership to PSI Sierra Leone's Finance, IT, Supply Chain, Branch Operations and Sub-Awards teams.

#### Financial Reporting and Policies

- Establish and/or refine and disseminate policies, systems and practices for effective management, procurement, disbursement and accounting for all financial resources in line with PSI Global accounting policies, funder requirements and local law where required.
- Work closely with the finance team to prepare submission of monthly financial packages to PSI/W and to ensure complete, accurate and timely recording and reporting of transactions.
- Work closely with the Senior Management team and relevant teams at the PSI headquarters to achieve quality and timeliness in Donor reporting.
- Coordinate with Programs and co-lead monthly review and analysis of financial reports and reconciliations with attention to how resources can be better allocated to achieve program objectives, Budgeting, Financial Analysis and Donor compliance.

#### Budgeting, Financial Analysis, Compliance

- Lead the annual operating budgeting process.
- Validate monthly common cost analysis and update cost ratios to ensure each donor bears the correct proportion of common costs in line with PSI's global policy, as applicable.
- Manage the common direct cost budget to ensure efficient and effective use of donor funds to support common direct costs, when necessary.
- Develop, track and review PSI Sierra Leone consolidated budget and departmental budgets in consultation with budget holders and finance team and conduct detailed activity status review and give input to DC and budget holders.
- Prepare and track donor budgets. Prepare modifications and Activity realignments as necessary.
- Monitor performance and efficiency of on-going Donor projects by analyzing country/project monthly spend rates and highlighting possible problem areas.

#### Technical Support, Audits and Legal

- Support preparation and successful conclusion of internal and external auditing activities.
- Ensure that the PSI Sierra Leone team responds to audit requests on a timely basis, and provides clear, complete, and accurate information to auditors.
- Review management comments for audit reports and ensure appropriate action is taken to correct audit findings.
- In collaboration with PSI Legal Counsel, minimize legal risk to the organization and engage any legal issues confronting the organization.
- Review and test controls to ensure PSI Sierra Leone systems are compliant with PSI Global Services Finance, Grants and Contracts policies, donor requirements, as well as Sierra Leone's laws.
- Ensure prompt preparation and submission of statutory returns, donor reports and tax compliance.

#### Operational Management and Administration

- Ensure branch operations, IT, procurement, warehouse, and fleet management activities are delivered efficiently.
- Coordinate with Head of Operations to establish and support suitable accounting, IT, Fleet Management and general administrative systems and personnel in all PSI Sierra Leone field offices.
- Work with Head of Supply Chain to ensure that PSI Sierra Leone's procurement system is adequately updated in line with PSI Global Procurement Manual and changing funder guidelines.
- Ensure adherence to PSI Global Responsibilities Matrix on Approval limits for Procurement of Goods and Services.
- Conduct quarterly oversight and supervision visits to field offices to review the quality of business operations systems and activities and provide support, when necessary.

#### Sub-Award and Sub-Contractor Management

- Lead the development and negotiation of sub-award agreements, workplans and budgets.
- Coordinate monthly reporting process from sub-awardees and joint programmatic and financial reports reviews, ensuring that costs are in line with the progress on delivery and implementation and that budget variances explanations are provided.
- Conduct regular sub-award visits / evaluations to verify adherence to contract terms and gauge internal control systems to obtain confidence in the reports submitted to PSI Sierra Leone.
- Design and implement a proactive, rigorous, risk-based and effective sub-awardee monitoring system and approach.
- Contribute to designing the capacity building plan for sub-awardees in financial management, internal control systems, budgeting and forecasting, technical programs implementation and coordinate the provision of trainings when needed
- Lead sub-award closeout in accordance with PSI Sierra Leone policies and procedures.

#### What are we looking for?

The candidate we hire will embody PSI's corporate values:

**Collaboration:** You can work independently but thrive within a team.

**Trust:** You trust that your manager and team will have your back and care deeply about gaining that same trust from your teammates

**Pragmatism:** You dive in and maintain momentum even when things are ambiguous, and you do not let perfect get in the way of good enough.

**Honesty:** You are not afraid to speak up and speak your mind.

**Measurement:** You set clear and challenging goals and hold yourself accountable to driving measurable results.

**Commitment:** You are independent and a free thinker, but you're ready to buy in to the direction of the team and commit to its success.

#### The basics

- Bachelor's degree or Advanced degree in Finance, Accounting or related field.
- Professional qualifications like ACCA, CIMA, CPA preferred.
- At least 8 years post qualifications experience in general management, financial management and at least 5 years of experience with donor-funded projects at a senior management level required.
- Working knowledge of integrated, accrual-basis accounting systems such as QuickBooks Enterprise, Lawson, or another ERP. Advanced computer skills, with strong Office 365 skills preferred.
- Have demonstrated grants management experience and in-depth understanding of current donor rules and regulations. Experience working with USAID, DfID, KfW and other international donors.
- At least 3 years of experience living or working in a developing country and working experience in challenging environments in Africa will be an added advantage preferred.
- High level of written and verbal communication skills. Written and verbal fluency in English required.
- Exceptional quantitative data analysis skills.
- High emotional intelligence, people management and interpersonal skills; High level staff management and leadership skills.
- Ability to work in a diverse cultural environment with multiple stakeholders (including Ministry of Health authorities (MoH), beneficiaries, implementing partners, program staff, donors)
- References will be required.
- The successful candidate will be required to pass a background check.

