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CSO: Disability Act is a dead letter

At UNGA: Fatima Bio to deliver address on sexual abuse



By: Abubakarr Tarawally

Proprietor of the Educational Centre for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Thomas Allieu, has expressed dissatisfaction over the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities being reticent to championing disability issues in Sierra Leone, a situation he described as the right people not being put in the right places.

Educating the audience about disability issues at the Freetown City Council Auditorium during a two-day Female Leadership Conference staged by SEND Sierra Leone, Allieu explained that the agreement on the rights of persons with disabilities categorically pointed out that disability issues are not charity of approach.

Cont. Page 6



Thomas Allieu says persons with disabilities are always discriminated



OSVT queen competition: Hawanatu tells her story on winning 2023 women's prize



Hon. Alusine Kanneh and his Chinese counterpart, Li Xiaoyong

Chinese diplomat pledges support to digitalise Immigration Department



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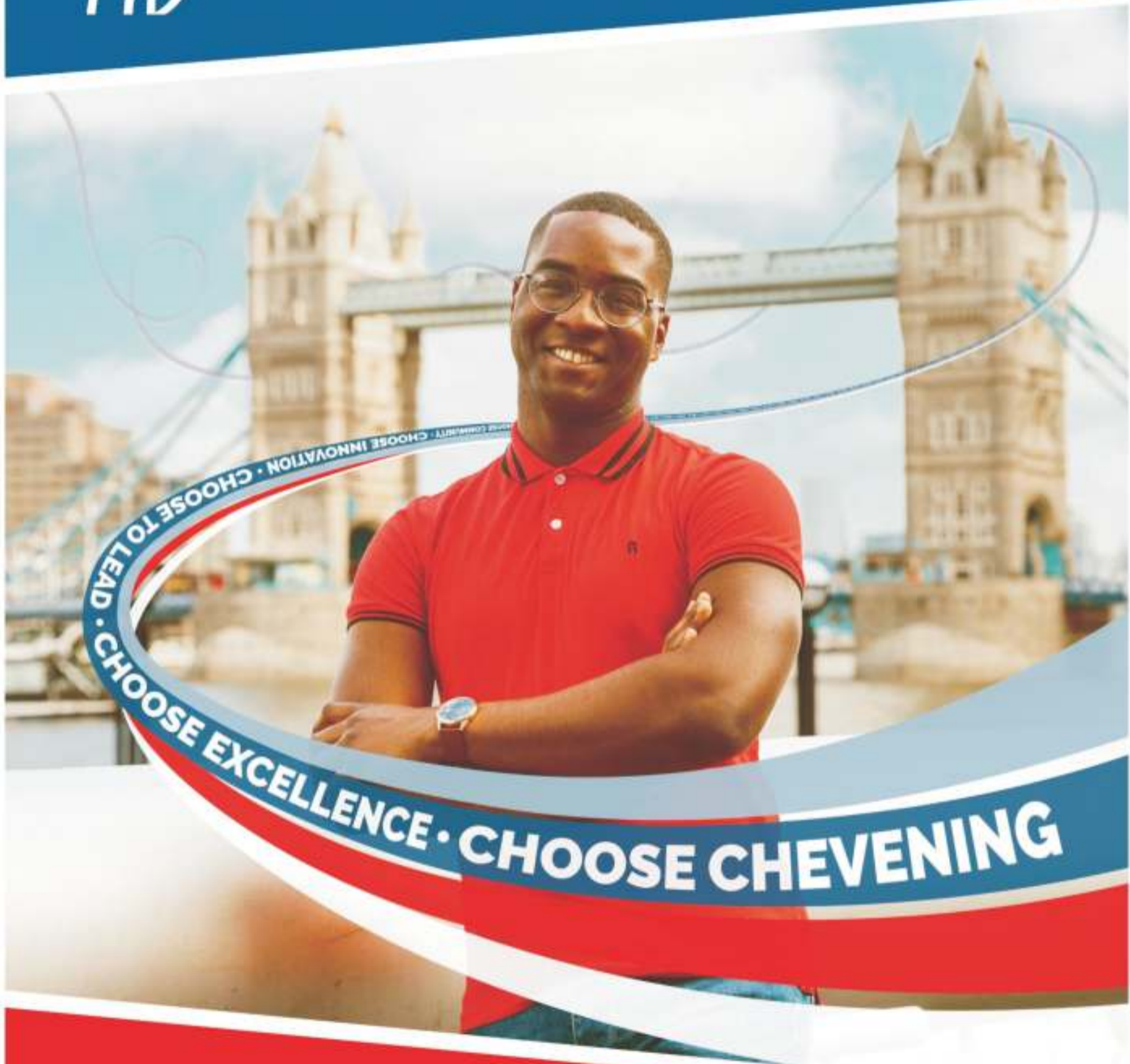
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LOCAL NEWS

From Cover

"It is their fundamental right, be it male or female, as long as they are disabled but have the qualification, nothing should stop them from going to Parliament," he said.

He charged that the Act is a dead letter since the commissioner was not functional with the networking not working as well; hence, government needs to focus on disability issues and try to elevate persons with disabilities from their challenges.

He noted that Sierra Leone cannot develop without collective effort and that "we should have love for one another that is what can take this nation forward."

"Disability issues have been very unsuccessful in Sierra Leone. If the University of Sierra Leone had put into practise what we call inclusivity, I should have been one of the outstanding lawyers in this country. But, because of inclusivity and disability issues are being thrown under the carpet, that is why most lawyers are only limited to their four corners of their hopes, which is why they cannot be partners to nation building because the laws are not implemented," he said.

Allieu emphasised that disability

CSO: Disability Act is a dead letter

inclusion in governance is a challenge, especially women with disabilities, who are less considered.

He said those in high positions should not leave behind persons with disabilities and call that structure an inclusive governance, stressing that disables in the country are at the lowest ebb in terms of development.

He said they are not considered to participate in nation building and decision making positions, and that everybody should come onboard regardless of their status.

As a way of elevating them from some of those challenges, he said there should be a massive sensitisation so that persons with disabilities could be partners in nation-building regardless of their insolvent state.

He explained that National Commission for Persons with Disabilities has been quiet today because they don't have professionals who can advise those in governance for them to take disability issues seriously. According to Beatrice Koroma, a disable lecturer at the University of Makeni, disable women should be given the freewill in decision making positions.

"It is unfair to put abled persons to

make decision on behalf of disable people, likewise the disable people. Disability issues can be addressed only through collectiveness and togetherness, that is why every walks of life is needed to curb this negativity," she said.

She said persons with disabilities experience a lot of discrimination in all walks of life, which mostly affect their physical and mental wellbeing.

She said many disable have become what they are today because they have accepted all the negatives that society has thrown towards them.

"It is estimated that there are about 450,000 diasble people in Sierra Leone, although this number may be under represented. Disability issues varies, it ranges from blindness, deafness, war wounded including amputees, and Polio. If not all at least 90% are Sierra Leoneans. They don't have any other county than Sierra Leone. We need one and so let us embrace and move this country," she said.

