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Expansion of Pepel Port: Leone Rock to open up window of investment opportunities

Bloom Bank Africa Sierra Leone honored as "emerging partner bank" at inaugural fintech forum



IGR calls: State owned enterprises be positioned for profit making



IGR Boss speaking to the media



Government officials and Leone Rock executives cutting the tape to the project

By Alusine Sesay

Contrary to media claims that Sierra Leone as a country stands to lose a lot for entering into an agreement with Leone Rock Metal Group (LRMG) for the management of the Pepel Port and Rail, the launch of a 40-50 Million United States Dollars mega expansion and restoration project by the company will open up more investment opportunities, not only in the mining sector, but also in the agriculture sector and other viable areas of investment.

On Sunday, November 5th, in the presence of government officials, community authorities and the media, the company commissioned the expansion and restoration of the Railway and Pepel Port, a pre-gnated project that is expected to last for six months.

Cont. Page 4

Bio's government strikes deal with MNOs

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LOCAL NEWS

Bloom Bank Africa Sierra Leone honored as "emerging partner bank" at inaugural fintech forum



Bloom Bank Africa Sierra Leone Limited (Bloom Bank) was awarded the "Emerging Partner Bank" at the inaugural Interswitch Fintech Forum 2023. This remarkable event, hosted by Interswitch on November 2, 2023, at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Freetown, Sierra Leone, revolved around the theme "Unlocking the Future of Digital Payments in Sierra Leone."

Commenting on the event, Mr. Ndubuisi Ejiofor, MD/CEO of Bloom Bank, emphasized the institution's unwavering commitment to financial inclusion, stating, "The financial technology sector plays a pivotal role in nurturing innovation and businesses in Sierra Leone. I am delighted that this inaugural forum has been convened to address this. At Bloom Bank, we remain

dedicated to supporting businesses and startups seeking to operate in the FinTech space." He further reiterated Bloom Bank's ambitious expansion plan, aiming to become one of the largest distributors of finance in Sierra Leone. Leveraging existing digital and physical channels, Bloom Bank intends to deliver banking services to every corner of Sierra Leone without the necessity of building brick-and-mortar

branches. The event featured Dr. Ibrahim Stevens, Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone, as the keynote speaker, highlighting the crucial role of digital payments and financial inclusion in Sierra Leone's economic growth and development. Distinguished leaders from across the financial sector in Sierra Leone also graced the occasion.



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LOCAL NEWS US Embassy participates in bed nets distribution campaign

U.S. Ambassador Bryan Hunt joined H. E. President Julius Maada Bio and other Government of Sierra Leone representatives in Bo today to launch a partnership for the mass distribution of insecticide treated mosquito nets. The partnership, supported by the United States through the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative, will see five million insecticide treated bed nets distributed through a landmark nationwide campaign starting on November 3 and continuing throughout the month.

The U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) has partnered with Sierra Leone since 2017, contributing a total of \$120 million towards malaria control and eradication. The strong partnership between the United States and Sierra Leone, enabled robust and effective malaria services to continue in 2023.

At a national launch event on November 3 in Bo district, the Minister of Health, Honourable Austin Demby, joined by U.S. Ambassador Bryan David Hunt and local authorities, declared the beginning of this mass bed net distribution exercise.

Sierra Leone is one of the most malaria-burdened nations in Africa, with its entire population of 8.5 million people at risk of the disease. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that every year, malaria kills over 5,000 children under 5 years of age in the country. It also contributes to life-threatening complications among pregnant women.

U.S. Ambassador Bryan Hunt said, "Mosquito nets are proven to be an effective defense. They prevent disease and save lives but only if individuals use the correctly and consistently. We need everyone in Sierra Leone to take responsibility for their and their families' health and properly use the nets provided. That means every night without excuse." He added, "Successive Governments of Sierra Leone have been steadfast in their to eliminating malaria investing their own limited human and financial resources to this effort. When we speak of governments investing in their people, this is the sort of action-oriented, long-term approach that we envision."

Through PMI funding and USAID



programs, nearly six million bed nets, more than five million fast acting medicines, and four million malaria test kits have been delivered to clinics and communities since 2018. In addition, four million preventive treatment doses were delivered to pregnant women and indoor residual spraying was

conducted in Bo and Bombali districts where nearly 300,000 homes were sprayed protecting over 600,000 Sierra Leoneans. In the past year, more than 28,800 health workers received training that developed their ability to detect and treat malaria, strengthening the health system overall.

From Cover

While there has been argument by some sections of the media that government had entered into a bad agreement with Leone Rock, Chief Executive Officer of the company, Gilbert Zhao, speaking at the launching ceremony, diffused that claim.

