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Psychiatrist: Kush is not a criminal justice problem

By Yusufu S. Bangura

The Care Manager at the Kissy Psychiatric Teaching Hospital, Doctor Abdul Jalloh, has noted that the issue of youth intoxicating themselves with 'Kush' is not a criminal justice problem, but rather health and social related problems that need to be addressed holistically.

Dr. Jalloh made the above statement on Friday 15th September, during the launch of the Inter-Agency Government Quick Action on Substance Abuse at the Ministry of Social Welfare conference room, New England Ville in Freetown.



Care Manager, Kissy Psychiatric hospital, Dr. Jalloh



President Bio and his delegation in Washington

Cont. Page 2

Africaribbean festival promoters introduce soca hour on AfriRadio 105.3FM



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LOCAL NEWS President Bio and his delegation in Washington

By PEL Koroma, Information Attache',
Embassy of Sierra Leone Washington, DC

President Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, the First Lady of Sierra Leone Dr. Fatima Bio, and the President's delegation arrived this afternoon September 14th, 2023 in the Political Capital City of United States of America.

President Julius Maada Bio and his delegation will engage in high level meetings in Washington, DC.

Additionally, President Bio will deliver a Public Lecture at American University in Washington, DC, where the President will take questions and answers from the American public.

Moreover, President Bio will engage the Sierra Leone Diaspora, and friends of Sierra Leone in a Town Hall meeting in Washington, DC.

In the President's delegation are the Chief Minister Dr. Moinina David Sengeh, Finance Minister

Sheku Fantamadi Bangura, Foreign Minister Timothy Musa Kabbah, Water Resources Minister Dr. Hannah Max Kaine, Minister of Gender Dr. Isata Mahoi, Minister of Information and Civic Education Hon. Chernoh Bah, Hon. Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, Hon. Alpha Kanu, Deputy Minister of Justice Alpha Sesay, and the Press Secretary Hon. Solomon Jamiru.

The Minister of Information and Civic Education Hon. Chernoh Bah will engage the United States Media in both New York and Washington, DC.

The President of Sierra Leone and his delegation were received in Washington, DC by Ambassador Sidique Abou-Bakar Wai, Sierra Leone's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Imran Kanu, Deputy Ambassador Sheku Mesalie, Head of Chancery Raki Macarthy, Sierra Leone's Honorary Consuls in United States, and Mr. George Hamilton, Sierra Leone's Consul General in Miami.



Psychiatrist: Kush is not a criminal justice problem

From Cover



"Kush as everyone knows is not a criminal justice problem, but rather health and social related problems that need to be addressed holistically whilst maintaining the dignity and human rights of affected individuals and population. We look forward to represent our views and transformative solutions in this process," he said.

He said the role of the ministry of health in terms of addressing drug issue is basically on drug demand reduction, but however, they have been coordinating with different agencies since 2018 to address the issue.

While highlighting some of their achievements, he said they have trained 25 specialists across all MDAs and CSOs and refurbished a building at the Psychiatric Teaching Hospital for drug treatment and rehabilitation.

He thanked the Ministry of Social Welfare for working with them in ensuring they render service to persons using drug.

He cited the strong coordination between drug misuse and mental health in general as both of them can complement each other.

He added that the effect and impact of drug misuse cannot be overemphasised as everyone knows and has seen the impact it has created in the youth, that's why the government thought it fit to activate the taskforce for them to tackle drug abuse.

He said substance abuse and mental health are serious complex issues with social implications that require immediate strategic and professional actions and attention by everyone in the country, to foster the transformative change and improve the quality of life, self-esteem and

productive of victims across all ages, especially youth and children including women and girls.

In line with some of the concerns, he said they needed adequate support and therapeutic measures to be part of the thematic areas to mitigate the issues, so that it does not progress to something else and will also help to sustain the peace that everyone is enjoying now.

"As we embark on this journey, it critical to propose evidence based therapeutic measures in line with medical, psychological and social ethics, and principles for treatment in opposition to the current law enforcement agencies in order to tackle these such as criminal justice issue," he said.

Launching the Inter-Agency Government Quick Action on Substance Abuse, Minister of Social Welfare, Melrose Karminty said drug and substance abuse is something the nation has been battling with, stating that President Bio is not pleased with what is going on in the country and that he has shown a lot of concerns to address the issue.

She maintained that President Bio has directed them to bring everyone onboard because everyone has a role to play in the fight against drug abuse, adding that if the issue of drug is not tackled it will affect the whole nation.

"President Bio will continue to show concern about the proliferation and consumption of these dangerous substances in our communities and he has affirmed that if the situation continues, it has the potential of

undermining the gains they have made over the years. It also has the propensity to undermine the big five changers because we need the youths to work on the big five, so if our able dynamic youths are not productive, they will not achieve the 'Feed Salone' program. We need to take emergency action to amend these issues," she said.

