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Gunfire victim shares experience

By Alfred Koroma

MML is headline Sponsor for S/Leone diaspora investment summit

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At about 2pm on Thursday, an artist known as Big Fish, unleashes chaos after he snatched a rifle from a female police officer deployed at the United Bank for Africa around Charlotte Street and went on firing rampage. He was later approached and shot dead by a military officer.

Before he was shot, eye witnesses said the late artist had earlier muttered that he was in the mood for killing shortly after he had snatched the gun from the officer at the Bank.

Cont. Page 3



Fatmata Douda narrates how she suffered bullet wound

Social Welfare Ministry launches quick action on substance abuse



Zainab S. Kanu speaking on the needs of children

Children demand brighter, just future

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LOCAL NEWS

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

Children demand brighter, just future

Children from across Sierra Leone have asked government to give them every opportunity to reach their full potentials in life, which according to them, is only possible when they are given the prospect to learn, be protected and are able to participate in society.

Teenagers made the request during the official closing of 'My Body. My Decision. My Rights' project (implemented in Kailahun and Western Area Rural) which was held at the Freetown International Conference Center (Bintumani Hotel) in Freetown.

The closure of the project which was implemented by Save the Children with support from Global Affairs Canada was followed by a summit that was organised on Tuesday from which a communique was drafted by adolescent from across the country.

While reading from the communique developed by adolescent, Zainab S Kanu, a teenager beneficiary from Waterloo said the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aims at a fairer world by 2030. She said the goals are a call for urgent action for development by all countries.

"To ensure that we become the future leaders that will contribute to developing this nation, we are asking government to empower communities and farmers through agricultural education and strengthen agricultural systems to increase food on the market; improve access to health care especially sexual reproductive health and mental health for adolescents among other



things," she demanded.

She said they also want government to put policies in place to ensure access to clean water and good sanitation for all and finally, promote justice that is free, fair, and accessible to all for a peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development.

"As adolescents, we believe that Sierra Leone can be a prosperous nation when we address five of the 17 SDGs for children; namely, Zero Hunger (SDG2); Good Health and Wellbeing (SDG3); Quality Education (SDG5); Gender Equality (SDG6); Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG16); and Peace, Justice and Strong Institution (SDG16)," she read.

Speaking on the issues that affect them, Kanu said they are currently facing many challenges which include hunger, because of poverty, reduced farming and an increase in the prices of commodities, increased risk of sicknesses and diseases because of poor

Affairs emphasised on the importance of the project to the government of Sierra Leone.

He said during the project they conducted a survey and it was discovered that the project has significantly impacted the people of Kailahun both directly and indirectly, noting that there has been a sharp drop in gender-based violence, early child marriage and teenage pregnancy in the district.

Director Vandi promised that his ministry will canvass parliament to



environmental sanitation, poor quality education and the risk of girls dropping out of school because of the level of bribery and corruption in the education system as well as sexual harassment girls face in school daily.

She said children are also affected by gender discrimination where girls have limited access to employment when they enter the job market.

"Furthermore, we do not have access to clean pipe borne water or good sanitation facilities at home and or in communities and there is no justice for the most vulnerable children (girls) who are often left to suffer in silence from rape or other serious violations," she said.

Child marriage is a serious violation of human rights and a form of gender-based violence that affects about 12 million girls around the world. In response, Save the Children implemented a three-year project "My body. My Decision. My Rights: Reducing Children Early Forced Marriage in two districts with historically high rates of child marriage; Western Area Rural and Kailahun District.

In her remark earlier on, Modupe Taiwo, Project Manager said the project which funded by Global Affairs Canada, aims to reduce child marriage and empower adolescents girls.

She went on to state that with a gender-transformative and girls' empowerment approach, the project was able to engage other stakeholders (parents, male partners, government officials) who have control or influence over girls' ability to their own informed decisions about marriage and pregnancy.

Charles Vandi, Deputy Chief Director, Ministry of Gender and Children's

pass into law the Child Rights Act. He concluded by pleading for the continuity of the project.

Chairman, Kailahun District Council said Save the Children and its sponsors never made a mistake to implement the CEFM Project in Kailahun District. "Kailahun is strategic location for the implementation of such project because the district is an entry point to from both Guinea and Liberia," he said.

He praised the distinct way in which Save the Children implemented the project. "Such a project should not be limited to Kailahun and the Western Area Rural districts alone; it should be cascaded to other districts," he added.

From the Western Area Rural District, Chief Bethembeng said unlike Kailahun which is homogenous society, Western Area Rural is a heterogeneous society, therefore making it difficult to implement such project, he said but that notwithstanding, the project was successfully implemented, "a toll free line was established to report all matters against teenagers," he said.

He furthered that teenage pregnancy has drastically reduced as compare to prior to the implementation of the project. "Maternal Mortality rate, gender-based violence, and early marriage have all significantly dropped and gender equality is awareness is high".