"In this new agreement, there are several notable provisions that highlight our commitment to Sierra Leone's progress. One of the most significant changes is our agreement to pay landowners their surface rent and community development fees directly. We are proud to announce that we will increase the annual payment from a mere \$30,000 USD to \$250,000 USD, underscoring our dedication to the communities along the rail line and port chiefdoms. I will take the honour to inform you the first payment will be 7 days after ratification in Parliament hopefully next week," he assured.

Additionally, he said, the agreement also offers substantial tax benefits to the government, which will contribute to an increase in GDP and, in turn, help the government meet its national financial commitments.

He said the launch of the expansion and restoration project, constitutes a testament to their unwavering commitment to timely and efficient delivery.

The company will take a holistic approach to implement the project and CEO Gilbert Zhao dignitaries at the commissioning ceremony that: "Our first order of business is the construction of a 49 MW Power Plant in Tonkolili, with an investment of over \$32 million USD. This endeavour will generate 100 new job opportunities during construction and operation. Simultaneously, we will be constructing a 9 MW Power Plant in Pepel Port, with an investment of over \$7 million USD and the creation of 60 new job opportunities during construction and operation. As part of our efforts to meet the anticipated high traffic demands for multiuser third-party clients, we will also commence the restoration of

Expansion of Pepel Port: Leone Rock to open up window of investment opportunities



Government officials and Leone Rock executives cutting the tape to the project

the jetty with an investment of \$4 million USD. In total, we are looking at an investment of \$40-50 million USD, and we are committed to completing these projects within six months from today's commissioning.

He said the projects are all part of the commitments made during the negotiations, "and, as a responsible and reliable company, we stand here today to demonstrate once again that choosing Leone Rock Metal Group was never a mistake.

In the area of job creation, the CEO stated that "We are fully aware that we cannot provide jobs for everyone, but our statistics show that the 5,200 jobs we have already created is benefiting over 25,000 people. Furthermore, our project expansion in mining development, the railway, and the port is expected to generate nearly 20,000 direct jobs in the next three years.

On capacity development, he said the company will be considering the establishment of a vocational training centre in the near future to help train Sierra Leonean youth and enable them to become self-sufficient.



Leone Rock CEO, Gilbert Zhao at the occasion

He assured that Leone Rock Metal Group is dedicated to its mission of contributing to the growth and prosperity of Sierra Leone.

"Our vision for a thriving, industrialized nation is becoming a reality, and we are deeply committed to being a responsible corporate citizen. We look forward to the continued collaboration with the government, local communities, and all our stakeholders as we embark on this exciting journey of development and transformation," he assured.

Chief Technical Officer of Leone Rock, Salim Sillah, said since the year 2020, they have been doing maintenance work on the railway and port after they were vandalised during the Ebola scourge, when it was not in operation.

He said with the expansion project, they would bring in new generational types of materials to ensure that the port is safe, attractive and stands the test of time.

"We want to ensure that the port is competitive to other ports in West Africa. There is a whole lot of engineering involved in the improvement of the port and I believe Leone Rock will do that," he said.

He said the expansion will see the

exportation of iron ore from 8 million tons per annum to 20 million tons and that they will create the enabling environment for other companies to use the port to export their products without hindrance.

He said as a company, they are committed to clean energy and that they would invest in solar energy for the port, and that they would install ten-thousand tons of fuel storage facility at the port.

Deputy Minister of Finance, Jeneba Bangura, told the gathering that the ministry played a pivotal role in the negotiation of the agreement and that they made sure that due diligence was done to ensure the country does not lose in the area of tax.

"We made sure that all taxes are protected and the country stands to benefit a lot," she said.

Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Julius Mattai, said the agreement with Leone Rock is the best among all other agreements government has entered into when it comes to the mining sector.

He said Leone Rock as a company stands to be very credible as the company has fulfilled all what they promised after they entered into an agreement with government in 2020.

LOCAL NEWS Bio engages female ministers on gender-sensitive leadership

President Julius Maada Bio has engaged female ministers and deputy ministers of government to hear their stories, as well as to give them his own input on various gender-sensitive leadership strategies.

Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs, Dr Isata Mahoi, spoke on behalf of her colleagues and thanked President Bio for giving women, including those elected and appointed, the environment and political will to make numbers in cabinet and leadership positions.

Dr. Mahoi said their engagement with the President was to present the discussion outcomes of a just concluded consultative meeting of all ministers and deputies, adding that it was aimed at strengthening collaboration between female ministers on networking and supporting themselves toward ensuring delivery on the Five Big Gamechangers of the President.

"His Excellency, I am proud to inform you that during our engagement the GEWE Act was applauded by all donor partners present at the meeting, with tremendous commitment to supporting women in all ministries. There is high expectation of female leaders, especially the younger ones who were present during the meeting, with respect to their understating the role of governance and how they should be able to perform their task.

