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Reforms at Connaught Hospital

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Pepel Port management: Leone Rock enjoys community solidarity



Mobile Money agent, Osman Bah attending to a customer in Shenge, Southern Sierra Leone

Building an efficient mobile payment platform for Sierra Leone



In a powerful display of support, communities along the rail corridor at Pepel, Kamasondo Chiefdom, Port Loko District, came together and stood in solidarity with Kingho Railway and Port, a subsidiary company of Leone Rock Metal Group (LRMG). This gathering was aimed at refuting allegations made by Arise IIP and showcasing their genuine support for LRMG.

The event, attended by esteemed individuals including the North West Resident Minister, Regent Paramount Chief, PC Kombra Bai Lawyer, chiefdom speaker, town chiefs, landowners, Kamasondo youths, Pepel community policemen, women organizations, paramount chiefs, and other community stakeholders, was held to emphasise the positive impact LRMG has had on the region.

Cont. Page 2

Parliament ratifies 28.2 MW Betmai hydro-power agreement

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LOCAL NEWS

From Cover

Pepel Port management: Leone Rock enjoys community solidarity

"LRMG already has over 5,000 employees and with their forward thinking expertise and their recent developments like owning a shipping vessel, Leone Fortune, it is evident that more and more employment is coming and opportunities for Sierra Leone is apparent" PC Bai Forkie Fenka announced.

He continued " the people of Sierra Leone, especially communities along the Islands and rail corridor need LRMG and not a company that has lost our trust the moment they lied about our support. We are with LRMG! We Stand with Kingho!".

During the gathering, Mr. Saidu Abass Bangura, chiefdom speaker, eloquently highlighted LRMG's commendable accomplishments in just two years, surpassing those of previous companies in terms of vital infrastructure development. With undeniable evidence of their efforts, such as solar lights in the 8 community islands, the construction of a police office, modern latrines, resource centers, schools, and scholarships, Mr. Bangura called upon the government, emphasizing, "Do not let us down by taking this away from us."

Pa Sorie Kamara, the town chief, echoed Mr. Bangura's sentiments, underscoring the positive impact of LRMG's construction of the Kakim school, which has greatly benefited the children of the island. Alhaji A. M Kamara, the



Land Owners Chairman, emphasized LRMG's adherence to community regulations and contrasted their commitment with the mere promises made by Arise IIP, stating firmly, "Arise IIP does not have the people at heart; they are just making mere promises to the government, but LRMG is a 'Tok and Do' company."

The youth leaders also shared their perspectives, highlighting the numerous impactful projects implemented by LRMG, such as the "Say no to Violence" and "Say no to Drug Abuse" campaigns, as well as the construction of the bike riders association office. SCHO, Phoday Kamara, Kamasondo chiefdom supervisor, shed light on LRMG's rehabilitation of health centers, latrines, and wells, pleading with the

government, "Please do not take these facilities away from us."

Fatmata Dura Kargbo, the Women in Agriculture leader, commended LRMG for its commitment not only to mining but also to replenishing the soils by actively engaging and supporting women in agriculture. The representatives from the various sectors emphasized LRMG's unwavering support for local customs and traditions, as well as their dedication to uplifting island and rail corridor communities. In his keynote address, the Resident Minister called upon the government to continue supporting LRMG and working with them for the betterment of all. The gathering concluded with all present reading and signing a gratitude and

solidarity letter addressed to His Excellency President Bio, further demonstrating their unwavering support for LRMG. This unified show of support from communities along the Rail corridor in Sierra Leone highlights the positive transformations brought about by responsible mining companies like Leone Rock Metal Group. It serves as a testament to the genuine investments made by LRMG in vital infrastructure, education, healthcare, community empowerment, and environmental sustainability. As Sierra Leone continues to move forward on its path of progress, it is crucial for the government to recognize and support responsible mining companies like LRMG for the benefit of the nation as a whole.





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LOCAL NEWS

By Yusufu S. Bangura

Gender Analyst at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Kadiatu Bachalle-Taylor, has noted that the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act (GEWE) is a key approach to national development.

She made the above assertion on Thursday, 19th October, at the conclusion of three-day engagement with women's group from six districts, hosted by UN Women at the Atlantic Hotel, Lumley Beach Road in Freetown. She said from the inception of the project titled 'Localization and Working-Together for Peace: Repositioning Women-Focused CSOs for Sustainable Peace in Sierra Leone,' it has always been a miracle.

"At UNDP, promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is a key approach to development and our key aim is to eradicate poverty and if we are to eradicate poverty, then there is a need for us to ensure that we support the Government of Sierra Leone to structure the governance systems and structures to ensure that we have a democratic process that all citizens enjoyed their rights which includes women and girls," she said.

She said to ensure that they have equal participation and peace in Sierra Leone which requires the efforts of both women and men and forming the coalition, they believe that it has given them the platform to have an opportunity

and space where CSOs could deliberate and discuss and see what can be done to promote peace in Sierra Leone. She continued that people may be wondering why they only chose six districts (Bombali, Karene, Kono, Pujehun, Western Area Rural, and Western Area Urban) and that prior to the elections, they looked at areas that had semblance of conflicts, indicators or drivers that were actually emerging and those were the districts they actually targeted in the project.

"What we were looking at during the three days engagement is just a catalytic effort and we are just supporting, so that there is this platform going forward. We believe it will be your own initiative and you will be the drivers to drive your process and you will drive your vehicle right through. If we want to promote women's participation and peace within communities, it requires you to have the stamina to discuss norms and to transform norms, and also cultural practices within communities, so I have no doubt in this coalition, that you will do it," she stated.

She ended by saying that she had no doubt in the coalition because they can achieve great gains and



UNDP Gender Analyst,
Kadiatu Bachalle-Taylor

great results as it's not about self, but it's about the interest of the people of Sierra Leone, as several women have shown how they've been able to actually mitigating conflict across the world including Sierra Leone.

National Director for World Vision, Sagane Thiaw, said "World Vision is a child caucus organization. Our vision for every child is life in all its fullness, our prayer for every heart is for us to make it safe for girls. Therefore, we should work together to stop all form of violence against girls and women."

He emphasised that World Vision is a Christian international organization working in relief, development and advocacy and that they also work with children, families and communities to help them reach their full potentials by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice.

Thiaw continued that World Vision serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender hence they place women and children at the height of their operations, adding that gender equality and social inclusion are at the centre of their work to

promote the sustained, well-being of children in their communities and their families.

"We are committed to working in partnership with the government of Sierra Leone, the UN agencies, CSOs, men and women to promote the woman peace agenda, security agenda, at national and national level, the localization and working together for peace project funded by UNDP and be implemented by UN Women and World Vision is an evidence of our commitment as an organization to help promote peace, security, development, empowerment of women in Sierra Leone," he stated.

Alleged fraudster committed to High Court for trial

By Blessing C. Cole

Magistrate Peter Gogra of the Ross Road Court No.3 has committed Abdulai Conteh, a businessman, to the High Court for fraudulently converting a mobile phone to his own use.

It was alleged that the phone was entrusted to him by Ibrahim Foday Kamara.

The accused was before the court on one count of fraudulent conversion contrary to laws of Sierra Leone.

Police alleged that on Thursday, 10th August, 2023, at Horton Street in Freetown, the accused fraudulently converted to his own use or benefit a Techno spark 10 mobile phone valued two thousand Leones (NLe2, 000),

entrusted to him by Ibrahim Foday Kamara for the purpose of safe keeping.

When the charge was read to the accused by the court registrar he pleaded not guilty.

Deputy Superintendent of Police led the witness to testify in court to form part of the court records and evidence.

Delivering his ruling, Magistrate Gogra noted that he had looked at the evidence adduced before him and that the prosecution had provided sufficient evidence against the accused.

Meanwhile, Magistrate Gogra granted bail to the accused in the sum of thirty Leones (NLe30, 000) with two sureties in like sum.

Parliament approves presidential nominees

By Jariatu S Bangura

Members of Parliament have approved nominees that were appointed by the president to serve as ambassadors, executive chairmen and deputy commissioner in different institutions.

The nominees includes: Abu bakarr Karim as Ambassador to the Peoples Republic of China, Harold Bundu Saffa as Ambassador Ethiopia, Ahmed Tejan Fadludeen as Ambassador Qatar, Haji Daboh as Executive Director at National Mineral Agency (NMA).

Also, Dr. Edwards Hinga Sandy as Executive Director at National Investment Board, Emerson Kamara as, Deputy Commissioner National Youth Commission, Lansana Kaifala as Chairman Teaching Service Commission and Dr. Gevao Nuclear

Safety Radiation Protection Board. Members of Parliament admonished nominees to work earnestly in the interest of the people and the country and help address the challenges faced in their various institutions.

They said the nominee going to the Radiation Protection should establish means to educate the public on water pollution and its effects and also find ways to address the menace as lot of lives are at stake.

They also admonished the Ambassadors to represent the country well in their various countries and help raise the country's flag high.

