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# Appeals Court: Former APC Minister loses six billion Leones mansion

**Bio assures U.S based S/Leoneans of his leadership, vision**



Julius Maada Bio addressing Sierra Leoneans in the U.S

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

The Appeals Court presided over by Justice Fatmata Bintu Alhadi, Justice Komba Kamanda and Justice Tonia Barnett, has dismissed the appeal application by the former Deputy Minister of Mines against the recommendations of the Commissions of Inquiry (COI).

The former Deputy Mines Minister, Abdul Ignosis Koroma, through his Lawyer, Ade Macauley, had appealed to the Appeals Court against the recommendations of the Commissions of Inquiry.

"Having considered the entire appeal herein, I hereby order as follows, that the appeal is dismissed based on grounds 1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9 and 10. The findings, recommendations of the sole commissioner against the Appellant are upheld," Justice Kamada ruled.

Cont. Page 3



Abdul Ignosis Koroma attempted to defend his unexplained wealth, but fumbled



**Youth Minister calls for stronger Commonwealth support for youth entrepreneurship**



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## ENVIRONMENT

By Ishmael Dumbuya

Across the North African region lately, droughts, earthquakes, water scarcity, and heat waves continue to hamper development efforts and adversely impact livelihoods and economies. Weather extremes, such as torrential rains and floods, affect tens of thousands each year, with many events occurring in contexts of fragility arising from conflict. Disaster recovery efforts have been underway in such countries, presenting more complex challenges and a need for coordinated efforts among additional development partners. Disaster risk reduction in urban areas remains a priority in this heavily urbanized region where many cities are significantly exposed to natural hazards.

Disasters are increasing worldwide, especially in North Africa, bringing about catastrophic impacts that make it difficult for countries to achieve their development goals while safeguarding the well-being of their citizens and meeting their basic needs. Increasingly, systemic and unknown risks lead to such impacts.

# Lessons learnt from the North African disasters

According to global statistics, while the number of disasters around the world doubles in number, the average number of disasters related to natural hazards in the region is increasingly doubling. In the Middle East region and in Northern Africa, the increased exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards, in addition to accelerated urban growth, water scarcities, and climate change, collectively act as serious challenges to policies, planning, and development.

The lessons learnt in North Africa lately, will serve as a springboard for other countries to adopt and eventually prevent future disasters in their countries.

Firstly, state institutions and administrations must understand the risks of disasters, by so doing; they can be able to mitigate the level of disaster outbreaks.

The ability to strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster also plays a significant role in preventing or minimizing the occurrences of disasters.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) should also be adopted. This strategy is considered a roadmap for obtaining a shared understanding of prevailing disaster risks and assessing the current DRR system and its capacity for achieving DRR objectives. These objectives are determined by the National Centre for Security, Management and Crises (NCSMC), as the holder of authority to coordinate national efforts in this area, with the support of national consultations of all relevant national institutions and entities. State authorities should enhance disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and

reconstruction.

Another lesson learnt is the slow pace at which authorities respond to disaster issues. For instance, the aftershocks of the earthquake that hit Morocco, the rescue and recovery operations continued at a low pace, a source of frustration and anger for many Moroccans who say the government is not doing enough.

Heavy rainfall and flooding from a Mediterranean storm washed away entire towns and communities in Libya in the city of Derna, the area was declared a disaster zone after two nearby dams collapsed, wiping out about a quarter of the city.

According to Dax Roque, Libya's country director for the Norwegian Refugee Council, his team provided lifesaving aid, including food and shelter, but the affected areas are hard to reach.

## DIGESTION

By Joseph Sesay (Josestar)

"The thing about non-violence is that it spreads. When you get people to participate in nonviolent actions-whether it's a march, a fast, a boycott, or a picket-line people hear you, people see you. People are learning from that action" The boycotting of governance is not new in Sierra Leone; however, the country's speaker of parliament Dr. Cherner Abass Bundu Said during a parliamentary session that, "The boycotting of governance by the opposition All Peoples Congress is a political tool of yesteryears."

But, just how far are yesteryears? In the wake of the November 17, 2012 elections, opposition party leader John Oponjo Benjamin said he was urging their representatives in parliament and local government to boycott all proceedings until "further notice". "We are really challenging the conduct of the elections because we have brought to the attention the fact that several malpractices have happened. We had printed ballot papers that were used, we had areas that voted without even a final voter register, without proper documentation", he said (Deen Rashid, Morocco World News Dec.16, 2012 11:51a.m)

The planned boycott was however rescinded on Thursday December 6, following a meeting earlier in the week at State House between then President Koroma and the leaders of the SLPP, including Retired Brigadier Julius Madaa Bio, the party's presidential candidate for the 2012 elections.

## Patience is part of hitting

An umbrella of different denominations of the Christian faith in Sierra Leone, the Body of Christ, had facilitated the meeting between the two groups in an effort to bring to an end what was becoming a political stalemate. (Deen Rashid., Morocco World News Dec.16,2012-11:15 a.m.).

Like countries and people throughout history, boycotts have been used to further political and social agendas. Klein, Smith and John (2004, p.93) defines boycotting as the act of ceasing social or commercial ties with a person, group or nation as a form of retribution or political protest. Boycotts reflect a boycotter's desire to effectively communicate a specific message and to pressure the belligerent to change their policy or behavior.