"We noticed that there is the need for women to network and embark



on mentoring and coaching, thereby creating peer support for each other, reaching out to each other and ensuring that we all meet our desired goals. His Excellency, what came out clearly during the consultation was the fact that there was goodwill from our donor partners who are ready to provide financial support for any of those interactions," she confirmed.

Dr. Mahoi added: "Another deliberation was the setting up of the new map of the Network of Female Ministers and Parliamentarians, the caucus of all female ministers, and the network of female councilors. This space is to intensify and strengthen ourselves in terms of ensuring that we deliver. We will encourage and support ourselves, from developing strategies to changing the narrative that women cannot perform better".

In his remarks, President Julius Maada Bio congratulated the

female ministers and deputies, adding that he was delighted to be with them to discuss how they could make an impact with women in the lead. He also appreciated their meeting to consult on putting themselves together, pointing out that the more they were on the cause of a revolution, the more reason they must be together.

"It is a man's world, and it still is, but we can change it, provided you are ready to take the lead. It has been tough to get women to be at the helm. In some instances, where we have broken the glass ceiling, it has been difficult to survive as a result of the commodification and objectification of women.

"These are stereotypes that we can change, and you have to be ready by working together to make sure that we do not only change the stereotype but also make sure that you succeed and go beyond the standard expectations in your

respective positions. I know you have what it takes to succeed; I know you have what it takes to perform your various duties. You just have to apply yourselves accordingly," he urged.

The President said he was particularly heartened that the women had started to get together to realise that they were the pioneers of a long journey for women in the future.

"I grew up with women, so I know women better. Therefore, it is my own value system and understanding of the special power and strength that you have as a woman. That is what has propelled me into this action and we will bring you to the fore. It is now a challenge for you also to tell each and every one of us that yes, we were kept at the back, but when we are at the fore, we can lead and lead successfully, deliver, and perform," President Bio concluded.

Complainant tells court: Accused hit me with a cutlass on my head

By: Yusufu S. Bangura

One Lamin Kanu, a complainant within his 60s, has told Justice Monfred Sesay that the accused, Ibrahim Junior Sesay, allegedly hit him with a cutlass on his head and that left him in pain.

He recognised the accused and recalled on the 25th June, 2022.

He said on that day he was at his farm, Kombako Village, Off Peninsular, when some group of people approached him and asked that they brush their own land.

The witness testified that during the process, the accused and his team entered into his own land, and that when he asked them to leave they

refused.

He said he reported the matter to the village headman who later gave him three guys to accompany him to the said land.

"Upon our arrival at the scene, the accused together with his team started abusing me and one of his colleagues, Santigie, who is not in court with me at my back. One of the guys that accompanied me, Benjamin Bangura, asked Santigie as to why he hit me, but he didn't respond and they started beating Benjamin and Ishamel Koroma. We later decided to return home and while going, one Foday hit me on my left ear with a stick and the accused further hit me with a cutlass on my

head. Since that day, I started feeling pain on my head," he explained.

He continued that after the incident, Ishamel Bangura carried him on his bike and took him to Akon Police Station where he was issued with a police medical form for treatment at the Rokupa Government Hospital.

He stated that after the treatment, he took the endorsed medical to the police and later made statement.

After his testimony, Lawyer Randy S. Bangura from Legal Aid Board representing the accused applied for the matter to be adjourned for him to have proper conference with his client before he could cross examine the witness and his application was upheld by Justice Sesay.

Before the date was given, Lawyer Bangura applied for bail on behalf of his client, but his application was objected by the prosecuting counsel, Aruna Jalloh.

Due to the seriousness of the offense, Justice Sesay refused bail and ordered the prison officers to take the accused to the Male Correctional Centre until Tuesday 7th November 2023 for the witness to be cross examined.

The accused is currently before the court on one count of wounding with intent contrary to Section 18 of the Offense Against the persons Act 1861. State counsel, Aruna Jalloh alleged that the accused on the 25th June 2023 in Freetown wounded the victim, Lamin Kanu.



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LOCAL NEWS

By Yusufu S. Bangura

The Executive Director, Institute for Governance Reforms (IGR), Andrew Lavali, has last Friday called on government to place State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and Parastatals on the road of profit making for the country not to involve in bad debt.

He made the call during the launch of the first edition of the State-Owned Enterprises & Parastatals documentary at their main office, Spur Road in Freetown.

Some of the SOEs and Parastatals are National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT), Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority (EDSA), National Telecommunication (NATCA), Sierra Leone State Lottery, National Insurance Company (NIC), among others.