They urged them to attract good things that will help boost the economic situation of the country in whatever way they could.



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LOCAL NEWS

By Alfred Koroma

Building an efficient mobile payment platform for Sierra Leone



Mobile Money agent, Osman Bah attending to a customer in Shenge, Southern Sierra Leone

No doubt, mobile payment is growing rapidly and expanding the space for financial inclusion in Sierra Leone. Thanks to COVID-19 and limited access to formal financial services in larger area of the country which became the driving force for Sierra Leoneans to embrace their mobile phones to make financial transactions.

Launched in 2010, the digital payment technology which allows users to send and receive money using their mobile phones, has revolutionized financial inclusion, made transaction easier and enhanced access to financial services to those previously deprived of access to formal banking system.

Sierra Leone has two mobile money systems – Orange Money and Afrimoney operated by the major Mobile Network Companies (MNOs). Customers use the service by visiting agents at the nearest kiosks, hand them physical cash to pay their bills and transfer money.

It is less cumbersome and easy for a customer to own a mobile money account as compared to formal banking system. Opening a mobile money account only requires one to just get a sim card and register, says Robert Charles Davies, Communication Supervisor, Afrimoney.

But despite the increase growth of mobile money, payment system in the country is still predominantly cash-based.

Lack of interoperability

Lack of interoperability between Mobile Network Companies operating mobile money and limited network coverage in many parts of the country remain a dominant challenge, preventing citizens' from tapping into the benefit offered by the digital payment services.

Osman Bah is a mobile money agent in Shenge, a fishing community in the coastal area of

Moyamba District, the Southern part of Sierra Leone. Bah operates with both Orange Money and Afrimoney. People often go to him to collect money sent by their relatives in cities and major towns.

The challenge Bah faces is that Africell, one of the telecom companies has the most effective network coverage in the coastal community while mobile money transactions in the community are mostly done via Orange network. But because an Orange customer cannot send money through Afrimoney, Bah said it is very challenging for him dealing with customers.

"Customers give my Orange Money line to their relatives in the city to send them money, their relatives would try to call my line, but it sometimes take days to reach me through my Orange line," he said.

"The network system is very challenging here. You have to seat in a particular location to send and receive

money. And sometimes even when you think you are at the right location, the system goes down. I try to send money to people no way. They tell you connection error," the agent added. One of Bah's frequent customers, Adama Koroma is a fish monger. She does not have a mobile money account but relies on mobile payment system in her fish business. Koroma packages 'smoked' fish and send them for sale to her sister in Freetown, who sells the fish and send her back the money through mobile payment.

"Before now, It was difficult to send my sister fish and easily get back the money. But now it is better. She send my money to the agent, I collect it there and buy another fish, she said."

However, Koroma reveals it sometimes takes longer to receive money sent through the agent due to faulty network coverage or lack of energy. "There are times when I come to collect my money, the agent would tell me he has not received it as a result of the network while my sister would have confirmed she has sent the money. Sometimes he tells me his Orange Money phone is not charged, except I have to wait."

Mobile network coverage is still ineffective in certain part of Sierra Leone. And in some parts, no network coverage is available, leaving millions of people unconnected to the digital world.

A report by the International Monetary Fund indicates that network coverage is still limited with 15 percent of Sierra Leone's population having no mobile phone signal. In the report, the country is ranked 168 out of 173 countries for quality and speed, which suggest network quality in the country remain relatively weak.

Learning from success stories in Africa

Despite increase in the use of mobile phones, the percentage of Sierra Leone's mobile money account holders is still low as compared to other African countries.

Only 19.8 percent of Sierra Leoneans have access to formal financial services in the country, including mobile money, according to a publication by the UN Impact for Capital Development. Whereas over 55 percent of the population in Kenya and Ghana has a mobile money account each.

And unlike Sierra Leone, mobile payment operators in those countries interoperate or allow payment transactions between more than one telecommunication service providers.

If you are in certain areas of Sierra Leone where you only have access to one network coverage, you cannot conduct any digital payment transaction as long as you are not a subscriber to the network coverage available. Lack of interoperability is limiting access to mobile payment across the country and hindering the potential of mobile payment to promote financial inclusion, as users are unable to transact with people on other networks.

Appreciating the introduction of mobile payment, Sahr Ibrahim Komba, a mobile money user recalled his current and previous struggles to send money for his relatives outside Freetown.

"Before no, it was really challenging, he said, "Sometimes the money I send through travelers to my village don't reach my relatives and sometimes it takes time to reach them. But with mobile payment, it has become better."

But Komba laments he still encounters some challenges, as Orange is the only way of sending money to his relatives. He cannot use other mobile money operators to do so. The agent in his village one works with one mobile money operator.

"Let them allow interoperability," he said. "This will receive a ripple effect. It will be easy for us and allow more people to adopt mobile payment in the country."

Awareness challenge and the trust for physical cash

Many Sierra Leoneans use mobile money mostly to transfer and receive cash, but not necessarily to save and make other digital payments. Most Sierra Leoneans with mobile money accounts prefer to cash out their money and keep it physically to having it in their phones.

"One of our major challenges has to do with Knowledge about mobile money in the country as a whole. If you go to Kenya and China, the people are more knowledgeable about using mobile money," Davies said. "Getting knowledge about mobile money and getting people to get use to mobile money is a major challenge for both mobile network companies operating mobile payment in Sierra Leone."

The peoples' fear is that keeping money in a mobile phone may lead to it being lost if the phone gets missing.

In other instances, people have raised concern about receiving SMS messages from fraudsters, claiming they have won prizes from the promotions offered by the competing telecom companies. Mobile payment agents have also expressed dissatisfaction with the



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slow process involved in reversing money sent to the wrong customers. These are flaws the telecom service providers have not been able to tackle.

But Mamadu K Barrie, Afrimoney operations staff said individual mobile money accounts are secure. Subscribers are at liberty to provide unique password that secure their accounts which they can change at will. And where the phone of a mobile money customer gets missing or are stolen, the cash in there can be retrieved.

But many mobile payment account holders have no knowledge on how they can personally protect their accounts, which suggest the need for more education and awareness campaigns to address digital payment literacy gap and build trust for mobile money services in the country.

"The mentality of handling physical money is still much in Sierra Leoneans. We have more to do," Barrie said. However, he argued that awareness raising alone by telecom service providers without government intervention is not enough.

'We need the Policy makers'

Barrie suggests government implement policies that would make digital payments mandatory across the country. "If parents pay school fees with mobile money, at the supermarket, you pay with mobile money, and a passenger pay a taxi driver using mobile money, it would ease the burden of government having to print money every year. Government need to drive the use of mobile money payment."

There are plans for government to introduce a digital payment system that allows interoperability among mobile payment operators, commercial banks and Point of Sale (POS) systems.

That's packaged in the National Payment Switch Bank of Sierra Leone launched in May this year. According to the Central Bank, the digital infrastructure will facilitate electronic payment in the fastest possible time and promotes financial inclusion through interaction with banks, POS, Automated Teller Machines and Mobile Payment Systems.

The switch, whether it has started working or not, is currently at its first phase, limited to only five commercial banks. Mobile payment is yet to be included.

"We haven't got interoperability. Even at the central bank, it is not available. This is the issue with telecoms and mobile money," Barrie said. "If the national switch is extended to the mobile money, it will accept moving money from one network provider to the other. Afrimoney platform is ready, but just that regulation does not allow at the moment."

This report is produced under the DPI Africa Journalism Fellowship Programme, organized by the Media Foundation for West Africa with support from Co-Develop.

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LOCAL NEWS UBA-SL, Auradicals sign MOU to plant 5,000 trees

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

In a bid to solve climate change in Africa, the United Bank for Africa (UBA) Foundation, in collaboration with the AURADICALS Foundation, has signed an MOU to plant five thousand trees.

The signing was done on Friday, 20th October, at the UBA Sierra Leone head office, Shallot Street in Freetown.

Making his statement during the signing, the Managing Director and CEO of UBA- Sierra Leone, Mohamed Alhajie Samoura, said the corporate social responsibility arm of the bank had once again taken a remarkable step towards promoting sustainability and fostering Africa's green revolution.

He said the vision of the UBA chairman is to see Africa combat climate change and reaffirmed its commitment to environmental preservation in line with global efforts to mitigate climate change and advance ecological conservation.

He added that tree planting falls within the four pillars of support to the UBA Foundation and the



The manager Director of UBA Mohamed Alhajie Samoura signing the MOU and the AURADICALS team

UBA Group.

He said for the first time in Sierra Leone, UBA was partnering with a very formidable organization to carry out an environmental sustainability plan.

He continued that he knows Auradicals has done tree planting before but this time around they wanted to make it big hence the UBA foundation was coming in to support them in ensuring that the project is successful.

"It's a five years partnership deal, but it's a partnership that will last for a life time which the UBA will

ensure that they support," he said.