Hon. Julius Nyie Koffe said the government structure is not open up to inclusivity hence discrimination is widespread in Sierra Leone, even though he has been working with UNDP to make sure the Disability Acts



is practically applied, because it is not about passing the law it about making it customised to attract service delivery.

"I want to pay homage to all the female gender activists in Sierra Leone that are in a parliament. I have always been lobbying with members of parliament as a former MP, female caucus in Parliament, human rights caucus, and social welfare caucus. I told them that if they are given whatever amount of percentage to women, let there be certain amount of women with disabilities," he said.

He continues that the Disability Act of 2011 has been revisited although the revised version is yet to go Parliament.

To achieve that, he therefore, calls on the media to be reporting disability issues and other human interest stories if possible they should be on the front pages of their newspapers.

At UNGA: Fatima Bio to deliver address on sexual abuse

By Mohamed Massaquoi, Information Attaché, SLMUN

The First Lady of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Fatima Maada Bio, will on September 19th, 2023 deliver a keynote address during the commemoration of the United Nations World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence.

The Sierra Leone's Permanent Mission to the United Nations collaborated with the Global Collaborative organization to extend invitations to delegates of Member States for them to participate in a High-Level Side event of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly scheduled for the 19th September 2023 at the United Nations Head Quarters in New York to commemorate November 18th as UN World Day for the Prevention of, healing from Child sexual exploitation, abuse and violence Learn strategies all Member States can take to protect children and bring healing to survivors of childhood sexual abuse. It could be recalled that the UN General Assembly approved a resolution on Monday, 7th November 2023, establishing November 18 as a day to spotlight the sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

That came after the First Lady of Sierra Leone made a landmark address on the issue before member



states at the UN.

The day also will be used to stress the need for prevention, for perpetrators to be brought to justice, and for victims to be given a voice as part of the long process of healing.

Child sexual abuse is a global public health crisis, with long-term adverse consequences to the health and wellbeing of victims, their family members, and the community. Most victims never tell anyone of their abuse because of shame and stigma.

It is against this backdrop that H.E. Fatima Maada Bio, who is also founder of Hands off our Girls program in Sierra Leone, graciously accepted to deliver a keynote statement at this World class event

Chinese diplomat pledges support to digitalise Immigration Department

In his quest to reform and digitalise the Immigration Department, the newly appointed Chief Immigration Officer, Hon. Alusine Kanneh, has made a courtesy call on the Deputy Chinese Ambassador to support the Immigration Office with technological equipment.

The Deputy Chinese Ambassador accepted the request made by the Chief Immigration Officer to render unwavering support geared towards the digitalization and reformation of the Immigration Department.

Explaining the importance of the meeting held with the Deputy Chinese Ambassador, the new Chief Immigration Officer, Hon. Alusine Janneh, said the Deputy Chinese Ambassador decided to pay courtesy call due to a request he presented to the Chinese Ambassador to help the institution be digitalised.

The Chief Immigration Officer said he was seeking for help in fulfilment of his digital dream, so that the institution would relate to different countries of which China is among those countries. Hon. Alusine Kanneh reiterated that his primarily focus is to transform the institution so that it would become a better place for all and sundry.

He disclosed that the Deputy Chinese Ambassador has given his words of support towards the digitalization of the Immigration Department.

He noted that the Immigration Department is deprived in terms of logistics geared towards the effective operations of the institution, and



expressed elation that the Deputy Chinese Ambassador had nodded to provide the necessary support the institution needed.

"This is how it supposed to be when it comes to leadership. You reach out to people when you need support for your institution. China has been a good friend of Sierra Leone and I am happy this morning that the Deputy Chinese Ambassador is here to pay courtesy visit to me and to pledge support towards the growth of the Immigration Department. And, I want to say thank you to the Government of the People's Republic of China," said the Chief Immigration Officer.

Deputy Chinese Ambassador, Li Xiaoyong expressed his delight for the outreach made by the Chief Immigration Officer and assured him that the Chinese Government would support him in order to achieve his digitalization drive.

He expressed that he cherished the professional and personal relationship he had with the Chief Immigration Officer and assured that the Chinese Government would continue to support him in his transeformation and digitalization drive.

LOCAL NEWS**OSVT queen competition: Hawanatu tells her story on winning 2023 women's prize**

My Name is Hawanatu Sesay am the founder of IOT Labs SL and the winner of the Orange Social Venture Prize Tech Queen .I am so excited to announce that I have won the Orange Social Venture Prize Tech Queen for our IoT plant monitoring device! This award is a dream come true for me, and it is a validation of all the hard work that I have put into my project. Our device, called the "IOT Plant Monitoring Device," uses sensors to monitor soil moisture, light levels, and temperature. This data is then sent to the cloud, where it can be used to optimize irrigation, fertilization, and pest control. This can help farmers save water, increase crop yields, and reduce pesticide use.

I developed the IOT Plant Monitoring Device in response to the challenges faced by farmers in my country, Sierra Leone. The country is a major producer of agricultural products, but it is also prone to droughts and floods. These weather events can damage crops and lead to food shortages. The IOT Plant Monitoring Device can help farmers to mitigate these risks by



providing them with real-time data on their crops' needs. I am also passionate about making the IOT Plant Monitoring Device affordable to small-scale farmers, who are the backbone of the agricultural sector in Sierra Leone.

Winning the Orange Social Venture Prize Tech Queen is a major milestone for me and the IOT Plant Monitoring Device project. The prize money will be used to scale up production of the device and to expand its reach to farmers in Sierra Leone. I am also planning to develop new features for the IOT Plant Monitoring Device, which will farmer to do intensive monitoring of their farms.

I am so grateful to Orange for this award, and I am excited to continue working to make the IOT Plant Monitoring Device a reality. I believe that the IOT Plant Monitoring Device has the potential to revolutionize agriculture and to help farmers in Sierra Leone and around the world to

grow more food and to make a better living.

I am excited to see what the future holds for our IOT plant monitoring device with the help of the support we have received from Orange Sierra Leone we're confident that using our technology will help to improve food security and sustainability in Sierra Leone and developing countries. We are confident that our device will continue to make a positive impact on the world. We are committed to making it accessible to farmers around the globe, and we believe that it has the potential to revolutionize agriculture. I am excited to see what the future holds for our device, and I am proud to be a part of the team that is making it happen.

Thank you again to Orange for this incredible award! I am honoured to be a recipient of the Orange Social Venture Prize Tech Queen, and I am committed to using this award to make a difference in the world.

James Samba of Sierra Electric tells his story on winning 2023 Orange Social Venture national grand prize

As I reflect on this incredible journey, I'm humbled and thrilled to share that Sierra Electric has emerged as the winner of the Orange Social Venture Prize National Grand Prize 2023. This achievement is not just a victory for our project; it's a triumph for the vision of a cleaner, more sustainable Sierra Leone.