Other key speakers included representatives from Burkina Faso where the same CEFM project is implemented, Patrick Analo of Save the Children Sierra Leone, Doris Mansaray of the District Advisory Committee Chair Person in Kailahun, Paramount Chief Taaka Baior of Pejeh Bongre Chiefdom in Kailahun emphasised on the relevance of the project and the need for its continuity and sustainability.

Gunfire victim shares experience

From Cover

During Big Fish's rapid firing, a trader known as Fatmata Douba was hit by the fragments of the rifle while trying to run out of her shop in to seek a safer place. The victim has spoken to Concord Times, sharing what happened before she was rushed to hospital.

"I was inside when people started shouting; that man has a gun. That man has gun. There was chaos everywhere," she recalled.

"I tried to move out of my shop to seek a safer place, when I heard a sound 'gbom' and people were shouting fire, fire, Fatmata explained. "Quickly after that sound, I felt like sand has entered my face. Then a boy told me - Aunt, blood is coming out of your face."

Fatmata was rushed to Connaught Hospital and later referred to the Emergence Hospital. "There is a deep hole where I was hit, she said pointing at her shoulder plastered with a gauze sponges and a medical tape. On to the moments she was speaking to Concord Times, the victim said: "I still feel sand around my shoulder. That's exactly how I feel."

Big Fish who caused the trader's injury was notorious for violent behavior. In a press statement put out after last week's incident, Police



described him as a "notorious armed robber and violent thug."

In September 2021, the late artist was suspiciously spotted at the State Avenue with a cutlass, shouting "Allahu Akbar." Authorities asked him out of the avenue, but he refused, leading to his arrest.

Big Fish is reported to have lived in the United States of America for some time, but it is not clear, which circumstances brought him back to Sierra Leone. Sources say, he has been acting erratically and insanely since his return from the U.S.

LOCAL NEWS

The planning committee of the Sierra Leone Diaspora Investment Conference is thrilled to announce Marampa Mines Limited (MML) as the Headline Sponsor of the highly anticipated summit to engage the diaspora beyond remittance. This groundbreaking event, set to take place on October 7th at the Metro Points Hotel, will bring together over 200 attendees, making it the largest business gathering of Sierra Leonean and American leaders, policy makers, and investors in North America.

"We are delighted to have the invaluable support of Marampa Mines as the Headline Sponsor of this summit, aimed at fostering US-Sierra Leone trade relations and driving economic growth through direct investment," said Vickie Remoe, founder of Make Sierra Leone Famous, the DMV-based firm hosting the summit.

"As the largest American employer in Sierra Leone, MML stands as a shining example for both American and diaspora investors. Not only have they successfully resolved disputes with the Government of Sierra Leone, but they have also forged a formidable partnership with the local community, built on mutual respect

and cooperation. Overcoming the challenges of conducting business in Sierra Leone is no small feat, and MML's ability to triumph over these obstacles and prioritize community development is unprecedented."

With a workforce of over 2500 Sierra Leoneans, Marampa Mines made a record one-time payment of \$1.7 million to the people of Port Loko District in April, the highest amount received by a community development fund to date. The company's trademarked product, Marampa Blue, a high-demand concentrate with over 65% iron content, has positioned Sierra Leone as a provider of greener steel for a cleaner environment.

During the conference, Marampa Mines will share invaluable insights on how the diaspora can play a pivotal role in bridging the human capital gap and supporting the growth of small and medium enterprises through direct investment.

"MML is a cornerstone company in Sierra Leone, and we firmly believe that our success is intertwined with the success of Sierra Leone as a

whole. We urge the diaspora to shift their focus away from the challenges we face and redirect it towards the abundant opportunities within our company, sector, and the broader impact our success can have on Sierra Leone's future," said Abdul Koroma, Senior Corporate Executive



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and Vice President at Marampa Mines. "Diaspora investment can further bolster our growth, help us bridge the skills and gender gap in the workplace, achieve our local content goals, and support businesses and services that complement our own."

Social Welfare Ministry launches quick action on substance abuse

By Yusufu S. Bangura

In order to tackle substance abuse in the country among youth, the Minister of Social Welfare, Melrose Karminty has launched the Inter-agency Government Quick Action on Substance Abuse at the ministry's conference room.

Giving the purpose of the launching, chairperson at the event, Mariatu Bangura said the increase in drug and substance abuse is very clear in everyone's eye as most of the youths are taking drugs.

"It is a high time as a responsible government to tackle this issue. Therefore, the president has setup an inter-agency taskforce to look into the messes of substance abuse which is a big problem for us because it is going to hunt us in future if we don't address it now. We must ensure that we do not lose our next generation and we should put hands together to make sure that we address it at this time," she said.

She said the inter-agency was setup to address the situation with a focus and to identify, rehabilitate and reintegrate the addicts so that youths can become very useful in society and save the next generation.

She added that effort will also be made to work with communities, assess areas and trained youths with skills and income generation activities because most of them are hooked on to drugs.

In her statement, Minister of Social Welfare, Merlose Karminty stated that over the years, drug and substance abuse has been something that the country is battling with, saying that President Bio is not pleased with the current statues of the country, therefore he has shown a lot of concerns to address the issue.