In the interim several interventions have been tried to end the current political statement in the country, yet a break through appears far-fetched in the estimate of many of our compatriots following the June 2023 General and Presidential Elections of Sierra Leone. The APC still maintains their stance ever since. But, just "what's getting the opposition going as the going gets tough" with their "saful" kind of strategy largely being criticized by the ruling SLPP Government and some other political pundits.

The backing of the United States of America, European Union, United Kingdom and several other local Civil Society Organization that the

elections were marred by massive irregularities and flaws in the electoral procedures appear to be approving the perseverance of the opposition. Although, paradoxically, the U.S government encourages the opposition not to boycott governance.

This apparent condemnation of the conduct of the June 2023 election was prominent from a U.S perspective, especially when former U.S Ambassador David Dale Reimer, during a radio discussion program at Radio Democracy 98.1FM categorically stated the position of the United States Government and the United States Policy when it comes to elections transparency and governance issues. This was followed by a statement restricting unnamed personalities within Sierra Leone by the U.S Government. The statement reads "Today I'm announcing a new visa restriction policy under section 212(a)(3)(C) of the immigration and Nationality act for undermining the democratic process in the June 2023 Sierra Leone elections" These actions demonstrated by the united states government and its partners served as a beacon of hope for the opposition APC Party's lifeline in their pursuit towards achieving anything worthwhile from the ongoing boycotts a peculiar contrast to all other boycotts.

Nonetheless, trust is another factor that appears to derail glimpses of a breakthrough in the ongoing efforts

to get our fledgling democracy on track following the fiercely contested June 2023 elections. The institutions charged with the responsibilities of upholding the rule of law and democratic best tenets in the country appear a misrepresentation of themselves. And this has eroded our governance architecture to an extent of deepening the division and animosity within the political class of the country to a worrisome level. The genuineness by all institutions and stakeholders to openly discuss such issues in the interest of national cohesion remains to be seen. But whether the opposition will continue hibernating considering and hoping that such a menace would have a quick fix remains to be seen.

Polarisation and Political hegemony

The nation is succinctly polarised in every facet such that every party attempts to not only sabotage the works or successes of their counterparts but to make them look bad in every sense. Whether it's through the obnoxious methods of protest or through the silent pattern of boycotts the sad reality today in our nation. As such, whether or not the opposition achieves anything in the short run may not be the only motive but the boycotts are tailored towards sending a strong message. Better put they are trying to set a precedent as is always the situation in the country. In terms of political hegemony, it's obvious with the use of state institutions from either side of the political divide albeit, the situation is getting worse with time. It is however worthy to note that boycotts will even remain a strong weapon in politics.



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## LOCAL NEWS

# Bio assures U.S based S/Leoneans of his leadership, vision

By PEL Koroma, Embassy of Sierra Leone, Washington, DC

At the Fairmont Hotel - George Town - Washington, DC, President Brigadier Rtd Dr. Julius Maada Bio confidently assured Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora at a Town Hall meeting that he is determined to provide the leadership for the country, but for him to be successful, the people of Sierra Leone needs to work with him. He said he will propose development programs as the leader of the country but it is incumbent on all patriotic Sierra Leoneans to embrace his agenda of development.

President Bio challenged his critics to look at what he has delivered for the country in the last five years, including the free quality education that has increased the accessibility for over 3 million pupils in Sierra Leone, free of cost text books, and executing the school feeding program in the country. President Bio banks on his successes in the fight against corruption, as well as the repeal of the seditious libel law in Sierra Leone. He reiterated that his leadership has reduced mortality rate in the country, and that his government have passed into law the gender empowerment bill.

His Excellency President Bio went on to say that it was deliberate that he has to appoint young people in his cabinet. In his vision, he envisaged that in the next five years, Sierra Leoneans should be able to feed



themselves through his Feed Salone project. He said Sierra Leone has all it takes to feed itself by increasing on agricultural activities, and improvement on the infrastructure needed. President Bio assured the diaspora that his government will continue with the gains made in the free quality education, where the government's human capital development has been recognized by the United Nations, a reason why he co-Chaired the Education program with the UN Secretary General Antonio Gueteres on consolidating the gains and reforms on education. He further admonished the diaspora that his government will increase job facilities in the country, and expand on the economy. The President of Sierra Leone asserted to the diaspora that their techniques are needed. He emphasized on digital improvement in the country for the youths, and

skills training.

President Bio said his government will continue expanding on infrastructural development. He cited that the Lungi bridge project is still on the agenda, and he implored all Sierra Leoneans that the Lungi bridge project should not be politicized, and that he will ensure that the bridge is constructed for the benefit of Sierra Leoneans. He told his audience that his next five years will embark on transforming the public sector. He said the public sector needs to be re-engineered, and he prevailed on the diaspora to align all their help towards the five pillars of his development agenda.

Additionally, President Bio appealed for social cohesion that has been damaged by politics. He mentioned that Sierra Leoneans should build trust in their institutions, bringing to the notice of the audience that the

opposition APC upon losing elections refused to go to court. And to him, the opposition has no proof of vote rigging. Instead, he said the opposition APC came to the United States tarnishing the image of the country.