He further that all UBA branches have a mandate to plant millions of trees across African and that during their group chart in Abuja, they were mandated to go back home and work with local partners so that they can achieve green revolution.

"To us as a bank, this is very symbolic as we are committed to saving our host communities. We are very strong on our corporate social responsibilities as a bank," he said

The Global Moderator of Auradicals Foundation, Ibrahim Sorie Kamara, said they will continue to be part of the course even though climate change has brought ripple effects to the world by extension.

He said Auradicals has the overtime taken lead in many progressives in Sierra Leone.

He further thanked the entire management of the UBA Sierra Leone Foundation for their effort to the project and assured the management of UBA that the foundation will not disappoint them.

Parliament ratifies 28.2 MW Betmai hydro-power agreement

In a momentous session on Thursday, October 19, 2023, the Parliament of Sierra Leone, with unanimous support, ratified the amended 28.2 MW Betmai HydroElectric Power project agreement that will be developed along the Pampana River. This vital project promises to usher in a new era of enhanced electricity supply for our beloved country.

The Parliament's enthusiastic endorsement of the agreement marks a significant stride in Sierra Leone's journey towards energy security. The agreement comprises the 28.2MW Betmai HydroElectric Power project, a locally-owned venture by Sierra Leoneans, and it is set to make an enduring impact on our nation's energy landscape.

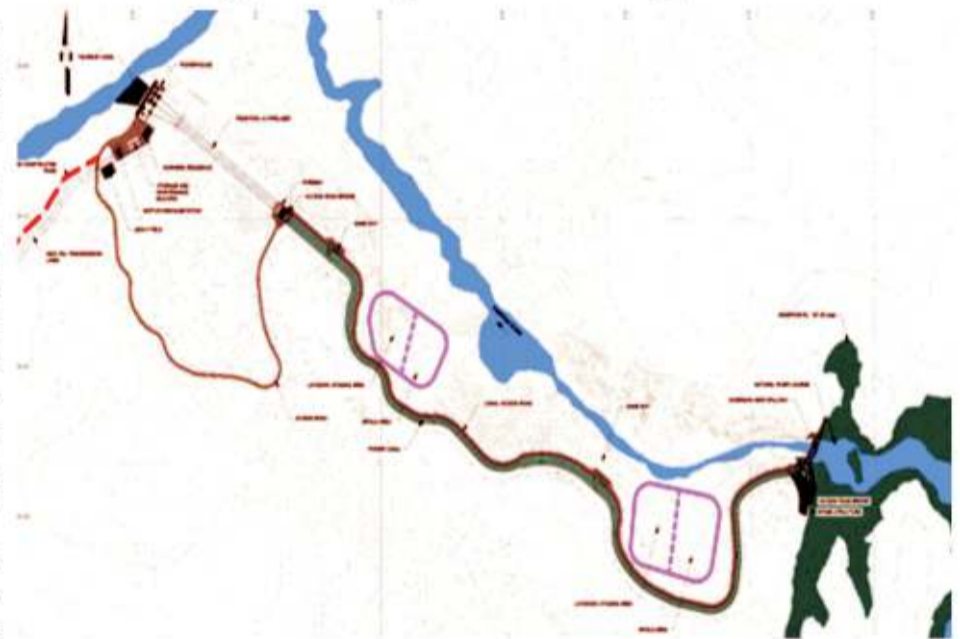
Deputy Energy Minister Eldred Taylor presented the agreement before Parliament for debate and ratification. He emphasized that the Ministry of Energy, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Justice, and the Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority, engaged in extensive negotiations to bring this 28.2MW hydro project to fruition. This project is situated within the Tonkolili district and operates under a build-operate-and-transfer model with a

twenty-five-year concession agreement, which with the right distribution network has the potential to provide electricity access to about 2 million people in rural areas.

Crucially, the Betmai Power plant will connect to the CLSG Transmission Lines with its independent power source, thereby enhancing the infrastructural development of an energy-self-sufficient nation. The project's significance is underscored by its potential to provide energy security to the nation and facilitate the technical integration of the West African power energy distribution system.

Minister Taylor also highlighted the project's potential to generate employment opportunities, estimating that it will create more than two thousand jobs during the construction phase. Once completed, it will complement the Bumbuna Hydro power supply, offering an affordable tariff. The project is expected to catalyze development in the eastern part of Sierra Leone, further addressing the diverse electricity supply needs of our country.

The government's commitment to partnership with the private sector for state development was reiterated, affirming the open-door policy and the dedication to progress.



Parliamentary Chairperson on Energy, Hon. Kerikura Vandy, expressed gratitude to the Speaker of Parliament for guiding him as chairman on energy-related matters. He emphasized that the agreement holds the promise of affordability, considering the low tariff it would bring. He lauded the project's twenty-five-year concession and the tangible benefits it will bring, especially by generating electricity supply for the country. In his words, the project represents an opportunity to enhance the electricity supply for the nation at an affordable cost.

The dynamic chairman called upon his colleagues and Members of Parliament to stand behind this transformative project, underscoring that it is a non-controversial initiative with enormous potential to positively impact Sierra Leone's energy landscape.

Sierra Leone is on the cusp of a significant breakthrough in its pursuit of energy security, thanks to the ratification of the 28.2MW Betmai HydroElectric Power project. As the nation moves forward, the commitment to sustainable development and energy security remains resolute.

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LOCAL NEWS

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

The main government referral hospital in Sierra Leone, Connaught Hospital, is presently undergoing a massive transformation process under the leadership of the new Care Manger, Dr. Mark Kapuwa.

Over the last couple of years, the hospital was an eye sore not just to its patients but to its visitors as well, with untidiness coupled with the absence of basic medical equipment. Having took over from his predecessor, Dr Mustapha Kabba, the new Care Manager is currently working on upgrading infrastructure, increase in access to professional doctors, medical equipment, and expansion of the beds system for patients, as well as nurses capacity building.

Speaking in an executive interview with Concord Times, Care Manger, Dr. Mark Kapuwa, said the hospital is currently operating under

management structure.

"We have the welfare committee, the development committee, general purpose committee and the finance committee. All of these committees are initiatives we used to making sure that the hospital run on a daily basis," he said.

He said despite Connaught Hospital is the largest hospital in the country, but that it accommodates only 300 patients, adding that a number of patients come all across the country to seek medical care at the hospital.

He cited that some of the patients who visit the facility are destitute who cannot afford to pay their medical bills, and that in most cases the hospital management has to make sure that patients get their services despite not coming with money.

He said they were constrained with finance to enable them buy the needed equipment for the facility.

"As we all know this is a government hospital, we get our resources from the government and that is a little bit challenging. That is why the hospital is also depending on internally generated revenue," Dr. Kapuwa.

He said despite the challenges, they have been able to do a lot to achieve customer satisfaction, adding that they have established a feedback mechanism for patients to send in their complaints.

He also cited the suggestion box which is placed at the out-patients department for any concern or request, stating that individuals can just drop his or her concern that the hospital can respond to that concern with immediate effect.

He said in the area of sanity and cleanliness, they have ensured the hospital compound and the wards are clean at all times.

"I want Connaught to be an excellent



Care Manger, Dr. Mark Kapuwa

modern hospital in the country," he said.

He said they were training staff about their attitude towards patients because they normally receive complaints from patients about the attitude of some staff.

"We are introducing an electronic medical record system for all patients that will be admitted at the Connaught hospital," he disclosed.

Agri. Ministry re-echoes commitment to Feed Salone

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Theresa T. Dick, has re-echoed the ministry's commitment to implementing the government big five agenda to ensure there is sufficient food to feed the nation.

She was speaking at the 2024 budget hearing conducted by the Ministry of Finance.

She called on the Finance Ministry to pay kin attention to some of the challenges the Ministry of Agriculture had been facing, including the late disbursement of funds.

She said timely disbursement of budget is very necessary, in that should they want to succeed they need to go to early work and preparations.

The ministry is asking for the sum of NLe97,860,200, with NLe29,979,200 for the office of the Permanent Secretary, NLe19,187,100 for the crops division, NLe5,876,400 for livestock division, NLe5,318,700 for the agricultural engineering division, NLe7,602,800 for the Planning, evaluation, monitoring division, NLe8,847,600 for the agricultural extension services division, NLe17,087,700 for the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer and NLe3,960,700 to the support to seed multiplication program, respectively. Doing the budget presentation on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Senior Permanent Secretary, Andrew L. Sorie, said the mandate of the ministry is to stimulate, support sustainable and



diversify production of food and ensuring food sufficiency, gainful employment and preserving the environment.

He said their mission to develop, implement and adopt appropriate policies, programs and institutional management systems towards enhancing agricultural development through commercialisation and private sector promotion.

Their vision, he said, is to make agriculture the engine of socio-economic growth and development towards achieving food security, employment opportunities and poverty reduction.

He noted that boosting the Feed Salone flagship programme, agriculture productivity will fuel inclusive growth, increase local food

production and reduce dependence on food import, reduce hunger, increase export earnings, create jobs, and build resilience.