She maintained that President Bio has directed them to bring everyone on board 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.

She further reiterated President Bio's commitments to addressing the issue of substance abuse by asking ministries and agencies to take emergency action to amend the issues because they need to give meaningful life to victims after they have been treated.

Minister Karminty continued that she was currently working with the National Drug and Law



Ministers and Deputy Ministers from various ministries pose for photos after the launching ceremony

Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to identify victims of substance abuse and institute remedies to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into their respective communities. She stated that the ministry has 140 social workers across the county to provide psychosocial counselling and they have trained 30 workers to do need assessment where the inmates are held in police custody and correctional centres because they should be released to the ministry for

rehabilitation and social care.

"As a matter of extreme urgency the ministry will commence the provision of psychosocial first-aid to those who are in custody following this launch today so that they will start to know that substance abuse is not good for them. I want people to know that the government is taking action to tackle drug abuse in the country," she said.



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LOCAL NEWS Giz trains trainers on international mining standards

By Ishmael Dumbuya

The German International Cooperation, GiZ, has on 21st September 2023 ended a three-day training of trainers on International Social and Environmental Standards at the Atlantic Hotel, Aberdeen, Freetown. The training commenced on the 19th September, and ended on 21st September.

In his presentation, Joseph Moy Kamara, the Technical Advisor, Regional Resource Governance in West Africa, Giz, stated that artisanal and small scale gold mining in the Mano River Union dates back several years to the traditions of certain communities. He underscored that the majority of people involved in artisanal mining live in poverty and have no access to health services, education or protection in the same way as workers in the formal sector.

He went on to state that environmental degradation in gold mining areas is very dangerous in the medium and long term due to lack of international practices and the lack of corrective measures.

He highlighted that the use of chemicals such as mercury has harmful effects of human health and the environment, noting that arable land in

mining areas are often affected as well as the livelihoods of local mining communities.

"In addition to the devastating impact of artisanal mining, the practices used to market the metal in various countries are also alarming, gold smuggling is widespread in MRU countries, resulting in considerable loss of revenue for governments," he concluded.

Regional Manager National Mineral Agency (NMA), Mohamed Ngaima, commended GiZ for organizing such a training as the NMA is the umbrella body that oversees all mining operations and activities, adding that bringing in international best practices in the mining and extractive industry is a step in the right direction as it will upgrade mining activities' across the country, and by extension MRU countries.

According to Ngaima, the extractive sector in the MRU Region is an essential source of livelihood for many people in the four countries of the Mano River Union (MRU), Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

He further stated that the sector in the MRU Region is often confronted with social conflicts, environmentally friendly mining methods, human rights violations, insufficient civil society participation, non-transparent



revenue management and systemic corruption.

"In the past, revenues from the extraction of and trade with minerals fueled armed conflicts in the region, the consequences of which can still be felt today," he explained.

Deborah Ngozi Lahai, a CSO activist noted that the impact of the training is very much significant to the unfolding status quo in the country. She highlighted that in all four MRU countries, the tax authorities have increased their capacity to audit mining companies. She indicated that

the mining authorities in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea have introduced a digital cadaster system for managing licenses, which is open to the public.

"In Sierra Leone, the project supported the broadcast of an interactive radio drama series called 'Bush Wahala' on 33 radio stations, with a potential reach of 1.7 million people. That increases community understanding of mining issues and supports local communities' in their interaction with mining companies," she echoed.

The training attracted members of the fourth estate, staff from Giz, and the trainees.

30 peace ambassadors trained

By Mohamed Bangura (Intern)

In honor of International Peace Day, the West Africa News Network, in collaboration with three other organizations, embarked on a two-day training program for peace Ambassadors in various communities. The training, which took place from Tuesday, September 19th to Wednesday, September 20th, 2023, aimed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to serve as ambassadors of peace in their respective areas.

During the workshop held at the Special Court Peace Museum hall in Freetown, Showers, addressing journalists, stated that the training focused on peace education and advocacy.

Rosaline Bundeh, a funding and partnership officer for West Africa Youths, explained that the purpose of the training was to develop individuals who could become peace Ambassadors in their communities. The selection process involved randomly choosing youths from certain communities and training them to represent those communities as ambassadors. Bundeh emphasized that the ambassadors, now equipped with the knowledge gained from the two-day training, would be capable of handling various issues that arise within their respective communities.

She further underscored the significance of training peace Ambassadors, emphasizing the need

to foster a culture of peace and non-violence globally. Bundeh stated, "Peace contributes immensely to our sustainable growth, and we are all aware of what is happening in our country." The program in Sierra Leone focused on networking and peace advocacy, with the aim of developing peace Ambassadors who would be issued certificates upon completion of the training.

Highlighting this year's theme for International Peace Day, Bundeh explained that it is a call to action for every individual. The program received sponsorship from Maxwella Bondo, a German descendant who travels across different parts of the world to aid in the implementation of peacebuilding initiatives.