Minister Karminty said they want to give meaningful life to victims after they have been treated, therefore she is working with the law enforcement agencies to identify victims of substance abuse and institute remedies to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into their respective communities.

She concluded that the ministry has 140 social workers across the county that would be providing psychosocial counselling and have trained 30 workers to do need assessment where the inmates are held in correctional centres.

"I am pleased to inform you that the government has shown strong commitment and ready to commit some resources into this fight. On this note, I will like to call on our development partners, international non-governmental organisations and the private sector to join government to end drug and substance abuse because it a fight no one can underestimate," she called.

The launching was attracted by government officials from ministries and agencies, where they also made their commitments to working with the ministry of social welfare to address the issue of drug. They also visit both male and female correctional centres.

LOCAL NEWS

By Mohamed Jalloh

In collaboration with AfriRadio, Africaribbean Festival, and Eminence Africa are introducing SOCA HOUR live on Afri Radio 105.3 FM in Freetown every 1st and last Saturday of every month.

For the sake of fans of the Africaribbean festival and lovers of SOCA music, DJ Tunji 232 who is in charge of the mixing chamber has already begun hitting the air waves, effecting on 16th September 2023.

It should be noted that people are now opportune to listen to SOCA vibes with DJ Tunji 232 and other international SOCA DJ's in the near future on AfriRadio 105.3 FM.

According to Danna Labor, co-founder of the Africaribbean festival, the selection of a SOCA hour is deliberate, noting further that it is a way of promoting the Africaribbean festival and to bring the Caribbean culture closer to Sierra Leoneans and Africans at large.

"We won't introduce an Afrobeat or Reggae hour because

these genres are already big in Sierra Leone, we choose SOCA Hour because it is a genre that is not popular in Sierra Leone", Mr Labor pointed out.

The maiden Africaribbean festival

happened on December 2002, however, the organisers of the event are geared to replicating the same this year and possibly every other year in the future. The Africaribbean Festival is known for its colorful and captivating showcases of music, dance, art, cuisine, and traditions, that will kick off on December 28, 2023, and run until January 02, 2024, in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

It is important to note that the Africaribbean Festival is also a celebration of African and Caribbean cultures, aimed at fostering cross-cultural exchange, understanding, and appreciation. The festival showcases a diverse array of music, dance, art, cuisine, and traditions from the African and Caribbean diaspora, uniting communities and promoting diversity. The Africaribbean Festival therefore, invites everyone to join in the festivities and experience the unique blend of African and Caribbean cultures.

Africaribbean festival promoters introduce soca hour on AfriRadio 105.3FM



Meet the newly appointed National Programme Coordinator-Free Quality Education



view to critically impacting national development.

But who is Augustine Teguhma Moses Koroma? Augustine Koroma was born on August 12 1987 in Blama Town, Kenema District, Eastern Sierra Leone. He did his primary school education at the Dr. June Hols Roness Municipal School at Syke Street, Freetown, before proceeding to the Sierra Leone Grammar School.

After an impressive six-year sojourn at the Sierra Leone Grammar School, the new FQSE Coordinator gained admission at Njala University where he pursued and successfully completed a course in Banking and Finance. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Honours in the said course area.

Augustine Koroma also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Educational Administration and Management, an MBA in Project Management, and is currently an MSc Economics candidate at Njala University.

Augustine Koroma boasts of a glittering professional career spanning over ten years that has increased his knowledge, broadened his horizon, deepened his insight and sharpened his experience.

He worked at different banking and micro-finance institutions for eight years and also had stints at the International Medical Corps and the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) where he served as Community Based Facilitator, Finance Officer and District Coordinator. He is a member of the Project Management Institute (PMI).

On 13 September, 2023, it pleased His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio to appoint Augustine Teguhma Moses Koroma National Programme Coordinator-Free Quality School Education. The FQSE was and is still a flagship project of the New Direction administration of President Julius Maada Bio—a flagship project that has enjoyed huge investments and national and international recognition and acclamations.

The scheme aims at improving the quality of the country's basic and senior secondary education and harnessing the country's human capital resource with a

Cyber bullying: Euro 100,000 bail granted to accused

Magistrate Mark Neagba has granted bail in the sum of 100,000 Euros to 22-year-old Safiatu Sesay, who is based in Holland and before the court on three counts of cyber related offences, after she was alleged to have sent false messages to one Major Amadu Ahmed Kargbo.

According to the information before the court, the accused person, in Freetown, between the 4th of June and 3rd August, 2023, did send grossly offensive messages through social media via Facebook with account name 'Sia Rose' to Major Amadu Ahmed Kargbo.