#### What will get us excited (personal and management characteristics)?

- Successful candidates will be customer service oriented, exhibit excellent communication and interpersonal skills; have proven problem solving ability; be able to work efficiently and quickly under pressure; be able to prioritize and perform multiple tasks; and have the ability to work with minimal supervision and follow through on assignments. Preference will be given to candidates with demonstrated experience in international health and development issues, and technology innovation.
- Be self-starter, effective team player and demonstrated verifiable result-oriented track record. Act with urgency for continuous improvement and with a bias towards action; promote development of breakthrough solutions; embrace and advocate innovations that improve results; aggressively promotes the need for breakthrough improvements.
- Acting with Long Term Perspective: Take actions today to build a strong foundation for future success, identify and take advantage of emerging opportunities, keep PSI Sierra Leone's long-term goals in mind when addressing short-term issues and problems.
- Adaptive and flexible in approaches to work, comfortable with changing approach based on the evidence of what works.
- Passionate about learning, documenting, and sharing what does and does not work.
- Proven ability to develop routines to manage large workloads and organize work efficiently.
- Ability and desire to coach and transfer learning capacity to partners and program staff.

#### Is that really you? And are you interested?

Please submit your application letter, accompanied with your CV (including three referees) and copies of your certificates to the address below:

The Country Representative  
Population Services International (PSI)  
3 Fadia Drive  
Freetown

Or email the application to the following email address: [recruitment@psi-sl.org](mailto:recruitment@psi-sl.org)  
\*\*The deadline for the submission is 5PM on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2023.

PSI is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages applications from qualified individuals regardless of actual or perceived race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, personal appearance, matriculation, political affiliation, family status or responsibilities, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, childbirth, related medical conditions or breastfeeding, genetic information, amnesty, veteran, special disabled veteran or uniform service member status or employment status.

## Invitation for Bids

### Mott MacDonald SL Limited

Procurement Number: MMSL/SSEIP2/1088.25

**Mott MacDonald Sierra Leone Limited**, has allocated funds from FCDO for the procurement of **250 tablets and cases** and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders.

Mott MacDonald Limited trading as Cambridge Education has been appointed by UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to use UK aid to deliver the Sierra Leone Secondary Education Improvement Programme 2 (SSEIP 2). This programme supports the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education to improve primary and secondary schooling, make schools safer for girls, and target support to students with disabilities.

The nature of the programme requires tablets and cases to be used for monitoring and training purposes, with the following specifications:

#### Tablet

- 8" or greater screen
- Minimum 2GB RAM
- Storage 32GB or larger
- Wifi + 3G
- SD Card slot
- Quality Camera

#### Tablet case

- Built from durable PU (synthetic) leather with soft microfiber interior to prevent scratches.
- Cover contains flip capability to transform the case into a horizontal viewing stand. Interior pocket opens for easy Insertion of device.
- Built-in magnetic strip to provide auto sleep/wake feature. Designed with a smart holder for stylus/pen.

Bidding is open to all suppliers who can demonstrate the capacity to deliver without advance payment and experience to deliver **250 tablets and cases**.

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address below between **09.00 am and 5.00 pm from 4th - 29th September 2023**. Bidding documents can be collected for free at the address below.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **2nd October 2023 at 9.00 a.m.** All bids must be accompanied by:

- ☐ Valid business registration certificate
- ☐ Valid NASSIT clearance certificate
- ☐ Valid tax clearance certificate
- ☐ References, indicating the supplier's experience to deliver similar products to reputable organizations - corporations, INGOs and Government

Bid envelopes must be sealed and clearly marked "**RFP 1088.25 – Tablets and Cases - Sierra Leone**".

Bids will be opened on **Monday 2nd October 2023 at 9:15 a.m.** in the presence of bidders and/or representatives at the address below. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders.

**Mott MacDonald Sierra Leone Limited**

**24 Regent Road, Opposite Orange Office**

**Hill Station**

**Freetown -**

## Invitation for Bids

### Mott MacDonald SL Limited

Procurement Number: MMSL/SSEIP2/1088.26

**Mott MacDonald Sierra Leone Limited**, has allocated funds from FCDO for the procurement of **2 – Motor vehicles** and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders.

Mott MacDonald Limited trading as Cambridge Education has been appointed by UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to use UK aid to deliver the Sierra Leone Secondary Education Improvement Programme 2 (SSEIP 2). This programme supports the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education to improve primary and secondary schooling, make schools safer for girls, and target support to students with disabilities.