President Bio said though there are difficult times, yet, he has continued paying salaries on time. He finally said that his government is not discriminatory, saying that all Sierra Leoneans are needed to play their own parts. He said as a member of the UN Security Council, he will be chairing the world august body, and it is a laurel for Sierra Leone.

The Town Hall meeting was chaired by Ambassador Sidiqie Abou-Bakarr Wai, Sierra Leone's Ambassador to the United States of America. In the audience were U.S. State Officials and businessmen.

# CSSL highlights major threats of gas, oil pollution

By Ishmael Dumbuya & Mohamed J Kargbo

President of the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL), Charles Showers, has noted that as the country braces itself to commence the exploration and production of oil and gas there is the likelihood for the operations to lead to impacts that should be examined on a case by case basis.

He underscores the significance of shedding lights on the hazards and environmental risks involved in such activities.

Showers was addressing journalists at a workshop held at the Christian Health of Sierra Leone (CHASL) Hall, Kingharman Road in Freetown.

He explained that oil and gas help boom other countries economy as it cut across political spectrum and all walks of life, albeit exploration brings with it dire consequences, especially against the environment.

"The marine ecosystem is mostly affected by these activities and the marine provides wide range of food services, including the food in the form of fish. And, if there is an oil spillage into the marine environment it may affect farming activities as well as cause climate change," he noted.



He went on to state that Sierra Leone is signatory to many international instruments geared towards the protection and conservation of marine environment and biodiversity, including the Abidjan Convention, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, (MARPOL), and the International Convention on Oil Pollution and Prevention Response and Cooperation (OPRC).

He said member states in the sub region should be compelled to localise actions and solutions that would ensure the sustainable protection of the marine environment and its biodiversity.

Mustapha Koroma, a Senior Geologist at the Petroleum Regulatory Agency, (PRA), shed lights on the environmental hazards gas and oil explorations brings with it.

He noted that exploration and production of oil and gas has a tendency to inducing cultural, social and economic changes.

According to him, land use patterns, like agriculture and fishing, as well as other secondary impacts like new access routes, lead to informal settlement and creation of natural resources.

He went on to indicate that fugitive gases from loading operations and losses from process equipment also

affect the environment and indicated that even though the country is believed to have done a lot in terms of putting the required regulatory framework and establishing relevant institutions to regulate the activities in the oil and gas sector, still there are numerous challenges that require serious attention by government.

"It's against that backdrop that CSSL was given the mandate to develop and distribute a white paper to relevant authorities on the shortcomings of national institutions in oil and gas sector with key recommendations for implementation," he said.

The Communication Manager, Conservation Society of Sierra Leone, Abdul K. Dumbuya, warned Sierra Leoneans over the kick-start of oil and gas production, which he said may affect the marine life and environment in the near future, if necessary measures are not instituted.

He stated that in a bid to strengthen the petroleum sector and also present the country with the expected readiness recommended by international standards for the commencement and operationalization of offshore oil and gas extraction and production, the various challenges outlined need to be addressed by the Government of Sierra Leone.

## LOCAL NEWS

From Cover

The Commission of Inquiry had recommended that the house of the Deputy Minister at Railway Line, Teko Road, Makeni, which is valued six billion, four hundred million Leones, was not commensurate to his legitimate means of incomes, allowances and other earnings.

Reading the judgement on behalf of the panel, Justice Komba Kamanda said the Appellant's appeal is based on ten (10) grounds, adding that ground one Justice Biobelle Georgewill erred in law and acted in violation of Section 150 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991, when he proceeded to conduct the Commissions of Inquiry without the "rules regulating the practice and procedure" of all commissions of inquiry to be prescribed by the Rules of Court Committee through a constitutional instrument, as provided for under Section 1509 aforesaid.

He said the Applicant had also appealed that the adoption by Justice Georgewill of the Practice Direction formulated by the three Sole Commissioners of Constitutional Instruments No. 64, 65 and 67 of 2018, is unconstitutional and an improper arrogation and usurpation of the functions reserved for the Rules of Court Committee in Section 150 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone.

Justice Kamanda further recalled that, the applicant had stated that Justice Georgewill erred in Law when he impermissibly acted beyond the scope of his Terms of Reference and purported to find the appellant guilty of a criminal offence when he specifically "found the appellant guilty" for the offence of "failing to declare his assets", an offence provided for under the Anti-Corruption

Act 2008 (as amended) and which is exclusively in the domain of the Commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commissioner, was in no way cloaked with the power to indict, prosecute and find the Appellant herein guilty or any other person of interest for the offence of failing to declare assets as required by the Anti-Corruption Act of 2008 (as Amended).

The judge said the appellant had submitted that, the Sole Commissioner of Commission of Inquiry Constitutional Instrument No. 64 of 2018 erred in Law when he held in volume one (1) of his report that Ministers of Government of which the Appellant was, should bear ultimate responsibility and be held accountable for the affairs and finances of the Ministry they headed.

Ground five states that the Sole Commissioner erred in holding that "in Law once a prima facie case has been made out, personal rebuttal evidence from the persons of interest is mandatory because without it all the allegations purported by prima facie evidence become duly established by the state.