The genesis of Sierra Electric was rooted in a deeply personal story. Growing up in Sierra Leone, I witnessed first-hand the challenges faced by my uncle, Jeremiah, who was a wheelchair user. His lack of accessible transportation options not only limited his mobility but also exposed him to the dangers of the road. Tragically, the emissions from fossil fuel-powered vehicles contributed to his deteriorating health, eventually leading to his passing. This heart-wrenching experience ignited a spark within me to create a solution that could address these critical issues.

Sierra Electric's journey began with a simple yet powerful idea: to revolutionize transportation in Sierra Leone through sustainable and inclusive electric vehicles.

Our mission was clear - to provide affordable, eco-friendly transportation options that prioritize the well-being of our citizens and our environment. With this mission at our core, we embarked on a path of innovation and hard work.

Winning the Orange Social Venture Prize National Grand Prize is an affirmation that our efforts are making a meaningful impact. The recognition validates the countless hours spent refining our solution, conducting market research, and collaborating with passionate team members. But this victory is not just about us; it's a testament to the collective dedication of everyone who believes in our vision. To our team, supporters, and partners and Orange Sierra Leone, I extend my deepest gratitude. This award is a shared success that wouldn't have been possible without each and every one of you. The impact of Sierra Electric extends beyond the award. With the prize comes a renewed sense of responsibility and an even greater drive to make a difference. Our project's vision aligns perfectly with the pressing

global need to reduce carbon emissions, combat air pollution, and ensure transportation accessibility for all. As we move forward, we are committed to translating this recognition into action and scaling our operations. Our journey continues as we focus on expanding our retrofitting services and introducing the improved BYKA Electric Quadricycle, Version 2. This new version incorporates valuable lessons learned and feedback from our users, ensuring that we are delivering a product that meets their needs effectively.

The Orange Social Venture Prize has not only provided us with a platform to showcase our work but also inspired us to push the boundaries of innovation and impact. With the opportunity to compete on an international stage, we are excited to share our story with a wider audience and learn from fellow changemakers from around the world.

In conclusion, winning the 2023 Orange Social Venture Prize National Grand Prize is a milestone that encourages us to dream bigger and work harder. It signifies the potential of what can



be achieved when determination meets purpose. Sierra Electric is not just a project; it's a movement that aims to redefine transportation, improve lives, and protect our planet. With this recognition, we are more motivated than ever to drive change and create a brighter, greener future for Sierra Leone.



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LOCAL NEWS MARKET WATCH with Elizabeth J. Kamara

Market Watch is a column that looks at the prices of basic commodities at various markets across Freetown. It seeks the views of traders as well as customers on the sales of their good and prices at which the least consumer buys.

In this edition of market watch, Concord Times Elizabeth Kamara looks at the current prices of food stuff in the market.



Below are some of the prices of basic foods commodities.

Jasmine rice	50kg	Nle850.00
Tap tap Maggie	1packet	Nle45.00
Peak milk	1cup	Nle20.00
sweet milk	1cup	Nle45.00
beak beans	1cup	Nle27.00
sympa tomato	1pan	Nle110.00
egg	for 1	Nle5.00
garie	1 cup	Nle5.00
Leo oil	big gallon	Nle670.00
sausage	1 packet	Nle27.00
parboil rice	25kg	Nle370.00
parboil rice	50kg	Nle725.00
foul pan	1 dozen	Nle22.00
onga Maggie	1packet	Nle60.00
icing sugar	1packet	Nle35.00
mayonnaise	big bottle	Nle215.00
long grain parboil rice	25kg	Nle350.00
long grain parboil rice	50kg	Nle670.00
garlic	per bundle	Nle50.00
golden butter	1 packet	Nle25.00

Pastor remanded for fraudulent conversion Four alleged armed robbers remanded

By Mohamed J Kargbo

Justice Khonoboi, a pastor and a businessman, appeared before Magistrate Mark Ngegba of Court No 1 on Pademba Road in Freetown for fraudulent conversion and he was remanded to the Male Correctional Center.

The accused person was standing trial on a count charge to wit fraudulent conversion contrary to Section 20 (1) (IV)(a) of the Larceny Act 1916.

It was alleged that the accused on a date unknown between November 2022, and January 2022, at No.2 Sani Abacha Street in Freetown, fraudulently converted to his own use or benefit certain property, four hundred and twenty nine (429) Cartoons of Mayonnaise valued eighty million, six hundred and fifty

three thousand old Leones (Le, 80,653,000.00), entrusted to him for the purpose of sale by Kai Eleazor Mbombor.

The prosecuting counsel brought in another witness in court to form part of the court records and evidence.

Nariue Barrie said that he is a store keeper and that he was the one supplying the accused person the item.

He said the accused person was not paying and that his boss asked him to stop supplying him because he was not paying.

The accused person who was unrepresented in court cross examined the witness on his own behalf.

The matter was adjourned to the 15th September 2023 for further hearings.

By Blessing C. Cole

Four alleged armed robbers- Alhaji Kamara, Alhaji Koroma, Festus Wannie and Alusine Bangura have been remanded to the Male Correctional Centre by Magistrate Sahr Kekura presiding at the Ross Road Court No. 1 for stealing property worth over Nle 147,000.

The accused persons appeared before the court on two counts of conspiracy and store breaking contrary to Section 26 (1) of the Larceny Act 1916.

It was alleged that the accused persons on the 20th July 2023 at Funnah Factory situated at Devil Hole, Rokel in Freetown, broke into and entered Ibrahim Leigh's store and stole therein 20 pieces of bar, other items and a fiscal cash of Nle28,500 all to the total value of Nle 149,170,000.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they pleaded not guilty.

Police prosecutor, Assistant

Superintendent of Police Osman M.Bangura alleged that the accused persons on the above date in Freetown, with intent to steal, broke into and entered the store of Ibrahim Leigh.

Testify in court, the complainant said that he knew the first accused person as his security guard.

He said on the above date he was at home when he received a call from an unknown person about his store.

He further said that when he went to the store, he noticed that it has been broken and that he also noticed that in his drawer other items were missing.

He said he later went to the Rokel Police station and reported the matter.

However, after the testimony of the complainant, defence counsel, Emmanuel Conteh cross examined him and pleaded for bail on behalf of his clients, but Magistrate Sahr Kekura denied them bail and adjourned the matter to 15 September 2023 for further hearing.

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PONDER MY THOUGHTS

By Andrew Keili

UNEASY CALM IN AN ERA OF UNPREDICTABILITY

“The more things change, the more they stay the same”, the saying goes. This is so true about post-war General Elections in Sierra Leone and their aftermath. In each of the elections in 2007, 2012, 2018 and 2023, the results were vehemently contested by the “losing” party, in some cases followed by either seeking legal redress in the courts or having incessant complaints from the opposition about how some purported egregious acts by the Electoral Commission affected the outcome. These were often accompanied by a hostile post-election atmosphere until things cooled down for the government to embark upon its proper functioning.

Christiana Thorpe was SLPP's villain in 2007, with the infamous cancellation of the Kailahun votes and “Go Police” advice to them, an anathema to party purists to this day. Even though Solomon Berewa was most gracious in defeat and attended Ernest Koroma's swearing in ceremony, he would always blame Thorpe for being “unjust”.