The nature of the programme requires frequent travels to remote parts of the country, in many cases using bad roads, to support schools. To enhance the team to travel to the project locations, MM is buying two (2) 4x4 motor vehicles, double cabin, on/off road, suitable for rough terrain.

Bidding is open to all suppliers who can demonstrate experience and the capacity to deliver **4 x 4 vehicles**.

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address below between **09.00 am and 5.00 pm from 4th - 29th September 2023**. Bidding documents can be collected for free at the address below.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **2nd October 2023 at 09.45 a.m.** All bids must be accompanied by:

- ☐ Valid business registration certificate
- ☐ Valid NASSIT clearance certificate
- ☐ Valid tax clearance certificate
- ☐ References, indicating the supplier's experience to deliver similar products to reputable organizations - corporations, INGOs and Government

Bid envelopes must be sealed and clearly marked "**RFP 1088.26 – 4 x 4 motor vehicles - Sierra Leone**".

Bids will be opened on **Monday 2nd October 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** in the presence of bidders and/or representatives at the address below. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders.

**Mott MacDonald Sierra Leone Limited**

**24 Regent Road, Opposite Orange Office**

**Hill Station**

**Freetown**





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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 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.





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Spaghetti Jollof. You can use Padi items to cook it and it will taste delicious, promise!



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You Padi the Kitchen

ARE YOU



TEAM KETCHUP

OR



TEAM MAYO

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You Padi the Kitchen

Padi, sharing is caring



**Padi**  
You Padi the Kitchen

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Mama Mia!



Padi Spaghetti, strands of deliciousness!

**Padi**  
You Padi the Kitchen

Facebook Instagram Twitter



Daddy you are my best Padi!

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## Tennis Association justifies election, debunks NSA's claims

By: Dadson A. Musa

The Sierra Leone Lawn Tennis Association has stated that its elective congress staged on 26th August 2023 was legitimate and in line with the court order of which judgement was delivered on 16 June 2023 by Justice Alhaji Momoh-Jah Stevens.

The development is contrary to recent comment by the National Sports Authority Director of Participation, Steven Keilfela that the elections is "null and void."

According to the NSA Director, they were "not invited", but according to the interim executive who conducted the election as instructed by the court order, a letter of invitation was sent to the NSA.

The Association stated that their constitution granted them the mandate to go ahead with the election as a quorum of simple majority was formed and every position available in the executive was contested and voted for.

"A formal report is being put together to be forwarded to sports ministry, NOC, NSA, ITF, CAF and the high court judge who gave the order and the out gone president. It was free, fair and credible by all indications," the Association stated.

The newly elected executive headed by Andy Baum continues to prove their legitimacy and the elected president has vowed to inform Justice Momoja Stevens about the ongoing issue with the NSA..



## Cricket: Ladies Patriots eyeing victory over Eswatini today



The Sierra Leone female national team, Ladies Patriot are eager to make it three out of three wins today when they take on Eswatini in the ongoing ICC Women's T20 World Cup Africa Division 2 Qualifier.

The Sierra Leonean side is currently enjoying a good run and start to the tournament with an open win over Cameroon and later Mozambique with the next assignment being the final

Group B clash against Eswatini.

Named as the Ladies Patriot, the Sierra Leone Women's team got off a flying start with quick work of Cameroon, as they bowled them out for just 40 inside 14 overs. Alice Fille was the pick of the bowlers, snaring four for 11 in a fine spell. Fatu Pessima and Janet Kowa claimed two scalps apiece, as they throttled the scoring in the middle overs.

Sierra Leone then made quick work of the chase, with Marie Turay's hasty 20 hurtling them towards the target inside the power play.

And last Sunday, it was Mozambique who suffered at the hands of the Patriots losing by 10 wickets at BCA Oval 1 in Gaborone, Botswana.

Sierra Leone won the toss and chose to field and to signal they were up for something,

Mozambique's Palmira Cuinica and Isabel Mabunda were both bowled by Janet Kowa, scoring no runs, wasting four balls.

Then Irene Mulhovo stepped in for the charge, receiving 30 balls and making only 12 runs before being bowled out by Isha Quee. This switched Mozambique's middle order in disarray. Hardly knowing what to do,

the remaining six, one immediately after the other, were sent back to the dugout by gold-minded Janet Kowa, Fatu Pessima and Alice Fille.

Kowa, in her prize, took three wickets, and had one maiden with with a bowling economy of 1.75 in four overs. Mozambique were all bowled out for 55 runs all out in 16.3 overs.

Sierra Leone's replied with an offensive chase the 56 as both Emma Kamara who posted 31 runs off 17 balls, hitting one 6 for 182.35 strike rate and Fatu Conteh who batted for 14 runs off 28 balls.

The duo fought the battle for Sierra Leone receiving 11 extras after posting 56 runs for the loss of no wicket in 7.1 overs with a run rate of 7.81 which gave Sierra Leone a 10-wicket win.

Sierra Leone is leading Group B with 4 points in two games played with a net run rate of 5.163. Mozambique is second with 2 points.

In Group A, Kenya is leading the way with 4 points followed by Malawi with points.