The accused is answering to one count charge of cyber bullying contrary to Section 44 (2) (b) of the Cyber Crime Act 2021.

Testifying in court, Detective Inspector, Mohamed Jusu, attached to the Criminal Investigations Department headquarters as cybercrime investigator, recalled on 21st August, when a flash drive was handed over to him for transcription and analysis.

He said upon receiving the drive in respect of the matter before the court, he was able to listen to a thirty minute voice recording.

He said he also copied a screenshot picture which was also handed over to him for inspection.

Defence lawyer, Elwis Enoh applied for bail and Magistrate Mark Neagba granted it.

The matter was adjourned to the 25th September, 2023.

The new FQSE National Coordinator has worked with and implemented projects for international and local development partners and funders like the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank, USAID, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Islamic Development Bank (ISDB), and the Pro Poor Growth for Peace Consolidation (GPC).

Augustine Koroma is no stranger to the classroom and lecture room, having taught in different secondary schools and on evidence of his current part-time

lecturer status at the Milton Margai Technical University.

Mr. Koroma's appointment has been greeted with resounding praises and positive reactions from many a young man and woman across different spectrums of society.

The young man is friendly, industrious, selfless and service and delivery focused. Many believe that he is going into his new job with a positive mentality and the requisite experience.

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LOCAL NEWS

September 11 Protest: 33 remanded for riotous conduct

By Blessing C. Cole

33 accused persons including Abubakarr Kargbo, Ibrahim Amidu Jalloh, Mohamed Kamara, Fatmata Sesay, Alisha Kanu, Fatmata Conteh and others, are currently facing trial at the Ross Road Court No.3 before Magistrate Hadiru Daboh for alleged riotous conduct.

The accused persons made their first appearance before the court on five counts ranging from conspiracy to commit a crime, unlawful procession,

incitement, riotous conduct and disorderly behavior, contrary to Section 12 of the Public Order Act No.46 of 1965 as repealed and replaced by Section 12 (a) of Act No 15 of 1973.

It was alleged that the accused persons on the 11th September 2023, in the east-end part of Freetown, conspired with other persons unknown to commit a crime to wit unlawful procession.

It was further alleged that on the same date and place, the accused

persons were found in an unlawful procession without lawful authority and that they did incite members of the public to breach the peace.

It was also alleged that the accused persons on the same date and place, behaved in a riotous manner and disorderly.

When the charges were read and explained to them, they pleaded not guilty.

After the charges were read to the accused persons, lead prosecutor, DSP Erick A Deen asked the magistrate to give him short

adjourned date for him to bring his witnesses in court to testify in respect of the matter.

Before the adjourned date, lead defense counsel, M.Bayraytay, applied for bail on behalf of the accused persons, but was objected by the prosecutor.

Meanwhile, Magistrate Daboh refused the accused persons bail and remanded them to the Male and Female Correctional Centres until the 21st September 2023, for the prosecutor to lead his first prosecution witness.

Three jailed 20 years each for rape

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

Justice Alhaji Momoh-Jah Stevens has sentenced Saidu Sesay, Alfred Bangura and Foday Sesay to twenty years imprisonment each after they were found guilty of conspiracy to rape and rape contrary to the laws of Sierra Leone

The accused were before the court on two counts indictment of conspiracy to rape and rape contrary to Section 6 of Sexual Offences Act, 2012 Act No. 12 of 2012, as repealed and replaced by Section 4 (a) (ii) of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2019, Act No. 8 of 2019.

State Prosecutor, Y.I. SESAY, had

alleged that the accused persons on the 19th day of October 2018, in Freetown, conspired together and with other persons unknown to commit a felony to wit rape.

The state prosecutor made an application upon the accused's arraignment for them to be tried by a judge alone instead of a judge and a jury of which Justice Momoh Jah Stevens granted the said application. They denied the allegation and the state prosecutor led in evidence a number of witnesses including the victim in support of his case.

According to the victim, a businesswoman, she was returning home between 1am to 2am after

watching movie to her neighbour and as soon as she entered her premise, she was suddenly attacked by the accused persons.

The victim further testified that she was stripped naked, pinned down and the 1st accused penetrated his penis into her vagina, whilst she was being physically suppressed by the 2nd and 3rd accused persons.

He said the victim said the same modus operandi was followed in suppressing her when the 2nd accused penetrated his penis into her vagina, adding that the 3rd accused also penetrated his penis into vagina.

According to the victim, she was

rescued by a neighbour who heard her screaming, rushed to her premise and shouted for help.

According to the Victim she knows the Accused persons herein very well as they are also resident in the same neighborhood.