After the 2012 elections, the SLPP actually filed a petition in court to unseat Ernest Koroma and cause a Presidential election to be held within a month, only to have the petition get struck out by the Supreme Court in June 2013. The SLPP Press Release after the judgment stated that the party was “disappointed that once again substantive justice has been sacrificed at the altar of procedural technicalities” and that Sierra Leoneans had been “denied the opportunity to know the scale and magnitude of the widespread and systemic electoral malpractices perpetrated by the National Electoral Commission in collusion with other state actors”.

In April, 2021, some three years after the 2018 elections, the Supreme Court dismissed the Presidential election case brought by the leadership of the APC which claimed that the conduct of the election was “improper and fraught with irregularities”.

All of these happenings did not deter the government from functioning normally and there seemed to be support from the international community, whatever the misgivings in election observer reports.

The situation now seems to be a lot different. There has been no election petition filed by the opposition APC, which has nevertheless

implemented a total boycott of participating in government. International observers, usually quite mild in their reports, have been pointed in raising concerns about the process. The United States and several European Ambassadors have expressed concern about “the lack of transparency in the tabulation process”. Demands from the US government and some of our traditional development partners about the need to carry out impartial investigations into the conduct of ECSL have grown persistently louder, accompanied by conditionalities related to various forms of assistance. The US government has announced that it will not issue visas to those believed to be “responsible for, or complicit in, undermining democracy in Sierra Leone, including through the manipulation or rigging of the electoral process”. Individuals who had intimidated voters, election observers or civil society organisations or violated or abused human rights in Sierra Leone would also be denied visas.

The future of the MCC compact has been called into question. Those in the know about how MCC functions know that any threat of the cancellation of the Compact, however veiled should not be taken lightly. Being deprived of the MCC compact to fix our electricity sector would be, as one observer has noted “throwing out a \$450m gift that would fix the electricity sector for good.” This, in the present situation in which the highly subsidized electricity supply is causing immense economic concerns will be “manna from heaven”. The MCC has been known to cancel compacts before for various reasons. The Madagascar compact, a five-year \$110m poverty reduction compact was cancelled in 2009 due to “the recent undemocratic change of government.” Tanzania's compact in 2016, worth \$470m for electricity in rural areas was cancelled in 2016 because the Zanzibar Presidential vote was “neither inclusive nor representative”. A Philippines Aid package was not renewed in 2016 because of “significant concerns about the rule of law”, after the previous grant of \$433.9 had expired earlier in the year and in

2012 the \$460m Mali compact was cancelled because of a military coup.

Serious students of our economy know that any bombastic talk at the moment of self-sufficiency is an empty boast. The Finance Minister in his recent budget speech spoke with candour about our difficulties. Higher imports of fuel, food, machinery and transport equipment have resulted in a widening of the trade deficit. International reserves of the Bank of Sierra Leone have declined. This, combined with an appreciating US dollar and sharp depreciation of the exchange rate make for a precarious situation. Furthermore, development aid will be required and we will still continue to a large extent to depend on grants from the World bank and other bodies for budgetary support.

Right now we are in an era of several uncertainties:

The Economic uncertainty, caused by skyrocketing prices for food, fuel and transportation may to a large extent be global, but the populace is uncertain as to when the current hardship which is really biting will abate.

The Political uncertainty is several fold. Linger concerns by the US and EU countries in particular over the conduct of the elections by ECSL may have led to uncertainties about the MCC compact and continued availability of adequate budgetary support, unless some preconditions are met. The APC's non- participation in governance, for whatever reason is not a good sign that there is national cohesion in the country.

There are also uncertainties related to appointments which keep trickling in at a snail's pace with many people heading Government Agencies and parastatals not sure about whether or not they will be replaced.

Then there is the new phenomenon of the uncertainty related to instructions coming from faceless individuals calling for strikes that paralyze normal working life and functioning of businesses. Unfortunately, this has sometimes led to confrontation with security forces and loss of life.

The combination of all these factors helps drown the government's messaging and affect its strive to implement its priority projects. Irrespective of who is to blame,

these events are happening under the government's watch. The government has the responsibility to assuage the fears of our development partners and ensure that there is national cohesion and peace and stability in the country. Government will undoubtedly strategize to decide on what line of action to take on each of these concerns. Admittedly, these are not easy and some solutions may not be palatable to some stakeholders.

President Bio's recent meeting with representatives from the Commonwealth Secretariat and the leadership of the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC) and other mediating parties, including the ECOWAS in which he expressed his Government's willingness to collaborate with all Sierra Leoneans, including the APC is a step in the right direction. His government needs to assuage the fears of our major development partners. This must be done circumspectly, without fanfare or bravado and in a measured way, putting the national interest before personal idiosyncrasies.

It is heartening to note that some Senior Journalists like Sorie Fofana and Thomas Dixon are calling for such. In a widely circulated article, Fofana indicated how President Kabbah had gotten over his problem of rapprochement with Iran, viewed by the West with disdain and laced with threats, by engaging through quiet diplomatic channels. Dixon has advised in favour of the government hanging heads with the APC and on the need to maintain political stability and not deter investments.

In the final analysis it would seem prudent as a nation with incessant problems surrounding our election bodies and judiciary over the past sixteen years, that have at one stage or another affected both major parties and are a major source of our national divisions, to take a fresh look at our entire electoral and governance systems.

We are no doubt currently experiencing an uneasy calm in an era of unpredictability. Let us hope things do not boil over. It behooves the government to address the unprecedented large number of threats to our peace stability and prosperity.

Ponder my thoughts.

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

DRC: 2 weeks after the army killings, families in the morgue

Two weeks after the killing of more than 50 civilians in Goma, in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), attributed to soldiers, the families of the victims were able to access the morgue on Tuesday where dozens of bodies are stored, in a state of advanced decomposition.

In body bags, placed on a tarpaulin in the courtyard of the morgue of the Goma military hospital, the bodies are "unrecognizable", "in a very advanced state of putrefaction", explains, upset, Georges Mongi Eliba, 53 years old, after looking for his little sister among the corpses.

His sister, Fabiola, was one of the first victims of the raid launched on the night of August 29 to 30 by army units against the radio and the church of a sect that had called for demonstrations against the presence of the UN in the DRC. Fabiola was hosting a show when she was shot dead.

"It was only thanks to clues like her dress, her bracelet" that Georges was able to identify her. For two weeks, the bodies decomposed due to lack of space in a cold room.

Since the killing, "we have tried numerous times" to access the bodies, says Désiré Muhindo, who lost his 28-year-old younger brother. "One of the followers of the sect", he specifies, and whom he has still not found. Like many people who came Tuesday to the call of military justice to identify the dead.

Another victim's relative said he was able to identify his brother's body just four days after the army assault "by paying 10 dollars to the soldier" stationed at the entrance to the morgue.