He presented that their strategic objectives is to import substitution of key staple food, adding that Sierra Leone should grow enough to feed itself in the immediate term.

He disclosed that the country imports annually over \$500 million of various food items and that the key objective of the Feed Salone programme is to gradually reduce such amount in the next five years.

He said they will increase local production in key value chains such as rice, poultry products (eggs and chicken), onions, vegetable oils, and dairy products, to reduce their importation.

He said they would boost export earnings from agriculture and that agriculture must be a source of significant foreign exchange generation.

He disclosed that the sector contributes 57.5% to the GDP in 2022 and that the total GDP at Market Price in 2022 was SLL48, 909,104 with the agriculture sector contributing SLL28,100,880.

He said in the next five years, they will boost export earnings from agriculture through enhanced productivity in key cash crops such as cacao, coffee, palm oil and cashew food exports.

He said they wanted to reduce hunger and malnutrition because according to the World Food Programme (WFP), Sierra Leone continues to have unacceptably high rate of food insecurity and malnutrition.

He said over one million people are considered chronically hungry and the local food system must be part of the solution to reducing chronic hunger and malnutrition, especially in rural communities.

He said they will strengthen the link between food production, nutrition, and health and value chains.

He said the Feed Salone Program will help to address access to finance challenges for both smallholders and large-scale farmers and that it also aims to de-risk private sector investment in the agriculture sector and will encompass insurance schemes to protect farmers against weather shocks, credit facilities designed to fit the production cycles, minimum price guarantee schemes and matching grants for farmers that want to expand production.



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THE SALONE PAYMENT SWITCH (SaPS)

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Di Betteh Bank Na Salone



EU-SIERRA LEONE POLITICAL DIALOGUE

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, 17 October, 2023

The 2023 annual Political Dialogue between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the European Union (EU), chaired by H.E. Rtd. Brigadier General Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, took place at State House in Freetown on 17 October 2023, where issues of mutual interest were discussed and advanced.

The dialogue started with an exchange on the economic situation in Sierra Leone. As in previous years, Team Europe and representatives of European private sector companies operating in Sierra Leone had fruitful engagement with H.E. President Bio on the conditions for creating an enabling business environment.

The dialogue also included an exchange on the support of Team Europe (European Union and its Member States) to Sierra Leonean initiatives for the development of the country. The priorities of the ongoing cooperation between Team Europe and Sierra Leone will contribute to the implementation of the Government's "Big 5" Priority National Development Agenda, mainly in the areas of food security, green economy, human capital development and governance.

With regard to the importance of multilateralism, both sides underlined their commitment to a rules-based world order within the framework of the United Nations. The Government of Sierra Leone gave an update on their priorities for their upcoming non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council 2024-2025. Both sides emphasized their commitment to universal respect for, and observance and protection of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

At the end of the dialogue, both the Government of Sierra Leone and the European Union reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the partnership between Sierra Leone and the European Union, including a shared pledge to continue to hold regular political dialogue on issues of common interest, and to follow up on the conclusions and agreements reached in the course of these dialogues.

Members of the Sierra Leonean delegation led by H.E. Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, who chaired the dialogue, were Hon. Vice President Dr. Juldeh Jalloh, Chief Minister Dr. David Monina Sengeh, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mr. Timothy Kabbah, Attorney General and Minister of Justice Mr. Mohamed Lamin Tarawallie, Minister of Planning and Economic Development Ms. Kenyeh Barlay, Minister of Environment Mr. Jiwoh Abdulai, Deputy Minister of Finance 1 Madam Jeneba Bangura, Financial Secretary Mr. Mathew Dingie and Development Secretary Mr. Peter Sam Kpakra.

The European Union was represented by the Ambassador of the European Union to Sierra Leone, H.E. Manuel Müller, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Sierra Leone, H.E. Jens Kraus-Massé, the Ambassador of Ireland to Sierra Leone, H.E. Aidan Fitzpatrick, the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of France, Mr. Romain Vuillaume, the Counsellor of the Embassy of Denmark, Ms. Trine Løber, and the Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Italy, Mr. Giovanni Fidele,

European companies were represented by the General Manager of Brussels Airlines, Ms. Estelle Van Eeckhout, the Managing Director of Sierra Leone Brewery Limited, Mr. Laurent Bukasa and the CEO of Orange-Sonatel, Mr. Sékou Amadou Bah.



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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS COMPETITION

PROJECT TITLE: Opportunity Salone Project

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: Sierra Leone Local Chamber for Agribusiness development (SLeCAD) with technical support from International Labor Organization (ILO)

This activity is funded by the European Union

OPPORTUNITY SALONE PROJECT: BACKGROUND AND TARGET BENEFICIARIES

Opportunity Salone Project is part of a larger EU funded Jobs and Growth Program implemented by several partners that aim to stimulate job creation by improving the investment climate through enhanced access to finance, improving rural transport infrastructure, and upgrading human capital through general and vocational training and education.

The overall development objective of the Programme is to contribute to large scale job creation and job quality improvement in sustainable enterprises for unskilled and semi - skilled youth, women and persons with disabilities residing in rural areas in Sierra Leone. The projects inclusive value chain development focuses on SMEs and cooperatives, and feeder road maintenance to improve access to markets.

The 4-year project commenced implementation in 2021, targeting the following districts: Bo, Kenema, Bombali, and Port Loko.

In promotion of its objectives, the project pursues 3 major outcomes:

1. Enhanced, conflict-sensitive, agricultural value chain and entrepreneurship development for SMEs, youth, women, and persons with disabilities.
2. Improved feeder road maintenance contributing to resolve infrastructure bottlenecks to immediate job creation.
3. Improved business environment for entrepreneurship development and feeder road maintenance.

PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Sierra Leone Chamber for Agribusiness Development (SLeCAD) was established to promote private investment in the agriculture sector to create wealth and decent jobs and ensure inclusive growth. The SLeCAD has secured funding from the ILO Opportunity Salone Project to support Agribusiness SMEs that process cassava flour for poultry feed (Tapioca). Diversification in poultry feed production is critical in meeting local demands and ultimately reduces cost and dependency on importation.

The agency therefore seeks to promote the use of **High Cassava Quality Flour** in the production of poultry feed products to increase feed and profitability and support the growth in the poultry sector.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for this call, your business MUST fulfil ALL the following criteria:

1. Be active in processing high cassava quality flour value chains used to composed poultry feed.
2. Be located in one of the target districts stated above.
3. Be able to assemble the equipment you need to produce your product, without reliance on the project for support.
4. Must demonstrate a keen interest in industrialisation/commercialisation of the cassava flour-based feed.
5. Be able to attend an interview (in person or remotely), and if selected, be able to attend a one-day in person training session on business competition pitching and basic entrepreneurship.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To participate, please do the following:

1. Download the application form from the Chamber's website: www.slecad.biz or pick up a hard copy of the application form from the Sierra Leone Chamber for Agribusiness Development Office located in the Ministry of Agriculture District Office in your district or from the Chamber Office at #44 Bathurst Street (2nd floors)
2. Complete the application form, making sure you provide all the required information and supporting documents. Please note that incomplete application forms would be disqualified.
3. Return the completed form to any District Chamber Office, or to the Chamber's Office in Freetown or submit via email to: info@slecad.biz
4. For further enquiries: please contact us on +232 76 642563 /079 241960/ +232 99859043

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING

1. Deadline for the submission of all completed application forms is close of business on 31st October 2023. No application will be considered after this deadline.
2. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for interview.

END

Website: www.slecad.biz Tel: +232 76 642563 Email: info@slecad.biz

2



TENDER NOTICE

The PMI-Evolve / Sierra Leone project managed by Abt-Associates Inc. is launching a call for submission of firm and fixed price offers for the equipment to be used during the implementation of the 2024 Indoor Residual Spraying Campaign (IRS) in the Bo and Bombali districts, Sierra Leone.

Interested local suppliers are invited to collect the complete Tender Documents (RFQ) from the project headquarters located at 41W1 Derick Drive, Off Spur Road, Freetown, Sierra Leone, Tel. +23278151202 from Monday October 23, 2023, or request them by e-mail at: procurement.evolve.sl@gmail.com

- Bids Issuance date: October 23, 2023
- Bids closing date: November 3, 2023 (3:30 pm)
- Bids Opening date: November 7, 2023

Each offer / submission must consist of 2 envelopes: one envelope containing the original documents as specified in the RFQs in hard copies (the envelope must be marked "Original") and another envelope containing copies of the originals (the envelope must be marked "Copy").

Each of the two envelopes will be placed in a large, tightly sealed envelope containing the description of the order to which the quotation relates and the corresponding quotation request number (see table below). This large envelope will only be opened during a public opening ceremony in the presence of the bidders.

For those bidding on multiple offers, please submit them separately following the instructions above.