Justice Stevens said the prosecution closed its case after all their witness had testified and they tendered the medical endorsed report which indicates that the victim was suffering from pain in her vagina.

In the case of the defense, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd accused relied on their statements to the Police.

He said the offence was committed against an adult victim without her consent contrary to Section 6 of the Sexual Offences 2012. 'The prosecution has proven its case beyond reasonable doubt.'

Market Watch with Elizabeth J. Kamara

Market watch is a column that looks at the basic prices of commodities in various markets across Freetown. It seeks the views of traders as well as costumers about the sales of their goods at which the least consumers buys.

In this edition of market watch, Concord Times Elizabeth j. Kamara conducted interview with some shop owners and petty traders at various markets in Freetown.



Below are some of the prices of basic cosmetic commodities

Ideal	For 1	Nle20.00
Clear men	For 1	Nle40.00
Cocoa pulp	Big bottle 1	Nle55.00
Secret white	Big bottle 1	Nle75.00
Perfect line	For 1	Nle40.00
carotone	Small cup 1	Nle23.00
Day by Day	For 1	Nle25.00
Pure skin	Small cup 1	Nle25.00
Detol	Big bottle 1	Nle30.00
Soulmate hair food	Big cup1	Nle55.00
Lemon clear	Big bottle	Nle70.00
touch	For 1	Nle25.00
Bubble gum spray	For 1	Nle30.00
Zenta detergent	1 bag	Nle645.00
Maxzam tooth paste	For 6	Nle65.00
colegate	For 6	Nle75.00

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Invitation for Bids

Sierra Leone
August, 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Account Name: Agriculture Value Chain Development Project

Account No: 014-001-107-861-136-462

Bank: Commerce and Mortgage Bank

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

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



Invitation for Bids

Sierra Leone
August, 2023

Title Construction of Grain Stores and other Ancillary Facilities
No. SLE-2000001544-0010-W-ICB

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

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

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

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

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

LOT NO	Lot Description	District	Chiefdom	Village	Lot ID
1	Construction of Grain Stores and other Ancillary Facilities in Kenema and Kono Districts	Kenema	Niawa	Sendumie	SLE-2000001544-0010-W-ICB-A
		Kenema	Nongowa	Burma iii	
		Kenema	Nongowa	Kambu wabu	
		Kenema	Nongowa	Foindu	
		Kono	Tankoro	Tongoro	
		Kono	Fiama	Moderna	
2	Construction of Grain Stores and other Ancillary Facilities in Bo and Pujehun Districts	Bo	Bongor	Bendu	SLE-2000001544-0010-W-ICB-B
		Bo	Jalama	Koribondo	
		Bo	Boama	Yamandu	
		Pujehun	Gallines	Blama Massaquoi	
		Pujehun	Kpanga	Gombu	
		Pujehun	Peje	Gallala	
3	Construction of Grain Stores and other Ancillary Facilities in Bonthe and Moyamba Districts	Bonthe	Sogbini	Naijeh	SLE-2000001544-0010-W-ICB-C
		Bonthe	Jong	Mattru Jong	
		Bonthe	Jong	Moyowa	
		Moyamba	Fakunya	Moyamba Town	
		Moyamba	Fakunya	Falaba	
		Moyamba	Fakunya	moyamba junction	
4	Construction of Grain Stores and other Ancillary Facilities in Kenema and Kono Districts	Kailahun	Kissi Tongi	Piotou	SLE-2000001544-0010-W-ICB-D
		Kailahun	Luawa	Nyandehun	
		Kailahun	Luawa	Mambabu	
		Kailahun	Kissi Tongi	Bayama/Fenesu	

Bidders have the option to bid for one or more lots; but they will only be contracted for one. However, in the event that a bidder wins more than one lot, the lot with the higher price will be awarded to the bidder; if the lots are of the same value, any one of the lots will be awarded to the bidder.

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

1. Please note that a pre-bid conference will not be held

2. Bidders interested in submitting a bid shall purchase the bidding document against payment of a non-refundable fee of **SLE500 or 25 USD**. Payment shall be made to the Agricultural Value Chain Development Project through Western Union Money Transfer, RIA, MoneyGram (Attention Debora F. Bangura) or in the following account:

Account Name: Agriculture Value Chain Development Project

Account No: 014-001-107-861-136-462

Bank: Commerce and Mortgage Bank

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

4. Bids must be delivered electronically to the PMU via the following link and in the manner specified in the bid data sheet – instructions to bidders 23.2, no later than **21st September, 2023 at 12:00 GMT**.