In his statement, the Program Manager, Maxwella Bondo shed light on the importance of peace within our communities. He emphasized that peace does not imply the absence of conflict, stating, "Even our arguments should be conducted in a peaceful manner." He further mentioned that International Peace Day aims to support and educate youth about the importance of their roles in peacebuilding, as it is ultimately their responsibility.

Bondo also mentioned the upcoming International Peace Day, which aims to educate and support young people in their roles as peace builders. He believes that the responsibility of building and promoting peace lies with the youth. September has been



designated as International Peace Day, and Bondo hopes that during this time, the focus will be on fostering peace, resolving conflicts, and embracing individuals regardless of their background.

Advocate Juliet Kaikai, who supports women's rights in Sierra Leone, raised concerns about the alarming rate of violence against women in society. She specifically highlighted incidents such as the August 10th Protests and September 11th Election violence, where women often suffer the most.

During the certificate awarding ceremony for participants, Andrew Chokpelleh, an official present at the event, commended the recipients for their dedication and effort throughout the two-day training. Chokpelleh urged them to refrain from engaging in any form of violence,

reminding them that they have now become role models in their respective communities.

He encouraged them to make the most of the opportunities provided by the certificates, as a society free from violence is both desired by people and favored by God. Chokpelleh further underlined the importance of maintaining peace for a better future, particularly emphasizing the role of the youth as future leaders.

The two-day training program successfully equipped participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to become peace Ambassadors. With the certificates they received, the ambassadors are now empowered to contribute to peace, non-violence, and sustainable development within their communities.

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LOCAL NEWS

By Yusufu S. Bangura

In order to support the Free Quality Education, Always Work With Others (AWWO) Green Movement, has on Friday 22nd September, launched the first phase of donation of school learning materials to primary schools in the east end of Freetown.

The movement donated over two thousand five hundred (2,500) of both exercise and text books, plus thousands of other relevant school learning materials to hundreds of pupils.

Speaking to pupils during the donation ceremony, the National Coordinator of AWWO Green Movement, Umar Fuad Bawoh, said the aim of the donation was to support President Bio's vision to change the tale of education for vulnerable children in the country.

The founder said he wanted to draw attention to issues affecting students in the country where pupils face challenges of being educated, adding that education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and fostering socio economic development, yet countless children in impoverished areas are deprived of that fundamental right.

This lack of access hinders the ability of pupils to acquire knowledge that involves in critical thinking, and developing necessary skills for their

future endeavours.

The founder further said that, a child is eager to learn and explore the world, but being faced with the reality of not having the necessary materials to support their education, they are denied the opportunity to gain knowledge and pursue their dreams.

"This situation not only perpetuates the cycle of poverty, but it also hampers our society's potential for growth and progress," he said.

Bawoh believes that they can make a difference by coming together as a community to bridge the gap and ensure that all children have access to learning materials irrespective of their socio-economic backgrounds. This effort requires collaboration from various stakeholders, including governments, educational institutions, businesses, Non-Governmental Organizations and individuals.

dollars (\$4,500). Furthermore, he assured her that by paying the initial sum of five hundred United States dollars, the visa process would commence, and Osman Bendu would be able to travel to France within two weeks.

Feeling uncertain about the situation, Bangura sought legal advice from a lawyer named Yadama. Both parties signed an agreement stipulating that any breach of the agreement would entitle either party to pursue legal action. However, as time passed, Sheriff failed to provide any positive updates or respond to Bangura's calls. Eventually, he contacted her to inform her that he would assist her son-in-law in traveling to America before proceeding to France.

Disturbed by the lack of progress, Bangura reported the matter to the police station in Bamoi, Kambia district. Following this, the case was transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department in Freetown.

The trial of Saidu Sheriff Seasay continues, and the court will evaluate the evidence presented to determine his guilt or innocence regarding the charges of obtaining money by pretense. The matter was adjourned to the 25th of September 2023.

AWWO donates learning materials to pupils



AWWO) Green Movement founder Bawoh donating books

He stated that once they have a clear understanding of the needs, they could work towards establishing partnerships with publishers,

bookstores and organizations that can provide learning materials at affordable rates. This approach not only gives them access to learning materials but also helps address the issue of limited access to physical books.

He concluded that lack of access to learning materials in poor communities is an issue that demands immediate attention and that they cannot stand idly while countless children are denied their right to the free quality education. He called on them join hands and support the President Bio initiatives that aims to providing learning materials to pupils in impoverished areas.

Keynote speaker, Hon Isata Daramy, applauded the historical benchmark of Umar Fuad Bawoh for taking such responsibility to compliment the presidential developmental campaign of President Bio. She noted that thousands of pupils have benefitted from the donation of the AWWO Green Movement founder.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Mohamed Sankoh, a JSS 1 pupil thanked the founder for giving them the school learning materials and promised that they will make good use of the materials.

Security guard remanded

By Blessing C. Cole

A Michel Security Agency guard, Samuel Kabia age 18, was last week Friday remanded to the Male Correctional Centre by Magistrate Santigie Bangura of the Pademba Road Court No.3 for alleged stealing.