Applications should be submitted to the Project Office Reception at 41W1 Derick Drive, Off Spur Road, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

No	Equipment / material description	RFQ Number	Delivery date
1	Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)	ABTSL/2023/30258-RFQ-NO-009	November 26, 2023
2	Printing: IRS Cards	ABTSL/2023/30258-RFQ-NO-010	November 28, 2023
3	Stationery	ABTSL/2023/30258-RFQ-NO-011	November 26, 2023
4	Cleaning materials	ABTSL/2023/30258-RFQ-NO-012	November 26, 2023
5	Printing Services: IRS Data collection forms	ABTSL/2023/30258-RFQ-NO-013	November 30, 2023
6	Miscellaneous materials	ABTSL/2023/30258-RFQ-NO-014	November 26, 2023
7	Printing Services: IEC materials	ABTSL/2023/30258-RFQ-NO-015	November 29, 2023

Award criteria

Selection will be based on the best overall value of the offer. The following factors will thus be considered:

1. Compliance with RFQ specifications and instructions
2. Factors related to price and other costs
3. Payment conditions
4. Experiences in the submitted tender

Done in Freetown, on October 20, 2023

Laurent IYKIRENGA

Chief of Party

DoFA's

Miss Old is Gold Vol 3



Theme: Resilience of older persons in this changing world.



Ticket Price

Silver NLe **100**

Gold NLe **250**

VIP *by* Donation

Sat **14 Oct 2023**

Freetown City Council Auditorium

4:30 pm

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MINISTRY OF LANDS, HOUSING AND COUNTRY PLANNING
SIERRA LEONE LAND ADMINISTRATION PROJECT (P177031)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT – PROCURMENT SPECIALIST

1. Background

The Government of Sierra Leone with support from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank is implementing the Sierra Leone Land Administration Project (SLLAP), financed through a US\$ 41.1 million grant. The proposed Project Development Objective (PDO) is to establish an efficient and accessible land administration system.

The SLLAP will be implementing those parts of the National Land Policy 2015 (NLP) that relate to Land Administration. Currently land in the Provinces is administered through various customary tenure arrangements and land in the Western Area has a system that includes freehold tenure under Statutory Law as seen in most formal systems around the world. In the Western Area, the existing systems rely on a system of registration of instruments (or deeds) at the Office of the Administration and Registrar General (OARG) overseen by the Attorney General under the Ministry of Justice, with boundaries documented through a Cadastral Survey methodology described in the Land Survey Act and administered by the Director of Surveys and Lands within the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MLHCP). In 2022, the National Land Commission Act and the Customary Land Rights Act were passed, and they will be implemented with support from the project. The development of a new law that will introduce a Land Title Registration system is included within the NLP, but this has not yet been drafted.

SLLAP will support real estate land property markets for both the private and public sectors. It will assist the work of real estate agents, notaries, licensed surveyors, and lawyers and help build the private sector in these disciplines. It will improve the transparency and security of property rights, which will help address the use of real estate in Sierra Leone and its use for collateral and mortgage purpose. It will speed-up the real estate transaction processes and aim to reduce transaction costs as well as protecting property rights of vulnerable groups, women, and customary communities. Another focus is to improve the efficiency of state property management and would continue supporting the various real estate privatization programs in the country. Many of these goals would be supported by making real estate market information accessible through information technology and linkage with e-Government initiatives.

Following years of civil turmoil between 1991 and 2002, much of the capacity to manage the land administration system was significantly reduced, with particular impact on the cadastral surveying profession, which is now particularly in need of modernizing and bringing up to professional standards.

The PDO will be delivered through the following project components:

Component 1: Institutional Development and Legal Reform: This component seeks to strengthen Sierra Leone's institutional framework for land administration by supporting the establishment of the National Lands Commission (NLC). The project will support the funding required for office building or renovations (both at the headquarter and district level), organizational development plans and strategies, operational support (vehicles, furniture, equipment), capacity building, assessments, drafting and consultations for relevant land policies, laws, and regulations and public awareness raising.

Component 2: Land Information System: The component supports the overall development of a digital land information system (LIS) in Sierra Leone. The project will finance the required ICT equipment (servers, computers, internet etc.), design and development of a digital LIS with automated land administration processes (which need to be reviewed and simplified); the digitization of land records and cadastral maps and base mapping; and the establishment of a geodetic network.

Component 3: Recording and Registration of Land Tenure Rights

The primary focus of this component is to improve the quality and completeness of the records of land tenure rights and the ease and security with which those rights can be transferred whether by inheritance, sale or lease, or for some other third-party rights. The component will finance survey and registration work in customary areas and linking deeds records and maps in the Western Area.

Component 4: Project Management

This component will finance all expenses required to ensure efficient and transparent project management and coordination. This will entail in particular the financing of hiring of staff for Project Coordination Unit (PCU), operational costs (vehicles, fuel, equipment, workshops, etc.), M&E studies (customer surveys, mid-term review, implementation and completion report), and safeguards studies (social and environmental).

Component 5: Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC): Zero-sum component to mitigate situations of urgent need and allow for the rapid reallocation of funding in the event of a natural disaster or crisis

Objective of the Assignment

The objective of the assignment is to engage a Procurement Specialist to lead procurement related services within the PCU of SLLAP. The Procurement Specialist will work closely with other PCU officers and relevant ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) staff to carry out timely and prudent procurement practices consistent with the World Bank procurement regulations for borrowers and Sierra Leone's procurement laws.

Scope of the Assignment

The Procurement Specialist (PS) shall provide support to the PCU within the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MLHCP) in the preparation/updating of the procurement plan in the required format for submission to the World Bank; and also shall provide procurement advice to the PCU and SLLAP partners to ensure that procurement of all works, goods and services are undertaken in accordance with the approved Procurement Plan. In the preparation of the procurement plan, the specialist shall ensure that the contract packaging is effective for project implementation and meets the World Bank criteria.

4. Tasks and Responsibilities

The PS shall carry out the following tasks and responsibilities through the application of sound professional practices and methods;
 Implement procurement based on the guidelines and procedures for the conduct of procurement under World Bank funded projects, and the government regulations for the procurement of goods, works and services under the Public Procurement Act 2016 (PPA) of Sierra Leone;
 Set up and utilize a simple procurement management tracking system that would monitor the implementation of procurement activities and support the timely provision of regular credible updates and responses to queries; establish and maintain a central procurement filing system, and ensure all related documents are included in the respective files, to ensure ease of retrieval of information and the ease of following the paper trail of procurement by independent external auditors or authorized agents;

Using the World Bank's Standard bidding documents, prepare customized Bidding Documents and Request for Proposals (RFP). These should include standardized forms to be used for International and Local Shopping Methods;

In consultation with the project implementing partners, prepare and update the Project's Annual Procurement Plan detailing contract packages for goods, works and services, the estimated cost for each package, the procurement or selection methods and processing times till completion of each procurement activity;

Monitor procurement implementation and update the procurement plans prepared at the beginning of the financial year, for the procurement of goods and works, and the procurement of consultants' services, annually and whenever it becomes necessary to do so;

Prepare the General Procurement Notice (GPN), and also Specific Procurement Notices (SPNs) and Expressions of Interest (EOIs) whenever required;

Establish a register of qualified suppliers and consultants and periodically update this register per advertisements and requests for expressions of interest;

In consultation with the implementation partners and technical officers, coordinate the preparation of Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the preparation of Requests for Proposals (RFPs) on consulting assignments, and specifications for the preparation of bidding documents for goods and works activities, using standard documentation agreed with the funding agencies, and also participating in evaluation of expressions of interest for shortlists and pre-qualification of suppliers and contractors where necessary;

Carry out all procurement processes, including those for International and National Competitive Bidding procedures, ensuring compliance with agreed procurement methods' threshold, prior review requirements specific to the project, and agreed aggregate threshold amounts for less competitive procurement methods;

Receiving and participating in bid opening sessions, evaluating goods and works bids and consultants' proposals and ensuring that the appropriate guidelines are followed to arrive at the recommendations for award to suppliers, contractors and consultants;

In case of procurement actions requiring IDA "no objection", use Systematic Tracking of Exchanges in Procurement (STEP) to submit the request and monitor IDA response time on issuing "no objections" at different levels of the procurement process and follow-up accordingly;

Coordinate response to inquiries, and communicate result of the evaluation process to the applicants, in response to guidelines;

Prepare minutes of the Evaluation Panel meetings, and also prepare the requests for "no objection", and coordinate arrangements for the negotiation process, where necessary;

Prepare the final contracts, and ensure timely distribution of all relevant procurement and contract documents to all stakeholders (Technical Officers, Consultants, Suppliers Contractors and the World Bank);

Establish a performance monitoring database for all suppliers, contractors, consultants, and ensure efficiency and timeliness in the delivery of outputs from the services providers;

Carry out any other relevant periodic duties that may be assigned by the leadership of the Project.

Performance Criteria

The following performance criteria will be used to assess the performance of the Procurement Specialist at regular interval and based upon which the contract may be continued or reviewed after Post Procurement Assessments are done laying emphasis on quality control and assurance:

Quality of documentation prepared and submitted for prior and post reviews;

Meeting deadlines as indicated in the activity schedule roadmaps on STEP;

Adhering to the World Bank Procurement Regulations and National laws.