Link: <https://bit.ly/BidSubStore>

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

6. **Bid security in the form of a Bank Guarantee. The amount and currency of the Bid Security shall be \$9000 per Lot and shall be expressed in lots. Bid Security from community and village banks and Bid Bond from insurance companies are not acceptable**

7. There will be a virtual bid opening via ZOOM on **31st September, 2023 at 12:30 GMT**.

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

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

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Washington approves most of its aid to Egypt despite reservations



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is shown while meeting President Donald Trump ... Copyright © africanews Evan Vucci/Copyright 2019 The AP. All rights reserved.

The United States has approved most of its military aid to Egypt despite persistent concerns about human rights, the State Department said on Thursday, underlining Cairo's "crucial" role in the region.

The \$1.215 billion package marks the third consecutive year that President Joe Biden's administration has waived certain congressional restrictions on aid to Egypt, despite Mr Biden's pledges to put human rights at the heart of US foreign policy.

"This decision reflects Egypt's unique contribution to U.S. national security priorities," a State Department

official said in announcing Secretary of State Antony Blinken's decision.

He added, on condition of anonymity, that Egypt was a "crucial voice in efforts to advance regional peace and security", notably between Israel and the Palestinians or in neighbouring Sudan and Libya. He insisted that this decision "in no way diminishes our commitment to advancing human rights in Egypt and around the world".

Egypt has been one of the main beneficiaries of US military aid since its historic decision to become the first Arab state to normalise relations with Israel in 1980.

The latest military aid package includes \$980 million that was unrestricted. Conversely, some 235 million dollars were conditional on progress on human rights. Mr Blinken did not certify that Egypt had met these conditions, but declined to withhold the aid, citing US national security interests.

On the other hand, Mr Blinken blocked a further 85 million dollars conditional on the release of political prisoners. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi announced a "national dialogue" with the opposition, which he has crushed, and began releasing political prisoners in April last year.

But "the pace has slowed considerably" this year, according to another US official, who also points to an increase in "politically motivated arrests". "We have had very tough conversations with the Egyptians about our human rights concerns at all levels", he added, also on condition of anonymity. Egypt has thousands of political prisoners. The Presidential Pardons Committee has released a thousand of them in a year, but "three times as many were arrested" at the same time, according to NGOs.

Johnson & Johnson under investigation in South Africa over 'excessive' drug prices

US pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson is under investigation in South Africa for allegedly charging "excessive" prices for a key tuberculosis drug, the country's antitrust regulator said on Friday.

The South African Competition Commission said J&J's Belgian subsidiary, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, was also under investigation.

The Commission, which regulates marketing practices, said it opened an investigation this week based on reports that the companies "may have engaged in exclusionary practices and excessive pricing" of bedaquiline, a tuberculosis drug sold under the brand name Sirturo.

The Competition Commission declined to give further details of its investigation, but health groups in South Africa say bedaquiline is priced more than twice as much as in other middle- or middle-income countries.

weak. Bedaquiline was approved in 2012 and is used to treat drug-resistant tuberculosis.

South Africa desperately needs it, as this infectious disease is the leading cause of death, with more than 50,000 deaths in 2021. South Africa has more than 7 million people living with HIV, more than any other country in the world.

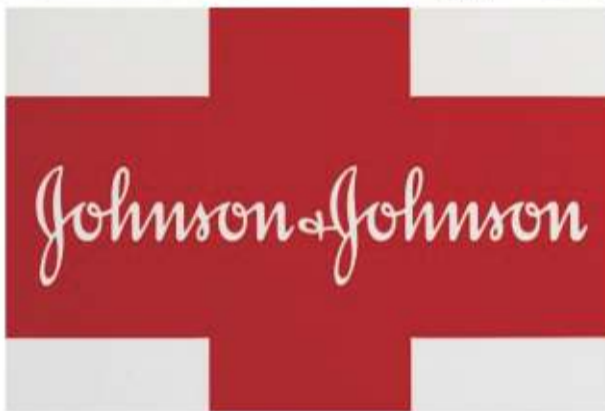
According to the World Health Organization, almost a third of deaths among people with HIV/AIDS are due to tuberculosis.

According to the WHO, tuberculosis cases increased globally in 2021 for the first time in years.

J&J has previously faced calls to cut prices for bedaquiline and said last month it would provide a six-month course of treatment for one patient through the Stop TB Partnership's Global Medicines Facility, for a cost of 130 dollars.

The South African government buys bedaquiline directly from J&J and Janssen, not through the TB scheme, and pays about \$280 for a six-month course of treatment for one patient, according to Professor Norbert Ndjeka, who leads the management and control of tuberculosis within the national ministry of health.

Mr Ndjeka said South Africa had recently reached a new two-year deal with J&J for bedaquiline at a price



un logo Johnson & Johnson sur l'extérieur d'une trousse de premiers secours à Walpole, Massachusetts, le 24 février 2021. - Copyright © africanews Steven Senne/Copyright 2021 The AP. All rights reserved

of just over \$280 per treatment, according to a report on the News24 website.