The accused person was before the court on one count of office breaking and larceny contrary to Section 26 (1) of the Larceny Act 1916.

According to the particulars of offence, the accused, on diverse dates between 5th and 19th August 2023, at Super Holding Limited, No. 4 Bolling Street, Kingtom in Freetown, entered into the aforesaid company's office and stole therein certain items valued NLe21,000 property belonging to the said Super Holding Limited whilst in custody of Michel Security Agency.

Testifying in court, second prosecution witness, Joseph Katekpe, who doubles as Operation Manager at Michel Group of Company, said he recognised the accused as his security guard and recalled on the day in question.

The witness highlighted his duties and responsibilities including employing guards and taking records of their various postings.

He recalled the said date when he deployed the accused at Super Holding Limited in Kingtom, adding that after some months he got information that money had been

missing twice from the Account Department.

He further said on the 5th, 12th and 19th he was informed that another money has got missing.

PW 2 said upon receipt of the information, he went to Super Holding Limited Company where he was shown a CCTV Footage, which they replayed before him.

He said when the CCTV footage was playing in his presence; he saw the accused and the footage were later transferred to a memory stick which was developed into pictures.

The pictures were produced and tendered in court to form part of the court's records.

The witness further explained that he later took the accused to the Kingtom Police Station where he made statement.

He went on to say after some days, he received a letter from the said company alleging that a total of NLe21, 000 was missing and the security agency must refund it within the shortest possible time. The letter was produced and tendered in court as evidence.

After the testimony of the witness, the accused said he did not have any question for the witness as he was unrepresented. Meanwhile, Magistrate Bangura refused the accused bail and remanded him at the Male Correctional Center until 26th September, 2023 for further hearing.

Man alleged of fraud held in custody

By Mohamed Bangura (intern)

Saidu Sheriff Sesay appeared before Magistrate Mark Ngeba of Court No 1, facing charges of obtaining money by pretenses. The accused is currently standing trial for one count of larceny, as per section 32 (1) of the Larceny Act 1916.

According to the police, it is alleged that on January 18, 2023, at the Access Bank building located at No 30 Siaka Steven Street in Freetown, Western Area, Sierra Leone, Saidu Sheriff Sesay obtained the sum of five hundred United States dollars (\$500), which is equivalent to eleven thousand five hundred new Leones (Nle 11,500), from Aminata Bangura through pretenses. It is claimed that Sheriff falsely promised to assist Bangura's brother, Osman Bendu, in traveling to France, despite being aware that this statement was untrue.

Testifying in court as the Prosecution Witness 1 (PW1), Aminata Bangura recounted the events of January 18, 2023. She stated that while she was working at Access Bank, the accused, Sheriff, approached her and collected five hundred United States dollars. According to Bangura, Sheriff informed her that the total travel expenses would amount to four thousand five hundred United States

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Nigerians rally in Lagos after death of Afrobeats star



People hold candle lights and a flare during a minute of silence at a protest inside a park in Lagos, Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, to demand justice for Afrobeats star Mohbad. - Copyright © africanews Sunday Alamba/Copyright 2023 The AP. All rights reserved

Hundreds of Nigerians rallied in Lagos Thursday to demand an investigation into last week's death of an upcoming singer, whose sudden demise has fired up the country's Afrobeats world.

MohBad, whose real name was Ilerioluwa Oladimeji Aloba, a singer and rapper who wrote hits such as "Feel Good", died mysteriously last Tuesday aged 27.

The cause of his death has been the subject of widespread speculation.

"I'm mentally drained. I feel so sad that how could someone be bullied to this moment and they see that they take his life," said Mama J., a Fashion designer. Nigeria's social media has been flooded with

indignation over Mohbad's passing, with some alleging that he had been harassed by powerful members of the country's hugely influential music industry. National police in Lagos State,

Nigeria's economic and cultural capital, announced Monday that they had formed a special team to conduct a "fair and transparent investigation."

"Nobody deserves to die at 27 now, nobody deserves to die an untimely death, nobody deserves to die without knowing what killed them, nobody deserves to die that way, it's wrong, it should be something that everybody should be concerned with, every other artist out there, every creative out there should be concerned about the death," said Eltee Skahillz, an Afrobeats star.

MohBad's career took off in 2019, after being signed by the powerful record label of famous rapper Naira Marley, one of the country's leading performers. The two parted ways in 2022 after disagreements.

In recent days, some fans online accused the rapper's team of having a link in MohBad's death, with an online petition which has gathered more than 250,000 signatories.

Guinea's leader defends coups in Africa and rebuffs the West, saying things must change

The recent coups in Africa are attempts by militaries to save their countries from presidents' "broken promises," the head of Guinea's junta said Thursday as he rebuffed the West for boxing in the continent of more than 1 billion people.

Col. Mamadi Doumbouya, who was sworn in as Guinea's interim president following the coup in 2021, told the U.N. General Assembly that beyond condemning the coups, global leaders must also "look to and address the deep-rooted causes."