"These were small individual arrangements, officially



Arrested members of the Wazalendo sect lined up in Goma, Democratic Republic - Copyright © africanews Moses Sawasawa/Copyright 2021 The AP. All rights reserved.

we were not authorized to enter," he explains on condition of anonymity, surrounded by other grieving families in front of the large white gate of the morgue. He claims that his brother was not a follower of the sect but a simple resident of the neighborhood, "like many others who were killed or imprisoned".

The senior military auditor of North Kivu, Colonel Michel Kachil, himself admitted to journalists, including an AFP team, that "the bodies are already decomposed". "In our culture, we respect the dead, we can't let you photograph them," he told reporters. The identification of the bodies will continue on Wednesday where discussions about the recovery of the bodies and their burial are expected to take place.

The trial for crimes against humanity and failure to respect the instructions of six soldiers of the Republican Guard - including two senior officers - accused of being responsible for the killing, will begin its second week on Wednesday.

Madagascar: opposition denounces "an institutional coup d'état"

The Malagasy opposition has denounced "an institutional coup d'état" orchestrated by President Rajoelina, after a series of court decisions which, according to it, favor the head of state candidate for re-election in less than two months.

In a letter received Tuesday by the electoral commission and consulted by AFP, ten candidates in the presidential election accuse the head of state of manipulating institutions to favor his election to a second term at the head of the Great Ocean Island Indian.

Malagasy people go to the polls for the first round of voting on November 9. The second is scheduled for December 20. Thirteen candidates are in the running, including Andry Rajoelina, 49, who came to power in 2009 thanks to a coup d'état.

"The power (...) carried out a real institutional coup d'état with the aim of putting the Prime Minister in control of the State during the presidential electoral period in order to manipulate the results for the benefit of their candidate", denounce the ten signatories of the letter.

In recent days, a series of decisions from the Constitutional Court, the country's highest court, have, according to the opposition, deliberately cleared the outgoing president's horizon for the vote. On Saturday, Mr. Rajoelina ceased to exercise power, as provided for by the Constitution during the electoral period. The President of the Senate, who was to act in the interim, however cited "personal reasons" and left the reins to a "collegial government" led by the Prime Minister, Christian Ntsay, close to the head of state.

This game of musical chairs was validated on Saturday by the Constitutional Court.

The same day, the Court rejected three appeals demanding that Mr. Rajoelina's candidacy be declared invalid "for lack of Malagasy nationality". The decision published late in the evening deemed the requests, filed in September by three opposition parties, "inadmissible".

At the end of June, information leaked to the press revealed that the president was naturalized French on the sly in 2014, triggering a controversy in the country. According to the Malagasy nationality code, he would then be supposed to lose his Malagasy nationality. Without this nationality, he can neither



Andry Rajoelina, President of Madagascar, arrives at the closing session of the ... - Copyright © africanews Lewis Joly/Copyright 2023 The AP. All rights reserved.

lead the country nor be a candidate for an election. Opponent and MP Jean-Brunelle Razafintsindraofa denounced to the AFP the "irregularities committed by the institutions", saying he wanted to challenge "intellectuals, observers and above all existing institutions and the international community" with the letter.

Éléonore Johasy, who represents the candidate Auguste Paraina, denounced "decisions taken at odd hours, so that no chance is given for anyone to oppose them." "It is true that the trust is crumbling and all the shenanigans and maneuvers do not promote trust in the different authorities," she explained to AFP.

The Malagasy Constitution provides that the current president, candidate for his own succession, resigns from his post 60 days before the date of the election and that the President of the Senate takes over in the interim. But no provision is made in the event of the latter's refusal.

"The President of the Senate has renounced this office. We cannot force him to take the reins of power," justified the President of the Constitutional Court, Florent Rakotoarisoa, interviewed by AFP.

"We only applied the reserve measure provided for by the Constitution," he continued, adding that justice worked to "ensure the continuity of the State." According to the Constitution, a collegial government ensures the interim in the case where the president of the Senate is himself a presidential candidate.

This series of decisions was "dictated by those in power", believe Mr. Rajoelina's ten rivals in the vote, accusing the members of the Constitutional Court of "being complicit in these maneuvers" and of having "validated this coup of institutional state".

Niger denounces military cooperation agreement with Benin



Members of Niger's CNSP, General Mohamed Toumba and Colonel Abdramane Amadou - Copyright © africanews -AFP or licensors

The military in power in Niger said Tuesday evening that they had denounced a military cooperation agreement concluded in 2022 with neighboring Benin, which they accuse of "considering aggression" against their country.

In a press release read on national television, the military regime of Niamey indicated "having called on several occasions for compliance with the obligations" of this agreement signed on July 11, 2022, with Benin which they decided to "denounce". The military who came to power in Niger through a coup d'état on July 26, claim that Benin has "decided to consider aggression against Niger instead of supporting it".

"The Republic of Benin has authorized the stationing of mercenary soldiers and war materials in view of an aggression desired by France in collaboration with

certain countries" of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) against Niger, they assured Tuesday while reiterating their "desire to avoid escalation".

Military intervention For several weeks, ECOWAS has been threatening military intervention in Niger to restore constitutional order and reinstate deposed President Mohamed Bazoum, held prisoner and refusing to resign. This agreement with Benin

concerned in particular the exchange of intelligence, air assistance to monitor the movements of jihadists, and joint operations between the two Beninese and Nigerien armies.

Northern Benin, bordering Niger and Burkina Faso, two countries undermined by recurring jihadist violence, has been the scene of attacks and incursions by these groups in recent months.

"Assault" This weekend, the new authorities in Niamey also accused France of preparing "aggression" by deploying "forces" in several West African countries. Accusations denied by Paris which does not recognize the military regime.

Several military agreements with France were also denounced by the generals in power on August 3 who claim that the presence of 1,500 French soldiers on their territory is now illegal.

Earthquake in Morocco: King Mohammed VI visits the injured

King Mohammed VI visited the Marrakech university hospital on Tuesday. He visited the intensive care unit and the hospitalization unit for earthquake victims.

The earthquake that occurred last Friday left more than 2,900 dead and 5,600 injured. The king, who was being monitored for his health problems in France at the time of the tragedy, returned to his country.

Last Saturday, he chaired a meeting devoted to

examining the situation and aid measures for the affected populations. Among the measures adopted, the installation of field hospitals to treat the wounded in isolated areas. Serious cases are transferred to Marrakech.

According to the head of government Aziz Akhannouch, solutions are being studied for the homeless.

Before leaving the Marrakech hospital center, King Mohammed VI donated blood and took a walkabout.

Central African Republic: President Touadéra meets Macron in France



Emmanuel Macron greets President Faustin-Archange Touadéra of the Central African Republic - Copyright © africanews LUDOVIC MARIN/AFP or licensors

French President Emmanuel Macron receives his Central African counterpart Faustin-Archange Touadéra on Wednesday against a backdrop of relaunching bilateral relations after years of tension due to the rise of the Russian Wagner militia in this country.

"This interview takes place in a context of resumption of dialogue and positive dynamics in bilateral relations," the Élysée underlined on Tuesday. "It will be an opportunity to discuss the situation in the Central African Republic as well as

regional issues," added the French presidency.