Lavali said the first edition of the documentary titled 'Death and Debt of State-Owned Enterprises' focused on State-Owned Enterprises and Parastatals, adding that death represent the dying of state owned enterprises and the debt that government has accrued over the years.

He continued that it was important for them to look at state owned enterprises because Sierra Leoneans

actually give trillions of Leones every year to state owned enterprises.

He said government established many of them since 1992 to 1994 to make profits and provide improved services for citizens.

He cited that, the Sierra Leone Telecoms was meant to promote better communication way better than Africell and Orange, Postal Service to provide better postal service, transport cooperation to provide proper transportation for the rest of Sierra Leoneans, so it's good to take a stock as government has embarked on privatization for 20 years now.

He noted that the idea of establishing the Privatizations Commission was to oversee the transfer of those institutions to the private sector as there was a belief that the state cannot do business.

He said what they did in the documentary was to find out what was responsible for their failure, and what can be done about them.

"This documentary is our contribution to the current conversation around the review of the Privatization Act as government is trying to review the State-Owned Enterprise law with a view of either privatizing the institutions or making them efficient. This research

IGR calls: State owned enterprises be positioned for profit making



IGR Boss speaking to the media

is meant to add to that debate. We started-off by chronicling what is the state of most state enterprises and parastatals such as NASSIT, EDSA, among others and we realise that most of these parastatals are not performing," he said.

According to Lavali, for the past 15 years, government has spent over \$985 million on EDSA, which is sufficient for the country to have its own power supply.

He said the documentary

recommended that government should use the review of the law to put state owned enterprises on the road of profit making and that they should continue using the legal process to stop the debt.

He stated that the documentary was meant to spark a conversation as what Sierra Leoneans must do about state owned enterprise because government is currently developing a National Development Plan and that they cannot be developing a plan and expecting development partners from other countries to fund those plans.

He said the biggest source of funding for those plans should be state owned enterprises that are meant to be doing business and making profit for everyone.

"Why should state-owned enterprises and parastatals, which are established to make profit and deliver effective services, be consumed by debt and become reliant on Sierra Leone taxpayers for salaries? This documentary chronicles the effects of 20 years of bad political decisions on the performance of SOEs and parastatals. As government embarks on reviewing the privatization law, we present first-hand the state of SOEs and parastatals to deepen the conversation on making SOEs and parastatals efficient," he ended.

Hon. Abdul Kargbo is APC Leader in Parliament

By Jariatu S. Bangura

The newly appointed Leader of the All People's Congress (APC) in Parliament, Hon. Abdul Kargbo has expressed his delight to lead the party in the Sixth Parliament.

He further expressed his gratitude to the party's leadership for choosing him to lead among others, who are senior to him.

"I felt happy considering the time I have been in Parliament but it all summed up to dedication and I am glad I was picked out of the few to lead the party. We will work together as a team so far and work for the good of the country too," he assured.

Hon. Kargbo has replaced Hon. Chernoh R.M Bah, who had served as the Parliamentary Leader for the past five years in the fifth Parliament. Hon. Kargbo was elected MP for Constituency 077, Port Loko District in 2018 and was re-elected in the 2023 general elections.

Hon. Kargbo has been among one of the vocal voices of the party and a good debater during the last



Hon. Abdul Kargbo

Parliament and has served as Secretary to the Interim Transitional Government Committee ITGC of the All People's Congress (APC) party.

Hon. Kargbo will be working together with Hon Daniel B. Koroma as Deputy Leader 1, Hon. Aaron A. Koroma as deputy Leader 2, Hon Abdul Karim Kamara as Whip, Hon Cathrine Z. Tarawalie as deputy Whip 1, Hon Kemokoh Conteh as Deputy Whip 2, Hon. Dr. Unpha Koroma as Parliamentary Correspondent/spokesman.

Manslaughter: Juvenile gets 10 years imprisonment

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay



High Court Building

A 14-year-old Abdulai Sankoh Alias Ambosco (Not his real name) was yesterday sentenced to ten years imprisonment by Justice Costmotine Jarrett for manslaughter.

The convict was before the High Court on one count of murder contrary to the laws of Sierra Leone.

The State Counsel, Yusuf S. Kamara, alleges that the convict on the 15th of October, 2015, in Freetown, murdered one Abdul Gbassay Kargbo.

Lawyer Yusuf S. Kamara made an application for the charge to be amend to manslaughter, which the court granted

After the charge was amended the convict told the court that he wanted to change his initial not guilty plea to guilty.

Justice Costmotine Jarrett asked the clerk to read the charge again to the accused person, who later pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

The convict's lawyer, Yusuf Kargbo, pleaded that the convict has been in prison since October, 2015, noting that the convict is a young man and being in prison has reformed him.