"The putschist is not only the person who takes up arms to overthrow a regime," he told the gathering of world leaders in New York. "I want us all to be well aware of the fact that the real putschists, the most numerous, are those who avoid any condemnation - they are those ... who cheat to manipulate the text of the constitution in order to stay in power eternally."

Guinea is one of several nations in West and Central Africa that have experienced eight coups since 2020, including two - Niger and Gabon - in recent months. The military takeovers, sometimes celebrated by citizens in those countries and condemned by international organizations and foreign countries, have raised concern about the stability of the continent, whose young population of at least 1.3 billion is set to double by 2050 and make up a quarter of the planet's people.

Doumbouya accused some leaders in Africa of clinging to power by any means - often including amending the constitution - to the detriment of their people.

In Guinea, he said he led soldiers to depose then-President Alpha Conde in the September 2021 coup to prevent the country from "slipping into complete chaos." He said the situation was similar in other countries hit by coups and was a result of "broken promises, the lethargy of the people and leaders tampering with constitutions with the sole concern of remaining in power to the detriment of collective well-being."

Doumbouya also rebuffed attempts by the West and other developed countries to intervene in Africa's political challenges, saying that Africans are "exhausted by the categorizations with which everyone wants to box us in."

"We Africans are insulted by the boxes, the categories which sometimes place us under the



Guinea's President Mamady Doumbouya addresses the 78th United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York City on September 21, 2023. - Copyright © africanews TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AFP or licensors

influence of the Americans, sometimes under that of the British, the French, the Chinese and the Turks," the Guinean leader said. "Today, the African people are more awake than ever and more than ever determined to take their destiny into their own hands."

While the Guinean leader defended the coups in his country and elsewhere, concerns remain about the effectiveness of such military takeovers in addressing the challenges they said made them "intervene."

In Mali, where soldiers have been in power since 2020, the Islamic State group almost doubled the territory it controls in less than a year, according to U.N. experts. And in Burkina Faso, which recorded two coups in 2020, economic growth slowed to 2.5% in 2022 after a robust 6.9% the year before.

"Military coups are wrong, as is any tilted civilian political arrangement that perpetuates injustice," said Nigerian President Bola Tinubu. As the leader of West Africa's regional bloc of ECOWAS, he is leading efforts of neighbors to reverse the coup in the region.

"The wave crossing parts of Africa does not demonstrate favor towards coups," He said. "It is a demand for solutions to perennial problems."

Central African Republic sentences ex-president Bozizé to life imprisonment

Former Central African president François Bozizé, now exiled leader of the main rebel coalition, was sentenced on Thursday to life imprisonment with hard labor in Bangui, notably for "conspiracy" and "rebellion", according to a judgment sent to AFP on Friday by the Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Bozizé, who seized power in 2003 in a coup d'état before being overthrown 10 years later by rebels, was sentenced in absentia along with two of his sons and 20 other co-accused, including prominent rebel leaders.

They were all also convicted of "undermining the internal security of the State" and "murder", according to the judgment read by Joachim Pessire, First President of the Bangui Court of Appeal, which judges criminal cases in the first instance.

The judgment does not specify the crimes or the period concerned.

Mr. Bozizé, 76, a refugee in Chad until March 2023, when he went into exile in Guinea-Bissau, is the coordinator of the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC), the main Central African rebel coalition formed in December 2020 and which is waging a guerrilla war in the north of the country. Ali Darassa, fugitive military leader of the Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique (UPC), the main component of the CPC, is among those sentenced.

Civil war has been tearing apart the Central African Republic, one of the world's poorest countries, since 2013 when a coalition of armed groups dominated by Muslims, the Séléka, overthrew Mr. Bozizé, who then organized and armed so-called anti-balaka militias, mostly Christian and animist, in an attempt to regain power. The conflict, which was extremely deadly in the early years, has considerably diminished in intensity since 2018.

After Niger coup, sanctions pain strikes at shutdown Benin border

Lines of hundreds of trucks stretch back many kilometres close to Benin's northern border with Niger, their cargo wasting and their drivers going broke after weeks stranded at the closed frontier.

Almost two months since a coup ousted Niger's president, the trucks blocked in Malanville at Benin's border are the most striking symbol of the fallout Niger's neighbours are suffering from sanctions imposed on Niamey.

After 15-member West African bloc ECOWAS banned trade with Niger and threatened military action to restore democracy, the new junta also blockaded a bridge border crossing with Benin.

Nigerien driver Mahamat Kabirou Amadou left Benin's economic capital Cotonou for Niamey 50 days ago and now sits stuck in Malanville.

Not only has the coup and border closure cut him off from his country and family, but weeks of rain and sun have rotted his cargo of rice.

"We are tired and sick. We've let our assistants go because we were starting to run out of enough cash," the 35-year-old driver said. "We gradually sold all the diesel in our tanks just to eat."