President Touadéra spoke in favor of a consolidation of relations with France, while explaining that his partnership with Russia, marked by the controversial presence of the Wagner militia in his country, was expected to continue.

His detractors gave him the nickname "President Wagner", from the name of the private Russian company whose hundreds of mercenaries landed in the

Central African Republic in 2018 under the terms of a defense agreement signed with Russia.

At the end of 2020, Mr. Touadéra, threatened by a rebel offensive on Bangui, called on Moscow for help and hundreds of other Russian mercenaries landed and quickly helped push the armed groups out of most of the territories they controlled.

The growing involvement of the Wagner group in the Central African Republic led France to withdraw its last soldiers from the country at the end of 2022, against a backdrop of very degraded relations between Paris and Bangui.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP



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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (Individual Consultants Selection)

Country: Sierra Leone

Project: Agriculture Value Chain Development Project

ASSIGNMENT TITLE: CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR MAPPING AND SYSTEMATIC DATA COLLECTION FOR TREE CROPS FACILITIES

Reference No. SLE-2000001544-0037-CS-ICS

The Government of Sierra Leone has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Adaption Fund (AF), OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and Toni Blair Institute (TBI) towards the cost of Agriculture Value Chain Development Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the recruitment of consultant as part of the post of **Consultancy Services for Mapping and Systematic Data Collection for Tree Crops Facilities**

The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD's approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD's rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with the **Agriculture Value Chain Development Project**

The consulting services ("the services") include:

To conduct an independent mapping and systematic data collection of tree crops facilities including 1,500ha Cocoa and 3,000ha Oil Palm planted in Districts, Chiefdoms and Communities in AVDP operational Districts, (Western Rural Area, Port Loko, Kambia, Karene, Bombali, Tonkolili, Koinadugu, Falaba, Kono, Kailahun, Kenema, Bo, Pujehun, Moyamba and Bonthe) in order to determine the accuracy of area under cultivation and the number of trees therein. The result will help stakeholder anticipate potential yield and better plan in accomplishing the project target

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to IFAD's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy and the Revised IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption its Activities and Operations accessible at the IFAD website: www.ifad.org. The latter sets forth IFAD's provisions on prohibited practices. IFAD further strives to ensure a safe working environment free of harassment, including sexual harassment, and free of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in its activities and operations as detailed in its IFAD Policy to Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse accessible at the IFAD website.

Interested consultants shall not have any actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest. Consultants with an actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest shall be disqualified unless otherwise explicitly approved by the Fund. Consultants are considered to have a conflict of interest if they a) have a relationship that provides them with undue or undisclosed information about or influence over the selection process and the execution of the contract, or b) have a business or family relationship with a member of the client's board of directors or its personnel, the Fund or its personnel, or any other individual that was, has been or might reasonably be directly or indirectly involved in any part of (i) the preparation of the REOI, (ii) the selection process for this procurement, or (iii) execution of the contract. Consultants have an ongoing obligation to disclose any situation of actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest during preparation of the EOI, the selection process or the contract execution. Failure to properly disclose any of said situations may lead to appropriate actions, including the disqualification of the consultant, the termination of the contract and any other as appropriate under the IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption in its Projects and Operations.

The **Agriculture Value Chain Development Project**, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security now invites eligible Individual consultants ("consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services in the form of a curriculum vitae (CV). A consultant will be selected in accordance with the individual consultant selection (ICS) method set out in IFAD's Project Procurement Handbook that can be accessed via the IFAD website at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. Interviews will not be conducted as part of the selection process.

The shortlisting criteria are:

1. **Qualification:** Master's degree in in Geomatic Engineering, Statistics or social sciences.
= . **35 marks**
3. **Experience:**
 - i. At least 10 years of experience in GIS **mapping and surveys** statistics and research ; with a minimum of five years of experience in Sierra Leone =. **40 marks**
 - ii. Five years' experience in Agric Extension and Tree Crop Production = **25 marks**

Total **100**

Clarifications may be requested by e-mail not later than 14th September, 2023, so that responses can be issued to all consultants not later than 15th September 2023.
The address for requesting clarifications is: Email: avdppmu@gmail.com

Expressions of interest in the form of Curriculum Vitae must be delivered by e-mail or hard copy to the following address on or before 19th August, 2023 at 16:00 GMT.

Agriculture Value Chain Development Project
23 Torwama Road, Freetown
avdppmu@gmail.com

OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT



Late Ms. Willietta Parlmyra Remileku Williams of Kissy

Sunrise: 14th August 1973

Sunset: 4th September 2023

Aged 50

She's survived by her father Mr. Lionel G. Williams, stepmother Mrs. Remilekun Gus-Williams both in the USA.

Brother: Donald Williams

Sister: Mrs. Danita Ajayi, USA

Brother In-law: Mr. Ezekiel Ajayi, USA.

Uncles: Mr. Christian Williams, Mr. Emile Davis both in the USA, Ayodele and Conie.

Aunts: Mrs. Ernestine Ojumu, Mrs. Theodora Davis, Abigail Johnson, Charlotte Decker, Modupeh Arthur-Nylander and Elizabeth Beoghor-Lewis.

Cousins: Emile and Matu, Aretha, Kevin, Vanessa, Akishola, Bolaji, Social, Samiria and Marie.

Stepfather: Nathaniel Macauley.

Stepbrothers: Nathaniel and Sidney Macauley

Nephews and Nieces: Zak, Samuel, Joel, Lionel Jr. and Heavenly.

Other relatives includes: Marcella Johnson, Abu and Marina Sesay, Llewellyn Thomas, The Davies, Allen and The Beckley families.

Funeral Service: Zion Methodist Church, Wilberforce Street, Freetown

Funeral Date: Friday, October 6, 2023

Time: 2:30pm

Interment follows immediately at Kingtom Cemetery, Freetown.

May her gentle soul Rest in Peace.

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

ActionAid Sierra Leone
97C Wilkinson Road
Off Thompson Bay
Private Mail Bag1058
Freetown
Sierra Leone

Phone+232 73461370
Email aai.sl@actionaid.org
www.actionaid.org

actionaid

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: SERVICE PROVIDERS & VENDORS

ActionAid Sierra Leone invites qualified vendors across Sierra Leone (including current suppliers and service providers) for pre-qualification for the supply of goods and services of different categories to the organisation.

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS

ActionAid Sierra Leone invites expressions of interest (EOI) from qualified companies/Institutions for the supply of goods and services of different categories to the organisation like; **Office equipment, Office Stationery, Motor vehicle Spares, Motorcycle Spares, Generator Spares, Computer Equipment, Office furniture, Office Provision, Rain Gears, Safety equipment, Building Materials, Vehicle sales, Motorcycle Sales, Pharmaceuticals, General merchandise, Vehicle Rental, Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance, Painting, Printing, Tailoring, Catering, Generator Repairs & Maintenance, Building and construction, Plumbing, Carpentry, Electricals, Cleaning and Fumigation, Computer & Equipment Repairs & Maintenance, Security agency.**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

1. Brand or Company profile including names and contact details of key personnel.
2. A copy of the certificate of incorporation must be attached

with an active profile.