Line Management

The PS shall report directly to the Project Coordinator of the SLLAP Project at MLHCP.

Duration of the services

The duration of the assignment is for an initial period of one (1) year, including a three month probation and upon performance an extension can be granted.

Minimum Education and Experience:

A minimum Master's degree in Procurement and/or Supply Chain Management, Business Administration, Public Administration, Economics, Development Management, Social Sciences or a related field;

At least ten (10) years professional experience in procurement and minimum of five (5) years' experience as a procurement specialist in handling, managing or overseeing procurement for World Bank, or other international donor funded or administered projects;

Excellent interpersonal skills, sound judgment, communication skills, training experience, ability to identify and resolve policy and operational constraints;

Demonstrated computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft Office;

Integrity and Confidentiality;

Very good report writing and presentation skills;

Reporting and time schedules

The Specialist will prepare Monthly, Quarterly, Semi-Annual and Annual procurement reports as inputs into the Project Management Reports and, in addition, prepares other reports, as and when needed.

Interested and suitably qualified persons are encouraged to submit their Cover Letters and CV's on or before the 6th of November, 2023 at 4:00pm, using the following email address: slapprocurement@gmail.com, copying alphajohcham@yahoo.com, mayatbah@gmail.com, aburaymond@yahoo.com joejoe7787@yahoo.com



TREASURYBILLS AND BOND ANNOUNCEMENT

THE BANK OF SIERRA LEONE ANNOUNCES THE RESULT OF
GOVERNMENT SECURITIES AUCTION

HELD ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 19TH, 2023 AS FOLLOWS:-



	364 – DAYS TBILLS
Amount Issued (NLe.)	182,106.65
Highest Bid Price/Rate (%)	77.50
Lowest Bid Prince / Rate (%)	77.00
Lowest Accepted Price /Clearing Rate (%)	77.40
Average Discount Price (%)	77.41
Annual Yield (%)	29.28

DETAILS OF NEXT WEEK'S OFFER OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS: -

Maturity Period	Issue date	Maturity Date	Amount (NLe)	Amount in words
364 – Days TBills	26 th -Oct-23	24th – Oct-24	450,739,400.00	Four Hundred and Fifty Million, Seven Hundred and Thirty Nine Thousand, Four Hundred New Leones
3-Years TBond	26 th -Oct-23	22-Oct-26	66,000,000.00	Sixty Six Million New Leones

BIDS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE BANK FOR HIGHER AMOUNTS.

OF SIERRA LEONE NOT LATER THAN **2:00PM**

ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 25TH, 2023 FOR

BOTH TREASURY BILLS AND TREASURY

BONDS. MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

WHO MAY WISH TO INVEST SHOULD APPLY

THROUGH ANY COMMERCIAL BANK OR

DISCOUNT HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY BEFORE

THE SUBMISSION DATE (S). BIDS CAN BE

SUBMITTED FOR A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF

NLE500.00 AND IN MULTIPLES OF **NLE50.00**

PARTICIPANTS ARE HOWEVER INFORMED THAT BASED ON THE DISCRETION OF THE AUCTION COMMITTEE, THE AUCTION SIZE CAN BE INCREASED OR DECREASED BY TEN PERCENT.

Money Market Division

Financial Markets Department

19th October, 2023



FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT

Invitation for Bids

Procurement of Hardware (server) Infrastructure

Procurement Number: FIU/HR/NCB/2023/0001

Date of First Issue: 18th October, 2023

The Financial Intelligence Unit has received approval from the Ministry of Finance to carry on the procurement of **Hardware (server) Infrastructure** for a successful deployment of the goAML application. The project involves the procurement, installation, and configuration of hardware infrastructure that required for the successful deployment of the goAML application as detailed below:

- ? apply and configuration of two Dell PowerEdge R840 Rack Server
- ? apply and configure Fiber Switch for Data Access
- ? apply and configure SAN Storage for Data Storage
- ? iber Patch Cables
- ? ackmount KVM Console
- ? ata backup solution

and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of:

No.	Description of Item	Quantity	Bid Security
1	Hardware (server) Infrastructure	2	NLe 10,000.00

Partial quotation shall be declared non-responsive.

Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** method specified in the Public Procurement Act 2016 and Public Procurement Regulation 2020.

Bidding is open to all suppliers who can demonstrate professionalism and meet the following requirements including: legal registration, proven documentary evidence of handling similar contracts with the estimated value of NLe1,610,000 within the last three years delivery and financial capacity.

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address below between 10:00am to 3:30 pm daily from **Mondays to Fridays**. Bidding documents may be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **NLe 500.00** (Five Hundred Leones)

The required purchasing fee for the bidding document should be paid into one of the following understated consolidated accounts with an **Account Details** of:

BANK NAME: Bank of Sierra Leone

ACCOUNT NAME: NPPA-Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0111003981

BBAN: 0000010111398165

BANK NAME: Union Trust Bank

ACCOUNT NAME: NPPA-Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0111003981

BBAN: 00-4001113253120144

BANK NAME: Rokel Commercial Bank

ACCOUNT NAME: NPPA- Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0111003981

BBAN: 002001002101242863

BANK NAME: Sierra Leone Commercial Bank

ACCOUNT NAME: NPPA- Revenue from sale of Bidding Document

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0111003981

BBAN: 003001081791112183

The bank slip should be presented to the Human Resource and Support Division of the Financial Intelligence Unit for issuance of the bidding document by the Procurement Unit. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 15th November, 2023 at 12:00 noon.

] All bids must be accompanied by:

- A valid Business registration certificate
- Bid Security of not less than Le 10,000 (Ten Thousand Leones) from a reputable Commercial Bank;
- A signed and stamped bid form; (see attached in the bidding document)
- A valid tax clearance certificate;
- A valid NASSIT clearance certificate;
- A signed Integrity Pact; (see attached in the bidding document)
- A valid Municipal Council Business Certificate
- A list of recent contracts performed.

Bids will be publicly opened on 15th November, 2023 in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidder(s).

Procurement Office
Financial Intelligence Unit
 5H Baryoh Drive Tengbeh Town
 Freetown
 (+232)-79-143-105



Independent Procurement Review Panel
 28 Charlotte Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone
 Email: WWW.IPRP.gov.sl

PUBLIC NOTICE

20th OCTOBER, 2013.

INDEPENDENT PROCUREMENT REVIEW PANEL OFFICE RELOCATES

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT THE INDEPENDENT PROCUREMENT REVIEW PANEL (IPRP), HAS RELOCATED FROM 3 A WELLINGTON STREET, FREETOWN, TO 28 CHARLOTTE STREET (SECOND FLOOR), IN FREETOWN.

FURTHERMORE, ALL COMPLAINTS FROM AGGRIEVED BIDDERS AND SUPPLIERS, NOTICES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED, LODGED AND SERVED AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

THE INDEPENDENT PROCUREMENT REVIEW PANEL IS A CREATURE OF SECTION 65 (1) OF THE NATIONAL PUBLIC

PROCUREMENT ACT (NPPA) NO.10 OF 2016. THE IPRP IS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO REVIEW COMPLAINTS/ APPEALS FROM DISSATISFIED BIDDERS ABOUT DECISION OF A PROCURING ENTITY.

THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS OF SIERRA LEONE IS GOVERNED BY THE PPA ACT NO.10 2016 AND THE REGULATIONS STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO.15 OF 2020.

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES ON THIS AND OTHER IPRP MATTERS, PLEASE CONTACT THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, ON +232-75 166461/ 080- 855375 OR via email iprpanel218@gmail.c



EXTERNAL JOB VACANCY

Sierra Diamonds Limited is looking for a qualified candidate for the following position:

Position:	Paramedic	Location:	Tongo Field, Sierra Leone
Department:	HSE	Reports to:	Mine Risk Manager
Hours:	44 per week	Contract Type:	Fixed Term

Key deliverables:

- Responsible for providing high-quality pre-hospital emergency medical care to patients in a variety of locations.
- Providing emergency and routine medical support and patient care services including primary, occupational medical care to ensure a healthy and "fit for purpose" workforce in support of SDL operations.
- Adheres to the policy, procedures and protocols related to advanced life support guidelines that is in accordance with the HPCSA schedules.

Key Duties Include:

- Respond to emergency calls promptly and efficiently, providing advanced life support interventions to stabilize and treat critically ill or injured patients;
- Plan, test, inspect, initiate, and control medical emergency preparedness (ambulance and clinics);
- Arranging and coordinating medical evacuations in accordance with company medical insurance guidelines and continually update HSER manager accordingly;
- Conduct thorough and rapid assessments of patients' conditions, evaluating vital signs, medical history, and symptoms to determine appropriate treatment action;
- Administer advanced medical procedures such as intravenous access, medication administration, advanced airway management, cardiac monitoring, defibrillation, and synchronized cardioversion (all as per protocol);
- Provide expert trauma care such as immobilization, wound management and the utilization of specialized equipment;
- Plan and coordinate First Aid Training;
- Conducting weekly hygiene and health inspections, and reporting appropriately; and
- Drawing up of weekly medical statistics and reporting to the HOD timeously.