ECOWAS -- the Economic Community of West African States -- imposed hefty sanctions against Niger after rebel elite soldiers on July 26 overthrew Mohamed Bazoum, the democratically elected president.

Negotiations to restore civilian rule have yet to bear fruit, with the junta demanding a three-year transition and ECOWAS calling for Bazoum's immediate return.

Wary of long transitions after coups in Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea, ECOWAS says a possible intervention in Niger is still a last option.

Already one of the world's poorest nations, the sanctions are squeezing Niger hard. Food prices have spiked about 21 percent, with the UN warning more people are at risk of severe food insecurity.

Earlier this month, the UN said 7,300 tons of food aid destined for Niger was stuck in transit because of border closures.

Malanville now resembles a parking lot packed with container trucks and buses that once transported passengers cross the border.

Drivers sleep under trucks, play cards and try to endure the seemingly endless wait for a resolution.

Nearby, on the bridge connecting Malanville with Gaya in Niger, four container trucks blockade the bridge and sandbags reinforce the military positions there.

"Our boss's money is finished. Hunger is getting to us," said Koudjegah Justin, 18, a Togolese driver's assistant. "We ask the Beninese government to help us by opening

the border. We want to cross."

Regional fallout

Niger shares southern frontiers with ECOWAS members Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Benin, but it is also a major trading route with other nearby members of the bloc such as Togo, Ghana and Ivory Coast.

ECOWAS sanctions suspend all commercial transactions with Niger under the control of a military junta.

For Ghana, the sanctions have caused a shortage of onions as Niger was a key exporter in West Africa. It also hit supplies of beans and millet.

Before the coup, a 100-kilo (220-pound) sack of onions was selling at US\$61 in Ghana, but now it is \$105. About 20 trucks would arrive daily from Niger at Adjen Kotoku Onion market near Accra before. Now only a few can make the trip.

"Most of them are stuck at the borders," said Yakuba Akteniba, president of an onion sellers association. "By the time most of them get here the onions are already rotten. It's killing our business."

Traders in Nigeria's northern border communities with Niger also said they were feeling the economic fallout.

"The last two months have been particularly hard for our town due to the near collapse of trade," said Mohammed Aliyu, a trader in the border town of Illela, Sokoto state.

"We rely on cross-border interactions for our mutual survival but that has been cut."

A trickle of drivers would take illegal routes to make it over the border, he said.

A bag of rice which cost 28,000 naira (\$36) before the border closure now sells for 42,000 naira. Local markets also sourced much of their livestock from Niger.

"Too much suffering"

With the land route from Niger to Benin closed, many have turned to informal motorised canoes and boats ferrying passengers across the River Niger that divides them.

Prices for the 30-minute journey have jumped tenfold on high demand, operators said.

Boats used to transport fuel across the river, but that trade has dried up due to increased security presence, so operators say they are making the most of the border closure.

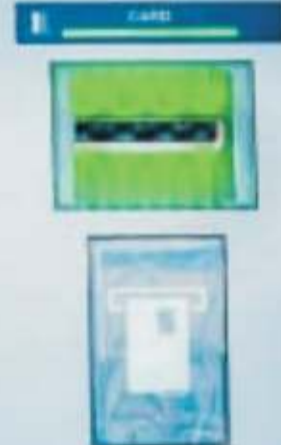
Boats transport everything they can fit in -- motorbikes, food, livestock, people. Moto-taxis and cars wait on riverbanks to transport passengers.

"It's the only way to get to the other side now," said Chabi Nourou, a baggage handler. "There is really too much suffering."

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP



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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	Dembea 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

Mott MacDonald SL Limited

Procurement Number: MMSL/SSEIP2/1088.25

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

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

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

Tablet

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

Tablet case

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

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

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

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

- Valid business registration certificate
- Valid NASSIT clearance certificate
- Valid tax clearance certificate

References, indicating the supplier's experience to deliver similar products to reputable organizations - corporations, INGOs and Government

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

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

Mott MacDonald Sierra Leone Limited
24 Regent Road, Opposite Orange Office
Hill Station
Freetown -

Invitation for Bids

Mott MacDonald SL Limited

Procurement Number: MMSL/SSEIP2/1088.26

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Valid business registration certificate
- Valid NASSIT clearance certificate
- Valid tax clearance certificate

References, indicating the supplier's experience to deliver similar products to reputable organizations - corporations, INGOs and Government

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

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

Mott MacDonald Sierra Leone Limited
24 Regent Road, Opposite Orange Office
Hill Station
Freetown



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Invitation for Bids



ELECTORAL COMMISSION FOR SIERRA LEONE

Procurement of Polling Procedure Training Materials
Procurement Number: ECSL/TAP/NCB/G/2023/0254
Date of First Issue: 25th September 2023

The Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) has received funds from the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and intends to use part of the funds for eligible payments under the contract for the procurement of Polling Procedure Training Materials. The Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the printing and delivery of the undermentioned materials:

No.	Item Description	Quantity	Unit of Measurement	Amount of Bid Security Required (SLE)	Delivery Period
1.	Reconciliation and Result Form	3000	Pieces	20,000	One (1) Week
2.	Polling and Counting Manual	3000	Booklets		
3.	Quick Reference Guide on Polling and Counting	3,900	Pieces		
4.	Mock Ballot Paper	60	Booklets		
5.	Tamper Evident Envelope 1-3 (TEE 1-3)	60	Pieces		

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at procurement department, Electoral Commission Office, OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown between 9:00am-4:00pm from Monday-Friday. Bidding documents may be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred New Leones only (SLE 500).