3. Tax clearance certificates for the last 3 financial years
4. Tax identification number (TIN)
5. Evidence of Business address, phone number and email addresses
6. Verifiable list of previous and current client on similar services carried out in the recent time to humanitarian organizations including contact names and email.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested vendors should pick up the vendor form from the reception which should be completed and submitted alongside the above eligibility requirements and addressed to:

Procurement Committee
ActionAid Sierra Leone Head Office
97c Wilkinson Road, Off Thompson Bay
Church Yard Junction
Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Closing Date: 18th September 2023 Location: 97c Wilkinson Road
Off Thompson Bay, Churchyard Junction

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Miss Magazine Cot: **Isatu Bangura**

Miss Congo Town: **Salamatu Conteh**

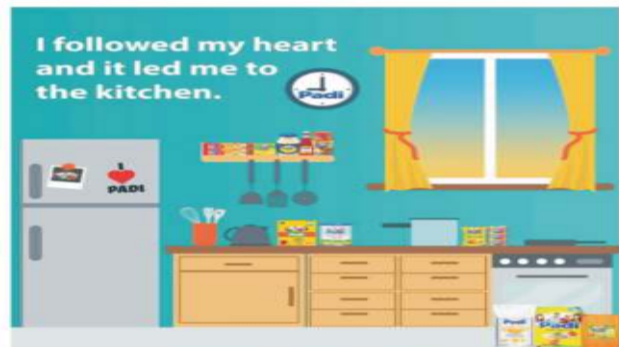
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Miss Aberdeen: **Ina Kamara**

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Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning
Sierra Leone Land Administration Project (P177031)



WORLD BANK

Request for Bid
For the procurement of service to
design, supply and install Continuously
Operating Reference Stations
(CORS), Rovers And related trainings.

**EXTENSION OF BID
SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

Purchaser: Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning

Project: Sierra Leone Land Administration Project

*Contract title: Procurement of service to design, supply and install
Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS), Rovers, and
related trainings.*

Country: Sierra Leone

Loan No. P177031

RFB No: SL-MLHCP-352059-NC-RFB

Initial Issue/Advertisement Date: 11th July, 2023.

*Initial Deadline for Submission of bids: 30th of August, 2023 at 15:50
Sierra Leone Time.*

Extension Date: 15th August, 2023

*Extended deadline for Submission of Bids: Tuesday the 3rd of
October, 2023 at 15:50 Sierra Leone Time.*

1. The Government of Sierra Leone, through the Ministry of Finance has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Sierra Leone Land Administration Project (SLLAP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Procurement to design, supply, and install Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS), Rovers and related trainings. For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the World Bank's Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing, except for those payments, which the contract provides to be made through letter of credit.
2. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MLHCP), through the Project Coordinating Unit now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of service to design, supply and install Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS), Rovers and related trainings in Sierra Leone, within a contract duration of eleven (11) calendar months.
3. Bidding will be conducted through international competitive procurement using Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers for the Procurement of Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, November 2020 version ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning -

Sierra Leone Land Administration Project (SLLAP), West Wing of third floor, Youyi Building Brookfields, Freetown. E-mail address is sllaprourement@gmail.com, copying alphajohcham@yahoo.com and joejoe7787@yahoo.com. Bidding document can be inspected during office hours 0900 to 1700 hours Sierra Leone time at the address given below.

5. The bidding document is in *English language* and may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *One thousand One Hundred and Fifty New Sierra Leone Leones (SLE 1,150) or in a convertible currency*. The method of payment will be *direct bank deposit, using the following account details:*

US Dollars Bank Account details:

Bank Name: Sierra Leone Commercial Bank

Bank Address: 29/31 Siaka Stevens Street, Freetown

Account Name: Sierra Leone Land Administration Project

Account Number: 003001103735412192

Correspondence Bank Details through CROWN AGENTS BANK:

Correspondent Bank Details

Intermediary Bank

Citibank N.A

SWIFT BIC CITIUS33

In favour of our correspondent bank:

Crown Agents Bank

SWIFT BIC: CRASGB2L

For the credit of:

Sierra Leone Commercial Bank Limited

SWIFT BIC: SLCBSLFR

Account No. 33445101

LEONE Bank Account details:

SLE ACCOUNT NUMBER: 003001103735112171

ACCOUNT NAME: SIERRA LEONE LAND
ADMINISTRATION PROJECT

BANK NAME: SIERRALEONE COMMERCIAL BANK

ADDRESS: 29/31 SIAKA STEVENS STREET,

FREETOWN

Purchased bids must be collected by the bidder/representative.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before Tuesday the 3rd of October, 2023 at 15:30 Sierra Leone Time. Electronic Bidding *will not* be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on *Tuesday the 3rd of October, 2023 at 15:50 Sierra Leone Time.*

7. All Bids must be accompanied by a *Bid Security* of Six Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand New Sierra Leone Leones (SLE 697,000) or equivalent in a freely convertible currency.

8. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.

9. *The address referred to above is:*

Alphajoh Cham (PhD), Project Coordinator

Sierra Leone Land Administration Project (SLLAP), Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MLHCP)

3rd Floor of Youyi Building (West Wing), Brookfields.

Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Telephone number: +23276772662

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EPA **SIERRA LEONE BREWERY** **SLTC**
RMF **MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS** **NJALA UNIVERSITY**
SOS CHILDREN VILLAGE **ACC** **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE** **MMCET CHAI**
TRANSFAPAY **STAR TIMES**
CRS **ACTION AGAINST HUNGER** **WORLD VISION** **UBA**
MINISTRY OF FINANCE **ADB** **DSTV** **AUDIT SERVICES**
SELL **MINISTRY OF ENERGY**
SIERRA BAY HOTEL **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE** **NRA** **SLAJ**
MARIE STOPES **SEA COACH EXPRESS** **NEMS**
SLRSA **NATCOM** **OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT** **GIZ**
SALCAB **ECOBANK** **LAPO MICRO FINANCE (SL) LTD**
HRC **NPPA** **BSL** **SOLTHIS** **OKFARM** **AHF**
MIC **MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT** **UTB** **ORANGE** **RCB**
MERCURY SL **UNDP** **WHO** **M.R DISTILLERIES** **IGR**
OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY **AFRICELL** **MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**
NMA **ZENITH BANK** **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**
NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD **KENEMA CITY COUNCIL** **EUROPEAN UNION** **SMEDA**
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PRA **FAWAZ BUILDING MATERIALS** **ECOMED** **PARTNERS IN HEALTH**
PEE CEE & SONS **SMALL ARMS** **SLWREC**
KINGHO MINING COMPANY **PPRC** **MOTT MACDONALDS**
NEC **NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD** **NPPA** **EBK UNIVERSITY** **JUDICIARY OF SIERRA LEONE**

Luawa FC unveils British coach



Sara Haghighat-Joo edges closer to olympic qualification



Canadian-born Sierra Leone female boxer, Sara Haghighat-Joo is edging closer to next year's Olympic Games after making it through to the semi-finals of the Paris 2024 Boxing Africa Qualifier.