The Competition Commission said it was confirming the investigation due to increased media interest, but it did not respond to requests for comment or further information about the investigation.

The investigation comes a week after a health advocacy group released details of South Africa's COVID-19 vaccine procurement contracts with numerous pharmaceutical companies, including J&J and US company Pfizer. This information was obtained after the group, Health Justice Initiative, won a freedom of information case in court.

The group says contracts show J&J billed South Africa for a vaccine dose 15% higher than that charged to the much wealthier European Union.

Pfizer charged South Africa more than 30% more per vaccine than the African Union, even as South Africa scrambled to acquire doses and the number of COVID-19 infections was higher there than anywhere else on the continent.

In the contract, South Africa was to pay Pfizer \$40 million up front for the doses, with only \$20 million refundable if the vaccines were not delivered, the Health Justice Initiative said.

J&J also required a non-refundable deposit of \$27.5 million.

Pfizer reported record revenue of \$100.3 billion in 2022. J&J had revenue of \$94.9 billion last year.

Libya floods: Level of destruction "never seen before", death toll reaches 11,300

The current extent of the devastation caused by floods in eastern Libya is becoming apparent. The provisional death toll stood at 11,300, secretary-general of the Libyan Red Crescent said late Thursday (Sep. 14).

Untold numbers are buried under mud and debris that includes overturned cars and chunks of concrete.

The collapse of two dams in the aftermath of torrential rain caused the most destruction.

The Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations, referred to the catastrophe as "something never seen in Libya before."

"[...] the numbers are changing as we speak. I mean, the numbers are thousands", Taher El-Sonni said on Thursday morning.

"[...] The direct hit came to an area where it's around 30,000. And as we speak now, many of those are either being in a rescue effort or missing because they were hit badly when that happens. So I cannot really confirm the final numbers, but it's really a high level of magnitude. And I'm afraid we will hear really large numbers, maybe even more than what has been confirmed so far."

Libya's eastern administration in Benghazi city approved a budget of nearly 2 billion \$US to help flood-affected areas.

The parliament also announced a committee had been set up to follow up on measures to deal with the aftermath of the floods.

The World Health Organization said it was releasing

funds to support Libya in addition to 28 metric tons of trauma, surgical, emergency supplies due to arrive on Friday.

International aid is progressively arriving. And local administrations continue search efforts.

The deadly floods that devastated eastern Libya after storm Daniel.

Libya is divided between two rival administrations, one in the east and one in the west.

In the midst of hardship, as government agencies across the country rushed to help the affected areas.

As of Wednesday (Sep. 13), at least 30,000 people were displaced by the flooding in the port-city of Derna.

The World Meteorological Organization head Petteri Taalas said "The emergency management authorities would have been able to carry out the evacuation if there was a normal operating meteorological service."

Taher El-Sonni, the permanent Representative of the State of Libya to the United Nations added that "In terms of the early warning, I mean, we knew that there was a storm and people were warned that there is a storm going to come, but nobody expected the magnitude. I mean, unfortunately, the city infrastructure was not that perfect. But still, with the magnitude of such flood, two dams were damaged and blasted and exploded. And that's why the real death toll increased because of that flood that came more than the eye of the storm hit the city itself. So it was just unfortunately all this together which led to that."

DRC: journalist Stanis Bujakera transferred to Makala prison

Congolese journalist Stanis Bujakera, arrested by police on September 8 in Kinshasa, was transferred to prison on Thursday, despite protests and numerous calls for his release, we learned from his media.

Stanis Bujakera is suspected in particular of "spreading false rumors and disseminating false information for an article published by Jeune Afrique implicating military intelligence in the assassination of former minister Chérubin Okende", according to the Congolese news site Actualité .cd, of which he is deputy publishing director.

This article, published at the end of August, which was not signed by Stanis Bujakera, was based on a confidential note presented as coming from the civil intelligence services (ANR), a note which the Congolese authorities then assured was "a false document."

Arrested on the evening of September 8 at Ndjili airport in Kinshasa, while he was preparing to leave for Lubumbashi (south-east), Stanis Bujakera, also a correspondent for the Reuters agency, was presented to the prosecution on Monday, after spending three days in police custody.

"He was transferred to Makala prison", the largest prison in Kinshasa, Patient Ligodi, boss of Actualité.cd, told AFP.

Mr. Bujakera's defense has submitted to the prosecution "a request for provisional release" and is awaiting the decision, Me Grace Tshishala told AFP.