Justice Jarrett said because the accused didn't waste the court's time, he sentenced him to 10 years imprisonment for the offense of manslaughter, including times spent.

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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: sllaproject@gmail.com, copying alphajohcham@yahoo.com, mayatbah@gmail.com, aburaymond@yahoo.com joejoe7787@yahoo.com

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT:

ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT (ERM) AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Introduction of the Corporation

WAICA Re is one of the fastest growing reinsurance companies in Africa. WAICA Re is head quartered in Freetown (Sierra Leone) and operates through five (5) Regional Offices namely Lagos (Nigeria), Accra (Ghana), Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), Tunis (Tunisia) and UAE (Dubai). It also has four (4) Subsidiary Companies namely, WAICA Re Zimbabwe Limited in Harare (Zimbabwe), WAICA Re Kenya in Nairobi (Kenya), an investments company namely WAICA Re Capital, Accra (Ghana) and WAICA Re (United Kingdom).

WAICA Re announces the vacancy of the position of ERM and Compliance Officer to be based in any one of our operating countries.

Job purpose

The ERM and Compliance Officer, through the guidance of the Group Head ERM and Compliance shall identify, evaluate, and manage risks that may have both adverse and favourable effects on the company's goals and objectives. Additionally, the incumbent will be tasked with implementing comprehensive compliance programs to ensure the company adheres to all relevant regulations and policies, aiming for a 100% compliance rate.

Job duties and responsibilities

- **Risk Assessment:** Identify and assess both internal and external risks that may impact the organisation's strategic goals and objectives.
- **Compliance Program Development:** Develop and maintain compliance programs that align with relevant laws, regulations and internal policies.
- **Policy Implementation:** Ensure that company policies and procedures are effectively communicated, understood and followed by all employees.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Continuously monitor and evaluate compliance with regulatory requirements and company policies and report findings to Senior Management.
- **Risk Mitigation:** Develop strategies and action plans to mitigate identified risks and ensure business continuity.
- **Training and Education:** Conduct training and awareness programs for employees to promote a culture of compliance and risk management.
- **Audit Support:** Collaborate with internal and external auditors to facilitate audits and examinations, providing necessary documentation and explanations.
- **Regulatory Liaison:** Serve as a point of contact with regulatory agencies, ensuring timely and accurate responses to inquiries and requests for information.
- **Documentation and Records Management:** Maintain accurate and up-to-date records related to compliance activities, risk assessments, and mitigation efforts.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Stay informed about changes in regulations and industry best practices and recommend improvements to existing processes and procedures to enhance compliance and risk management efforts.

Candidate Profile

Qualifications

- A degree in Risk Management, Mathematics, Statistics, Actuary, Economics, and relevant sciences or equivalent

Professional qualifications

- Any professional qualification like CQRM, FRM, CAMS, CFE, IRM or studying towards the attainment

Experience

- At least 4 years relevant experience in a similar role
- Experience in the insurance/reinsurance industry will be an added advantage

Competencies

- Can demonstrate a depth of proven experience in ERM and Compliance
- Technically proficient in key ERM and Compliance technical aspects.
- Ability to work under pressure.
- Strong analytical skills with a high level of accuracy and attention to detail.
- Ability to collaborate and communicate effectively to diverse stakeholders.

Application Procedure

Interested Candidates for this role shall be required send a CV to yacancies@waicare.com

Closing date for application: 15 November 2023

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 2nd - 8th November 2023. Bidding documents can be collected for free at the address below.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 8th November 2023 at 09:00 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 1088.26 – 4 x 4 motor vehicles - Sierra Leone".

BIDDERS WITH STOCK IN-COUNTRY ARE PREFERRED

Bids will be opened on Wednesday 8th November 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



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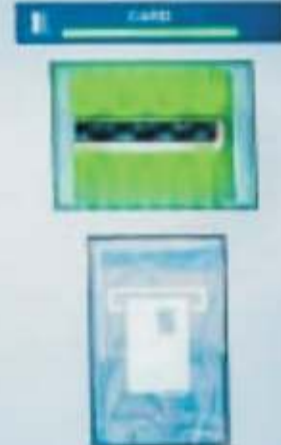


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LOCAL NEWS

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

High Court Judge presiding over cases at the Sexual Offences

Model Court in Freetown, Justice Alhaji Mohamed Momoh Jah Stevens has acquitted and discharged 69-year-old Abu-Bakarr Koroma of sexual penetration.

The accused, Koroma, was before the court on a one count indictment of sexual penetration contrary to Section 19 of the Sexual Offences Act, 2012 Act No 12 of 2012.