He said the appellant had submitted that the adverse findings of Justice Georgewill contained in Chapter Two of Volume One (1) of his report on Commission of Inquiry Constitutional Instrument No. 64 of 2018 dated March 2020 relating to the "Sale of Shares in Sierra Rutile Company (SL) Ltd" are against the weight of the evidence presented and the facts and evidence adduced and available to the Justice Georgewill, sitting as Sole Commissioner during the proceedings of Commission of Inquiry No. 64 did not support his specific findings.

Justice Kamanda also read that ground

seven stated that findings and recommendations against the Appellant contained in volume one of Justice Georgewill report on Commission of Inquiry Constitutional Instrument No. 64 of 2018 dated March 2020, relating to the investigation of the activities of the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources and the National Mineral Agency are against the weight of the evidence adduced before the said Commissioner.

He further that ground eight states that the adverse findings of Justice Georgewill contained in volume two of his report on Commission of Inquiry Constitutional Instrument No. 64 of 2018 dated March 2020, relating to the Appellant's property situate at Railway Line, Teko Road, Makeni in the Northern Province of the Republic of Sierra Leone are against the weight of the evidence presented.

He said ground nine state that the testimony and report of CW2, Olu Campbell, which the Sole Commissioner relied on in reaching his findings and recommendations that the appellant's landed property located at Railway Line, Teko Road, Makeni in the Northern Province of the Republic of Sierra Leone and valued at Le6,400,000,000, having been found to be well beyond and far above and therefore not commensurate to his legitimate means of incomes, allowances and other earnings and shall be forfeited forthwith to the Government of Sierra Leone are unreliable and unsafe.

He said ground ten states that, by failing to publish the complete five (5) volume report of Justice Georgewill, Commission of Inquiry Constitutional Instrument No.64 of 20 18, Section 149(2) of the 1991 Constitution of



Sierra Leone has been violated as a partial publication of a Commission report is not a publication of the whole. In his analysis, Justice Kamanda said it is important to note that the legal burden of proof placed on the prosecution and or the accuser does not shift even in Commissions of Inquiry, noting that when serious allegations of unexplained wealth are made, the person against whom the allegations are made, as in the instant case, bears the evidential burden, to show that the wealth which is subject of the said litigation was acquired lawfully and not by funds obtained illegally.

"I have perused the records and the findings of the sole commissioner and it is clear that the Appellant made attempts to justify his means. In pages 2724.2 725 and 2726 of the records the housing allowances, salaries and other benefits enjoyed by the Appellant as a Deputy Minister were not commensurate to the massive structure he built at Railway Line Teko Road, Makeni which is subject matter of these proceedings. Appellant's attempts to justify his acts were not sufficient to discharge the evidential burden," he noted.

## Youth Minister calls for stronger Commonwealth support for youth entrepreneurship

Marlborough House, London: Mohamed Orman Bangura, Sierra Leone's Minister for Youth Affairs, has passionately appealed for robust Commonwealth support for youth entrepreneurship.

The minister who was speaking at the 10th Commonwealth Young Ministers Meeting (10CYMM) held at Marlborough House in London, urged fellow members of this august gathering to place greater trust in the entrepreneurial potential of young people, emphasizing that "with trust and responsibility, youths consistently exceed expectations".

In his substantial contributions to the discussion on "Exploring Opportunities in Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment," Minister Bangura underscored the importance of the Commonwealth community of nations to make available alternative funding avenues to young individuals and empower them to create employment opportunities, both for themselves and for their communities.

The minister pointed out that, presently, many young entrepreneurs in developing nations are left with no

choice but to navigate the business world alone or rely on conventional funding sources, such as banks, which provide limited opportunities for youths. He lamented that in many developing countries, college graduates struggle to meet the collateral requirements demanded by banks for significant funding needs. The Youth Minister emphasized the necessity for policymakers and financial institutions to place greater faith in the capabilities of young people.

Minister Bangura cited Sierra Leone as an inspiring example, where President Julius Maada Bio has provided young people with unprecedented opportunities, at the apical levels of decision-making, to demonstrate their potentials. President Bio's cabinet boasts the highest percentage of youths and the largest number of women in Sierra Leonean history. Additionally, a mandatory 30% quota for women has been instituted for all elective and appointed positions. To underscore President Bio's trust in the youth, Minister Bangura mentioned that he himself was appointed Minister of



Youth Affairs at the age of 32, and the present Chief Minister, in his mid-thirties, holds supervisory responsibility over all other ministries. Under the theme "AIMING HIGHER: DELIVERING MORE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE COMMONWEALTH", the 10CYMM has brought together key stakeholders from across the Commonwealth, including Youth Ministers, Youth Representatives, and Youth Workers, to deliberate on policies and address broader social and sustainable development goals, from a youth perspective.

The five-day 10CYMM has been closely

examining four key areas: Education, Employment, Environment, and Engagement. Also included in the deliberations are cross-cutting themes such as Human Rights, Transformative Technology, and Disability.

This morning (14/09/2023) Minister Bangura was among the guests invited to have breakfast with The Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland KC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, and he later joined a select group at the 50th Anniversary Commonwealth Youth Programme and Awards Ceremony, held in Saint James' Palace.