Skills and Qualifications required:

- Demonstrated competency in advanced airway management inclusive of intubation, mechanical ventilation, ECG monitoring/ defibrillation, cardiac pacing/ cardio inversion, administration of scheduled medication, setting up and monitoring of continuous intravenous infusions (IVAC machine attachments);
- Advanced Life Support Paramedic (ALS Certification);
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS Certification);
- International Trauma Life Support (ITLS Certification); and
- Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers (Certification).

How to apply:

To apply for this role, please submit your updated CV and copies of certificates to any of the following addresses depending on your location: For the attention of:

The Human Resources Department Sierra Diamonds Limited Tongo Camp Site, Tongo Field	The Human Resources Department 3 Cole Street, Murray Town, Freetown Sierra Leone Or
--	---

sd_recruitment@newfieldresources.com.au

Please indicate the job position in the subject line
Closing Date: Saturday 4th November 2023
 Applications will be treated as and when they are received.

opportunity statement:

All posts are advertised on an equal opportunity basis and qualified women and men are encouraged to apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.



SAY NO TO DRUGS



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With the financial support of
The Global Fund
To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
COUNTRY COORDINATING MECHANISM
SIERRA LEONE (CCM SL)
45 Adelaide Street Freetown Sierra Leone West Africa

REQUEST FOR OFFER FOR AN OFFICE SPACE TO RENT

Request for Proposal (RFP) No. CCM/SL/RFP/2023/001
Issue Date: Monday 2nd October 2023
Deadline for Submission: Monday 30th October 2023 at 4pm SL Time.
If you have any question, please contact: ccmsierraleonesecretariat@yahoo.com

Background

The Country Coordinating Mechanism Sierra Leone ("the CCM SL") was established in 2003 in response to requirements and recommendations of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). This is a legal, transparent and non-profit making Board that consists of members from the Public, Academic, NGO (domestic, Key Affected Populations (KAPs), community based and international), People living with or affected by HIV and or TB and Malaria, Faith based Organizations, Private, and Multi- and Bi-lateral sectors.

The mandate of the CCM SL is to mobilize resources by developing and submitting proposals and coordinate, oversee, track, monitor, evaluate and support the implementation of HIV, TB, malaria and health system projects financed by the Global Fund. It is responsible for ensuring that the Global Fund proposal is country owned and implementation is country driven.

Therefore, for the CCM SL to be functional, the CCM SL has established functional secretariat with the following functions:

- Ensure the effective operations of the CCM SL, including the implementation of the CCM SL Calendar of Activities, Oversight Plan, hosting and coordination of meetings etc.
- Provide regular communications to key CCM SL stakeholders, including the GF, and responding to information.
- Support CCM SL fundraising activities
- Perform other responsibilities as requested by CCM SL Board or Global Fund

In view of the above, the CCM SL is looking for an office space with the following minimum requirements/specifications:

Office Space Requirement/Specifications.

Facility	Dimension/Comment	Quantity
Boardroom	35-39ft x 18-22ft approximately	1
Meeting/Breakout rooms (Minimum)	20-22ft x 15-17ft approximately	2
Office rooms	18-20ft x 13-15ft approximately	3
Internet Connectivity	The space should be able to support proper internet connectivity	N/A
Reception room	11-12ft x 9-10ft approximately	1
Pantry/Kitchen	8-6ft x 4-3ft approximately	1
Restroom	11-12ft x 9-10ft approximately	3/2
Store	11-12ft x 9-10ft approximately	1
Car space	Ability to accommodate min 10(ten) cars at any point in time	1
Water Availability	42-9-90% (At least three(3) times/week)	N/A
Water Tank Holding Space	Ability to accommodate/hold 5000L(Vertical/Horizontal) water tank	1
Light Availability	70-90% six(6) hours daily	N/A
Preferred Area(Suitable environment – Less noisy & crowd)	Around (Central Freetown, Brookfields, Kingtom, Congo Cross, Wilkinson Road, Wüberforce, Hill Station) etc	N/A
Security post	10-12ft x 8-10ft approximately	1
Decent Outside Toilet Facility	11-12ft x 9-10ft approximately	1
Fence	Fence Compound	N/A
Secured Environment	The space should be free from noisy environment, violent prone etc	N/A
Generator House	11-12ft x 6-7ft approximately	1
Generator Holding Space	9-8ft x 3-4ft approximately	1
Payment currency (Rent/Lease payment should be in conformity with GoSL regulations)	NLe/SLL	N/A

Other requirements:

Please provide information with supporting document(s) where applicable on:

1. Ownership & title of office space/building
2. Duration for rent/lease i.e How long will the space be available for rent/lease?
3. Is the building/space ready for use or need renovation?
4. Office Space Cost
5. Payment terms. i.e should payment be made monthly, annually etc

Payment Terms

1. Payment shall be after signing agreement, within 30 working days of receiving correct & detailed invoice.
2. Payment shall be via bank transfer or check.

Payment shall be made upon verification and acceptance of the office space as per the Office Space Requirement/Specifications.

Acceptance of Payment Terms

Do you accept the above payment terms?

Yes

No

Offer Requirements

Offers that do not meet the following will be automatically rejected regardless of price:

1. Offers must be received before the stated deadline.
2. Offers must include all information requested above.
3. Offer should remain valid for a period of at least ninety (90) days from the submission closing date.
4. Offer must be accompanied by relevant supporting documents
5. Offers must be submitted through hard copy in sealed envelopes or email.
6. Offers must be clean & clear. The vendor/individual should sign and stamp next to handwritten corrections or corrections made with whiteout.
7. Interest Company/Vendors/Landlords/Property Owners shall sign the Integrity Pack Form during the submission of proposal. The Integrity Pack Form is available at the CCM SL Secretariat.
8. Offers must be complete, signed in a clear date and stamped on all pages.

Delivery Instructions:

Interested Company/vendors/Individuals may submit their offers via one of the following methods:

1. Complete, stamped and signed offer to be delivered in sealed envelope with tender number on it CCM/SL/RFP/2023/001 to CCM Sierra Leone Secretariat Office, 45 Adelaide Street. For further information about CCM SL office address please contact: +23276324248

2. Completed, stamped, and signed offer can be submitted by email to ccmsierraleonesecretariat@yahoo.com as PDF file. Email must indicate the tender number which is CCM/SL/RFP/2023/001 or the offer will be excluded. The file should not exceed 15 MBs and the company biography should not exceed 10 pages where applicable. When sending your tender, kindly copy the below emails:

Cc: gf-fa-sl@dt-global.com, ccmsierraleonesecretariat@yahoo.com emmanuel_lahai@yahoo.com



With the financial support of
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To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
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Driver Job Advert Terms of Reference

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Driver support service is one of the back-office services required by CCM SL, to keep operations running efficiently and effectively.

In view of the above, the CCM SL is seeking applications from suitable qualify Sierra Leoneans to apply for the driver position as below:

Position: Driver

Location of Position: Freetown and will be required to travel up country when demanded.

Contract Duration: Initially 6 months. Contract will be extended to another 6 months pending availability of funds and satisfactory performance.

Responsibilities:

- The driver will be attached to the CCM SL secretariat and provide effective support to the overall operations of the CCM SL
- The driver may be called upon to make trips up country as demanded by the situation
- The driver should inspect the vehicle and report on any fault observed
- Ensure the vehicle he/she is driving is clean on a daily/weekly basis
- Take the vehicle to garage for maintenance and monitor all repairs done on the vehicle
- The driver should maintain an updated valid driver's license.
- Adhere to all rules and regulations of the CCM SL

Report To: The Administrative and Finance Manager

Requirements:

- Should be a Sierra Leonean with valid driver's license
- Qualification: WASSCE Equivalent
- Minimum of 3years of excellent driving experience/ record with NGO, Ministries, Departments & Agencies (MDAs) or Private Sector.
- Has sound mechanical knowledge and experience of basic vehicle maintenance and repairs plus ability to perform daily vehicle check and report maintenance needs promptly
- Knowledge and experience on the protocol to delivering paperwork to Government Ministries, Agencies, Department, Banks, NGOs and other CCM SL Stakeholders
- Desirable; experience in driving senior officials or international donors
- Ability to work under pressure with tight and conflicting deadlines and simultaneous activities
- Good communication and inter-personal skills and able to work as a member of a team
- Ability to speak English comfortably and experienced in keeping written transport records and logbooks
- Flexibility and adoptability to changing working environment
- Ability to drive 4x4 wheel vehicles(Land Cruiser and Hilux) will be an added advantage

All applications should be delivered by hand to our office 45 Adelaide Street Freetown on **Monday 30th October 2023 on or before 4pm SL time**. The application should consist of a cover letter, valid Sierra Leone driver's license and names of two referees as well as an updated CV. Women drivers are encourage to apply.