Sexual Penetration: 69-year-old accused acquitted and discharged

Koroma was alleged to have on a date unknown between the 1st day of June 2022 and the 30th day of September 2018 in Freetown, engaged in an act of sexual penetration with an eight-year and fourteen-year-old kids.

He also denied the allegation upon his arraignment before the court.

State Prosecutor, J. B Kamara, made an application for trial by

Judge alone instead of Judge and Jury, which was granted by the Judge.

The prosecution led in evidence a number of witnesses in support of their case including a medical doctor who tendered medical report on the two victims.

At the close of the prosecution's case, the accused relied on his statement he made to the police, which the court used to determine

his innocence.

After the review of the totality of the evidence before the court, Justice Stevens noted that "it is quite clear that the prosecution has not proven to this court that indeed the "victims" were sexually penetrated by the accused.

He further stated that there were no corroboration between the two victims and the witnesses.

PUBLIC NOTICE

FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE - Best Travel Solutions (BTS), a registered and licensed travel agency operating within the legal corridors of Sierra Leone, is announcing a significant change in the company's leadership structure.

Effective immediately, Dr. Janette Ethel Pessi Saidu will no longer serve or work as Managing Director of Best Travel Solutions. This decision has been taken due to identified conflicts of interest and instances of professional misconduct and sabotage. Henceforth, Madam Saidu will not represent BTS in any capacity as our Managing Director.

Best Travel Solutions is committed to maintaining the highest standards of professional conduct and ethical business practices, and this decision has been taken in the best interest of the company, its partners, and its clients.

We want to assure our existing partners and clients that our services and operations will remain unaffected during this transition. BTS will continue to provide exceptional travel facilitation services to both our local and international clientele, and we are dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the quality of service that our partners and clients

have come to expect.

Best Travel Solutions will be announcing the appointment of a new Managing Director in the coming weeks. We are confident that our new leadership will uphold our commitment to integrity, professionalism, and excellent service.

We thank our partners and clients for their continued support and trust in Best Travel Solutions during this period of transition.

For further information, please contact our Public Relations Department at 41 Lightfoot Boston Street.

About Best Travel Solutions:

Best Travel Solutions is a registered and licensed travel agency based in Sierra Leone, specializing in providing comprehensive travel facilitation services for local and international clientele. Committed to delivering the highest level of professionalism and customer service, BTS strives to exceed client expectations and contribute positively to the travel and tourism industry in Sierra Leone.



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DoFA's Miss Old is Gold Vol 3

Theme: Resilience of older persons in this changing world.

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Mountain Cot

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Magazine Cot

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Freetown City Council Auditorium

4:30 pm

INT'L SPORT

Arteta takes blame as Arsenal knocked out of EFL Cup

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said "I'm disappointed with myself" after his side were knocked out of the Carabao Cup in the fourth round following a 3-1 defeat by West Ham.

Arteta made six changes to his starting XI, with Declan Rice, Bukayo Saka and captain Martin Odegaard on the bench.

The Arsenal side selected produced a below-par display - for which Arteta took the blame.

"I'm very disappointed. I'm responsible for that," he said.

"We're out of the Cup, we wanted to play a very different game and compete.

"The game took a direction because of the first goal but we have to see much more from the team and earn the right to win.

"I'm disappointed with myself. We wanted to play in a different way and we weren't able to do that. Every time we lose the pain is there.

"We have to use this pain and this defeat to prepare the best way for Newcastle [in the Premier League] on Saturday."

West Ham took the lead via an own goal in the 16th minute, with Jarrod Bowen swinging a corner in close to goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale, before Ben White nodded it past him.

Tomas Soucek had hold of Ramsdale's shirt, but with no VAR at this stage of the League Cup, the complaints of the England international - making his first club appearance since 27 September in the previous round - fell on deaf ears. Arsenal dominated possession but failed to break through, and they were punished five minutes after the break when Mohammed Kudus beautifully trapped Nayef Aguerd's 50-yard cross-field pass before finishing low through the legs of Gabriel.

West Ham's win was safe shortly before the hour when Bowen collected a poor defensive header from White and fired in a volley from the edge of the area, a deflection off Gabriel's thigh wrongfooting Ramsdale.

Odegaard slotted into the bottom corner with the final kick of the game, but the Gunners' 30-year wait to win the League Cup goes on.

West Ham are into the quarter-finals for the third successive season, where they will face Liverpool away.

The major talking point in the build-up was the return of Rice to West Ham for the first time since joining Arsenal for £105 million in the summer.

Rice made almost 250 appearances for West Ham and captained them to



a Europa Conference League triumph in June, and manager David Moyes called for the ex-Hammers midfielder to be "welcomed back with open arms".

That call was mostly heeded by the home fans, who gave Rice a strong ovation when he warmed up for the first time midway through the first half.