The 10CYMM is set to conclude tomorrow 15th September 2023, with a Commonwealth Expo and Networking event, providing valuable opportunities for building connections between accredited Youth organizations and relevant stakeholders, with the aim to foster closer collaboration in the future. This year's event will culminate with visits to pre-selected sites showcasing innovative Youth initiatives in London.

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## Accused remanded for alleged cyber bullying

By Mohamed Bangura (Intern)



**T**wenty-year old Issa Mohamed Kamara has been remanded for alleged cyber bullying of one Ibrahim Mohamed Sama of number 31 Prince William Street, Kossoh Town, Jui in Freetown.

The accused person stands trial before Magistrate Mark Ngeba of Pademba Road Court No.1 in Freetown, on a count charge of cyber bullying contrary to Section 44 (2) (b) of Cybercrime Act 2021.

It was alleged that, between 3rd April 2023 to 13th April 2023 in Freetown he did send grossly and offensive messages through social media WhatsApp and voice calls on the number +23231317744 against Ibrahim Mohamed Sama that may likely

damage his character and caused apprehension and provocation to breach the peace.

Testifying in court, Daniel Komba Momoh attached to the Cyber Crime Unit, Waterloo Police Station, recalled on the 13th April 2023.

He said he was on duty when the report of cybercrime from Ibrahim Mohamed Sama was made.

He said forwarded the messages in a Samsung Android phone A03 and analyzed it, and took a snapshot of it for inspection.

He said they invited the accused person and obtained information from him.

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



## Guild of Editors - Sierra Leone

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### Public Notice

### Increase in Advert Pricing for Newspapers

24<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.

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

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

#### Coloured

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

The cover price remains the same.

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

Your cooperation is highly solicited.

Signed:  
Donald Theo-Harding  
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A Bid Conference will be held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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## NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

## Liberia opposition leader Boakai opens bid to beat President Weah



Outgoing Liberian Vice President Joseph Boakai delivers a statement to media ... Copyright © africanews SEYLOU/AFIP or licensors

Thousands gathered in Monrovia, Liberia's capital, on Sunday as opposition leader Joseph Boakai officially launched his campaign in anticipation of the upcoming October elections.

These elections are poised to serve as a litmus test for the popularity of President George Weah, the former football superstar, who is seeking re-election following a tumultuous first term.

Supporters of the soft-spoken Boakai, aged 78, who finished as the runner-up to Weah in the 2017 elections, passionately braved the rain at a stadium. They danced, waved flags, and fervently called for change.

Among the attendees were some former Weah enthusiasts who have grown disillusioned with what they perceive as his inability to elevate living standards or eradicate corruption in Liberia, an impoverished West African nation that has endured a

series of challenges this century, including a civil war, a devastating Ebola outbreak, and fluctuations in commodity prices.

"We had hoped that President Weah would deliver on his promises of change, but alas, we've seen nothing of the sort," remarked businesswoman Martha Gould. "We yearn for a better future."

Weah ascended to power on a wave of optimism, with many believing that the former world soccer player of the year could bring about positive change despite his lack of political experience.

However, a string of scandals has marred his administration.

Last year, the United States imposed sanctions on three officials, including Weah's chief of staff Nathaniel McGill, for corruption allegations, including the alleged misappropriation of state assets. Weah promptly dismissed these officials, who vehemently deny any wrongdoing.

In 2018, a Liberian court issued arrest warrants for over 30 former central bank officials in connection with the disappearance of \$104 million. An accounting error regarding fuel supplies in state-run tanks left Liberia facing a gasoline shortage in 2020, causing widespread panic at fuel stations.

Nonetheless, the question remains whether Joseph Boakai and his Unity Party can reverse the tide. President Weah continues to enjoy popularity across significant parts of the country, and the economy experienced nearly 5% growth last year, primarily driven by advances in agriculture and mining, as reported by the World Bank.

## Niger strengthens positions on border with Benin

A large crowd hails soldiers as a convoy passes through Gaya on September 13, Niger's closest city to Benin, on its southern border. Cheers, slogans hostile to France and the regional bloc ECOWAS can be heard.

Since the 15-nation group has agreed to activate a "standby force" to intervene in Niger and restore democratic rule by force, Niamey has strengthened its positions on the border.

Resident El Hadj Moussa Ibra is serene.

"Here in Gaya we are calm and relaxed," he said over the week-end. "We have already witnessed such a deployment in the past, I refer you to 1963-1964, at the time there were tensions between us and Benin because of the *été* island issue. So it's kind of déjà vu, same country, and yet another deployment in Gaya."

The convoy was deployed on Wednesday (Sep. 13), one day after Niger denounced a military cooperation deal with Benin.

The ruling junta is at odds with its neighbours from the

Economic community of West African states.

"The deployment of the Nigerian military in the department of Gaya has reassured residents, including myself," civil society actor Hamada Oussani said.

"Just recently people were worried as they listened to the news and read reports on social media saying that the number of troops and the military material would be insufficient. We were surprised to see the military headed to Gaya to deploy and stay at the border we share with Benin on one hand and with Nigeria on another hand. People felt reassured that the state had taken all necessary dispositions to be able to deal with whatever comes next."