Since the journalist's arrest, several embassies have expressed their concerns, just over three months before the general elections scheduled for December 20. Congolese personalities and organizations defending press freedom have increased protests and demands for the release of Stanis Bujakera.

"The authorities must drop the false charges against Stanis Bujakera and release him immediately and



Stanis Bujakera, Congolese journalist and deputy publishing director of the media Actualité - Copyright © africanews Actualité.CD.

unconditionally," said Sarah Jackson, deputy director of Amnesty International's East and Southern Africa programme.

"This is yet further proof of the large-scale attack that the DRC authorities, under the leadership of President Félix Tshisekedi, have launched against human rights," she added, quoted in a press release.

The Congolese organization RAJEC - Rally of Journalists for the Emergence of Congo - threatened on Wednesday to take to the streets if Mr. Bujakera was not released within 72 hours. His arrest is "an autocratic attempt to silence all dissonant voices and prevent independent journalists from carrying out their activities," according to RAJEC.

"It is not good news that a journalist is going to prison," said Communications Minister Patrick Muyaya on Thursday evening, when questioned during a press briefing.

"We hope that the case (...) can be resolved quickly," he added.

"Freedom of the press is a cardinal value of democracy, but also a freedom which does not give a blank check to disinformation or exploitation," said the minister.

Mediterranean: crossings of African migrants have almost doubled



Migrants on the deck of an Italian coastguard vessel as they are taken - Copyright © africanews Cecilia Fabiano/LaPresse

Regular arrivals of migrants in Italy via the Mediterranean from North Africa amounted to almost 114,300 between January and August, almost twice as many as in the same period in 2022, according to figures announced Thursday by Frontex.

Along with Libya, Tunisia is the departure point for thousands of migrants who cross the central Mediterranean towards Europe and arrive in Italy.

This very dangerous migration route has accounted for "half of irregular arrivals in the EU so far this year", notes the EU coast and border guard agency.

Migrants arriving via the central Mediterranean are mainly Ivorians, Egyptians and Guineans, according to this source.

"Increased migratory pressure on this route could persist

in the coming months, with smugglers lowering prices for migrants leaving from Libya and Tunisia, in a context of fierce competition between criminal groups," Frontex said in a statement.

More than 2,000 people have died or gone missing since the start of the year attempting this crossing, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The Italian government, for its part, indicated on Thursday that nearly 126,000 migrants had arrived on Italian shores since the start of the year, compared to 66,000 during the same

period last year. In July, in the presence of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, the EU signed a partnership with Tunisia in order to reduce the number of migrant arrivals from this country, providing for aid worth several hundred million euros.

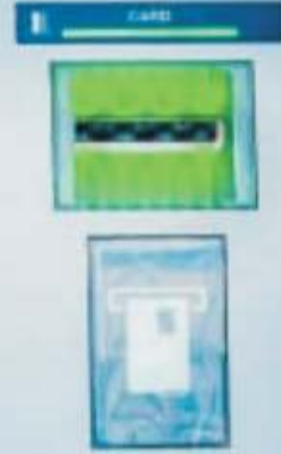
This agreement arouses controversy, due to the authoritarian drift of Tunisian power and the abuses perpetrated against sub-Saharan migrants in this country. Criticism increased on Thursday after the refusal of the Tunisian authorities to allow a delegation of European deputies to enter the country.

Located less than 150 km from the Tunisian coast, the Italian island of Lampedusa is facing an influx of migrants in recent days: it has welcomed more than 7,000 people, the equivalent of the entire local population.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP



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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



Request for Proposal (Re-advertisement) Long Term Agreement for Air Conditioners Maintenance Services (only for Businesses Registered in Sierra Leone)

UNICEF Sierra Leone invites tenders for air conditioners maintenance services for its offices in New England (Freetown) and Kenema, and its Warehouse at Ferry Junction (Freetown). This will be through a Long-Term Agreement which will be for 24 months with the possibility of another 12 months extension.

A Bid Conference will be held on Friday 22nd September 2023 at 10.30 am GMT at the UNICEF Country Office.

The deadline for bid submission which is through email submission is at 10 am GMT on Wednesday 4th October 2023

Interested firms are requested to visit the United Nations Website at [Air Conditioner Maintenance \(ungm.org\)](https://ungm.org) to download all the tender documents and instructions.



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

**National Competitive Bidding (NCB)
For the procurement of
Assorted ICT Equipment, including media Kit.**

Country: Sierra Leone
Name of Project: Sierra Leone Land Administration
Project ID: P177031
Grant No: IDA-V3980
RFB Reference No: SL-MLHCP-344316-GO-RFB
IFB Issue Date: 15th September, 2023.
IFB Closing Date: 17th October, 2023 at 12:50 pm (Sierra Leone Time).