Payment for bidding document should be made into any of the bank accounts listed below and the payment slip presented at ECSL Procurement Department to collect the bidding document:

- Bank Name: Bank of Sierra Leone
Account Name: NPPA-Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents
Account Number: 0111003981
BBAN: 000001011100398165

Below are details of Transit Accounts at the following Commercial Banks:

- Bank Name: Union Trust Bank
Account Name: NPPA-Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents
Account Number: 0111003981
BBAN: 004001113253120144
- Bank Name: Sierra Leone Commercial Bank
Account Name: NPPA-Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents
Account Number: 0111003981
Account Number: 003001081791112183
- Bank Name: Rokel Commercial Bank
Account Name: NPPA-Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents
Account Number: 0111003981
BBAN: 002001002101242863

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2nd October 2023 at 12:00 Noon. All bids must be accompanied by:

- q A Valid Business Registration Certificate
- q Bid Security in the amount specified above and from a reputable Commercial Bank;
- q A Valid NRA Tax Clearance Certificate;
- q A Valid NASSIT Clearance Certificate;
- q Assigned Integrity Pact; [see attached]
- q Assigned and stamped Bid Form and Price Schedule
- q Evidence of undertaken similar assignment, including reference letters/contract documents.

Bids will be publicly opened on 2nd October 2023 at 12:00 Noon, in the presence of the bidders/bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders.

For any further clarification, please contact the address below.

Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone;
Procurement Department;
OAU Drive, Tower Hill;
Freetown;

16 convicts sentenced for various crimes

By Yusufu S. Bangiura

Justice Alusine Sesay presiding over the conclusion of proceedings related to 43 criminal cases before the Siaka Steven Street High Court has sentenced 16 convicts for various offenses.

That marked the official High Court Call Over and the opening of the September Criminal calendar where the High Court reviews cases that have undergone through Preliminary Investigations at the Magistrates' Courts and have been committed to the High Court for trials.

It also considers new indictments from the Law Officer's Department for assignment to various judges. The cases presented to the court included a range of offences including murder, manslaughter, conspiracy and robbery with violence, among others.

Justice Sesay sentenced the 16 convicts according to their respective offenses.

During the proceedings, one Abdul Karim Kargbo who had

passed away while in custody was later discharged from the offense of robbery with violence.

One of the convicts, Ishmael Bendu, a 23-year-old driver, who was found guilty of motor manslaughter and he was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Another driver, Mohamed Bangura, aged 32, was also convicted for motor manslaughter and was sentenced to five (5) years imprisonment.

Alhaji Idrissa, alias 'Kartel,' a 24-year-old mason, pleaded guilty to the offense of store breaking and larceny. He was sentenced to two (2) years imprisonment.

Also, during the September Call-over, other 13 convicts were sentenced to two imprisonment each for various offenses.

The cases were prosecuted by a team of lawyers from the Law Officer's Department, led by Lawyer A. J. M. Bockarie. The accused persons and convicts were represented by lawyers from the Legal Aid Board, led by Lawyer Cecilia Tucker.



Guild of Editors - Sierra Leone

C/O MRCG 145 Circular Road, Freetown.

Email: editorsguild94@gmail.com Mob: +23276653596

Public Notice

Increase in Advert Pricing for Newspapers

24th March, 2023.

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

Black & White

No.	Description	Old Price (NLe)	New Price (NLe)
1	Quarter Page (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, 3rd April, 2023.

Your cooperation is highly solicited.

Signed:
Donald Theo-Harding
Chairman, GoNE-SL.

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



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 \(ungm.org\)](http://Air Conditioner Maintenance (ungm.org)) to download all the tender documents and instructions.



MARIE STOPES SIERRA LEONE

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CALL FOR PROPOSAL

Marie Stopes Sierra Leone invites eligible Service Providers to submit proposal for Client Exit Interview 2023

Items	Deadline to request the ToR	Deadline for the submission of Proposals	Tender reference
Client Exit Interview	29 th September 2023 - 1600hrs GMT	3 rd October 2023	CEI/MSSL/09//23

Detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) can be obtained from Marie Stopes Sierra Leone via email to procurement@mariestopes.org.sl

Completed documentation should be submitted in soft copies to procurement@mariestopes.org.sl.

You must submit your proposal on the 3rd October 2023

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Miss Old is Gold Vol 3



Theme: Resilience of older persons in this changing world.



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NEC NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD **NPPA** **EBK UNIVERSITY** JUDICIARY OF SIERRA LEONE

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