By that point his new club were already trailing and while Arsenal had started well - West Ham did not have a shot in the first half, despite taking the lead - they produced little end product.

Rice was sent on from the stacked bench after the second goal to a heady mix of boos and applause, with whistles of derision when his first ball

forward was overhit for a goal kick. Shortly after that Arsenal went 3-0 down, and not even the arrivals of Saka, Odegaard and Gabriel Martinelli could keep their cup campaign alive.

West Ham, meanwhile, were much improved from the side that lost their three previous matches, and had been labelled a "shambles" by their own forward, Michail Antonio.

Bowen told BBC Radio 5 Live: "We had to fight, we knew we were playing a top side but it was a really good performance compared to the last few [games]."

"We have not been at the level, but we were always going to bounce back and tonight was the perfect way to do it." <https://www.bbc.com/sport/football>

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp winces hilariously as he reacts to Man United Carabao Cup defeat



Jurgen Klopp looked shell-shocked and winced when he heard that Manchester United had lost 3-0 to Newcastle in the Carabao Cup.

The Liverpool boss was lost for words as he simply said 'ooh... okay' and cringed as somebody told him about United's latest Old Trafford meltdown.

Man United were well beaten by

Newcastle's second string as goals from Miguel Almiron, Lewis Hall, and Joe Willock condemned them to their eighth defeat of the campaign.

Their record of eight losses in 15 games means it is their worst start to a season since 1962/63, when they finished 19th in the First Division but won the FA Cup.

Pressure is mounting on Erik ten Hag after a run of four defeats in seven

games, all of them on their own turf.

Liverpool, by contrast, have won their last four games and have only lost once all season, beating Bournemouth 2-1 at the Vitality Stadium to reach the quarter-finals of the Carabao Cup on Wednesday.

Cody Gakpo scored the opener and Darwin Nunez came off

the bench to bag a stunning winner to give Klopp's side their fourth straight win.

Things are not so rosy in M16 and Gary Neville told Sky Sports that it was a 'worrying' spell for Ten Hag and the club.

He said: 'At the moment it is worrying stuff for him, losing matches but the performances have been really awful.

'Even the ones they have won in the last few weeks. Nowhere near good enough.'

'You knew if half-decent teams came to Old Trafford they would be back with losses again.'

'You imagine after Sunday, Ten Hag would have had a message or meeting with the players to lift them for tonight.'

'What do you say after this when you have seen it repeated, the same type of performance. Newcastle have made eight changes, what does he say to them, what is he thinking.'

He also criticised them for losing their discipline after they conceded twice in an eight-minute spell.

'You can't say it hasn't been coming. Man United have lost their discipline in the last 10 minutes, they have looked anxious and the crowd have been quiet,' he said.

'Garnacho gets muscled off it. Livramento goes around Mount like he is not there. Dalot is sleeping. Almiron is not. Can he finish, by goodness he can.'

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

Mustapha Bundu suffered hamstring injury

Plymouth Argyle have confirmed Sierra Leone international, Mustapha Bundu could be out for few weeks after suffering a hamstring injury.

The English clubs confirmed after MRI scans that both Ryan Hardie and Mustapha Bundu will face spells on the sidelines due to hamstring injuries.

It was reported that both Hardie and Bundu suffered grade two hamstring strains during the 3-2 Championship defeat away to Ipswich Town last Saturday.

The injury to Bundu is not considered too serious and the 26-year-old could be out of action for only a couple of weeks, with the third of four international breaks this season coming up after the visit to Leeds United on Saturday, November 11.

The coach Steven Schumacher said: "Ryan and Mustapha have both got grade two hamstring strains, but they are presenting slightly differently. Mustapha has got good movement and good power so his doesn't look too serious. He might be a couple of weeks."

"Ryan's is a little bit serious. His seems to be

more painful, but as Gaz (head physio Gareth Law) always says he will treat the player and not the scan, and they will be back as soon as possible."

He continued: "It gives us less of a headache, less of a selection problem, because we have only got one centre-forward left. We got on with it."

"You don't want to lose two centre-forwards but we have got Ben Waine who is a centre-forward that we really rate. When he has played he has done well so it's his opportunity and he has got to try to take it if he can."

"Good luck to him, he has probably been waiting for this chance. Mustapha and Ryan have both been playing well. Now it's his turn to step up and hopefully he can play well too."

Hardie is the joint fifth top scorer in the Championship this season with six goals, and he has also come up with three assists, but Argyle must come to terms with being without him for a period of time.

"You don't want injuries to any of your squad, especially someone who has been influential, so yeah it is a bit of a blow."