Date Posted: Monday 2nd October 2023

Deadline for the receipt of application: Monday 30th October 2023



The World Bank
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Sierra Leone Country Office
3 – 3A Spur Road
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Tel: Tel. No.: +232-78-874600

Terms of References

Job Title:	Admin/Finance Assistant
Type of appointment:	Short-Term Temporary (STT)
Supervisor:	Resource Management Analyst (RMA)
Approving Manager:	Country Manager – Sierra Leone Country Office
Assignment Duration:	150 days (1,200 hours) as per World Bank Financial year (July to June)

Main Purpose of Job:

The main purpose of the job is to provide professional and comprehensive Administrative/Financial services to clients.

General Description

This is an office support job, which contributes to the smooth running of the daily operations of the Country Office. The Admin/Finance Assistant will work closely with the Resource Management Unit, and the Country Office administrative team will coordinate part of the office's daily business processes.

Financial and Accounting Controls

- Maintain consistency in the application of accounting rules and procedures.
- Verify that payments transferred via online banking are correct.
- Reconcile all vendors' accounts at any given point in time.
- Produce Bank Reconciliations.
- Make deposits to The World Bank local account.
- Prepare all payment vouchers for travel advances. File all payment vouchers and invoices and their supporting documents.
- Prepare documents to be submitted to Global Payment Providers (GPP) after the Facilities Assistant certifications of the invoices and supporting documents.
- Review invoices and other supporting documents for approval.
- Update office expense analysis spreadsheet daily
- Request payment confirmation and receipts from vendors.
- To file all related accounting correspondences, MS Reports, Scorecards, and others.

Filing of Accounting & HR Documents:

- Create files for all HR-related documents and ensure that all staff files are properly maintained.
- File all payment vouchers and supporting documents as and when they fall due.

General Services

- Maintain stock and inventory of the office supplies (stationery items and electrical supplies)
- Prepare and Issue weekly tea items supplies as requested by ACS Staff
- Update office supplies bin cards and tea items log sheets.
- Prepare MS Excel spreadsheets to reconcile phone cards and Tea items.
- Produce Stores Reconciliation Report.
- Any other duties assigned.

Required Qualifications and Experience

The Admin/Finance Assistant will be required to have:

- A degree in accounting, business administration, or Finance with a minimum of five years of relevant experience is a must.
- Enrollment with a professional accounting body or an Accounting Technicians Scheme West Africa (ATSWA) is a plus.
- Good computer skills, including using MS Word and MS Excel, and familiarity with accounting software.
- Good mathematical skills
- Ability to work as part of a team and to meet deadlines.
- Experience in preparing primary accounting records and preliminary accounting reports would be an advantage.

All application letters, including updated Resume/CV, should be addressed to email: admin-finance-assistant@worldbank.org

The application submission deadline is 5:00p.m.GMT on Friday, November 3, 2023.

INT'L SPORT

Liverpool have reportedly joined the race for Victor Osimhen's highly coveted signature.

European giants are on high alert for the red-hot Napoli star after his public fallout with the club last month - when the Serie A outfit's social media team appeared to mock him for missing a penalty against Bologna and labelled him a 'coconut'.

Jurgen Klopp sent one of his scouts to watch him in action on international duty, according to The Sun.

Osimhen played 60 minutes of Nigeria's friendly with Saudi Arabia in Portugal before a hamstring injury forced him off. He did not play in their next friendly against Mozambique.

It means Liverpool join the list of clubs with a serious interest in the 24-year-old alongside Premier League rivals Arsenal and Chelsea.

Osimhen's future at Napoli was thrown into doubt last month when the club released two controversial TikTok videos appearing to mock him.

The first seemingly mocked him for missing a penalty and the second labelled him a 'coconut' in what has been widely condemned as a racial slur. Both videos were promptly deleted.

Liverpool 'join Arsenal and Chelsea in the race for Napoli star Victor Osimhen

In the wake of the scandal, his agent suggested they could take legal action, Osimhen demanded a public apology and removed all but one of his Instagram posts with a Napoli shirt, and the social media executive responsible resigned.

Napoli did not publicly apologise following the outrage and insisted that they 'never wanted to mock' their talisman.

Their first post showed Osimhen appealing for a penalty with the caption 'Gimme penalty please' before showing him blazing a spot-kick wide against Bologna. The second video referred to him as a 'coconut'. Subsequently, the forward called for unity and thanked fans for their support and kindness, saying he was 'forever grateful' to them, but the controversy put his suitors on high alert.

He was reportedly already irritated that the club stopped him from filming a charity video for Africa, according to La Gazzetta Dello Sport, and he refused to celebrate against Udinese in the next match.

Napoli chairman Aurelio Di Laurentiis rejected at least two serious bids for one of



European football's leading lights in the summer.

He even slapped a rather prohibitive price tag of £150million on his crown jewel.

However, the Nigerian international's

contract expires in 2025 and the Serie A champions will no doubt face further challenges to keep hold of him.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football>

Lionel Messi rejects rumors he will leave Inter Miami on loan after failing to make MLS playoffs



Lionel Messi has shot down the rumors that he will leave Inter Miami on loan once the Major League Soccer season completely concludes.

Messi had been linked with short term loan moves to Saudi Arabia and back to Barcelona in order to remain match fit for games with Argentina. However, it is now clear such transfers will not happen.

Miami failed to qualify for the MLS playoffs, although they did surprisingly win the inaugural Leagues Cup, meaning their season ends after Saturday's game against Charlotte FC.

'It's a shame [we didn't qualify]. We came very close. I missed the last few games, we had several injuries. The month of July was very hard for us, we played every three days, we traveled,' Messi said after Argentina's 2-0 win at Peru in World Cup qualifying on Tuesday, where he scored both goals.

'But we won a tournament, which is important for the club and for what is coming next year.'

Messi went on to say he plans to play in Miami's final regular-season contest

against Charlotte and will stay in the best shape he can in order to play for Argentina.

'I will train, I will play our upcoming match [against Charlotte FC] and I will try to get here [to the national team] in the best possible way for November,' said Messi.

After that, I will enjoy the holidays in Argentina. It's the first time that I am going to have more days off in December, with the holidays, with peace of mind, with my people.

'In January, I will return again to do preseason. Start from scratch and prepare as best as possible as always.'

In November, defending World Cup champion Argentina has a pair of World Cup qualifiers against Uruguay and Brazil. Had Inter Miami made the playoffs, Messi could have been faced with continued tight scheduling if the club had been able to make a run to the MLS Cup final.

Messi has one goal and two assists in five MLS regular-season matches (three starts) since joining Miami. In 13 games across all competitions for the club, Messi has 11 goals and eight assists.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football>

Mohamed Salah calls for humanitarian aid to Gaza



Mohamed Salah has issued a call for humanitarian aid to reach Gaza 'immediately' in an emotional and powerful social media message as the Israel-Palestine conflict continues.

Tuesday saw a massive explosion that killed hundreds of people at a crowded hospital in Gaza City, which the Liverpool forward described as 'horrifying', while disagreement continues as to which side was at fault.

Palestinian officials say the horror explosion was caused by an Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) air strike, while officials in the Jewish state insisted it was the result of a 'failed' rocket launched by terrorist group Islamic Jihad.

Reports in Salah's native Egypt earlier this week suggesting he had donated a significant but undisclosed fee to the Red Crescent via agent Ramy Abbas to help innocent civilians in the area receive aid.

Salah recorded a monologue issuing a call for world leaders to help 'prevent' any further loss of life and to stop families being 'torn apart'.

'It's not always easy to speak at a time like this. There has been too much violence and brutality, the escalation in recent weeks has been unbearable to witness,' began the Egyptian's powerful message.

'All lives are sacred and must be protected. The massacres need to stop, families are being torn apart.'

'What's clear now is that humanitarian aid to

Gaza must be allowed immediately. The people there are in terrible conditions. The scenes at the hospital last night were horrifying.

'The people of Gaza need food, water and medical supplies urgently. I am calling on world leaders to come together and prevent the slaughter of innocent souls. Humanity must prevail.'

Humanitarian aid is currently blocked from entering Gaza - as its residents are blocked from escaping - at the Israeli and Egyptian borders, limiting the ability of aid organisations to bring relief following a fortnight under siege for its residents.

Salah becomes the most high-profile Premier League footballer to speak out about the ongoing conflict. The Palestinian health ministry says at least 4,000 people have been killed and many more injured in the Gaza strip since fighting broke out two weeks ago.

The Egyptian and team-mates will join all Premier League players in wearing black armbands this weekend as the Premier League will pay respect to the innocent loss of life in Israel and Gaza.

'The Premier League is shocked and saddened by the escalating crisis in Israel and Gaza,' read a statement this week. 'And strongly condemns the horrific and brutal acts of violence against innocent civilians.'

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/>

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