Niger's military rulers who've deposed president Bazoum have accused Benin of authorizing "the stationing of soldiers and war materials in view of an aggression" they say is desired by France in collaboration with certain ECOWAS countries.

## DRC: at least 17 dead in landslide



Local Red Cross volunteers attempt to remove a body from the rubble of a house - Copyright © africanews ALEXIS HUGUET/AFIP or licensors

Torrential rains in northwestern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) caused a landslide that killed at least 17 people overnight, authorities said on Sunday, warning that the toll could rise as rescuers search through the rubble of collapsed houses.

The disaster occurred along the Congo River in the town of Lisal, in northwestern Mongala province, according to Matthieu Mole, president of the civil society organization Forces Vives. The victims lived in houses built at the foot of a mountain.

"Torrential rain caused a lot of damage, including a landslide which engulfed several houses," he said. "The results are still provisional because bodies are still under the rubble."

Governor Cesar Limbaya Mbangisa said there was an urgent need for machines to help clear debris and try to save survivors. The governor also offered his condolences to the families of the victims and declared three days of mourning throughout the province.

## SA advises two-minute shower over water shortage



A man takes a shower at the 'Bath Boat' pool in Berlin, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009. - Copyright © africanews Markus Schreiber/AP2009

Water providers in Johannesburg, South Africa, have issued a pressing call to action for the city's residents and suburban communities to join hands in conserving water resources amidst an increasingly dire shortage.

They caution that failure to act could lead to an imminent system collapse.

Rand Water and Johannesburg Water jointly announced on Sunday that excessive water consumption by residents has placed an unsustainable burden on the city's water infrastructure, resulting in critically low reservoir levels.

In a bid to avert disaster, these utilities are urging residents to adopt immediate water-saving

measures, including reducing shower times to a mere two minutes, reserving toilet flushing for essential purposes, and restricting car washing to weekends using buckets.

Furthermore, residents are being implored to refrain from filling swimming pools until the water scarcity crisis subsides, abstain from irrigating gardens and lawns with potable water, and promptly address or report any water leaks.

This appeal comes as Johannesburg remains under annual water restrictions, typically enforced during South Africa's dry season spanning from September to March. Recent weeks have witnessed an alarming shortage, leaving certain residents and vital institutions such as hospitals without access to water, prompting widespread dissatisfaction.

## Congo denies claims of coup attempt

The Congo-Brazzaville government has refuted recent claims of a coup attempt against President Denis Ngesso, who has held office for an uninterrupted 39 years.

These allegations surfaced on social media, suggesting an orchestrated effort by the military to remove the 79-year-old leader from power. President Ngesso was at the time of these rumors in New York, participating in the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In response to these allegations, Information Minister Thierry Mougalla took to X (formerly Twitter) on Sunday to unequivocally dismiss them, stating,

"The government categorically denies the spread of false information. We wish to reassure the public of the prevailing tranquility and encourage everyone to carry on with their daily activities calmly."

The government's official website also published a statement reaffirming its rejection of any reports concerning an attempted coup.

Recent months have seen a surge in coup d'états across the African continent, with the most recent occurrence taking place in neighboring Gabon,



Republic of Congo President Denis Sassou Nguesso leaves the Elysee Palace after a lunch with - Copyright © africanews AP Photo

where military forces assumed control in August. Denis Ngesso ascended to the presidency of this oil-rich Central African nation through a military coup in 1979. Although he experienced a temporary setback in 1992 when he lost Congo's initial multi-party elections, he later reclaimed power in 1997 following a period of civil conflict.

## Morocco earthquake: volunteer doctors mobilized in devastated regions

In Inghede, southwest Morocco, eleven volunteer doctors have been tirelessly working for days in the mountainous area that is difficult to access.

According to state news agency MAP, the Moroccan Health and Social Security ministry has mobilized over 2,000 general and specialist doctors and nurses as well as over 300 tonnes of medicines for regions affected by the Al-Haouz earthquake.

"We've been here since the third day, between the second and third day (after the) earthquake. We've seen a lot of trauma, a lot of wounds, apart from chronic illnesses that weren't monitored during the days that the douar (editor's note: village) was hit by the earthquake," emergency physician Achraf Azouz said.

"There are hypertensives, diabetics, several chronic illnesses that are not monitored. But most of the time, we take care of people with serious wounds and

traumas."

Moroccan authorities reported 2,946 deaths and several thousand injuries as of Wednesday (Sep. 13).

If a new chapter has opened for survivors of the quake that struck Marrakesh and the regions to its south on September 8, fear of the future remains. "I'm afraid when the cold season will start, it's going to be a disaster because [people] here have nothing. They live in tents that can hold a dozen people, no hygiene, nothing at all. There's enormous poverty. With the help of the local population and other doctors, [I would like, I wish] for them to continue this action of taking care of the population."

Morocco announced the launch of an aid programme on Sep. 14 to support and rehouse the residents of about 50,000 buildings damaged in by the Al-Haouz earthquake.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

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**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

**Press Release**

**Introduction of Digital Excise Tax stamps**

The Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the National Revenue Authority (NRA), wishes to inform the General Public, especially Manufacturers, Importers, Distributors, and Retailers of excisable goods (tobacco, wine, spiritous beverages and beer products) of the introduction of the mandatory Digital Excise Tax Stamps. This is to comply with the provisions of Section 37 of the Finance Act 2019, which provides for an excise stamp to be mandatorily affixed on all excisable goods specified by the Minister responsible for finance.