Sierra Leone Premier League is back



Leone Rock PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

FRIDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2023

SLIFA FC VS DIAMOND STARS FC
TIME: 4:15 PM TRADE CENTRE FIELD, FREETOWN

REAL REPUBLICANS FC VS LUAWA FC
TIME: 4:15 PM YEMBE, ANGOLA FIELD, GODERICH

SATURDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2023

BAI BUREH WARRIORS FC VS KHOLIFA STARS FC
TIME: 4:15 PM PORT LOKO FIELD, PORT LOKO

WUSUM STARS FC VS OLD EDWARDIANS FC
TIME: 4:15 PM WUSUM FIELD, MAKENI

BHANTAL FC VS EAST END LIONS FC
TIME: 4:15 PM ANGOLA FIELD, GODERICH

SUNDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2023

LAMBIO FC VS MIGHTY BLACKPOOL
TIME: 4:15 PM LINGI FIELD, LINGI

FC KALLON VS PORTS AUTHORITY
TIME: 4:15 PM ANGOLA FIELD, GODERICH

KAHUNLA RANGERS FC VS FREETOWN CITY FC
TIME: 4:15 PM KENEMA FIELD, KENEMA

BO RANGERS FC VS WILBERFORCE STRIKERS FC
TIME: 4:15 PM SOUTHERN ARENA, BO

MATCHWEEK 1

SLIFA, Luawa secure maximum points in league opener



only goal in the 24th minute for Bowles Boys.

Meanwhile, the High Court has slammed an injunction on the league hours after the first two matches.

A notice posted on the official Facebook page of the Judiciary reads: "The High Court of Sierra Leone has this evening granted an injunction against the SLFA and the Sierra Leone Premier League Board stopping all Premier League games from being played until the High Court determines the issues of irregularities in the Sierra Leone Premier League."

It continues: "The matter was filed by Alusine Kamara and Ahmed Musa through Teddy Koroma and Associates, on behalf of Kamboi Eagles. Matter adjourned to 10th November for further proceedings."

The Board in a presser on Saturday signed by the Board Secretary, Sampha Hassan Kamara stated that: "The Sierra Leone Premier League Board would like to inform the public and the premier league clubs that the games slated for 4th-5th November 2023 will proceed as scheduled."

Freetownian SLIFA and Luawa FC started their campaign in the 2023-2024 Sierra Leone Premier League dubbed as the Leone Rock Premier League with maximum points, thanks to a win over Diamond Stars and Real Republicans.

David Kamara scored the only goal for SLIFA Football Club in their 1-0 win against Diamond Stars at the Trade Center field and went on to be named the Man of the Match.

Elsewhere, Luawa FC British coach, Sebastian Bowles, also secured all three points over Real Republicans on Friday at Angola Field as the Cacao Boys hold on to their first maximum points of the new season.

It was Abubakar Sheriff, who scored the

The new Sierra Leone Premier League season now dubbed as the Leone Rock Premier League kicks off on Friday with SLIFA facing one-time back-to-back champions Diamond Stars.

The last season's premier league strugglers, SLIFA will host the Diamond Boys from Kono at the Trade Center Field in Freetown.

Elsewhere on the same Friday, last season's fourteenth place finisher, Real Republicans will welcome hard nut, Luawa FC at the Angola Field.

Both sides had a difficult and good finishing last season but it was the Cacao Boys, Luawa (ended in tenth place) who finished over the Soccer Ambassadors.

The league opening fixtures continue on Saturday, November 4 with three different fixtures as the Killers, East End Lions will have to travel away to newly promoted Bhantal FC at Angola Field, Goderich while in Makeni, Wusuma Stars will welcome Old Edwardian who have secured the signing of former Leone Stars assistant coach, Dominic Junior Konneh.

The match of the day will witness a long-awaited traditional Derby known as the Northern Derby with Bai Bureh Warriors

taking on newcomers Khlofia Stars at the Port Loko Field in Port Loko.

On Sunday, League holder and Charity Shield winner, Bo Rangers will face Wilberforce Strikers as they start the chase of an unprecedented three straight Sierra Leone top-flight title.

Still riding the wave of winning the Charity Shield, newly appointed coach, John Keister's side will welcome the new look Wilberforce Strikes side.

Having a successful spell with East End Lions and winning the title with them, Coach John Keister is highly expected to repeat the same fate with Bo Rangers who are the outright favourite to retain the league crown but he must handle the pressure this season having failed to perform the magic with the country's senior national team, Leone Stars that lead to the none renewal of his contract.

The other matches of the day will see Lambio FC host last season's runners-up Mighty Blackpool at Lingi Field and CAF Confederation Cups representative FC Kallon hosting Port Authority at Angola Field promoted Kahunla Rovers hosting Freetown City FC at Kenema Field.