The 2022 AFBC Women's Boxing Champion made it to the semi-finals of the continental qualifying event for Paris 2024 at the Dakar Arena after defeating Democratic Republic of Congo's Gisele Muamba Nyenbo by unanimous decision after the 3 rounds bout.

Sara Haghighat-Joo will now face her Moroccan counterpart in today's (Thursday) semi-final bout for a place in the final which will automatically earn her an Olympic ticket.

Meanwhile, the three Sierra Leonean male boxers have all failed to secure a place beyond their first round thereby killing their

Olympic dream in the African qualifiers leaving the World Championship as their next hope of qualifying for the Olympic Games.

In the Men's 57kg round of 64 between Abu Kanu and Joshua Omole of Nigeria, the Referee stopped the Contest (RSC) in round one to prevent further punishment for Kanu while in the Men's 63.5kg round of 32, Sierra Leone's Mohamed Sillah also suffered the same fate to Botswana Collen Seitshiro (RSC) in round 3.

In the Men's 71kg round of 32 & 60 Sierra Leone UK-based Alimamy Thomas and Cape Verde Miguel Fernandes de Barros had to battle till the fifth round before the later secured a unanimous decision victory.

The continental qualifying event for Paris 2024 is taking place from 9 to 15 September at the Dakar Arena.

Sierra Leone Primer League club, Luawa FC on Wednesday, unveiled British coach Sebastian Bowles as their new coach ahead of the country's 2023/24 Premier League season. The UEFA A licensed coach with the Scottish FA will start his new task with the Cacao Boys under a two-year deal with a renewable option.

Bowles said he is excited by the challenge presented to him at Luawa FC and wants to face new challenges.

"I am impressed not just with the project the owner, Dr Emmanuel Saffa Abdulia has but want to come to Africa and face new challenges as well," Bowles said.

"I am excited as a winner who wanted to win everything possible. That's why I chose the Luawa FC position ahead of several other opportunities because I was very interested in the project that Mr. Abdulia presented."

"It's imperative during the preseason in September to start implementing the winning mentality. I am looking forward to

meeting the staff and working with the lads."

The former Ytterhogdals IK manager said finishing top 5 will realistically be nice and he wants his side to be fighting for the league title every season and compete against the big sides like Bo Rangers, FC Kallon, Mighty Blackpool and East End Lions.

Chief Executive Officer and owner of Luawa FC, Dr. Emmanuel Saffa Abdulia said they decided to bring in Bowles because they did not only want to win the league, but to embark on a massive building of young players who can go through the team system and possibly be ready to play in Europe.

He said: "We want to win the league but if we don't we want to be amongst the top 5, but we are building as well as hole to bring in 8 players for the new season.

"It is good we using the young players as well as we can boast of having the biggest Academy in the country with our lads from our Junior teams in Central, East End and now at Lumley as well."

United Weightlifting family unanimous approval revised Constitution, Strategic Plan

The IWF lived an extraordinary moment of unity on September 12, on the occasion of its Congress in Riyadh (KSA), the host city of the 2023 IWF World Championships. Two main documents for the future of the International Federations were approved by unanimity: the 2024-2032 IWF Strategic Plan, and the revision of the IWF Constitution.

At the end of the gathering, the IWF President Mohammed Jalood highlighted the importance of the moment: "We showed a great determination to continue building a great future for weightlifting. I am very thankful for the positive spirit of our Member National Federations in the five continents, which clearly know what our priorities are: remain a strong partner in the Olympic movement, reinforce the principles of good governance, and ensure all is done to keep our sport clean".

Concerning the first-ever IWF Strategic Plan, it received unanimous support, with 114 delegates validating this essential roadmap in the life of the IWF.

"This Plan resulted from a profound reflection on what is the IWF today and what it should be in the years to come. A transparent, honest, and realistic discussion took place within the weightlifting family – and this diagnosis is the starting point for what comes next. And from now on, what and how shall we develop? How to modernise our organisation? How to adapt it to the 21st-century requirements, in a very competitive international sports environment?" considered Pedro Adrega, the IWF Interim CEO and Chair of the Working Group in charge of the elaboration of this document.

Mr. Adrega then summarised each of the four pillars of the Strategic Plan. "The first one is the most obvious one – Athletes. The second pillar is also quite straightforward – Events. The third pillar aims at keeping the IWF safe. And finally, the fourth pillar looks at reaching the best results beyond the IWF".

Considering that this is only "the first stone in an enormous building", the also IWF Communications and Marketing Manager made a strong appeal to all delegates present in the room: "But we must not be complacent. The competition is hard. Many new sports want to enter the Olympic club and we cannot rest on our laurels. We cannot take our position for granted. We need to fight – every day, in every action we plan and do. We need to strive for excellence, for great performances, as our athletes do all the time. Let's get inspired by them, by their devotion to the Sport they love. We

have now an additional, important tool to help us do things well. Let's do them, together, in a spirit of unity, solidarity, and mutual support!" Mr Adrega finalised.

For the Constitution, the support was even more substantial, with a total of 139 positive votes, a unanimous validation of the document. For a successful revision of this document, a 75% majority was needed: it reached 85.2% of the IWF full members.

The update of the IWF Constitution (approved in August 2021) included a formal review of the text, in order to simplify the reading and understanding of its content. Specific amendments clarify membership procedures of National Member Federations, the regulation of continental and regional associations, the call for ordinary, special and electoral congresses, the revised quorum for approval of constitutional changes (from 3/4 to 2/3 of the members), the separation in the functions of the General Secretary and the Treasurer, precisions regarding the terms of office (namely for Executive Board ex-officio members), and updates on the appointment of the CEO.

"We have now a Constitution that is more adapted to the modern functioning of our Federation. We haven't changed any substantial aspect related to good governance mechanisms, we have simply added some precisions to facilitate their implementation," concluded a "very happy" IWF President at the end of the Congress.

The IWF Congress also approved the 2022 IWF Audited Financial Statements, and all the activity reports from the several IWF Committees and Commissions: Technical, Medical, Coaching and Research, Development and Education Programme, and Athletes.

On the Anti-Doping activities, Benjamin Cohen, Director General of the International Testing Agency (ITA) made a short presentation on the "successful partnership with the IWF". Mr Cohen underlined the excellent level of co-operation between the two entities – the ITA is managing the entirety of the IWF anti-doping activities – and expressed his hope that in the future "the IWF can progressively reduce the enormous part of its budget dedicated to the fight against doping. These resources could certainly be used for additional Development activities".

Finally, several personalities connected to the world of weightlifting were awarded by the IWF. The Collar was given to Ursula Papandrea (USA), Sam Coffa (AUS), Craig Walker (CAN), Intarat Yodbangtoey (THA), and Chang Chao-Kuo (TPE), while the Hall of Fame distinction went to Kyle Pierce (USA) and Sabah Abdi Abdulah (IRQ, posthumous).