- The Government of Sierra Leone has received funds from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank towards the cost of implementing the Sierra Leone Land Administration Project. The Project is implemented by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MLHCP), who intends to apply part of the fund towards payment for the supply of assorted ICT equipment, including media kit.
- The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MLHCP), through the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of:

No	Description of Procurement	QTY	Bid Security	Delivery Period
1.	A ₁ and A ₀ Large format Printer.	03	SLE 260,000	Eight (8) Weeks
2.	Laptops for general use	100		
3.	Laptops for communications content generation including audio visual editing.	01		
4.	Computer monitors.	20		
5.	Tablets	20		
6.	Docking stations (USB hub type c multiple slots)	20		
7.	All in one printer	05		
8.	Digital Video Camera - Black Magic Pocket 6k Full Frame	01		
9.	Still or Photography Camera - EOS R6 & Accessories	01		
10.	Drone DJI Mavic 3 / Mavic 3 Cine	01		
11.	Tilta Black Magic Cage or DJI RSC 2 Gimbal Stabilizer	01		
12.	V mount batteries	03		
13.	Rokinon Prime Lens kit	01		
14.	Telephoto Lens	01		
15.	E-Image Tripod	01		
16.	Monopod	01		
17.	Daylight balanced LED light	01		
18.	Wireless Rode Microphone	01		
19.	Zoom H6 Audio Recorder	01		
20.	Handheld microphone	01		
21.	Camera flash	01		
22.	2 external drive (4TB) and 2 SD Cards 32GB	01		
23.	Dual Speaker and mixer kit (Portable Public Address System)	01		
24.	Projector	01		
25.	Smart phone for live streaming	01		
26.	ALL in One Desktop Computer	04		

Bidding will be conducted using the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) approach /procurement method as specified by the National Public Procurement Act of 2016 and promulgated in Public Procurement Regulation 2020. Bidding is open to all eligible and qualified Bidders who have the capacity to supply the above goods.

Bidders must submit their bids together with the under listed documents and must meet the following conditions:

- q A valid Business registration certificate
- q Bid Security of Two Hundred and Sixty Thousand Leones (SLE 260,000) from a reputable Commercial Bank;
- q A valid NRA Tax Clearance Certificate
- q A valid NASSIT clearance certificate
- q A signed Integrity Pact [see attached]
- q Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years
- q Documentary Evidence of having successfully delivered on one (1) contract of the same type of goods with a total value (contract amount) not less than Two Million New Leones (SLE 2,000,000) or it's equivalent in old Leones or any freely convertible currency within the last five (5) years.
- q Authentic Manufacturer's/Wholesaler's authorization with clear contact details
- q Business Profile of the Bidder/Supplier
- q Original Brochure/ Technical Literature of the Items to be supplied

Interested and eligible Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the address provided below or via email to sllapprocurement@gmail.com, copying joejoe7787@yahoo.com, alphajohcham@yahoo.com and jobosamba@yahoo.com.

- The bidding document is in *English* can be purchased by interested Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Leones (SLE 1,250) or an equivalent in freely convertible currency. The PDF of the bidding document can be obtained via email upon request. The method of payment for bidding document shall be by Bank/Wire transfer; Direct payment in the Account listed below:
Bank: Sierra Leone Commercial Bank Limited
Account Name: Sierra Leone Land Administration Project
Account Number (Le): 003001103735112171
Bank Address: 29/31 Siaka Stevens Street, Freetown.

- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before the 17th October, 2023, at 12:50 p.m. (Sierra Leone Time). Electronic Bidding will *not* be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened on the 17th October, 2023 at 1:15 pm (Sierra Leone Time), in the presence of all Bidders' or designated representatives who choose to attend at the address below:
The Project Coordinating Unit (PCU)
3rd Floor Youyi Building (West Wing), Brookfields.
Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country planning
Freetown, Sierra Leone.

- All Bids must be accompanied by a valid *Bid Security* in the amounts indicated above or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency. The Bidder shall seal the original and each copy of the bid, in separate envelopes, duly marking the envelopes as "ORIGINAL (1)" and "COPY (3)." The envelopes shall then be enclosed in an outer envelope and sealed.

For Inspection and submission of Bidding Document, please contact the Procurement Unit
The Project Coordinating Unit (PCU)
3rd Floor Youyi Building (West Wing), Brookfields.
Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country planning
Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Or
Send an email request for PDF version of bidding document via email to: sllapprocurement@gmail.com, copying joejoe7787@yahoo.com, alphajohcham@yahoo.com and jobosamba@yahoo.com

For Public Opening of Bids, the venue is: SLLAP Conference Room, Third Floor.
Youyi Building (West Wing), Brookfields.
Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country planning
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