The process to place or affix stamps in either paper form or digital codes directly on these excisable products or packages containing them will begin on 1 October 2023. **No New Tax** is being introduced in the mandatory Digital Excise Tax Stamps Scheme.

Manufacturers, importers, distributors, agents, or traders of gazetted excisable products should fully dispose of any stock already held at introducing the Digital Tax Stamp Scheme by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. All stock of gazetted excisable products held before this period without a Digital Tax Stamp should be returned to the manufacturer or importer for affixing the excise stamp.

The NRA will apply the full force of the law to impose penalties for any non-compliance to tax obligations prescribed by law.

***For more information, please visit the nearest NRA office  
or call toll-free 839 for Africell or Orange.***

**8<sup>th</sup> September, 2023**





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INTERNAL/EXTERNAL

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Jhpiego is an international, non-profit health organization affiliated with [The Johns Hopkins University](#). For 40 years and in over 155 countries, Jhpiego has worked to prevent the needless deaths of women and their families.

Jhpiego Corporation has been providing technical support to the Ministries of Health in partner countries across the globe for the past 40 years in a variety of technical areas including cervical cancer treatment and prevention, community health, HIV and AIDS, maternal and newborn health, health workforce capacity development (both pre-service and in-service), family planning, malaria, and IPC/WASH.

**Position:** Administrative Officer (1 Position)

**Reports To:** Finance and Operations Director

**Job Location:** Freetown, Sierra Leone

**Duration:** 12 Months

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Provide guidance to the program teams regarding the financial requirements of the projects and office operations.
- Implements and oversees a detailed financial reporting and reimbursement process in accordance with Jhpiego's established financial system.
- Prepares the monthly financial report by using adapted finance software (QuickBooks) and ensures accuracy and timeliness
- Uses various software applications such as spreadsheets, relational databases, statistical packages, and graphic packages to assemble, analyze, and format data and/or reports
- Ensures financial management systems provide accurate, current, and complete disclosure of financial transactions
- Support the Finance Manager in the financial reporting process to donors
- Ensure that required financial controls and cost-performance monitoring mechanisms are in place and adhered to: prevents over or under-expenditure of budgets, ensures proper safeguards of funds, and ensures compliance with established USG and Jhpiego's global financial, accounting, and administrative procedures.
- Regularly review accounting transactions to ensure costs are allowable and reasonable Regularly review QBE: review of balance sheet, aging analysis, detailed GL, expenditure by ION, advance balance
- Performs other projects related activities as assigned by the supervisor or by Jhpiego management
- Thorough understanding of the monthly reporting circle
- Monthly reconciliation of the receivables and payables
- Demonstrated experience of at least 2 years' experience in staff supervision
- Advanced knowledge of QBE is required
- A certification in QBE is a plus

**Required Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:**

- Degree in Accounting, Finance or its recognized equivalent
- An MBA in Accounting or at level 2 of a professional qualification (CPA, ACCA or recognized equivalent) is highly desired.
- 5+ years relevant experience in finance and accounting.
- Knowledge of institutional donors (e.g. USAID) regulations, procedures and requirements a plus.
- Be of high integrity and have a sense of confidentiality
- Be willing to take on extra responsibilities, sometimes working overtime, in order to achieve the goals/objectives set by the organization

Qualified persons are required to send their Curriculum Vitae (CV) and application letter to: [SL-Recruitment@jhpigo.org](mailto:SL-Recruitment@jhpigo.org). Clearly state in the subject area the position you are applying for, if not clearly stated your application will not be considered.

Deadline for the submission of applications: September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Please note that due to the sheer volume of applications often received, only shortlisted candidates will receive responses.

Jhpiego is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer



INTERNAL/EXTERNAL

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Jhpiego is an international, non-profit health organization affiliated with [The Johns Hopkins University](#). For 40 years and in over 155 countries, Jhpiego has worked to prevent the needless deaths of women and their families.

Jhpiego Corporation has been providing technical support to the Ministries of Health in partner countries across the globe for the past 40 years in a variety of technical areas including cervical cancer treatment and prevention, community health, HIV and AIDS, maternal and newborn health, health workforce capacity development (both pre-service and in-service), family planning, malaria, and IPC/WASH.

**Position:** Senior Finance Officer (1 Position)

**Reports To:** Finance and Operations Director

**Job Location:** Freetown, Sierra Leone

**Duration:** 12 Months

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Provide guidance to the program teams regarding the financial requirements of the projects and office operations.
- Implements and oversees a detailed financial reporting and reimbursement process in accordance with Jhpiego's established financial system.
- Prepares the monthly financial report by using adapted finance software (QuickBooks) and ensures accuracy and timeliness
- Uses various software applications such as spreadsheets, relational databases, statistical packages, and graphic packages to assemble, analyze, and format data and/or reports
- Ensures financial management systems provide accurate, current, and complete disclosure of financial transactions
- Support the Finance Manager in the financial reporting process to donors
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- Advanced knowledge of QBE is required
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Government of Sierra Leone  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

**TORs FOR STAFF RECRUITMENT  
AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT  
PROJECT (AVDP) STAFF RECRUITMENT – IFAD  
Positions: Financial Accountant (1)**

**August 2023**

**Recruitment of PMU Staff - Agricultural  
Value Chain Development Project (AVDP)**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is implementing the Agriculture value Chain Development Project. The Project is in its fourth year of implementation and will be implemented over six years with the overall goal of improving livelihoods, food security and climate resilience of rural farming households. The project's development objective is to increase incomes for smallholder farmers through the promotion of agriculture as a business. The project is financed by IFAD, the Adaption Fund, the Opec Fund for International Development (OFID), the private sector, the

Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and beneficiaries. IFAD is supervising the project.

The project is working in ten districts, primarily with Farmers' Organizations, Service Providers, and SMEs in the rice, vegetables, cocoa and oil palm value chains through crop diversification to enhance nutrition and create alternative income streams will figure prominently in project activities. The ADVP is adopting a value chain approach, intervening either directly or through partners in all links in the value chain from seed supply through processing and marketing. The project has been structured to maximize synergies with two World Bank-funded projects, one AfDB and one IsDB that are intervening in the same value chains.

For the implementation of this project, MAF is recruiting Financial Accountant for the Project Management Unit whose position has been declared vacant.

**How to apply:**

For all information on how to apply and to view the job description please visit the MAF website: <http://www.maf.gov.sl> under the About Us Page Section by going to the Jobs page

**Women are particularly encouraged to apply  
The deadline for submission is COB on Friday  
22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2023**



Government of Sierra Leone  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

**RECRUITMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

**Project Location/Duty Station: TORMA BUM**

**Recruitment of Agribusiness Development  
Officer–SL Regional Rice Value Chain  
Development Project (SL-RRVCP)**

The Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security (MAFS) has obtained financing from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) as partial funding for the implementation of the Regional Rice Value Chain Development Project (RRVCDP) under the National Agric. Transformation 2023 programme. Part of these funds are going towards supporting a Program Management Team to be located in Torma Bum, Bonthe District. The Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security now invites applications from suitable and qualified Sierra Leonean candidates to fill the following vacant position:

The overall goal of the Regional Rice Value Chain (RRVC) Program is to contribute to the respective countries'

ambitions of becoming self-sufficient in rice given that most are currently importing significant amounts of rice at high cost. Achieving this goal requires supporting smallholder farmers that dominate the rice production systems in the targeted countries (Guinea, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and The Gambia). It is within this context that this program aims at improving the production and commercialization of the smallholder rice sector in these five countries. This is critical to the national self-sufficiency and import substitution goal of the country. Value chain approach is the main delivery mechanism of the regional program and its specific country projects. The approach will stimulate public-private partnership where the private sector plays a key role with the governments and development partners providing the required enabling environment. A key success factor of the program is increasing, in a sustainable manner, smallholder rice paddy yields to a range of 3-5 ton/ha, up from the prevailing 1-2 ton/ha.

For the implementation of this project MAFS is recruiting an Agribusiness Development Officer for the Project Management Unit.

**How to apply:**

For all information on how to apply and to view the job description please visit the MAFS website: <http://www.maf.gov.sl> under the About Us Page Section by going to the Jobs page

**Women are particularly encouraged to apply**

**Deadline for submission is COB on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September  
2023**

## 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



Government of Sierra Leone

Ministry of Agriculture  
and Food Security

# RECRUITMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

**Project Location/Duty Station: TORMA BUM**

**Recruitment of Agribusiness Development Officer – SL  
Regional Rice Value Chain Development Project (SL-RRVCP)**

The Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security (MAFS) has obtained a Financing from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) as partial funding for the implementation of the Regional Rice Value Chain Development Project (RRVCDP) under the National Agric. Transformation 2023 programme. Part of these funds are going towards supporting a Program Management Team to be located in Torma Bum, Bonthe District. The Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security now invites applications from suitable and qualified Sierra Leonean candidates to fill the following vacant position:

The overall goal of the Regional Rice Value Chain (RRVC) Program is to contribute to the respective countries' ambitions of becoming self-sufficient in rice given that most are currently importing significant amounts of rice at high cost. Achieving this goal requires supporting smallholder farmers that dominate the rice production systems in the targeted countries (Guinea, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and The Gambia). It is within this context that this program aims at improving the production and commercialization of the smallholder rice sector in these five countries. This is critical to the national self-sufficiency and import substitution goal of the country. Value chain approach is the main delivery mechanism of the regional program and its specific country projects. The approach will stimulate public-private partnership where the private sector plays a key role with the governments and development partners providing the required enabling environment. A key success factor of the program is increasing, in a sustainable manner, smallholder rice paddy yields to a range of 3-5 ton/ha, up from the prevailing 1-2 ton/ha.

For the implementation of this project MAFS is recruiting an Agribusiness Development Officer for the Project Management Unit.

#### How to apply:

For all information on how to apply and to view the job description please visit the MAFS website: <http://www.maf.gov.sl> under the About Us Page Section by going to the Jobs page

**Women are particularly encouraged to apply**

**Deadline for submission is COB on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023**

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